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1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

VOTES

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DURING THE SESSION

OF

1885-6,

WITH THE VARIOUS DOCUMENTS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

IN EIGHT VOLUMES.

VOL. V.

SYDNEY :

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1886.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

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(With Supplementary Cover containing Plans.)

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

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1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS,

BEING FOR THE YEAR

1884.

Presented to Parliament by Command.

SYDNEY : THOMAS RICHARDS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1885.

1885.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS.

(REPORT FOR 1884.)

Presented to Parliament by Command.

Charles Oliver, Esq., Under Secretary, to The Hon. J. S. Farnell, Secretary for
Lands.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 4th September, 1885.

I have the honor to submit for your information the Fifth Annual Report of the working of this Department, being for the year ended 31st December, 1884.

Schedules I to XXXVIII attached will show in a tabulated form the work to a large extent of the Department during that period, and also the result of the various methods of alienating the Crown Lands by auction, improvement purchase, special purchase, volunteer land orders, and conditional purchase. Schedules XXXII to XXXVI give similar information as regards the leasing of Crown Lands by pre-emptive and auction leases.

A summary of the principal transactions is as follows:—

AUCTION.

	Sold.	Amount realized.	Average price per acre.
	acres.	£	£ s. d.
Town lands	633	32,008	50 11 0
Suburban	2,697	21,476	7 19 2
Country	38,214	72,412	1 17 11

Compared with 1883 the amount of country land sold is somewhat in excess, whilst the price realized per acre is 6s. 1d. per acre higher. The area of town and suburban lands disposed of was slightly less, whilst the average prices per acre realized were greater—the figures being, £48 7s. and £50 11s. for town, and £5 14s. 6d. and £7 19s. 2d. for suburban. The restriction in the early part of 1883 and continued in 1884 of auction sales of country lands will account for the great falling off in this form of alienation compared with 1882 and preceding years.

This, together with the total suspension of the operation of clause 30 of the Lands Act further Amendment of 1880, under which lands passed at auction could be selected at the upset price, has resulted in the guarantee deposit of 6d. per acre required, when making application for survey of lands for auction sale, falling to £47 5s., representing 1,890 acres, as against £2,947, representing 119,880 acres in 1883; and £56,012, representing 2,240,480 acres in 1882. Another effect is the refunding of guarantee deposits to the amount of £38,446 for non-survey and auction sale of lands within twelve months from date of application. This sum

though less by £2,280 than that refunded in 1883, is much larger than during any preceding year. The amount forfeited as a penalty for not purchasing at auction when the lands were offered within twelve months from date of application is very much larger than in the preceding year, but far less than in 1882; thus in 1882, £679; 1883, £2 12s.; 1884, £243 6s.

The number of applications tendered (30) to select land in virtue of Volunteer land orders is less than for many years past, and in all probability this form of alienation will ere long be obsolete. At the end of last year there were sixty-five applications unsatisfied, many of which were made prior to 1884, but owing to the remoteness of the land, in addition to other causes, such as conflict as to precedence, have remained unsettled so long.

IMPROVEMENT PURCHASES.

A noticeable feature in the work of the year is the very large number of applications tendered to purchase under the 2nd clause of the Act of 1875. The following statement in brief will show the number of applications and area for years 1880 to 1884 inclusive:—

Year.	No. of Applications.	Area.
		Acres.
1880	1,912	340,289
1881	1,455	235,045
1882	2,153	441,554
1883	2,544	576,185
1884	6,467	1,416,879

From this it will be seen that, while the area applied for in 1880 was slightly greater than in 1881, there has been an increase yearly; though during the last year the area was unusually large. It may be observed that from the 17th July, 1884,—the date mentioned in sub-section 2 of clause 2 of Crown Lands Act of 1884, after which improvements effected or acquired will not confer a right to purchase—to the 17th October following—the date upon which the Act was assented to,—there were tendered no less than 3,578 applications, covering an area of 611,581 acres, being more than half the total number of applications, and nearly half the total area. From the date last mentioned to the end of the year there were tendered 1,970 applications, representing an area of 1,349,357 acres. Thus while the number of applications tendered during the last quarter of the year was rather more than half of the preceding quarter, the area applied for was more than double. The following statement in tabular form shows the result during the periods mentioned for nine of the principal Land Districts:—

	From 17 July to 17 October, 1884.		From 18 October to 31 December, 1884.	
	No. of applications.	Area.	No. of applications.	Area.
		Acres.		Acres.
Wilcannia	864	71,898	170	11,604
Bourke	315	44,855	244	56,365
Hillston	212	31,219	141	27,155
Wentworth	203	27,149	153	21,142
Hay	175	48,128	75	21,905
Cobar	158	37,953	171	19,290
Deniliquin	152	46,529	85	16,418
Dubbo	128	33,037	41	6,684
Wagga Wagga	120	23,728	76	17,806

The Western Division of the Colony has, it will be seen, furnished by far the largest number of applications. This is no doubt accounted for by the abolition, at the end of the year, of sales in virtue of improvements, consequent upon the change in the Land Law of the Colony, under which all such applications were to be lodged on or before the 31st December, 1884, as also to the provision that at the expiration of leases under the new law no compensation will be allowed for improvements.

The

The actual area sold during the year is 252,127 acres, in 1,191 lots, realizing £302,315, or an average of £1 3s. 11d. per acre. Whilst the price realized may be considered very satisfactory, and worthy of remark, the area sold is greater than during the two preceding years but less than in 1881 and 1880. The sales in virtue of improvements are thus summarised:—

Year.	No. of Lots sold.	Area sold.	Amount realized.	Average price per acre.
		acres.	£	£ s. d.
1880	1,245	237,646	243,026	1 0 5
1881	2,648	474,098	487,694	1 0 7
1882	934	165,030	175,236	1 1 3
1883	658	103,774	116,219	1 2 4
1884	1,191	252,127	302,315	1 3 11

SPECIAL PURCHASES.

Schedule XI, referring to purchases under 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th clauses, *i.e.*, reclamations, sale of unnecessary roads, &c., &c., shows that 506 acres were sold, realizing £5,125. The area is less by 154 acres than in 1883, while the amount realized is greater by £1,990.

During the year 6,595 acres have been granted or dedicated for public purposes (Schedule XII). This area is larger than for the two preceding years—the principal increases being for Permanent Commons, Recreation Grounds, Public School Sites, Cemeteries, and Show Grounds.

The number of Deeds of Grant prepared (Schedule XIII) was 5,416, against 5,478 for 1883. Whilst there is but a slight falling off in the number of grants the area included therein is less by 274,981 acres. This is accounted for by confining the sales by auction to town and suburban lands, and small areas of country lands in the immediate vicinity of towns. In connection with the work of the Deeds Branch it may be remarked there is still awaiting delivery a large number of grants prepared before the Real Property Act (or Torrens Act, as it is popularly known as) came into operation in 1863. They refer mostly to lands in the County of Cumberland, and in what are called the Old Settled Counties and Towns; and although every effort is made to insure their falling into the hands of those rightly entitled to receive them, there is not wanting evidence to show that on account of the daily increasing value of the land endeavours have been made to obtain possession of them by persons who were unable to prove they had a right to their custody.

LEASES.

In Schedules XXXII to XXXVI are disclosed in detail the various items connected with pre-emptive leases and leases submitted to auction.

During the year the number of applications for pre-emptive leases was 1,754 for 1,345,431 acres, as against 2,897 for 2,638,903 acres in the preceding year; 4,430 for 4,537,181 acres in 1882; and 4,450 for 4,616,168 acres in 1881. Of the pre-emptive leases granted prior to 1884 there were renewed for that year 16,093 for an area of 14,327,884 acres giving an annual rent of £46,232 12s., or $\frac{31}{40}$ d. per acre. This number and area are less than for the two preceding years, but greater than for 1880 and 1881. The annual leases originally purchased at auction were renewed for 1884 in 3,543 cases for an area of 2,372,774 acres, at a rental of £8,384. The Leases advertised for sale by auction as well as those sold were about equal to 1883.

In connection with leases within the control of this Department there were received 218 applications to ringbark 182,167 acres. During the year 171 permissions were granted to ringbark an area of 155,188 acres.

CONDITIONAL PURCHASES.

With the exception of 1879 and 1880, during no year of the last decade has the number of selections taken up and the area applied for fallen as low as in 1884. Between 1882—in which the greatest number of selections were made and the greatest area taken up during any financial year—and the year just closed there has been a falling off of 3,949 selections representing an area of 938,280 acres.

It

It may be somewhat difficult to account for this, but two potent causes may perhaps be considered to be the severe drought through which the Colony has recently passed, and the initiation some three years ago of a radical change in the land laws, fostering the belief in many that under a new policy of disposing of the Crown Lands easier and more favourable terms would be obtained than prevailed under the system then in force. How far that belief prevailed at the latter part of the year may be partly gathered from the fact that of the total number of selections, 10,657 representing 1,453,937 acres, received during 1884, no less than 1,714, representing an area of 243,421 acres were tendered in the month of December alone, fully two-thirds of which were under sections 21 and 22, *i.e.*, as Additional Conditional Purchases, which increase the area of the holding without incurring necessarily residence or improvement conditions.

This result is the more noticeable as there were only three "Land Office" days in that month; and the year's selections and area represented would, if calculated on that experience, far exceed that of any year in the history of the Colony.

Although the total number of selections was only seventeen less than in 1883, there would seem to have been, compared with that year, a great disinclination to incur the residence and improvement conditions required by section 13 of the Act of 1861, whilst there was an appreciable leaning to the enlarging of holdings then in existence by selecting under section 21. A glance at Schedule XVII, in conjunction with the similar Schedule for the preceding year, will show that there were 638 less selections under section 13 (requiring residence and improvement) than last year; while the number of selections under section 21 (residence not required and improvements not essential by reason of both conditions having been fulfilled on the original selection) was greater by 582 than during the same period. From the same returns, showing in detail the Land District in, and the section under, which the applications were made, it appears the demand for land was greater last year than in 1883 in the following districts:—Armidale, Walcha, Macleay River, Scone, Tamworth, Bathurst, Bombala, Cooma, Casino, Glen Innes, Inverell, Manning River, Port Macquarie, and Port Stephens. In the case of the first four mentioned the increase was over 200 per cent. In the districts of Wagga Wagga, Brisbane Water, Coonamble, and Burrowa there has been a marked falling off; whilst a similar result, to a less extent, has been experienced in the districts of Bourke, Brewarrina, Cowra, Dubbo, Gunning, Hillston, Lismore, Molong, and Moree.

During the year 4,715 selections, representing 696,854 acres, reverted to the Crown, either by cancellation, voidance, lapsing, or forfeiture. This number and area are in excess of the two preceding years (though the increase has been regular year by year), a result brought about by renewed efforts to overtake the work of inquiring into the fulfilment of conditions as soon as possible after the close of three years from the date of selection. Of these there were declared lapsed (for non-receipt of declaration as to residence and improvement, or for non-payment of instalment of or interest on the balance of purchase money) 958 selections, amounting to 125,274 acres, being nearly 300 per cent. in excess of the preceding year.

Schedule XVIII discloses that on the 31st December last there stood good in the Registers 139,601 selections, representing 17,247,022 acres, a proportion of which will no doubt be ultimately forfeited. This area, however, includes over 1,000,000 acres the deeds of which have issued, all necessary conditions having been fulfilled.

A reference to Schedule XXVI will show that during the year there were 6,017 transfers, representing an area of 1,525,456 acres. Though the total number of transfers was less by 196 than during the preceding year, the area transferred was nearly 17,000 acres more. There has, however, been an increase over 1883 in the following districts:—Young, Cassilis, Armidale, Deniliquin, Glen Innes, Grafton, Lismore, and Molong, and a decrease in Bathurst, Bega, Burrowa, Coonabarabran, Corowa, Gunnedah, Inverell, Patrick's Plains, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, and Wyallda.

Conditional purchases to the number of 226, representing an area of 23,454, taken up prior to 1875, were in the year brought under the 8th clause of the Act of 1875, enabling the outstanding balance of the purchase money to be paid off by instalments of 1s. per acre. This number is rather in advance of former years, and makes a total of 5,240, representing 513,790 acres, brought under the operation of that clause, but taken up prior to the Amending Act of 1875.

The

The work done in the field by the Inspectors of Conditional Purchases was about the same as in the previous year, though some 1,500 cases more were referred to them for report as to fulfilment of conditions. The number of cases reported upon by the Commissioners during 1884 was largely in excess of those of the previous year, and as the Inspectors have to attend the Commissioners Court to give evidence, the fact of their (Inspectors) being unable to keep pace with the number of instructions sent them to visit and report upon selections may be thus accounted for. The details of the work done in this direction will be seen by a glance at Schedules XXVII to XXIX.

The total revenue received for conditional purchase under the various items—deposit money, instalments, interest, and balance of purchase money was £952,281, being in the aggregate about £20,000 in excess of the amount received in 1883 from the same sources. Whilst such is the case, however, the amount received for deposits fell £43,414 below the previous year, and £340,000 below 1882; the items standing thus,—1882, £621,617; 1883, £424,968; 1884, £381,550. It may be here remarked though that the great falling off of revenue from this source since 1882, the year in which the largest amount was ever received, may, as before stated, be accounted for, perhaps, mainly by the early prospects of a change in the land laws. Consequent upon the large area selected in 1881 (not far below 1882), there was last year an increase of £15,500 for interest, and £45,800 for instalment over the previous year. There was also an increase of £3,153 received for balances of purchase money. The receipts for the years 1882, 1883, and 1884, are thus epitomised.

Year.	Deposits.			Interest.			Instalments.			Balances.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1882	621,617	1	11	287,526	13	9	129,921	0	7	109,666	12	5
1883	424,968	0	10	310,676	6	7	137,277	8	9	58,313	10	4
1884	381,550	4	0	326,183	18	9	183,080	19	3	61,466	3	5
	1,428,135	6	9	924,386	19	1	450,279	8	7	229,446	6	2

Owing to the large area taken up in each of the years 1881 and 1882, and the large amount received as deposit money,—far in excess of that of any previous year, there may be fairly anticipated to receive during 1885 a large increase upon previous years in the items “Interest” and “Instalments,” payable at the expiration of three years (or within three months thereafter) of the date of selection.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The authority of the Governor and Executive Council was obtained in 1,358 cases for the revocation of reserves from sale or lease and the notifying of other reserves, together with the alteration of designs of towns, villages, &c.

For railway purposes thirty lots respecting 106½ acres were resumed in accordance with the Railway Resumption Act of 1874. *Vide* Schedule XXXVII. The amount appropriated by Parliament (exclusive of the Survey Branch) to meet the services of the year was £99,415, of which £92,526 18s. 5d. has been expended. Of the remaining balance £3,267 11s. 5d. will in due time be written off under the Appropriation Act, leaving £3,620 10s. 2d. to meet outstanding claims.

£1,139 3s. 11d. has also been paid for advertising out of the vote provided in the Treasury Department, and, £4,530 9s. 9d. for services of 1883 and previous years, which have been met from the balances remaining at the commencement of the year, thus making the total amount expended during the year £98,896 12s. 1d., a decrease of £2,849 0s. 11d. as compared with the previous year.

The Departmental Staff shows an increase of three officers, viz., a chief clerk and two additional clerks. The staff of the Auction Sales Branch was reduced by one half, three of the clerks being transferred to the Lease Branch, and one to the Deeds Branch for which the two additional clerks provided for were also found to be necessary.

It will thus be seen that the staff at the end of the year was about equal in strength to that of the previous year, while it may be remarked that the expenditure thereon during the year now under review was £1,700 less than in 1883.

In

In concluding this report of the last year of the existence of the Land Acts, covering a period of twenty-four years, it may be remarked that the work for 1884 has been reviewed rather in the light of simple results than in that of inferences which would tend to conclusions more or less correct, or of experiences derivable therefrom. The gradual increase in the price realized during the last few years for Crown Lands is also worthy of note. There has been a steady upward tendency as regards all classes of land, culminating with the year just closed. Toward the latter end of the year the work of the Department became somewhat disarranged, though not impeded, by the necessary changes being given partial effect to, in order that the requirements of the Crown Lands Act of 1884 might be met as far as necessary and practicable on its coming into operation at the beginning of 1885.

Attached hereto (Schedule XXXVIII) is a *résumé* of the operation of the Land Laws of the Colony, from which it will be seen that on the 31st December, 1884, the total area of land alienated from the foundation of the Colony, including conditional purchases, the deeds of which have issued, was 21,207,708 acres.

Including 16,363,311 acres taken up as conditional purchases, but the deeds of which had not issued on the 31st December, owing to non-payment of balance of purchase money, or to other causes incident to the law, there remained unalienated at the close of the year an estimated area of 171,567,728 acres.

Appended hereto is the report of the Surveyor-General.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

CHARLES OLIVER,

Under Secretary.

SCHEDULE I.

RETURN of Auction Sales of Town Lands under the 23rd section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

Land Districts.	Counties.	No. of lots offered.	Area offered.	No. of lots sold.	Area sold.	Area not bid for.	Per-centage sold.	Amount realized.	Average price per acre.	Deed fees.
			a. r. p.		a. r. p.	a. r. p.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£
Albury	Goulburn	49	20 1 28½	47	18 3 28½	1 0 0	92	818 3 1	42 1 6	47
	Selwyn	1	0 1 0	1	0 1 0		100	20 0 0	80 0 0	1
Armidale	Sandon	65	32 1 30½	16	7 3 30½	24 2 0	25	440 0 0	55 8 5	16
Balranald	Caira	15	7 0 30	10	4 1 10	2 1 25	57	91 5 0	18 15 6	10
Bathurst	Bathurst	14	6 1 2	3	1 1 28	4 3 14	9	13 10 0	9 9 5	3
	Westmoreland	18	9 0 11	8	4 0 11	5 0 0	44	74 15 0	18 7 5	8
Bega	Auckland	68	59 2 33	56	22 1 23	37 1 10	37	908 0 0	40 8 2	56
Bingara	Murchison	52	26 0 0	4	2 0 0	24 0 0	8	157 0 0	78 10 0	4
Bombala	Wellesley	36	18 0 0	20	10 0 0	8 0 0	55	80 0 0	8 0 0	20
Bourke	Gunderbooka	20	10 0 0	20	10 0 0		100	215 3 6	21 10 5	20
	Cowper	296	140 3 5	80	33 2 5	107 1 0	30	5,241 0 0	156 4 6	80
Brewarrina	Narran	23	11 2 0	11	5 2 0	6 0 0	45	262 10 0	47 14 6	11
Burrowa	King	30	15 2 1	25	13 2 37	1 3 4	86	241 15 0	70 2 1	25
Camden	Camden	1	0 2 0	1	0 2 0		100	25 0 0	50 0 0	1
Casino	Rous	100	45 2 23	39	16 3 7	28 2 5	36	479 2 6	28 0 0	39
	Drake	1	0 1 2	1	0 1 2		100	10 0 0	38 1 11	1
Cobar	Cambelego	101	50 2 0	3	1 2 0	49 0 0	3	75 0 0	50 0 0	3
	Mouramba	67	33 2 0	1	0 2 0	33 0 0	1	40 0 0	80 0 0	1
Cooma	Beresford	121	85 0 6	72	47 3 4	34 2 20½	56	2,753 17 6	54 10 6	72
	Wellesley	1	0 2 0	1	0 2 0		100	25 0 0	50 0 0	1
Coonabarabran	Baradine	25	12 2 5	7	3 2 5	9 0 0	28	30 10 0	8 12 1	7
	Gowen	6	4 0 9			4 0 9				
Coonamble	Leichhardt	13	7 3 16	12	7 1 17	0 1 39	88	214 5 0	29 2 6	12
	Gowen	30	15 0 0	10	5 0 0	10 0 0	33	46 0 0	9 4 0	10
Cootamundra	Bland	48	11 3 28½	44	11 0 0	0 3 28½	91	200 14 0	18 4 11	44
Corowa	Denison	52	26 1 31			26 1 31				
Cowra	Bathurst	40	20 0 0	9	4 2 0	15 2 0	21	76 5 0	16 18 10	9
Dubbo	Narromine	24	11 1 21½	18	8 1 21½	3 0 0	72	188 6 0	22 16 7	18
	Lincoln	59	32 3 30	25	12 0 0	20 3 30	66	300 4 0	25 0 3	25
Deniliquin	Cadell	8	2 3 23	8	2 3 23		100	29 5 0	10 2 2	8
	Townsend	1	0 2 0	1	0 2 0		100	6 0 0	12 0 0	1
Forbes	Ashburnham	16	4 2 29	15	4 0 29	0 2 0	90	148 2 0	35 8 4	15
	Bland	16	8 0 0	10	4 2 0	3 0 0	60	32 0 0	8 0 0	10
Glen Innes	Gough	1	0 2 0	1	0 2 0		100	4 0 0	8 0 0	1
Goulburn	Argyle	72	25 2 13½	42	9 0 6½	16 2 6½	36	2,272 10 0	251 6 6	42
Grafton	Clarence	1	0 1 8	1	0 1 8		100	75 0 0	250 0 0	1
	Fitzroy	9	4 2 0	1	0 2 0	4 0 0	8	8 0 0	16 0 0	1
Grenfell	Monteagle	3	0 3 15	2	0 2 12	0 1 3	65	42 0 0	73 0 9	2
Gundagai	Harden	7	3 0 39			3 0 39				14
Gunning	King	36	17 2 13	14	6 3 10	10 3 3	40	286 11 0	42 1 3	
Hay	Sturt	43	21 1 24	9	4 1 14	17 0 10	35	670 19 0	154 14 0	9
Lithgow	Cook	175	137 3 37	52	48 2 32	88 1 5	19	1,477 18 0	29 16 2	52
Liverpool	Cumberland	119	37 1 19	119	37 1 19		100	2,004 12 6	53 12 10	119
Lismore	Rous	53	26 1 15	31	13 3 4	12 2 11	53	1,988 10 0	144 7 1	31
Molong	Ashburnham	42	18 2 33	26	12 0 38½	6 1 34½	66	178 5 0	14 11 2	26
Moruya	St. Vincent	8	2 3 9	4	1 1 13	1 1 36	49	24 4 0	18 3 7	4
Mudgee	Phillip	5	0 3 25½	5	0 3 25½		100	33 19 6	37 7 6	5
Moree	Courallic	49	19 3 16	49	19 3 16		100	1,057 5 0	53 5 0	49
Murrurundi	Buckland	35	25 2 13	2	1 0 0	24 2 13	4	20 0 0	20 0 0	2
Narrabri	White	53	15 2 21	21	6 1 38	9 0 23	60	663 16 0	102 6 4	21
	Nandewar	6	1 2 0			1 2 0				
Narrandera	Cooper	48	21 0 23	21	13 3 33	7 0 30	66	493 10 0	35 5 4	21
Parkes	Ashburnham	4	1 1 19½	4	1 1 19½		100	45 15 0	33 7 0	4
Parramatta	Cumberland	35	33 2 18½	11	6 0 30	27 1 28½	18	322 0 0	52 0 9	11
Penrith	Cook	178	94 2 18	26	16 3 8	77 3 10	19	1,041 10 0	62 0 0	26
Port Macquarie	Macquarie	4	5 2 34	4	5 2 34		100	69 10 0	12 4 0	4
Queanbeyan	Murray	138	63 0 16	41	19 0 15	44 0 1	31	1,327 0 0	69 10 0	41
Rylstone	Roxburgh	10	6 3 1½	7	4 3 28½	1 3 13	71	78 10 0	16 0 0	7
Stroud	Gloucester	34	16 2 30½	34	16 2 30½		100	217 0 0	15 0 0	34
Tamworth	Parry	2	1 0 0	2	1 0 0		100	12 0 0	12 0 0	2
Tenterfield	Clive	41	20 0 14	4	1 3 35	18 0 19	10	73 0 0	37 0 0	4
Tumut	Wynyard	3	1 2 0			1 2 0				
Taree	Gloucester	12	5 0 0	5	2 0 32	2 3 8	40	18 10 0	8 4 6	5
Wagga Wagga	Bourke	107	49 1 20	62	29 3 20	19 2 0	55	757 2 6	25 7 0	62
	Clarendon	60	28 1 25	54	25 2 25	2 3 0	88	257 0 0	10 0 4	54
	Wynyard	24	12 0 0	20	10 0 0	2 0 0	83	105 10 0	10 11 0	20
West Kempsey	Raleigh	35	30 0 32½	35	30 0 32½		100	770 15 0	25 5 0	35
Wilcannia	Evelyn	47	11 2 13	1	0 1 0	11 1 13	2	10 0 0	40 0 0	1
	Young	41	16 0 6	30	12 2 11	3 1 35	75	2,064 2 6	61 11 10	30
Yass	Harden	17	6 2 26½	4	0 3 11½	5 3 15	12	44 5 0	53 15 4	4
Young	Harden	11	5 0 0	11	5 0 0		100	251 0 0	50 4 0	11
Total		2,987	1,521 3 3½	1,333	633 3 3½	882 2 12½	41½	32,008 2 7	50 11 0	1,333

SCHEDULE II.

RETURN of Auction Sales of Suburban Lands under the 23rd section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

Land Districts.	Counties.	No. of lots offered.	Area offered.	No. of lots sold.	Area sold.	Area not bid for.	Per-centage	Amount realized.	Average price per acre.	Deed Fees.
			a. r. p.		a. r. p.	a. r. p.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Albury	Goulburn	14	19 0 5	9	11 0 20	7 3 25	58	311 0 0	27 19 1	9
Armidale	Sandon	4	20 0 0	4	20 0 0	.....	100	100 0 0	5 0 0	4
Bega	Auckland	35	1,064 3 25	34	1,062 0 25	.....	99	7,181 8 6	26 5 0	34
Bombala	Wellesley	19	93 1 18	17	81 1 28	.....	87	245 2 3	13 19 5	17
Bourke	Gunderbooka	21	199 0 10	6	17 2 28	181 1 22	8	113 0 0	6 7 9	6
Brewarrina	Narran	12	92 3 15	.....	.....	92 3 15	.....	.....	.....	.....
Braidwood	St. Vincent	3	3 0 3	.....	.....	3 0 3	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cobar	Cambelego	18	58 0 30	5	12 2 32	45 1 38	22	40 10 0	3 3 10	5
	Mouramba	50	306 0 23	3	19 1 1	286 3 22	6	64 5 0	3 3 8	3
	Robinson	4	22 0 2	4	22 0 2	.....	100	69 10 0	3 3 0	4
Cooma	Beresford	140	744 2 25½	60	217 2 29½	525 0 4	30	3,638 2 6	18 19 5	69
Coonabarabran	Baradine	30	60 3 25	4	4 3 0	56 0 25	9	10 0 0	2 2 1	4
	Gowen	3	13 2 24	1	4 2 8	9 0 16	30	18 10 0	4 1 4	1
Cootamundra	Bland	80	172 2 13	23	42 2 19	129 3 34	23	185 1 0	4 6 19	23
Corowa	Denison	11	24 1 0	2	14 1 16	9 3 24	58	44 8 0	3 2 0	2
Cowra	Bathurst	3	20 3 9	3	20 3 9	.....	100	190 0 0	9 2 7	3
	Forbes	76	368 3 24	33	140 3 23	225 1 17	38	1,369 18 0	9 11 0	33
Dubbo	Gordon	49	36 3 3	11	9 0 2	27 3 1	25	189 18 9	21 1 5	11
	Lincoln	38	885 1 9	21	466 3 30	418 1 19	52	994 10 0	2 2 6	21
Forbes	Ashburnham	33	79 3 35½	15	16 1 30½	63 2 5	20	119 15 0	7 7 2	15
	Bland	20	115 2 14	2	9 2 27	105 3 27	7	19 6 9	2 0 0	2
	Forbes	5	9 2 19	5	9 2 19	.....	100	96 10 0	10 1 0	5
Glen Innes	Gough	2	9 0 0	2	9 0 0	.....	100	140 0 0	15 11 1	2
Goulburn	Argyle	26	111 2 29	9	18 2 18	93 0 11	16	143 5 0	7 13 9	9
Grenfell	Monteagle	16	25 3 27	15	23 3 27	2 0 0	88	172 0 0	7 4 0	15
Gundagai	Harden	20	58 0 11	10	51 2 11	6 2 0	89	165 12 0	3 4 2	19
	Clarendon	1	45 0 0	.....	.....	45 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lithgow	Cook	54	1,031 3 0	.....	.....	1,031 3 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Liverpool	Cumberland	6	8 2 38	6	8 2 38	.....	100	245 0 0	28 1 0	6
Lismore	Rous	45	86 0 35	45	86 0 35	.....	100	3,515 0 0	40 15 4	45
Molong	Ashburnham	21	54 1 13	16	44 2 19	9 2 34	80	187 9 0	4 4 2	16
Moruya	Dampier	7	88 3 21	7	88 3 21	.....	100	223 9 4	2 10 0	7
	St. Vincent	3	36 2 20	.....	.....	36 2 20	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mudgee	Wellington	1	50 0 0	1	20 0 0	30 0 0	40	40 0 0	2 0 0	1
Moree	Courallie	8	51 0 28	8	51 0 28	.....	100	661 10 0	12 18 6	8
Parkes	Ashburnham	3	3 1 38	3	3 1 38	.....	100	23 12 6	6 15 6	3
Penrith	Cook	1	6 2 0	.....	.....	6 2 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rylstone	Roxburgh	11	8 3 16	6	5 0 16	3 3 0	62	27 5 0	5 6 10	6
Tenterfield	Clive	8	16 2 8	.....	.....	16 2 8	.....	.....	.....	.....
Urana	Urana	1	10 3 0	1	10 3 0	.....	100	64 10 0	6 0 0	1
Walcha	Vernon	5	8 0 20	.....	.....	8 0 20	.....	.....	.....	.....
West Kempsey	Dudley	4	2 0 0	4	2 0 0	.....	100	368 0 0	184 0 0	4
Wilcannia	Evelyn	8	62 1 22	.....	.....	62 1 22	.....	.....	.....	.....
Taree	Gloucester	8	48 0 28	1	6 2 4	41 2 24	14	16 10 0	2 10 0	1
Yass	Harden	5	3 1 20	1	0 3 15	2 2 5	30	15 10 0	18 3 0	1
Young	Harden	30	440 2 16	6	62 2 7	378 0 9	12	267 10 0	4 12 3	6
Total		962	6,690 3 2	421	2,697 2 26	3,982 3 10	40	21,476 18 7	7 19 2½	421

SCHEDULE III.

RETURN of Auction Sales of Country Lands under 23rd section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

Land Districts.	Counties.	No. of lots offered.	Area offered.	No. of lots sold.	Area sold.	Area not bid for.	Per-centage	Amount realized.	Average price per acre.	Deed Fees.
			a. r. p.		a. r. p.	a. r. p.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£
Albury	Selwyn	1	148 0 0	1	148 0 0	.....	100	629 0 0	4 5 0	1
	Goulburn	5	118 3 0	5	118 3 0	.....	100	274 18 9	2 6 3	5
	Hume	6	629 0 0	6	629 0 0	.....	100	1,312 17 0	2 1 9	6
Armidale	Clarke	1	200 0 0	.....	.....	200 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Sandon	17	1,035 2 0	3	91 0 0	944 2 0	9	234 10 0	2 11 6	3
Balranald	Wakool	2	210 0 0	.....	.....	240 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bathurst	Bathurst	1	39 2 0	.....	.....	39 2 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Georgianna	3	180 1 0	.....	.....	180 1 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Roxburgh	3	4 3 5½	1	1 2 39	3 0 6½	25	5 9 11	3 3 1	1
	Westmoreland	2	52 0 0	.....	.....	52 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bega	Auckland	5	380 2 0	5	380 2 0	.....	100	665 17 6	1 15 0	5
	Dampier	1	32 3 0	1	32 3 0	.....	100	327 10 0	10 0 0	1
Berrima	Camden	1	32 1 20	1	32 1 20	.....	100	64 15 0	2 0 0	1
Bingera	Murchison	1	2 0 0	1	2 0 0	.....	100	5 0 0	2 10 0	1
Bombala	Wellesley	11	928 1 0	7	620 2 0	307 3 0	67	1,046 9 2	1 15 4	7
Brewarrina	Narran	1	320 0 0	1	320 0 0	.....	100	572 0 0	1 15 9	1
Burrowa	Harden	7	258 3 10	7	258 3 10	.....	100	517 12 6	2 0 0	7
	King	1	120 0 0	.....	.....	120 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Braidwood	St. Vincent	2	4 0 0	.....	.....	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Camden	Westmoreland	2	80 0 0	.....	.....	80 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cassilis	Bligh	4	287 1 20	2	121 0 20	166 1 0	49	166 10 0	1 7 6	2
	Brisbane	2	140 0 0	1	40 0 0	100 0 0	28	60 0 0	1 10 0	1
Casino	Richmond	3	323 0 0	1	80 0 0	243 0 0	24	156 0 0	1 19 0	1
Cooma	Beresford	11	614 0 20	4	238 1 0	375 3 20	38	357 7 6	1 10 0	4
	Wallace	4	141 3 0	2	68 0 0	73 3 0	48	102 0 0	1 10 0	2
	Wellesley	1	100 0 0	1	100 0 0	.....	100	241 13 4	2 8 4	1

SCHEDULE III—continued.

Land District.	Counties.	No. of lots offered	Area offered.	No. of lots sold.	Area sold.	Area not bid for.	Percentage	Amount realized.	Average price per acre.	Deed Fees.
			a. r. p.		a. r. p.	a. r. p.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£
Coonabarabran	Gowen	9	125 3 34	7	73 3 34	52 0 0	69	330 1 4	4 11 8	7
	Napier	1	30 0 0	1	30 0 0		100	45 0 0	1 10 0	1
Coonamble	Leichhardt	4	1,251 0 0	4	1,251 0 0		100	1,974 10 0	1 11 7	4
Condobolin	Cummingham	2	225 3 0	1	65 3 0	160 0 0	29	98 12 6	1 10 0	1
	Dowling	1	215 2 0			215 0 0				
Corowa	Denison	23	5,489 2 0	19	4,693 3 0	795 0 0	94	10,511 7 10	2 4 9	19
	Hume	20	3,249 3 0	17	2,399 3 0	850 0 0	61	6,004 15 5	2 10 0	17
	Townsend	1	30 1 0	1	30 1 0		100	45 7 6	1 10 0	1
Cowra	Bathurst	6	1,086 0 0	5	1,018 1 0	67 3 0	93	2,221 8 5	2 3 6	5
	Forbes	1	73 0 0	1	73 0 0		100	251 17 0	3 9 0	1
Dubbo	Lincoln	1	33 3 14	1	33 3 14		100	150 10 2	4 9 9	1
	Ewenmar	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0		100	80 0 0	2 0 0	1
	Gregory	2	247 0 0	2	247 0 0		100	370 10 0	1 10 0	2
	Narramine	1	106 0 0	1	106 0 0		100	172 5 0	1 12 6	1
Deniliquin	Townsend	17	3,895 1 0	8	1,343 1 0	2,552 0 0	34	2,128 5 5	1 11 8	8
	Cadell	2	245 3 0	2	245 3 0		100	411 10 0	1 13 5	2
	Wakool	7	1,928 2 0	7	1,928 2 0		100	2,892 15 0	1 10 0	7
Forbes	Cunningham	1	320 0 0			320 0 0				
	Ashburnham	2	100 0 0	2	100 0 0		100	170 0 0	1 14 0	2
	Forbes	1	31 1 0	1	31 1 0		100	46 17 6	1 10 0	1
	Gipps	3	920 0 0			920 0 0				
Glen Innes	Gough	16	1,003 2 30	7	320 1 30	683 1 0	30	814 0 8	2 4 6	7
	Georgianna	1	100 0 0			100 0 0				
	Argyle	8	489 0 0			489 0 0				
Grafton	Clarence	20	809 0 8	18	741 2 8	67 2 0	91	2,165 18 9	2 18 4	18
	Gresham	1	100 0 0			100 0 0				
Grenfell	Monteagle	36	84 3 16	23	55 0 4	29 3 12	65	223 7 8	4 1 2	23
	Forbes	3	324 2 0	1	240 0 0	84 2 0	74	360 0 0	1 10 0	1
	Gipps	1	80 0 0	1	80 0 0		100	120 0 0	1 10 0	1
	Bland	7	1,663 1 0	3	720 0 0	943 1 0	43	1,080 0 0	1 10 0	3
Gundagai	Harden	2	232 0 0	2	232 0 0		100	435 0 0	1 17 6	2
	Wynyard	9	365 3 18	9	365 3 18		100	726 16 9	1 19 8	9
Gunnedah	Nandewar	2	733 2 0	2	733 2 0		100	1,420 5 0	1 18 8	2
	Pottinger	10	1,758 1 0	8	1,658 1 0	100 0 0	90	2,944 18 6	1 15 6	8
	Buckland	1	40 0 0			40 0 0				
Gunning	King	9	486 1 0			486 1 0				
Lithgow	Westmoreland	1	40 0 0			40 0 0				
Hay	Boyd	3	470 2 0	2	320 2 0	150 0 0	68	400 12 6	1 5 0	2
	Waradgeri	7	1,106 2 0	3	467 0 0	639 2 0	42	802 10 0	1 14 4	3
	Wakool	1	400 0 0			400 0 0				
Inverell	Ararawatta	3	189 1 20	1	16 3 20	172 2 0	17	50 12 6	3 0 0	1
	Burnett	2	173 3 0	2	173 3 0		100	270 3 9	1 11 1	2
	Gough	2	46 3 0	2	46 3 0		100	91 2 6	2 1 0	2
	Hardinge	1	47 3 0			47 3 0				
Lismore	Richmond	3	130 0 0	1	35 0 0	95 0 0	7	52 10 0	1 10 0	1
	Rous	4	185 2 30	3	152 3 20	32 3 10	82	496 16 3	3 4 1	3
Maitland	Northumberland	2	108 2 0	1	73 2 0	35 0 0	67	165 7 6	2 5 0	1
Molong	Ashburnham	7	877 2 0	1	76 0 0	801 2 0	91	114 0 0	1 10 0	1
	Gordon	6	670 1 36	3	42 2 0	627 3 36	7	68 15 0	2 11 1	3
Moruya	Dampier	3	8 0 0	3	8 0 0		100	18 15 0	2 6 10	3
	St. Vincent	8	21 0 30	8	21 0 30		100	121 4 6	5 14 2	8
Mudgee	Wellington	3	65 2 0	3	65 2 0		100	104 5 0	1 11 9	3
Murrurundi	Buckland	1	108 0 0	1	108 0 0		100	135 0 0	1 5 0	1
	Pottinger	1	40 0 0			40 0 0				
Musclebrook	Brisbane	3	97 3 10	1	33 2 0	64 1 10	34	67 0 0	2 0 0	1
	Durham	1	52 0 0	1	52 0 0		100	78 0 0	1 10 0	1
Narrabri	Jamieson	5	485 1 0	4	437 1 0	48 0 0	95	746 5 0	1 14 2	4
	White	1	640 0 0			640 0 0				
Narrandera	Cooper	6	799 1 0	6	799 1 0		100	1,401 2 3	1 15 3	6
	Boyd	1	320 0 0	1	320 0 0		100	760 0 0	2 7 6	1
	Mitchell	1	63 1 0	1	63 1 0		100	79 1 3	1 5 0	1
Orange	Bathurst	3	95 0 22	3	95 0 22		100	179 4 2	1 17 8	3
	Wellington	3	27 2 0	1	26 0 0	1 2 0	96	39 0 0	1 10 0	1
Parkes	Ashburnham	6	245 2 0	5	145 2 0	100 0 0	60	258 9 0	1 16 0	5
Paterson	Durham	2	70 2 0	1	48 0 0	22 2 0	68	72 0 0	1 10 0	1
Queanbeyan	Murray	3	120 0 0			120 0 0				
Rylstone	Phillip	1	200 0 0			200 0 0				
Scone	Brisbane	4	189 0 30	1	40 0 0	149 0 30	22	50 0 0	1 5 0	1
	Durham	5	269 1 0	1	16 1 0	253 0 0	6	32 10 0	2 0 0	1
Singleton	Northumberland	2	136 0 0	1	16 0 0	120 0 0	12	24 0 0	1 10 0	1
	Durham	1	48 3 0			48 3 0				
Tamworth	Darling	5	440 0 0	2	140 0 0	300 0 0	31	426 0 0	3 0 10	2
	Inglish	2	160 0 0			160 0 0				
Tenterfield	Clive	8	414 0 10	8	414 0 10		100	721 11 11	1 14 10	8
	Buller	1	120 0 0			120 0 0				
Tumut	Wynyard	8	42 1 0	3	32 1 0	10 0 0	78	84 7 6	2 12 4	3
Urana	Urana	36	7,253 0 0	32	6,373 3 0	879 1 0	88	11,210 18 9	2 15 2	32
	Hume	2	390 2 0	2	390 2 0		100	585 15 0	1 10 0	2
Walcha	Vernon	3	273 1 0	2	160 0 0	113 1 0	38	346 0 0	2 3 3	2
Wagga Wagga	Bourke	2	187 3 0	1	160 0 0	27 3 0	85	200 0 0	1 5 0	1
	Clarendon	2	111 1 0	2	111 1 0		100	156 17 6	1 8 2	2
	Mitchell	9	961 2 0	8	921 2 0	40 0 0	96	1,441 1 9	1 11 3	8
	Wynyard	2	346 3 0	2	346 3 0		100	433 0 0	1 5 0	2
Walgett	Leichhardt	4	1,280 0 0	4	1,280 0 0		100	1,600 0 0	1 5 0	4
Wyallda	Burnett	4	488 0 0	3	223 0 0	265 0 0	45	334 10 0	1 10 0	3
Wellington	Bligh	1	40 0 0			40 0 0				
	Wellington	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0		100	50 0 0	1 5 0	1
Wilcannia	Young	14	210 3 31	2	22 0 31	188 3 0	11	221 19 0	10 0 0	2

SCHEDULE III—continued.

Land District.	Counties.	No. of lots offered.	Area offered.	No. of lots sold.	Area sold.	Area not bid for.	Per-centage	Amount realized.	Average price per acre.	Deed Fees.
			a. r. p.		a. r. p.	a. r. p.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£
Taree	Gloucester	4	190 0 0	1	40 0 0	150 0 0	22	60 0 0	1 10 0	1
	Macquarie	3	95 0 0	1	51 0 0	44 0 0	53	78 0 0	1 10 7	1
Yass	King	1	33 0 0	1	33 0 0	.....	100	41 5 0	1 5 9	1
	Murray	3	296 0 28	1	16 0 28	280 0 0	5	24 5 0	1 9 11	1
	Harden	3	138 3 0	.....	.....	138 3 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Young	Harden	3	61 2 39	3	61 2 39	.....	100	107 1 1	1 14 10	3
	Monteagle	105	2,163 1 19	52	1,557 0 17	602 1 2	71	2,639 3 0	1 13 9	52
Carcoar	Bathurst	5	190 0 0	.....	.....	190 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hillston	Gloucester	1	40 0 0	.....	.....	40 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Milton	Nicholson	2	265 3 0	.....	.....	265 3 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Raymond Terrace.	St. Vincent	3	128 3 0	.....	.....	128 3 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Total	673	59,237 3 20 $\frac{1}{2}$	397	38,214 2 14	21,019 1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6,474	72,412 1 6	1 17 11	397

SCHEDULE IV.

RETURN showing applications under section 30 of the Lands Act Amendment Act of 1875 during the year 1884—Lands to be measured and brought to auction.

Number of applications in 1884.	Area applied for.	Amount of Guarantee Deposits paid in 1884.	Amount forfeited in 1884—Paid in previous years.	Amount authorised in 1884 to be refunded; having been paid in that and previous years.
	a. r. p.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
22	1,890 0 0	47 5 0	243 6 0	38,446 16 6

SCHEDULE V.

DEPOSITS forfeited in 1884, in terms of the 26th Clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, for non-payment of the balance of purchase money within the required time.

Description of Land.	Land District.	Counties.	No. of Lots.	Area of Portions forfeited.	Amount of Deposit forfeited.
				a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Town	Albury	Goulburn	1	0 2 0	1 14 5
	Balranald	Caira	1	0 1 35	3 5 0
	Casino	Rous	1	0 1 11	2 7 6
	Cooma	Beresford	3	2 2 21 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 17 6
	Forbes	Bland	1	0 2 0	8 0 0
	Lithgow	Cook	2	1 0 0	6 5 0
Suburban	Bega	Auckland	1	2 3 0	4 5 0
	Bombala	Wellesley	2	11 3 30	7 7 9
	Cooma	Beresford	1	1 3 32	6 7 6
	Cowra	Forbes	1	2 2 24	5 6 0
Country	Young	Harden	2	4 0 0	1 16 0
	Total		16	28 2 33 $\frac{1}{2}$	£66 11 8

SCHEDULE VI.

RETURN showing the situation of and amount realized for Town and Suburban lands sold at auction during 1884.

Town or Village of.	Town.			Suburban.		
	Lots.	Area.	Total amount realized.	Lots.	Area.	Total amount realized.
		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Albury	1	0 3 28	23 10 0	8	9 3 30	299 0 0
Armidale	1	0 1 30½	25 0 0	4	20 0 0	100 0 0
Ballina West	12	6 0 9	534 10 0	...	...	...
Balranald	9	4 1 10	91 5 0	...	...	...
Baradine	7	3 2 5	30 10 0	4	4 3 0	10 0 0
Bega .....	...	...	...	30	1,053 0 10	7,063 0 0
Bingera	4	2 0 0	157 0 0	...	...	...
Blackheath	36	39 3 4	1,227 13 0	...	...	...
Bombala .....	...	...	...	15	79 0 3	234 12 3
Boorowa	35	13 2 37	241 15 0	...	...	...
Bourke	40	13 0 5	2,199 0 0	...	...	...
Bourke (North)	20	10 0 0	215 3 6	6	17 2 28	113 0 0
Bowning	4	0 3 11½	44 5 0	1	0 3 15	15 10 0
Bowra	35	30 0 32½	770 15 0	...	...	...
Bulladelah	33	16 2 16	213 0 0	...	...	...
Bungendore	41	19 0 15	1,327 0 0	...	...	...
Bye Rock	41	20 2 0	3,042 0 0	...	...	...
Candelo	15	8 0 22	315 10 0	...	...	...
Canowindra	9	4 2 0	76 5 0	...	...	...
Casino	38	16 3 7	479 2 6	...	...	...
Cobar .....	...	...	...	4	22 2 0	69 10 0
Cobborah West .....	...	...	...	4	86 1 30	174 0 0
Cobborah	25	12 0 0	300 4 0	16	341 0 0	682 0 0
Coila .....	...	...	...	7	88 3 21	223 9 4
Collector .....	...	...	...	3	13 2 19	68 10 0
Colombo	41	14 1 1	592 10 0	3	9 0 15	118 8 6
Coolaman	21	10 2 1	177 12 6	...	...	...
Cooma	69	47 3 4	2,733 17 6	69	217 2 29½	3,838 2 6
Coonabarabran .....	...	...	...	1	4 2 8	18 10 0
Coonamble	12	7 1 17	214 5 0	...	...	...
Copeland	1	0 0 14½	4 0 0	...	...	...
Cowra .....	...	...	...	36	161 2 32	1,559 18 0
Crookwell	10	4 3 19	254 11 0	...	...	...
Currahool West	9	4 1 14	670 19 0	...	...	...
Currawanna	1	0 2 0	17 10 0	...	...	...
Deniliquin (South)	1	0 2 0	6 0 0	...	...	...
Dubbo .....	...	...	...	12	48 2 2	328 8 9
Emu (Emu Plains)	7	3 1 20	147 0 0	...	...	...
Engowra	12	2 3 19	71 2 0	...	...	...
Forbes	2	0 3 10	69 0 0	21	26 0 9½	216 5 0
Forster	5	2 0 32	18 10 0	1	6 2 4	16 10 0
Galargambone	10	5 0 0	46 0 0	...	...	...
Germanton	36	13 2 0½	732 0 0	...	...	...
Girilambone	3	1 2 0	75 0 0	5	12 2 32	40 10 0
Glenbrook	6	3 0 0	129 0 0	...	...	...
Glen Innes .....	...	...	...	2	9 0 0	140 0 0
Goodooga (Bokhara)	11	5 2 0	262 10 0	...	...	...
Goulburn	42	9 0 6½	2,272 10 0	6	4 3 39	74 15 0
Grafton	1	0 1 8	75 0 0	...	...	...
Grenfell	2	0 2 12	42 0 0	15	23 3 27	172 0 0
Grong Grong	40	18 3 19	562 0 0	...	...	...
Gulgong	5	0 3 25½	33 19 6	...	...	...
Gunning	4	1 3 31	32 0 0	...	...	...
Guyra	14	7 0 0	395 0 0	...	...	...
Humula	20	10 0 0	105 10 0	...	...	...
Jerilderie .....	...	...	...	1	10 3 0	64 10 0
Jindera	9	4 2 0	62 3 1	1	1 0 30	12 0 0
Jugiong .....	...	...	...	19	51 2 11	165 12 0
Junee	54	25 2 25	257 0 0	...	...	...
Katoomba	14	8 3 28	250 5 0	...	...	...
Lawson	13	10 1 28	765 10 0	...	...	...
Lionsville	1	0 1 2	10 0 0	...	...	...
Lismore	19	7 2 35	1,454 0 0	45	86 0 35	3,515 0 0
Liverpool	119	37 1 19	2,004 12 6	6	8 2 38	245 0 0
Manildra	26	12 0 38½	178 5 0	16	44 2 19	187 9 0
Marsden	10	5 0 0	40 0 0	2	9 2 27	19 6 9
Mathoura	5	1 1 23	17 5 0	...	...	...
Milparinka	1	0 1 0	10 0 0	...	...	...
Mogo	4	1 1 13	24 4 0	...	...	...
Moree	45	19 3 16	1,057 5 0	8	51 0 28	661 10 0
Mount Pleasant	1	0 1 28	5 10 0	...	...	...
Mudgee .....	...	...	...	1	20 0 0	40 0 0
Mulwala .....	...	...	...	1	13 1 0	40 0 0
Murrumburrah	11	5 0 0	251 0 0	6	62 2 7	267 10 0
Narrabri West	21	6 1 38	663 16 0	...	...	...
Narrandera	10	5 0 0	259 10 0	...	...	...
Narromine	18	8 1 21½	188 16 0	...	...	...
Nimitybelle	1	0 2 0	25 0 0	...	...	...
Nundle	2	1 0 0	12 0 0	...	...	...
Nymagee	1	0 2 0	40 0 0	3	19 1 1	64 5 0
Nymboida	1	0 2 0	8 0 0	...	...	...
Oberon	8	4 0 11	74 15 0	...	...	...
Parkes	4	1 1 19½	45 15 0	3	3 1 38	23 12 6
Parramatta North	11	6 0 30	322 0 0	...	...	...

SCHEDULE VI—continued.

Town or Village of.	Town.			Suburban.		
	Lots.	Area.	Total amount realized.	Lots.	Area.	Total amount realized.
		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Picton	1	0 2 0	25 0 0	...	.....	.....
Port Macquarie	4	5 2 34	69 10 0	...	.....	.....
Quirindi	2	1 0 0	20 0 0	...	.....	.....
Kylstone	7	4 3 28½	78 10 0	6	5 0 16	27 5 0
Severn	1	0 2 0	4 0 0	...	.....	.....
Temora	40	11 0 0	200 14 0	23	42 2 19	185 1 0
Tenterfield	4	1 3 35	73 0 0	...	.....	.....
Tumbarumba	1	0 1 0	20 0 0	...	.....	.....
Ulupua .....	...	.....	.....	1	1 0 16	4 8 0
Uralla	1	0 2 0	20 0 0	...	.....	.....
Vittoria	2	1 0 0	8 0 0	...	.....	.....
Wellesley	20	10 0 0	80 0 0	2	2 1 25	10 10 0
West Kempsey .....	...	.....	.....	4	2 0 0	368 0 0
Whitton	21	8 3 33	234 0 0	...	.....	.....
Wilcannia	26	12 2 11	2,064 2 6	...	.....	.....
Womboota	3	1 2 0	12 0 0	...	.....	.....
	1,333	633 3 3½	32,008 2 7	421	2,697 2 26	21,476 18 7

SCHEDULE VII.

RETURN showing the number of Volunteer Land Order Applications refused in 1884, satisfied in 1884, and remaining undisposed of or unsatisfied on the 31st December, 1884.

Number of applications refused in 1884.	Area.	Number of applications satisfied in 1884. This also includes those made in 1884 and in previous years.	Area.	Number of applications unsatisfied or undisposed of on the 31st December, 1884. Applications made in 1884 and in former years.	Area.	Remarks.
30	acres. 1,500	75	acres. 3,750	65	acres. 3,150	None of the applications made in 1884 have been satisfied by the issue of a grant.

SCHEDULE VIII.

RETURN showing the number of Volunteer Land Order Applications made in 1884.

Land District.	County.	Number of applications.	Area.	Number of applications refused.	Area refused.
			acres.		acres.
Albury	Hume	1	50	1	50
Armidale	Inglis	1	50	.....	.....
Braidwood	Murray	1	50	.....	.....
Bombala	Wellesley	1	50	.....	.....
Casino	Rous	5	250	1	50
Do	Drake	6	300	1	50
Do	Richmond	1	50	.....	.....
Do	Buller	4	200	.....	.....
Corowa	Denison	1	50	1	50
Coonamble	Leichhardt	3	150	.....	.....
Do	Gowen	1	50	.....	.....
Cowra	Bathurst	2	100	.....	.....
Cassilis	Bligh	1	50	.....	.....
Deniliquin	Cadell	2	100	.....	.....
Glen Innes	Gough	3	150	2	100
Gosford	Northumberland	3	150	2	100
Gunnedah	Pottinger	1	50	.....	.....
Hay	Wakool	2	100	2	100
Do	Waljeers	3	150	.....	.....
Do	Boyd	1	50	.....	.....
Lithgow	Cook	2	100	.....	.....
Macleay River	Macquarie	2	100	1	50
Do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kempsey	Fitzroy	1	50	1	50
Moruya	Dampier	2	100	1	50
Moree	Benarba	2	100	.....	.....
Murrumbidgee	Buckland	2	100	.....	.....
Metropolitan (Sydney)	Cumberland	4	100	.....	.....
Narrandera	Boyd	1	50	.....	.....
Parramatta	Cumberland	1	50	.....	.....
Scone	Brisbane	1	50	.....	.....
Tamworth	Buckland	1	50	.....	.....
Urana	Hume	2	100	.....	.....
Wentworth	Wentworth	1	50	1	50
Walgett	Finch	4	200	.....	.....
		60	3,350	14	700

SCHEDULE IX.

APPLICATIONS to purchase in virtue of improvements under the 2nd clause of the Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875.

County.	Land District.	Number of applications made and area applied for during the year 1884.				Total number of applications and area applied for in each County including Land Districts.				Class of Land.	Total number of portions purchased in each County, area purchased, and amount paid, exclusive of penalties during 1884.				Total number of portions in the Land Districts included with the Counties, area purchased, and amount paid, exclusive of penalties during 1884.				Penalties.	Total amount paid.								
		No.	a.	r.	p.	No.	a.	r.	p.		No.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.	No.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Argyle	Goulburn	1	40	0	0	1	40	0	0	Country	1	50	0	0	62	10	0	1	50	0	0	62	10	0	62	10	0	
Ashburnham	Forbes	19	7	2	2	...	...	...	...	Town	11	4	0	16½	140	7	0	1	4	0	16½	140	7	0	1	12	0
		21	40	0	30	...	...	...	...	Suburban	25	69	1	16½	348	7	0	1	40	0	0	40	0	0	4	0	0
		14	990	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	13	25	1	0	168	0	0	...	25	1	0	168	0	0	...	...	...
	Parkes	68	3,536	1	34½	Country	1	199	1	0	199	5	0	...	1	199	1	0	199	5	0
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Suburban	26	246	0	21	430	8	0	23	44	3	21	199	3	11	...	...	...
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Town	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0	0	32	0	0	...	...	...
	Molong	3	5	0	0	Suburban	5	1	1	28½	45	3	0	...	5	1	1	28½	45	3	0
		1	0	1	32	Town	1	2	0	0	5	0	0	...	1	2	0	0	5	0	0	10	0	0
		15	2,074	0	0	141	6,653	2	18½	Country	9	257	2	28½	444	18	0	3	256	0	0	394	15	0	1,229	15	11	
Arrawatta	Inverell	21	3,602	2	0	...	...	...	...	Country	7	1,281	1	0	1,659	6	3	7	1,281	1	0	1,659	6	3	1,659	6	3
	Tenterfield	3	390	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Warialda	4	1,050	0	0	28	5,042	2	0	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Auckland	Eden	2	100	0	0	2	100	0	0	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Barradine	Walgett	6	1,530	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2,920	0	0	3,650	0	0	...	...	...
	Narrabri	2	700	0	0	Country	6	90	0	0	112	10	0	...	6	90	0	0	112	10	0
	Coonabarabran	14	3,296	2	0	22	5,526	2	0	Country	13	3,777	0	0	4,721	5	0	2	767	0	0	958	15	0	4,721	5	0	
Bathurst	Carcoar	13	94	0	38	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Cowra	12	1,274	2	0	25	1,368	2	38	Country	6	991	3	0	1,239	7	6	6	991	3	0	1,239	7	6	1,239	7	6	
Benarba	Moree	34	12,114	2	0	34	12,114	2	0	Country	7	2,446	1	0	2,897	16	3	7	2,446	1	0	2,897	16	3	2,897	16	3	
Beresford	Cooma	7	500	0	0	7	500	0	0	Country	5	869	2	0	1,246	17	6	5	869	2	0	1,246	17	6	1,246	17	6	
Bland	Cootamundra	58	18	3	0	Town	27	6	0	27	485	17	3	...	27	6	0	27	485	17	3	15	4	0
		37	74	3	16	Suburban	1	2	0	0	10	0	0	...	1	2	0	0	10	0	0	1	0	0
		54	7,050	2	0	Country	4	466	3	0	583	8	9	...	4	466	3	0	583	8	9	3,355	10	0
	Grenfell	20	6	1	27	...	...	...	...	Town	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		47	10,595	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	2,020	0	0	2,260	0	0	...	...	...
	Forbes	1	150	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	39	2,494	3	27	3,339	6	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Young	14	3,029	1	0	231	20,924	3	3	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Blaxland	Hillston	124	24,187	2	0	124	24,187	2	0	Country	4	1,420	0	0	1,760	0	0	...	4	1,420	0	0	1,760	0	0	1,760	0	0
Bligh	Wellington	1	2	0	0	Suburban	1	2	0	0	5	0	0	...	1	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	10	0
	Cassilis	12	2,033	0	0	13	2,040	0	0	Country	2	82	0	0	105	0	0	...	1	80	0	0	100	0	0	105	10	0
Booroondara	Wilcannia	23	940	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Cobar	68	14,746	0	0	91	15,686	0	0	Country	3	240	0	0	250	0	0	...	3	240	0	0	250	0	0	250	0	0
Bourke	Wagga Wagga	121	29,587	0	0	121	29,587	0	0	Country	67	12,532	0	0	14,607	4	10	...	67	12,532	0	0	14,607	4	10	126	0	0
Barrona	Bourke	88	6,050	0	0	88	6,050	0	0	Country	67	12,532	0	0	14,607	4	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Boyd	Narrandera	68	11,983	0	11	Country	14	3,358	2	0	4,312	8	3	...	14	3,358	2	0	4,312	8	3
	Hay	26	6,575	0	0	94	18,558	0	11	Country	22	5,349	3	0	7,113	5	9	...	8	1,991	1	0	2,800	17	6	7,113	5	9
Brisbane	Scone	5	278	2	0	Country	2	181	3	0	227	3	9	...	2	181	3	0	227	3	9	227	3	9
	Murrumbidgee	4	770	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Cassilis	4	376	2	0	13	1,425	0	0	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Buccleugh	Tumut	1	2	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Suburban	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	...	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
	Gundagai	2	340	0	0	3	342	0	0	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Queanbeyan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Buckland	Murrumbidgee	10	973	0	0	Country	2	127	1	0	159	1	3	...	2	127	1	0	159	1	3	159	1	3
	Tamworth	6	1,370	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gunnedah	7	1,750	0	0	23	4,093	0	0	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Buller	Tenterfield	7	374	0	0	7	374	0	0	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Casino	Country	2	790	0	0	987	10	0	...	2	790	0	0	987	10	0	987	10	0
Burnett	Warialda	23	4,981	0	0	Country	5	720	2	0	875	12	6	...	5	720	2	0	875	12	6	875	12	6

SCHEDULE IX—continued.

APPLICATIONS to purchase in virtue of improvements under the 2nd clause of the Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875—continued.

County.	Land District.	Number of applications made and area applied for during the year 1884.				Total number of applications and area applied for in each County including Land Districts.				Class of Land.	Total number of portions purchased in each County, area purchased, and amount paid, exclusive of penalties during 1884.				Total number of portions in the Land Districts included with the Counties, area purchased, and amount paid, exclusive of penalties during 1884.				Penalties.	Total amount paid.								
		No.	a.	r.	p.	No.	a.	r.	p.		No.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.	No.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Burnett	Inverell	10	2,156	2	0	33	7,137	2	0	Country																		
Cadell	Moama									Country																		
	Deniliquin	6	1,313	2	0					Country	1	250	0	0	313	2	6	1	250	2	0	313	2	6		313	2	6
Caira	Balranald	38	8,574	1	0					Country																		
	Hay	2	300	0	0	46	10,187	3	0	Country																		
Cambelego	Cobar	35	3,870	0	0	35	3,870	0	0	Country	7	400	0	0	450	0	0	7	400	0	0	450	0	0		450	0	0
Clarence	Grafton	1	200	0	0	1	200	0	0	Country																		
Clarendon	Wagga Wagga	55	8,398	0	0					Country																		
	Gundagai	6	12	0	0					Suburban	5	5	1	31	21	15	0	5	5	1	31	21	15	0		21	15	0
		2	4	0	0					Country	13	3,113	0	0	4,054	5	0	7	1,409	0	0	1,761	5	0		1,761	5	0
	Cootamundra	2	486	0	0	65	8,900	0	0	Country																		
Clarke	Glen Innes									Country	1	40	0	0	40	0	0	1	40	0	0	40	0	0		40	0	0
	Armidale	1	640	0	0	1	640	0	0	Country																		
Clive	Tenterfield	3	400	0	0	3	400	0	0	Country																		
	Glen Innes									Country	3	297	0	0	335	15	0	2	255	0	0	293	15	0				
Clyde	Brewarrina	56	16,068	2	20					Country								36	13,244	0	0	16,474	15	0				
	Walgett	3	1,120	0	0	59	17,188	2	20	Country	41	15,936	0	0	19,839	15	0	5	2,692	0	0	3,365	0	0		19,839	15	0
Cooper	Narrandera	139	41,004	1	0	139	41,004	1	0	Country	28	9,121	0	0	10,696	15	0	27	8,481	0	0	9,896	15	0				
	Bourke									Country								1	640	2	0	800	0	0		10,696	15	0
Courallie	Moree	34	5,307	3	0					Country								7	1,648	0	0	1,811	14	6				
	Bingera	1	50	0	0	35	5,357	3	0	Country	8	1,788	2	0	1,953	9	6	1	140	0	0	141	15	0		1,953	9	6
										Country																		
Cowley	Queanbeyan	11	812	0	0	11	812	0	0	Country	3	223	3	0	269	13	0	3	223	3	0	269	13	9	4	0	0	
	Yass									Country																		
Cowper	Bourke	145	17,698	0	0	145	17,698	0	0	Country	7	3,400	0	0	4,250	0	0	7	3,400	0	0	4,250	0	0		4,250	0	0
Culgoa	Brewarrina	52	19,713	0	0	52	19,713	0	0	Country																		
Cunningham	Forbes	26	7,840	0	0					Country																		
	Parkes	17	6,470	0	0					Country																		
	Condobolin	57	15,159	0	0	100	29,469	0	0	Country	1	400	0	0	500	0	0	1	400	0	0	500	0	0		500	0	0
Dampier	Broulee	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	Country																		
Darling	Tamworth	2	122	0	0	2	122	0	0	Country	3	349	0	0	436	5	0	3	349	0	0	436	5	0		436	5	0
Denham	Narrabri	9	3,360	0	0					Country								2	480	0	0	500	0	0				
	Walgett	6	3,040	0	0	15	6,400	0	0	Country	10	3,308	0	0	4,035	0	0	8	2,825	0	0	3,535	0	0		4,035	0	0
Denison	Corowa	40	7,844	3	26	40	7,844	3	26	Country	30	4,778	1	0	5,377	3	9	30	4,778	1	0	5,377	3	9		5,377	3	9
Dowling	Condobolin	14	3,106	0	0					Town								3	1	2	0	44	0	0				
										Country																		
	Hillston	17	8	1	8					Town																		
		2	4	0	0					Suburban																		
		67	12,844	1	0	100	15,962	2	8	Country	6	618	2	0	815	5	0	3	617	0	0	771	5	0		815	5	0
Drake	Casino	12	1,493	2	0	12	1,493	2	0	Country																		
	Glen Innes									Country	1	195	0	38	243	15	0	1	195	0	38	243	15	0		243	15	0
Dudley	Macleay River	1	200	0	0	1	200	0	0	Country																		
Delalah	Wilcannia	19	880	0	0	19	880	0	0	Country																		
Durham	Musclebrook									Country	1	127	0	0	198	10	0	1	127	0	0	198	10	0		198	10	0
	Scone	1	40	0	0	1	40	0	0	Country																		
	Dungog									Country	1	40	0	0	50	0	0	1	40	0	0	50	0	0		50	0	0
Evelyn	Wilcannia	37	2,690	3	0	44	2,692	2	0	Country								12	3	0	0	235	0	0	2	0	0	
		7	1	3	0					Town																		
										Suburban	13	5	0	0	255	0	0	1	2	0	0	20	0	0		257	0	0

SCHEDULE IX—continued.

APPLICATIONS to purchase in virtue of improvements under the 2nd clause of the Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875—continued.

County.	Land District.	Number of applications made and area applied for during the year 1884				Total number of applications and area applied for in each County, including Land Districts.				Class of Land.	Total number of portions purchased in each County, area purchased, and amount paid, exclusive of penalties during 1884.				Total number of portions in the Land Districts, included within the Counties, area purchased, and amount paid, exclusive of penalties during 1884.				Penalties.	Total amount paid.										
		No.	a.	r.	p.	No.	a.	r.	p.		No.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.	No.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ewenmar	Dubbo	7	2,680	0	0					Country	2							2	740	0	0		747	10	0					
	Coonamble	25	7,650	0	0	32	10,330	0	0	Country	7	2,040	0	0	2,347	10	0	5	1,300	0	0		1,600	0	0		2,347	10	0	
Finch	Walgett	77	23,895	0	0	77	23,895	0	0	Country	30	7,754	2	0	9,043	16	3	30	7,754	2	0		9,043	16	3		9,043	16	3	
Fitzgerald	Bourke	7	840	0	0					Country																				
	Wilcannia	24	1,640	0	0	31	2,480	0	0	Country																				
Fitzroy	Grafton	3	180	0	0	3	180	0	0	Country																				
Flinders	Parkes	10	485	0	0	10	485	0	0	Country	6	2,600	0	0	3,250	0	0	6	2,600	0	0		3,250	0	0		3,250	0	0	
	Cobar	49	16,925	0	0	49	16,925	0	0	Country	2	140	0	0	175	0	0	2	140	0	0		175	0	0		175	0	0	
Forbes	Grenfell	8	2,379	0	0					Country	1							1	200	0	0		250	0	0		250	0	0	
	Cowra	5	810	0	0					Country																				
	Forbes	4	8	0	0					Suburban	1							1	1	2	10		12	10	0		1	5	0	
		12	3,353	0	0	29	6,550	0	0	Town	1							1	0	1	20		12	0	0					
Farnell	Wilcannia	20	2,700	0	0	20	2,700	0	0	Country	5	501	3	30	649	10	0	2	300	0	0		375	0	0		400	15	0	
Franklin	Hillston	22	7,366	0	0	22	7,366	0	0	Country	1	100	0	0	100	0	0	1	100	0	0		100	0	0		100	0	0	
	Hay	15	2,058	0	0	15	2,058	0	0	Country	42	9,709	0	0	11,243	5	6	39	8,338	0	0		9,672	0	6					
Georgiana	Carcoar									Country	3	1,371	0	0	1,571	5	0	3	1,371	0	0		1,571	5	0		11,243	5	6	
		7	410	0	0					Town	1							1	0	1	0		5	0	0		0	10	0	
	Goulburn	1	60	0	0					Country	3							3	6	0	0		15	0	0					
	Bathurst	6	12	0	0	14	482	0	0	Country	1	69	0	0	86	5	0	1	69	0	0		86	5	0		1	10	0	
	Hartley									Suburban																				
Gipps	Hillston	8	2,800	0	0					Country	6	208	2	0	272	16	3	1	133	1	0		166	11	3		274	16	3	
	Grenfell	8	2,320	0	0					Country								1	90	0	0		112	10	0					
	Forbes	7	2,154	3	0					Country	1	146	0	0	182	10	0	1	146	0	0		182	10	0					
	Condobolin	50	11,010	0	0	73	18,284	3	0	Country	4	406	0	0	507	10	0	2	170	0	0		212	10	0		16	5	0	
Gloucester	Port Stephens	4	0	2	23½					Town	2							2	2	0	32½		15	7	6					
		3	302	0	0	7	302	2	23½	Country																				
	Manning River									Town	3	0	3	33½	18	15	0	1	0	1	1		3	7	6		18	15	0	
Gordon	Molong	12	1,165	0	0					Country	3	559	0	0	652	15	0	3	559	0	0		652	15	0		652	15	0	
	Dubbo	17	2,740	0	0	29	3,905	0	0	Country																				
Gough	Glen Innes	16	1,883	1	0					Country								4	555	0	0		683	10	0					
	Tenterfield	1	144	0	0					Country																				
	Inverell	4	660	2	0	21	2,687	3	0	Country	7	705	0	0	925	15	0	3	150	0	0		242	5	0		5	0	0	
Goulburn	Albury	24	2,612	3	0	24	2,612	3	0	Country	6	1,087	0	0	1,318	0	0	6	1,087	0	0		1,318	0	0		1,318	0	0	
Gowen	Coonamble	5	909	0	0					Country	4	1,450	0	0	1,812	10	0	4	1,450	0	0		1,812	10	0		1,812	10	0	
	Coonabarabran	8	1,934	0	0	13	2,843	0	0	Country																				
Gregory	Dubbo	31	8,193	0	0					Country								15	3,444	3	0		4,305	18	9					
	Coonamble	22	5,798	0	0	53	13,991	0	0	Country	29	7,780	3	0	9,545	13	9	14	4,336	0	0		5,239	15	0		9,545	13	9	
Gresham	Grafton	1	2	0	0					Country																				
	Glen Innes	2	200	0	0	3	202	0	0	Country																				
Gundabooka	Bourke	78	30,803	0	0	78	30,803	0	0	Country	7	3,280	0	0	4,100	0	0	7	3,280	0	0		4,100	0	0		4,100	0	0	
Harden	Burrowa	1	65	0	0					Country	1	172	0	0	215	0	0	1	172	0	0		215	0	0		215	0	0	
	Gundagai	7	1,936	0	0					Country																				
	Cootamundra	1	80	0	0					Country																				
	Young	2	4	0	0					Suburban																				
		4	166	0	0	15	2,251	0	0	Country																				
Hardinge	Armidale	10	1,207	0	0					Country																				
	Inverell	2	80	0	0	12	1,287	0	0	Country																				
Hawes	Walcha	3	730	0	0	3	730	0	0	Country																				

SCHEDULE IX—continued.

APPLICATIONS to purchase in virtue of improvements under the 2nd clause of the Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875—continued.

County.	Land District.	Number of applications made and area applied for during the year 1884.				Total number of applications and area applied for in each County, including Land Districts.				Class of Land.	Total number of portions purchased in each County, area purchased, and amount paid, exclusive of penalties during 1884.				Total number of portions in the Land Districts, include dwth the Counties, area purchased, and amount paid, exclusive of penalties during 1884.				Penalties.	Total amount paid.					
		No.	a.	r.	p.	No.	a.	r.	p.		No.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.	No.			a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
Hume	Albury	17	3,563	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	2	512	0	0	592	0	0	...	...	...
	Corowa	14	3,324	1	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	3	159	3	0	198	13	9	...	...	...
	Urana	10	2,010	0	0	41	8,897	1	0	Country	5	671	3	0	790	13	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	790 13 9	
Irrara	Bourke	132	19,605	0	0	132	19,605	0	0	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ingls	Tamworth	3	190	0	0	3	190	0	0	Country	...	...	...	...	2	427	3	0	534	13	9	...	...	...
	Armidale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Country	5	607	3	0	759	13	9	3	180	0	0	225	0	0	759 13 9
Jamieson	Narrabri	25	9,384	0	0	25	9,384	0	0	Country	23	5,696	1	0	7,107	17	6	23	5,696	1	0	7,107	17	6	7,107 17 6
Kennedy	Parkes	74	13,247	0	0	74	13,247	0	0	Country	2	140	3	0	175	18	9	2	140	3	0	175	18	9	175 18 9
Kilfera	Balanald	3	320	0	0	3	320	0	0	Country	1	320	0	0	400	0	0	1	320	0	0	400	0	0	400 0 0
Keillara	Bourke	23	920	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	1	200	0	0	250	0	0	...	...	...
	Wilcannia	8	600	0	0	31	1,520	0	0	Country	5	360	0	0	440	0	0	4	160	0	0	190	0	0	440 0 0
King	Burrowa	1	40	0	0	1	40	0	0	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laudshorough	Bourke	55	2,200	0	0	55	2,200	0	0	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Leichhardt	Coonamble	99	29,539	2	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	40	10,711	0	0	13,021	5	0	...	...	...
	Walgett	17	6,144	0	0	116	35,683	2	0	Country	52	13,311	0	0	16,221	5	0	12	2,600	0	0	3,200	0	0	16,221 5 0
Lincoln	Dubbo	30	4,287	0	0	30	4,287	0	0	Country	3	195	0	0	253	15	0	2	155	0	0	203	15	0	...
	Wellington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Livingstone	Wilcannia	1	2	0	0	...	...	...	...	Suburban	2	500	0	0	625	0	0	1	40	0	0	50	0	0	253 15 0
	Wilcannia	89	16,365	0	0	90	16,367	0	0	Country	...	...	...	...	2	500	0	0	625	0	0	...	...	...	625 0 0
Manara	Wilcannia	12	3,503	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Balanald	26	5,915	0	0	38	9,418	0	0	Country	11	3,363	0	0	3,363	0	0	11	3,363	0	0	3,363	0	0	3,363 0 0
Menindie	Wilcannia	56	3,380	0	0	56	3,380	0	0	Country	1	640	0	0	800	0	0	1	640	0	0	800	0	0	800 0 0
Mitchell	Wagga Wagga	27	5,210	1	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	4	361	3	0	437	3	9	...	...	...	1,309 7 6
	Narrandera	5	869	0	0	32	6,079	1	0	Country	9	1,181	2	0	1,309	7	6	5	819	3	0	872	3	9	...
Monteagle	Young	12	5	3	14½	...	...	...	...	Town	...	...	...	...	1	0	1	34½	15	0	0	...	...	...
	...	7	20	0	0	...	...	...	...	Suburban	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	12	24	12	6	...	...	...
	...	16	742	0	37	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	1	40	0	0	50	0	0	5	0	0	...
	Grenfell	5	2	2	0	...	...	...	...	Town	...	...	...	...	6	1	3	33½	43	0	0	4	6	0	...
	...	16	29	0	17½	...	...	...	...	Suburban	...	...	...	...	4	240	0	0	242	0	0	4	0	0	...
Mootwingee	Burrowa	20	2,119	3	11	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	9	16	3	39	61	9	7	0	14	0	450 2 1
	Wilcannia	1	112	0	0	77	3,031	2	0½	Country	22	302	2	28½	436	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	74	5,380	0	0	74	5,380	0	0	Country	4	1,350	0	0	1,550	0	0	4	1,350	0	0	1,550	0	0	1,500 0 0
	Hillston	117	11,822	0	0	117	11,822	0	0	Country	30	11,318	2	0	13,362	5	0	30	11,318	2	0	13,362	5	0	13,362 5 0
	Cobar	91	13,565	0	0	91	13,565	0	0	Country	3	410	0	0	490	0	0	3	410	0	0	490	0	0	490 0 0
Murchison	Inverell	6	325	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	1	104	3	0	157	2	6	...	...	...
	Bingera	14	1,039	0	0	20	1,364	0	0	Country	3	257	3	0	348	7	6	2	153	0	0	191	5	0	348 7 6
Macquarie	West Kempsey	1	15	0	0	1	15	0	0	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Murray	Queanbeyan	2	117	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	1	140	0	0	175	0	0	1	140	0	0	175	0	0	175 0 0
	Braidwood	1	0	2	0	3	117	2	0	Town	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Napier	Narrabri	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	2	371	0	0	401	0	0	...	...	...
	Gunnedah	12	2,595	3	15	12	2,595	3	15	Country	8	1,329	3	0	1,495	0	0	6	958	3	0	1,094	0	0	5 10 0
	Coonabarabran	23	2,914	0	0	23	2,914	0	0	Country	1	231	0	0	288	15	0	1	231	0	0	288	15	0	288 15 0
Narran	Cassilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Brewarrina	88	32,388	0	0	88	32,388	0	0	Country	38	11,924	3	0	14,930	18	9	38	11,924	3	0	14,930	18	9	14,930 18 9
Narromine	Dubbo	59	18,869	3	0	...	...	...	...	Country	11	2,548	2	0	3,185	12	6	11	2,548	2	0	3,185	12	6	3,185 12 6
	Parkes	3	120	0	0	62	18,989	3	0	Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nicholson	Hillston	14	4,156	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	...	...	...	...	10	3,340	0	0	3,587	0	0	...	...	...	6,644 3 9
	Hay	57	15,084	1	0	71	19,240	1	0	Country	18	6,239	3	0	6,644	3	9	8	2,899	3	0	3,057	3	9	...

SCHEDULE IX—continued.

APPLICATIONS to purchase in virtue of improvements under the 2nd clause of the Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875—continued.

County.	Land District.	Number of applications made and area applied for during the year 1884.			Total number of applications and area applied for in each County, including Land Districts.			Class of Land.	Total number of portions purchased in each County, area purchased, and amount paid, exclusive of penalties during 1884.			Total number of portions in the Land Districts, included with the Counties, area purchased, and amount paid, exclusive of penalties during 1884.			Penalties.	Total amount paid.														
		No.	a.	r.	p.	No.	a.	r.	p.	No.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.	No.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.				
Oxley	Dubbo	31	7,642	0	0	31	7,642	0	0	Country	19	6,408	0	0	7,860	9	0	19	6,408	0	0	7,860	9	0	14	12	0			
Parry	Tamworth	7	220	2	0	7	220	2	0	Town	20	6,408	2	0	8,082	9	0	1	0	2	0	222	0	0			8,097	1	0	
Perry	Wentworth	72	6,694	0	0					Country																				
	Balranald	13	520	0	0					Country																				
	Wilcannia	3	120	0	0	88	7,334	0	0	Country	1	40	0	0	50	0	0	1	40	0	0	50	0	0			50	0	0	
Poole	Wilcannia	15	1,840	0	0	15	1,840	0	0	Country																				
Phillip	Mudgee	13	13	2	7					Suburban								8	14	2	14	55	10	0	1	0	0			
		35	333	1	0					Country																				
	Rylstone	1	50	0	0	49	396	3	7	Town	13	15	3	32½	73	0	0	5	1	1	18½	17	10	0	0	14	0	74	14	0
Pottinger	Gunnedah	27	5,963	0	0					Country								19	2,705	0	0	2,955	5	0	0	17	0			
	Murrumbundi	1	320	0	0	28	6,283	0	0	Country	20	2,795	0	0	3,067	15	0	1	90	0	0	112	10	0			3,068	12	0	
Rankin	Bourke	57	5,590	0	0					Country																				
	Wilcannia	7	300	0	0	64	5,890	0	0	Country																				
Richmond	Casino	1	420	0	0	1	420	0	0	Country																				
Robinson	Cobar	92	8,880	0	0	92	8,880	0	0	Country	2	380	0	0	380	0	0	2	380	0	0	380	0	0			380	0	0	
Rouse	Tweed River	1	400	0	0	1	400	0	0	Country																				
	Casino									Country	1	640	0	0	800	0	0	1	640	0	0	800	0	0			800	0	0	
Roxburgh	Bathurst	2	0	2	0					Town	1	1	0	0	8	0	0													
		15	29	0	0					Suburban								1	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	16	0	8	16	0
		1	90	0	0					Country																				
	Rylstone	1	50	0	0	19	169	2	0	Country																				
Sandon	Armidale	1	0	2	22½					Town	3	103	3	30½	112	14	0	1	1	3	30½	5	0	0						
		24	1,852	3	0	25	1,853	1	22½	Suburban								1	2	0	0	7	14	0	0	14	0			
										Country								1	100	0	0	100	0	0			113	8	0	
Selwyn	Albury	24	3,671	1	0					Country	5	1,533	1	36	1,891	12	0		1,533	1	36	1,891	12	0						
										Town	7	1,534	0	34	1,897	10	0	2	0	2	38	5	18	0	0	4	0	1,897	14	0
Stapylton	Tumut	1	2	0	0	25	3,673	1	0	Town																				
	Varialda	8	1,770	0	0					Country								3	525	0	0	625	5	0						
	Morree	28	15,663	0	0	36	17,433	0	0	Country	16	4,228	1	0	4,924	6	3	13	3,703	1	0	4,299	1	3	4	0	0	4,928	6	3
Sturt	Hay	65	18,553	2	0	65	18,553	2	0	Country	6	972	0	0	1,215	0	0	6	972	0	0	1,215	0	0			1,215	0	0	
St. Vincent	Braidwood	16	32	0	0					Suburban								6	12	0	0	30	0	0	1	0	0			
	Broulee	2	52	0	0					Country								1	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	10	0			
	Shoalhaven	6	1,796	0	0	24	1,880	0	0	Country	8	14	3	39½	47	0	0													
										Town								1	0	3	39½	12	0	0	0	16	0	49	6	0
Talla	Wentworth	33	3,540	0	0					Country								5	200	0	0	220	0	0						
	Balranald	43	6,748	0	0	76	10,288	0	0	Country	6	260	0	0	280	0	0	1	60	0	0	60	0	0			280	0	0	
Tara	Wentworth	62	19,360	0	0	62	19,360	0	0	Country	3	704	2	0	855	12	6	3	704	2	0	855	12	6			855	12	6	
Thonlacannia	Bourke	8	1,865	0	0	8	1,865	0	0	Country	1	260	0	0	325	0	0	1	260	0	0	325	0	0			325	0	0	
Tongowoko	Wilcannia	2	0	1	32	44	3,270	2	24	Town																				
		42	3,270	0	32					Country																				
Townsend	Deniliquin	125	28,049	1	0					Country	77	18,900	2	0	21,665	6	6	36	6,135	0	0	7,272	1	6	15	6	0			
	Hay	90	30,065	1	0	215	58,114	2	0	Country								41	12,765	2	0	14,393	5	0			21,680	12	0	
Tandora	Wilcannia	36	2,215	0	0	36	2,215	0	0	Country																				
Ularara	Bourke	12	2,550	0	0	45	4,545	0	0	Country																				
	Wilcannia	33	1,995	0	0					Country																				
Urana	Urana	86	18,078	0	6	86	1,8078	0	6	Country	18	3,546	1	0	4,053	0	3	18	3,546	1	0	4,053	0	0	43	10	6	4,096	10	9
Vernon	Walcha	11	1,398	1	0	11	1,398	1	0	Country	4	693	3	0	793	2	6	4	693	3	0	793	2	6			793	2	6	

SCHEDULE IX—continued.

APPLICATIONS to purchase in virtue of improvements under the 2nd clause of the Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875—continued.

County.	Land District.	Number of applications made and area applied for during the year 1884.				Total number of applications and area applied for in each County, including Land Districts.				Class of Land.	Total number of portions purchased in each County, area purchased and amount paid, exclusive of penalties during 1884.				Total number of portions in the Land Districts, included with the Counties, area purchased, and amount paid, exclusive of penalties during 1884.				Penalties.	Total amount paid.											
		No.	a.	r.	p.	No.	a.	r.	p.		No.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.	No.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.				
Wakool	Deniliquin	179	333,046	1	0	...	...	...	...	Country .....	...	...	...	...	16	2,808	0	0	16	2,808	0	0	2,915	15	0	25	8	0
	Hay	12	2,806	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country .....	...	...	...	...	3	364	1	0	3	364	1	0	445	6	3	...	...	...
	Balranald	6	1,494	3	0	197	337,347	0	0	Country	20	3,414	1	0	1	242	0	0	1	242	0	0	242	0	0	3,628	9	3			
Wallace	Cooma	8	841	2	0	8	841	2	0	Country	3	255	1	0	3	304	1	3	3	255	1	0	304	1	3	304	1	3	
Waljeers	Hillston	19	6,520	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country .....	...	...	...	...	9	3,741	3	0	9	3,741	3	0	4,566	15	0	...	...	...
	Hay	20	4,905	0	0	39	11,425	0	0	Country	15	6,701	3	0	6	2,960	0	0	6	2,960	0	0	3,700	0	0	8,266	15	0			
Waradgery	Hay	67	24,418	0	0	67	24,418	0	0	Country	38	14,060	3	10	38	15,726	11	3	38	14,060	3	10	15,726	11	3	15,726	11	0			
Wellesley	Bombala	5	960	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	7	570	0	0	7	699	17	6	7	570	0	0	699	17	6	12	7	6
	Cooma	6	425	3	0	11	1,385	3	0	Country .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Woore	Wilcannia	57	4,180	0	0	57	4,180	0	0	Country .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wellington	Mudgee	8	211	2	20	...	...	...	...	Suburban .....	...	...	...	...	3	5	1	9	3	5	1	9	14	5	4	0	6	8
	Wellington	8	58	0	0	16	269	2	20	Suburban	4	5	3	9	1	24	5	4	1	0	2	0	10	0	0	24	12	0			
White	Narrabri	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	Country	1	200	0	0	1	250	0	0	1	200	0	0	250	0	0	250	0	0			
Windeyer	Wentworth	65	7,036	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country	2	840	0	0	2	1,050	0	0	2	840	0	0	1,050	0	0	1,050	0	0
	Wilcannia	36	3,700	0	0	101	10,736	0	0	Country .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wynyard	Wagga Wagga	30	6,235	2	20	...	...	...	...	Country .....	...	...	...	...	6	312	1	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tamut	1	0	1	0	...	...	...	...	Town .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	2	3	0	36	...	...	...	...	Suburban .....	...	...	...	...	3	6	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	13	514	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country .....	...	...	...	...	3	200	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gundagai	14	1,994	1	8	60	8,747	1	24	Country	14	629	1	0	1	1,022	16	3	1	107	0	0	214	0	0	...	...	...
	1	4	0	0	1,022	16	3		
Westmoreland	Bathurst	6	12	0	0	6	12	0	0	Suburban	1	2	0	0	1	5	0	0	1	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	10	0			
Wentworth	Balranald	3	400	0	0	...	...	...	...	Country .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Wentworth	180	25,250	0	0	183	25,650	0	0	Country	5	200	0	0	5	240	0	0	5	200	0	0	240	0	0	240	0	0			
Werunda	Wilcannia	66	4,700	0	0	66	4,700	0	0	Country	3	120	0	0	3	120	0	0	3	120	0	0	120	0	0	12	0	0			
Yanda	Bourke	72	18,555	0	0	72	18,555	0	0	Country .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yancowinna	Wilcannia	183	72	2	34½	...	...	...	...	Town .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	11	12	0	0	Suburban	10	2,270	0	0	2,447	10	0		
	...	64	9,314	3	0	258	9,399	1	34½	Country	10	2,270	0	0	...	2,447	10	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Young	Wilcannia	63	4,096	0	0	63	4,096	0	0	Country	2	360	0	0	2	450	0	0	450	0	0		
Yangnulgra	Wilcannia	82	4,890	0	0	82	4,890	0	0	Country	7	1,120	0	0	7	1,533	0	6	7	1,120	0	0	1,533	0	6	1,533	0	6			
	Totals	6,467	1,416,879	1	20½	6,467	1,416,879	1	20½	...	1,191	252,127	2	10½	1,191	302,315	16	11	1,191	252,127	2	10½	302,315	16	11	333	7	8	302,649	4	7

SCHEDULE X.

ANALYSIS of Land sold in virtue of Improvements.

Class of Land.	Area.	Amount.	Average price per acre, exclusive of Fines.
	a. r. p.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Town	24 3 7½	1,316 10 3	53 1 8
Suburban	164 0 36½	768 0 10	4 13 6
Country	251,938 2 6	300,231 5 10	1 3 10

SCHEDULE XI.

LAND alienated under the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th clauses of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

Clause.	Area purchased.	Amount paid, exclusive of penalties.	Penalties.	Total.
	a. r. p.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
9th	16 3 20½	1,363 0 0	9 10 0	1,372 10 0
10th	354 1 12	532 14 0	.....	532 14 0
11th	69 2 14½	195 11 4	.....	195 11 4
12th	65 1 38½	3,033 19 11	7 3 0	3,041 2 11
Totals.....	506 1 5	5,125 5 3	16 13 0	5,141 18 3

SCHEDULE XII.

LAND granted for Religious and Public Purposes.

Public Purposes.	No. of Grants.	Areas granted.	Religious Purposes.	No. of Grants.	Areas granted.
		a. r. p.			a. r. p.
Permanent Commons	3	2,866 3 5	Church of England	8	11 2 26½
Public Recreation	40	1,884 0 26½	Wesleyan	7	9 1 37½
Reserve for Refuge in time of flood..	1	575 0 0	Addition to Church of England and		
Public School Sites	254	530 1 0	Roman Catholic Burial Grounds	2	4 0 0
General Cemeteries	41	365 3 4½	Roman Catholic	2	3 0 0
Show Grounds	13	211 1 13	Roman Catholic and Presbyterian		
Public Parks	2	71 0 36	Cemeteries in connection with		
Recreation and Show Grounds	2	22 1 26	the Liverpool Asylum	1	2 0 11
Water Supply and other Public Pur-					
poses.....	1	19 0 0	Totals	20	30 0 35½
Sites for Hospitals.....	3	17 2 0			
Market Reserves	2	7 1 16			
Reserves for Recreation, Wharf, and					
access to Water	2	5 3 36			
Wharfage Purposes	4	5 1 33½			
Sites for Cattle Sale-yards	1	4 3 37			
Sites for School of Arts and Mechanics					
Institutes	9	2 2 30½			
Sites for Observatory	2	1 1 39	Number of Grants—		
Addition to site for Benevolent			For Religious Purposes	20	
Institution	1	0 3 38½	For Public Purposes	393	
Sites for Town Halls	3	0 3 21½			
Sites for Municipal Chambers.....	2	0 3 0	Total	413	
Sites for Public Baths	2	0 2 21½			
Site for Sailors' Reading-room	1	0 1 0			
Site for Reservoir	1	0 0 35½	Area granted—		
Reserve for Public Road	1	0 0 23	For Religious Purposes		30 0 35½
Addition to site for Literary Institute			For Public Purposes		6,595 1 26½
Reserve for approach to Circular					
Quay and other Public Purposes	1	0 0 7½	General Total		6,625 2 22
	393	6,595 1 26½			

SCHEDULE XIII.

SCHEDULE XIII.

RETURN showing the number of Grants prepared during the year 1884.

No. of Deeds of Grant	Area.	Mode of Alienation.
2,719	a. r. p. 19,574 1 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	Sales by auction—23rd clause Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1881.
17	1,656 0 30	After auction selections—25th clause of Lands Acts further Amendment Act of 1880.
1,038	206,681 1 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	Purchases in virtue of Improvements—2nd and 31st clauses of Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875.
1,090	125,231 3 24	Conditional purchases—13th, 14th, 19th, 21st, and 22nd clauses of Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.
155	831 2 27	Purchases under the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th clauses of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.
89	4,500 0 0	Volunteer Land Order Grants.
288	3,015 2 26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Dedications under the 5th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 and the 32nd clause of the Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875.
5,416	361,491 0 10	

SCHEDULE XIV.

RETURN of Letters registered during the year 1884.

Branch.	Documents Registered.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1883.	1884.		
Ministerial.....	9,308	9,766	458	.....
Miscellaneous	26,173	28,316	2,173	.....
Alienation.....	5,307	5,074	.....	233
Leases	14,019	16,704	2,685	.....
Conditional Sales Branch	56,249	57,631	1,382	.....
	111,056	112,521	6,698	233

SCHEDULE XV.

RETURN of Manuscript Letters and Formal Documents despatched during the year 1884.

Branch.	Manuscript Letters.	Formal Documents.	Packets of Maps for sale.	Total.	Total in 1883.
Account	846	2,810	.....	3,656	.....
Auction and Statistical	1,175	6,654	.....	7,829	6,563
Deeds	281	190	.....	471	454
Ministerial	1,134	1,080	.....	2,214	1,773
Miscellaneous	4,771	14,061	1,622	20,454	18,091
Leases	946	15,276	.....	16,222	19,475
Conditional Sales Branch	9,903	59,370	.....	69,273	63,804
	19,056	99,441	1,622	120,119	110,160

RETURN XVI.

SHOWING number and area of Conditional Purchases made from the years 1862 to 1884 inclusive.

Years.	Sold Conditionally.		Years.	Sold Conditionally.		Years.	Sold Conditionally.	
	Number of Selections.	Area.		Number of Selections.	Area.		Number of Selections.	Area.
1862 to 1869 ..	27,994	a. r. p. 2,161,390 2 2	1875	14,517	a. r. p. 1,754,078 0 0	1881	14,220	a. r. p. 2,329,202 0 15
1870	4,471	329,318 1 2	1876	12,054	1,084,212 0 0	1882	14,606	2,392,217 2 35
1871	4,751	353,682 2 8	1877	12,009	1,099,816 0 0	1883	10,674	1,617,712 0 7
1872	8,281	749,536 3 0	1878	12,602	1,688,347 3 18	1884	10,657	1,453,037 0 33
1873	13,417	1,391,719 0 0	1879	7,640	924,136 1 0			
1874	14,510	1,686,282 0 0	1880	8,683	1,147,061 2 30			
						Total.....	191,480	23,470,130 8 39

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SCHEDULE XVII.

RETURN showing the Number, Area, and Sections of Conditional Purchases for 1884.

District.	Section 13.			Section 14.			Section 19.			Section 21.			Section 22.			Total.		
	No. of C.P.s	Area.		No. of C.P.s	Area.		No. of C.P.s	Area.		No. of C.P.s	Area.		No. of C.P.s	Area.		No. of C.P.s	Area.	
		a.	r. p.		a.	r. p.		a.	r. p.		a.	r. p.		a.	r. p.		a.	r. p.
Albury	42	13,740	1 20	10	1,060	0 0	1	40	0 0	193	20,686	3 34	6	1,330	0 0	252	37,766	1 14
Armidale	193	32,870	1 0	2	80	0 0	11	554	0 0	235	29,219	0 25	29	5,393	2 0	520	68,616	3 25
Bathurst	31	7,398	1 0							7	1,020	0 0				24	8,918	1 0
Bega	17	2,554	0 0	2	140	0 0	8	550	0 0	61	3,530	0 0	4	372	0 0	106	7,146	0 0
Berrima	15	1,599	2 0	10	420	0 0	6	2,440	0 0	122	8,693	3 30	1	40	0 0	156	13,193	1 30
Bingera	26	1,985	0 0	11	730	0 0	30	6,909	0 0	38	2,831	0 0	8	200	0 0	97	12,705	0 0
Bombala	34	5,873	0 0				1	40	0 0	49	6,000	0 0				76	11,413	0 0
Bourke	47	6,731	0 0	32	5,461	0 0	2	200	0 0	203	18,083	1 15	1	80	0 0	272	30,555	1 15
Braidwood	33	5,635	2 0	3	570	0 0				137	10,250	0 0	8	405	2 0	195	16,861	0 0
Brewarrina	23	6,534	0 0				1	80	0 0	11	2,230	0 0	1	600	0 0	46	9,494	0 0
Brisbane Water	19	1,202	1 0	4	250	0 0	4	272	0 0	64	3,537	2 0	22	1,083	3 0	117	6,405	2 0
Broulee	10	7,780	0 0							7	1,630	0 0				26	9,310	0 0
Campbelltown	11	532	3 0				4	1,300	0 0	21	1,304	2 0	2	80	0 0	38	3,217	1 0
Camden	17	930	0 0							57	4,320	3 0	8	683	0 0	82	5,083	3 0
Caregar	2	120	0 0				6	3,324	3 0	1	43	0 0				9	3,487	8 0
Casino	29	1,590	0 0				7	1,650	0 0	21	1,658	2 0	2	337	0 0	50	5,225	2 0
Cassilis	25	3,063	3 0	8	1,289	8 0	1	40	0 0	93	8,804	2 0	10	683	2 0	137	13,381	2 0
Cobar	63	12,204	0 0	7	1,303	0 0	6	270	0 0	75	9,741	2 0	2	430	0 0	143	21,083	2 0
Coamba	32	8,637	2 0	8	350	0 0				61	4,647	1 0	1	40	0 0	106	8,674	8 0
Coonabarabran	5	820	0 0	3	120	0 0	6	340	0 0	6	1,041	0 0				20	2,321	0 0
Coonamble	52	8,278	1 0	22	3,055	0 0	4	160	0 0	322	20,945	1 22	44	4,702	1 0	444	43,741	3 22
Cootamundry	31	4,410	3 0	1	40	0 0				35	2,867	0 0				67	7,347	3 0
Corowa	63	25,616	2 0				37	2,345	0 0	82	9,412	1 0	5	486	0 0	157	37,579	3 0
Cowra	29	7,012	0 19	46	13,309	0 0				76	30,200	0 0	1	600	0 0	162	51,201	0 19
Condobolin	23	11,928	3 21							36	4,656	2 30				69	16,585	2 11
Deniliquin	28	6,856	2 0	10	3,389	2 0				101	9,002	1 0	3	188	0 0	151	18,527	1 0
Dowling	1	640	0 0	4	1,666	8 0	4	130	0 0	11	2,215	3 0	1	400	0 0	21	5,052	2 0
Dubbo	34	14,013	2 12							26	4,519	3 20	1	320	0 0	61	19,788	1 32
Dungog	0	430	0 0				3	1,920	0 0	17	700	2 0	4	223	0 0	33	3,273	2 0
Eben	48	12,636	2 0	4	900	0 0	4	160	0 0	70	9,661	3 20	5	705	0 0	131	23,963	1 20
Eden	2	80	0 0	12	950	2 0				50	3,165	1 0	9	637	0 0	73	4,832	3 0
Forbes	24	1,878	0 0	1	150	0 0	1	60	0 0	110	6,161	3 0	3	132	0 0	139	8,431	3 0
Glen Innes	12	3,922	0 0	9	2,692	0 0	4	100	0 0	49	7,639	0 0	4	371	1 0	78	14,784	1 0
Goulburn	77	11,043	0 0				14	600	0 0	132	14,296	1 16	4	606	0 0	227	26,635	1 16
Grafton	25	1,880	0 0	40	6,085	0 0	3	160	0 0	106	11,810	0 0	47	2,682	0 0	311	22,627	0 0
Grenfell	38	4,456	0 0	33	3,450	0 0	6	1,800	0 0	130	8,882	1 0	7	659	2 0	214	10,257	3 0
Gundagai	22	6,035	0 0	29	6,311	0 0				86	11,495	3 0	6	835	0 0	143	24,676	3 0
Gunnedah	23	5,909	1 0	4	2,180	0 0	2	284	0 0	90	11,004	2 0	7	1,342	0 12	126	20,419	3 12
Gunning	29	10,248	0 0				3	160	0 0	65	9,645	2 0	3	927	3 0	105	20,651	1 0
Hay	1	80	0 0	20	1,094	2 0				77	4,194	2 0	12	775	0 0	110	6,744	0 0
Hartley	38	17,338	1 0				1	50	0 0	20	3,344	1 0				59	20,730	2 0
Hillston	20	1,300	0 0	0	300	0 0	22	2,207	2 0	67	4,041	2 32	15	712	1 0	133	9,151	1 32
Inverell	15	5,670	1 0	2	600	0 0				13	1,757	3 0				32	8,248	0 0
Kiama	70	12,014	3 0				17	691	1 0	142	18,131	3 0	1	160	0 0	224	30,997	3 0
Liverpool	1	60	0 0				2	896	0 0							3	916	0 0
Lismore	2	87	0 0				8	3,016	0 0	1	72	0 0				11	3,174	2 0
Manildra	97	10,775	2 0				1	100	0 0	117	9,663	0 0	4	325	0 0	210	20,390	2 0
Manning River	6	354	2 0				2	1,280	0 0	3	230	0 0				11	1,864	2 0
Macleay River	1	100	0 0	60	5,139	1 0				127	7,477	0 0	9	990	0 0	197	13,766	1 0
Macleay River	2	90	0 0	109	12,487	0 0	5	300	0 0	183	18,154	0 0	49	4,484	0 0	348	35,515	0 0
Metropolitan							80	17,187	2 0							36	17,187	2 0
Mitchell							61	3,140	0 0							50	4,300	0 0
Molong	46	6,555	0 0	8	1,549	2 0				169	18,644	0 0				223	26,748	2 0
Mooroo	57	21,920	3 0				2	150	0 0	49	9,514	1 0				108	31,685	0 0
Mudgee	24	2,326	0 0	20	2,257	1 0	3	129	0 0	55	5,121	3 0	23	1,447	0 0	155	11,272	0 0
Murrumbidgee	12	2,113	1 0				1	120	0 0	72	8,616	1 27	6	447	1 0	91	11,236	3 27
Muswellbrook	12	671	0 0							27	1,356	2 0	2	235	0 0	41	2,312	2 0
Narrabri	20	3,243	1 0							23	4,394	2 0				43	13,142	3 0
Narrandera	19	3,481	0 0	55	23,879	0 0	3	314	0 0	25	4,257	1 0	1	253	1 0	109	36,614	2 0
Newcastle	4	926	1 0				16	7,096	0 0							20	8,022	1 0
Orange	15	1,698	0 0	1	40	0 0	12	690	0 0	40	11,070	0 0				68	13,498	0 0
Parkes	5	560	0 0	2	237	0 0	3	160	0 0	23	4,070	1 0				33	5,013	1 0
Parramatta	25	1,330	0 0				34	7,905	0 0	8	465	0 0	2	140	0 0	69	9,330	0 0
Paterson				5	260	0 0				15	760	0 0				20	1,020	0 0
Patrick's Plains	3	680	0 0				7	2,549	0 0	34	2,277	0 0	1	40	0 0	45	5,540	0 0
Penrith							3	780	0 0							7	1,034	2 0
Port Macquarie	19	2,552	0 0	14	1,364	0 0				60	3,888	1 7	4	230	0 0	97	8,034	1 7
Port Stephens				49	5,682	0 0				63	4,238	0 0	8	750	0 0	125	10,690	0 0
Queanbeyan	43	8,744	3 0	10	830	0 0				183	15,704	2 0	14	1,070	0 0	250	26,349	1 0
Raymond Terrace	10	1,260	0 0							7	410	0 0				17	1,670	0 0
Rylstone	14	770	0 0	1	40	0 0	8	1,540	0 0	29	1,073	0 0				52	4,028	0

SCHEDULE XIX.

RETURN showing the area of Conditional Selections that have been declared void (and deposits refunded) from 1862 to 1884 inclusive.

1st January, 1862, to 31st December, 1873...	a.	r.	p.	1st January, 1881, to 31st December, 1881...	a.	r.	p.
1874...	305,809	0	7	1882...	246,351	0	0
1875...	142,124	1	0	1883...	334,704	1	0
1876...	189,622	0	0	1884...	452,709	2	0
1877...	330,159	1	0		409,551	3	0
1878...	362,017	0	0				
1879...	290,455	2	0				
1880...	296,661	0	0				
	189,201	0	0				
					3,549,365	2	7

SCHEDULE XX.

- (I.)—Number and area of conditional purchases declared void, from 1st January to 31st December, 1884.
 (II.)—Areas of conditional purchases reduced.
 (III.)—Amount of deposit authorised for refund.
 (IV.)—Number and area declared void and areas reduced in each Land District.
 (V.)—Reasons of voidance.

	No.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
(I.)—Void ...	No. 2,847	area, 409,551	3	13	amount, 113,052	4	3
(II.)—Area reduced...	„ 1,730	„ 103,102	0	0	„ 26,008	16	3
(III.)—Total area ...	„	512,653	3	13	„ 139,061	8	6
Voidance revoked No. 28	„	area, 3,893	2	6	„ 989	12	8
After revocations deducted	„	405,658	1	7	„ 112,062	11	7

Districts.	Void.			Area reduced.			District.	Void.			Area reduced.		
	No.	Area.		No.	Area.			No.	Area.		No.	Area.	
Albury	63	a. 8,771	r. 2	p. 35	34	acres. 2,276½	Lithgow	38	a. 2,940	r. 0	p. 0	8	305½
Armidale	60	7,273	3	0	59	1,219½	Liverpool	8	2,877	0	0	6	897½
Balranald	6	890	0	0	3	259½	Maitland	1	60	0	0	2	38½
Bathurst	18	1,149	0	0	19	66½	Macleay River	93	8,930	0	0	25	494½
Bega	56	4,087	3	30	12	137½	Manning River	21	1,236	2	0	5	73
Berrima	22	3,511	3	0	6	230	Molong	48	4,401	1	0	64	3,109½
Bingera	17	1,260	0	0	1	45½	Moree	38	13,502	0	0	33	4,317½
Bombala	96	11,592	1	0	41	1,656½	Mudgee	34	2,054	1	0	8	446
Bourke	42	8,419	2	0	17	2,094½	Murrumbidgee	23	3,865	0	0	12	577½
Brandwood	27	1,681	1	0	8	370½	Muswellbrook	5	290	0	0	9	366
Brewarrina	19	6,854	0	0	11	2,703½	Narrabri	25	6,433	0	0	23	2,508½
Brisbane Water	20	1,320	0	0	4	44½	Narrandera	23	6,522	3	0	15	1,695½
Broulee	21	1,518	0	0	6	78½	Newcastle	10	4,213	0	0	11	56
Burrowa	61	7,240	1	0	21	703½	Orange	19	1,700	0	0	7	628
Camden	4	210	0	0	...	...	Parkes	13	2,999	1	0	8	479½
Campbelltown	7	3,394	3	0	...	...	Parramatta	4	235	0	0	7	28
Carcoar	21	1,860	3	0	17	488½	Paterson .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Casino	15	2,379	2	0	24	295	Patrick's Plains	7	450	2	0	6	296½
Cassilis	17	1,064	1	0	23	715	Penrith	4	1,603	0	0	3	156
Cobar	12	1,320	0	0	4	1,259	Port Macquarie	4	220	2	0	1	½
Condobolin	12	1,505	0	0	3	140	Port Stephens	10	770	0	0	3	9½
Cooma	151	14,571	1	35	75	3,026½	Queanbeyan	88	6,704	0	0	36	926½
Coonamble	72	14,234	3	0	67	5,566	Raymond Terrace .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Coonabarabran	18	2,765	0	0	5	452½	Rylstone	17	1,488	0	0	5	52½
Corowa	47	8,352	1	11	44	2,662	Scone	17	1,396	0	0	8	387½
Cootamundra	57	10,276	2	9	44	2,005½	Shoalhaven	13	825	1	0	9	282½
Cowra	28	5,765	1	0	17	907½	Sydney	40	18,064	0	0	4	216½
Deniliquin	13	4,105	2	0	15	1,672	Tamworth	63	7,933	0	22	36	1,714½
Dowling	14	740	0	0	1	0½	Tenterfield	26	1,923	0	0	18	390
Dubbo	23	3,585	1	0	30	2,261½	Tumut	49	5,753	3	0	22	1,448½
Dungog	16	1,340	0	0	3	125	Twedd River	40	4,914	0	0	16	619½
Eden	37	3,098	0	0	10	573½	Urana	28	6,329	0	0	44	2,441
Forbes	17	3,321	2	0	22	2,385½	Wagga Wagga	175	32,841	1	0	145	11,951½
Glen Innes	73	6,748	0	0	34	948½	Walcha	21	3,944	0	0	20	1,194½
Goulburn	64	5,424	1	0	39	892½	Walgett	21	5,900	0	0	7	1,550½
Grafton	23	2,320	0	0	10	419½	Warialda	18	4,095	0	19	18	1,769½
Grenfell	35	7,063	0	0	33	1,685	Wellington	25	2,429	3	16	12	406½
Gundagai	59	10,952	0	30	33	2,371½	Wentworth	5	1,132	0	0	6	721
Gunnedah	22	4,663	3	0	24	1,932½	Wilcannia	25	2,240	0	0	3	514½
Gunning	37	2,568	3	6	26	598	Windsor	21	1,040	0	0	...	...
Hay	26	9,573	0	0	24	2,561½	Wollombi	3	260	0	0	4	2½
Hillston	15	3,619	1	0	10	840	Wollongong	1	480	0	0	1	107
Inverell	45	5,620	2	0	37	3,026½	Yass	23	1,831	0	0	16	655½
Kiama	2	950	0	0	5	1,478½	Young	62	12,197	1	0	53	2,535½
Lismore	128	11,610	1	0	65	3,563½							

REASONS

REASONS of Voidance.

Limit of frontage exceeded	194	Through non-residence on freehold	59
Separated from previous selections	124	Application not tendered in person	168
Non-survey within twelve months	321	Non-holder of original purchase	28
Form of measurement applied for objectionable	190	Within population boundaries	274
On account of improvements	163	More than one selection on the same land office day... ..	3
As the land was previously selected	351	Special decisions	33
Land within reserves	272	While area applied for not available	152
Land not available	134	Fee for sub-division not paid	15
Crosses a frontage road	20	Applicant under age	1
Crosses a frontage creek	7	Taken up under wrong name	1
Contrary to Regulations	14	Applied for at wrong land office	49
Full deposit not paid	2	Within thirty days from date of forfeiture	14
Freehold not in applicant's name	3	Joins previous selection at a corner only	11
Original purchase void... ..	78	Taken up under section 13 instead of 14	14
Original purchase lapsed or forfeited... ..	5	Vagueness of description	105
Holds another incomplete purchase	12		
Maximum area exceeded	15	Total... ..	2,847
Within a mineral lease... ..	6		
Applicant being a married woman	5		

SUPPLEMENTARY

Areas increased during the year 1884.

Number of C.Ps. acted on—723.

Area increased by—9,995a. 1r. 26p.

Amount of deposit asked for—£2,453 5s.

Deposits not asked for to the amount of—£70 16s.

Deposits in excess on account of M.C.Ps.—£25 5s.

	£	s.	d.
Miscellaneous amounts authorised for refund during the year...	1,211	3	6
Sub-division fees	593	4	0
Investigation fees	220	0	0
10 per cent. deposit on account of improvements	259	12	0
Deposits for M.C.Ps. sections not charged	96	17	6
Appraisalment fees	31	10	0
Guarantee survey fee	10	0	0

SCHEDULE XXI.

RETURN showing the number and total area of Conditional Purchases forfeited each year to 31st December, 1884.

Year.	Number.	Area	Year.	Number.	Area.
		a. r. p.			a. r. p.
1864	26	1,666 1 0	1876	724	89,915 1 0
1865	24	1,490 0 0	1877	802	107,536 3 5
1866	29	1,658 2 0	1878	1,075	196,308 0 0
1867	366	23,750 0 0	1879	141	15,510 0 0
1868	357	20,253 0 0	1880	492	66,658 0 0
1869	631	45,654 3 0	1881	557	71,924 3 3
1870	180	11,546 0 0	1882	523	78,551 2 5
1871	335	18,602 0 10	1883	822	104,534 2 17
1872	139	9,304 3 0	1884	1,163	190,936 2 0
1873	288	39,778 1 16			
1874	234	42,003 2 29			
1875	1,166	126,342 2 35	Total	10,074	1,203,925 2 0

SCHEDULE XXII.

RETURN showing the Conditional Purchases declared forfeited in each Land District during 1884.

District.	Section 13.		Section 14.		Section 10.		Section 21.		Section 22.		Total.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
		a. r. p.		a. r. p.				a. r. p.		a. r. p.		a. r. p.
Albury	15	1,477 2 0	...	...	...	...	10	1,394 0 0	1	40 0 0	26	2,911 2 0
Armidale	18	2,477 1 0	...	...	...	...	10	1,130 0 0	...	...	28	3,607 1 0
Balranald	1	320 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	320 0 0
Bathurst	2	50 0 0	1	60 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	140 0 0
Bega	1	80 0 0	1	40 0 0	...	...	2	180 0 0	...	...	4	300 0 0
Berrima	3	730 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	730 0 0
Bingera	6	1,935 0 0	1	40 0 0	...	...	1	40 0 0	...	...	8	2,015 0 0
Bombala	8	510 0 0	7	840 3 11	...	...	13	1,663 0 0	...	...	28	3,013 3 11
Bourke	5	2,120 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2,120 0 0
Braidwood	1	40 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	40 0 0
Brisbane Water ...	2	80 0 0	...	...	...	...	1	40 0 0	...	...	3	120 0 0
Broulee	1	500 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	500 0 0
Carrowa	16	1,500 0 0	...	...	...	...	10	580 0 0	10	765 0 0	36	2,945 0 0
Carcoar	5	540 0 0	2	420 0 0	...	...	4	240 0 0	...	...	11	1,200 0 0
Casino	2	125 1 0	...	...	...	...	2	366 2 0	...	...	4	491 3 0

SCHEDULE XXII—continued.

District.	Section 13.			Section 14.			Section 19.		Section 21.			Section 22.			Total Area.		
	No.	Area.		No.	Area.		No.	Area.	No.	Area.		No.	Area.		No.	Area.	
		a.	r. p.		a.	r. p.				a.	r. p.		a.	r. p.		a.	r. p.
Cassilis	26	1,662	0 0	1	40	0 0	.....	.....	14	673	0 0	1	60	0 0	42	2,435	0 0
Condobolin	7	1,743	0 0	2	198	0 0	.....	.....	5	558	0 0	.....	.....	.....	14	2,409	0 0
Cooma	21	3,602	0 0	1	41	0 0	.....	.....	7	380	0 0	6	541	0 0	35	4,564	0 0
Coonamble	26	6,380	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	563	0 0	.....	.....	.....	30	6,943	0 0
Coonabarabran	3	390	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	390	0 0
Corowa	53	16,706	2 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	2,454	3 36	2	500	0 0	67	19,661	2 5
Cootamundra	10	780	0 0	1	640	0 0	.....	.....	10	772	0 0	.....	.....	.....	21	2,192	0 0
Cowra	13	2,422	0 0	1	70	0 0	.....	.....	9	560	0 0	1	120	0 0	24	3,172	0 0
Deniliquin	15	5,903	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	5,903	0 0
Dubbo	35	12,427	0 0	2	80	0 0	.....	.....	12	1,899	0 0	.....	.....	.....	49	14,406	0 0
Dungog	1	40	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	96	0 0	3	136	0 0
Eden	3	120	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	120	0 0
Forbes	4	1,000	0 0	6	1,627	0 0	.....	.....	2	423	0 0	.....	.....	.....	12	3,050	0 0
Glen Innes	11	1,250	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	200	0 0	2	112	3 12	14	1,562	3 12
Goulburn	9	437	0 0	2	80	0 0	.....	.....	1	40	0 0	.....	.....	.....	12	557	0 0
Grafton	9	746	2 0	11	826	2 0	.....	.....	1	40	0 0	.....	.....	.....	21	1,613	0 0
Grenfell	6	900	2 0	3	1,211	0 0	.....	.....	5	340	0 0	.....	.....	.....	14	2,451	2 0
Gundagai	5	549	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	576	3 0	.....	.....	.....	12	1,125	3 0
Gunnedah	16	3,788	1 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	398	0 0	.....	.....	.....	19	4,186	1 0
Gunning	4	280	0 0	4	568	1 0	.....	.....	5	527	0 0	4	700	0 0	17	2,075	1 0
Hartley (Lithgow)	7	280	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	280	0 0
Hay	17	9,320	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17	9,320	0 0
Hillston	21	6,396	0 0	4	1,247	2 0	.....	.....	5	651	0 0	.....	.....	.....	30	8,294	2 0
Inverell	18	2,452	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	340	0 0	.....	.....	.....	21	2,792	0 0
Lismore	10	805	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	90	0 0	.....	.....	.....	12	895	0 0
Macleay River	20	1,466	0 0	1	83	0 0	.....	.....	12	873	0 0	2	80	0 0	35	2,502	0 0
Manning River	4	160	0 0	11	550	0 0	.....	.....	5	260	0 0	.....	.....	.....	20	970	0 0
Mitchell	1	40	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	40	0 0
Molong	17	1,514	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	580	0 0	.....	.....	.....	25	2,094	0 0
Moree	14	4,838	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	1,548	0 0	.....	.....	.....	21	6,386	0 0
Moama	1	45	1 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	45	1 0
Mudgee	17	1,003	0 0	5	229	0 0	.....	.....	6	546	0 0	1	40	0 0	29	1,818	0 0
Murrumbidgee	4	214	1 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	60	0 0	1	334	0 0	6	608	1 0
Narrabri	19	4,311	1 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	1,590	0 0	.....	.....	.....	26	5,901	1 0
Narrandera	5	2,081	1 0	2	1,280	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	3,361	1 0
Orange	2	88	0 0	1	40	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	128	0 0
Parkes	1	40	0 0	4	1,540	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	160	0 0	6	1,740	0 0
Parramatta	1	40	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	40	0 0
Paterson	1	40	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	40	0 0
Patrick's Plains .....	.....	.....	.....	2	370	0 0	.....	.....	1	50	0 0	.....	.....	.....	3	420	0 0
Penrith	2	300	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	300	0 0
Port Macquarie	2	140	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	140	0 0
Port Stephens	2	100	0 0	1	40	0 0	.....	.....	2	140	0 0	.....	.....	.....	5	280	0 0
Queanbeyan	14	1,537	0 0	2	90	0 0	.....	.....	8	692	0 0	.....	.....	.....	24	2,319	0 0
Rylstone	40	2,095	1 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	1,089	0 29	2	80	0 0	66	3,264	1 33
Scone	7	480	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	200	0 0	.....	.....	.....	9	680	0 0
Tamworth	7	1,554	2 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	110	3 0	.....	.....	.....	8	1,665	1 0
Tenterfield	2	80	0 0	1	120	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	200	0 0
Tumut	1	50	0 0	4	190	0 0	.....	.....	3	140	0 0	.....	.....	.....	8	380	0 0
Tweed River	1	640	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	640	0 0
Urana	13	4,449	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	587	2 19	.....	.....	.....	18	5,036	2 19
Wagga Wagga	47	12,550	0 0	6	2,109	3 0	.....	.....	43	5,611	2 20	7	1,693	3 20	103	21,965	1 0
Walcha	1	300	0 0	3	908	0 0	.....	.....	1	320	0 0	.....	.....	.....	5	1,528	0 0
Warialda	4	900	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	40	0 0	.....	.....	.....	5	940	0 0
Wellington .....	.....	.....	.....	2	80	0 0	.....	.....	1	40	0 0	.....	.....	.....	3	120	0 0
Windsor	1	40	0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	40	0 0
Yass	8	541	0 0	1	40	0 0	.....	.....	2	146	2 0	2	80	0 0	13	807	2 0
Young	13	1,607	2 0	2	90	0 0	.....	.....	11	1,760	0 0	.....	.....	.....	26	3,457	2 0
Total	708	136,240	0 13	98	15,789	3 11	.....	.....	312	33,603	3 24	45	5,302	2 32	1,163	190,936	2 0

NOTE.—During the year the forfeiture was reversed in 112 cases, representing an area of 15,671 acres 1 rood 37 perches.

SCHEDULE XXIII.

RETURN Showing the number and total area of Selections under Conditional Purchase lapsed in each year up to 31st December, 1884.

Year.	No. of C.P.s	Area.	Year.	No. of C.P.s	Area.
		a. r. p.			a. r. p.
1865	415	32,748 3 16	1876	966	78,841 1 37
1866	556	33,821 3 2	1877	2,422	236,364 2 21
1867	392	28,394 1 24	1878	1,811	210,014 3 18
1868	178	11,045 2 24	1879	1,241	135,524 0 33
1869	372	30,009 3 34	1880	1,308	185,255 0 31
1870	366	26,259 0 1	1881	990	119,880 2 34
1871	136	9,630 0 0	1882	451	43,830 2 10
1872	213	13,095 3 0	1883	341	35,568 1 6
1873	663	48,330 0 28	1884	958	125,274 2 0
1874	143	10,375 3 0			
1875	503	33,043 0 10			
Total			Total		
			14,425		
			1,452,298 3 9		

SCHEDULE XXIV.

RETURN giving the number of Conditional Purchases lapsed during the year 1884, in each District, with total area under each section.

District.	Section 13.			Section 14.			Section 19.			Section 21.			Section 22.			Total No. C.P.	Total area.
	No.	Area.		No.	Area.		No.	Area.		No.	Area.		No.	Area.			
		a. r. p.			a. r. p.			a. r. p.			a. r. p.			a. r. p.			a. r. p.
Albury	5	644 3 0	1	40 0 0	2	80 0 0	7	528 2 0	1	78 2 0	16	1,371 3 0	28	2,967 1 0			
Armidale	17	2,297 1 0	...	...	...	1	40 0 0	10	630 0 0	...	...	1	320 0 0	...			
Balranald	1	320 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	541 3 0	...			
Bathurst	4	261 3 0	3	120 0 0	...	...	...	4	160 0 0	...	...	1	40 0 0	...			
Bega	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	40 0 0	...	...	10	911 0 0	...			
Berrima	4	491 0 0	...	...	...	4	220 0 0	2	200 0 0	...	...	25	1,518 3 0	...			
Bombala	15	891 3 0	...	...	...	1	50 0 0	9	577 0 0	...	...	4	180 0 0	...			
Bourke	3	120 0 0	...	...	...	1	60 0 0	...	...	...	...	2	163 0 0	...			
Braidwood	...	...	...	...	...	1	80 0 0	1	83 0 0	...	...	4	360 0 0	...			
Brewarrina	3	320 0 0	...	...	...	1	40 0 0	...	...	...	...	2	84 0 0	...			
Brisbane Water	7	946 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	1	44 0 0	1	40 0 0	3	153 1 0	...			
Broulee	2	100 0 0	...	...	...	1	40 0 0	20	2,127 0 0	4	225 0 0	32	3,232 0 0	...			
Burrowa	7	840 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	80 3 0	...			
Camden	2	80 3 0	...	...	...	...	...	4	304 0 0	1	40 0 0	11	814 0 0	...			
Carcoar	4	210 0 0	1	220 0 0	1	40 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	4	160 0 0	...			
Casino	4	160 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	6	644 1 0	...	...	11	1,264 1 0	...			
Casilis	5	620 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	8	960 1 0	...	...	27	2,886 2 0	...			
Cobar	7	906 1 0	2	520 0 0	10	500 0 0	13	655 1 18	1	80 0 0	31	1,947 0 18	10	1,232 0 0	...		
Cooma	15	1,131 3 0	...	...	...	2	80 0 0	3	306 0 0	...	...	18	6,425 0 0	...			
Coonabarabran	7	946 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	1	80 0 0	1	200 0 0	6	1,766 0 0	...			
Coonamble	16	6,145 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	2	386 0 0	...	...	19	2,227 0 0	...			
Condobolin	4	1,380 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	12	870 2 0	...	...	31	8,827 1 0	...			
Cootamundra	3	400 0 0	4	956 2 0	...	...	...	12	2,120 2 0	...	...	11	640 0 0	...			
Corowa	19	6,706 3 0	...	...	...	...	...	5	280 0 0	...	...	4	996 0 0	...			
Cowra	6	360 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	240 0 0	...			
Deniliquin	4	996 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82	13,857 0 9	...			
Dowling	2	80 0 0	...	...	...	2	120 0 0	1	40 0 0	...	...	4	217 0 0	...			
Dubbo	32	9,330 0 0	2	260 0 0	34	3,115 0 0	14	1,152 0 9	3	137 0 0	...	...	19	3,561 3 0	...		
Eden	1	80 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	7	689 1 0	1	40 0 0	19	1,439 0 0	...			
Forbes	4	592 0 0	7	2,240 2 0	...	...	...	10	523 0 0	1	86 0 0	33	2,682 0 32	...			
Glen Innes	7	750 0 0	1	80 0 0	...	...	...	15	1,218 2 0	3	243 2 32	10	476 0 0	...			
Goulburn	14	1,120 0 0	...	...	...	1	100 0 0	4	160 0 0	...	...	9	563 3 0	...			
Grafton	4	236 0 0	...	...	...	2	80 0 0	3	160 0 0	...	...	11	898 1 0	...			
Grenfell	4	323 3 0	2	80 0 0	...	...	...	3	382 0 0	1	122 2 0	18	3,082 3 0	...			
Gundagai	6	340 2 0	1	53 1 0	17	3,032 3 0	...	...	...	...	...	15	2,551 2 0	...			
Gunnedah	1	50 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	4	237 2 0	1	60 0 0	6	1,330 0 0	...			
Gunning	8	2,154 0 0	2	100 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	420 0 0	...			
Hay	6	1,330 0 0	...	...	...	6	300 0 0	...	...	...	...	28	8,485 0 0	...			
Hartley	3	120 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	4	328 0 0	...	...	11	1,496 0 0	...			
Hillston	7	1,717 0 0	15	6,360 0 0	2	80 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	2	230 2 0	...			
Inverell	7	1,336 0 0	...	...	...	1	150 0 0	...	...	...	...	4	277 0 0	...			
Liverpool	1	80 2 0	...	...	...	...	...	1	40 0 0	...	...	1	52 0 0	...			
Lismore	3	237 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	3	147 0 0	...	...	14	627 0 0	...			
Maitland	1	52 0 0	10	440 0 0	...	...	...	4	248 3 0	1	100 0 0	18	1,144 2 0	...			
Manning River	1	40 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	2	80 0 0	...	...	13	1,450 0 0	...			
Macleay River	7	553 3 0	...	...	...	6	240 0 0	...	...	...	...	1	80 0 0	...			
Mitchell	9	1,290 0 0	2	80 0 0	...	...	...	1	80 0 0	...	...	19	1,550 0 0	...			
Moama	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	470 0 0	1	40 0 0	9	1,797 2 0	...			
Molong	10	1,040 0 0	...	...	...	2	80 0 0	...	...	...	...	1	40 0 0	...			
Moree	7	1,717 2 0	...	...	...	...	...	1	40 0 0	...	...	6	280 0 0	...			
Mudgee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	180 0 0	1	40 0 0	5	286 2 0	...			
Murrumbidgee	1	60 0 0	...	...	...	1	56 2 0	...	...	...	...	20	3,676 1 0	...			
Muswellbrook	2	150 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	10	966 1 0	...	...	6	1,835 0 0	...			
Narrabri	10	2,710 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	2	513 0 0	...	...	1	60 0 0	...			
Narrandera	4	1,322 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	1	80 0 0	...	...	10	1,870 0 0	...			
Newcastle	1	60 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	523 0 0	...			
Parkes	3	1,300 0 0	4	400 0 0	2	90 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	5	2,240 0 0	...			
Paterson	1	40 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	4	423 0 0	...	...	1	42 0 0	...			
Patrick's Plains	1	100 0 0	...	...	...	3	1,920 0 0	1	160 0 0	...	...	4	165 0 0	...			
Penrith	1	160 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	2	85 0 0	...	...	25	1,477 0 0	...			
Port Macquarie	1	42 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	11	882 0 0	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0	...			
Port Stephens	...	...	2	80 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	780 0 0	...			
Queanbeyan	14	595 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	900 0 0	...			
Raymond Terrace	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	90 0 0	...			
Rylstone	7	320 0 0	...	...	...	5	460 0 0	...	...	...	...	10	1,080 0 0	...			
Scone	5	360 0 0	...	...	...	3	240 0 0	...	...	...	...	9	1,053 0 0	...			
Shoalhaven	2	90 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	2	83 0 0	1	40 0 0	5	220 0 0	...			
Tamworth	7	582 0 0	...	...	...	1	60 0 0	5	329 0 0	1	100 0 0	13	2,974 2 0	...			
Tenterfield	3	120 0 0	1	40 0 0	6	260 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	36	7,003 3 0	...			
Tumut	4	800 0 0	2	130 0 0	...	...	...	2	90 0 0	...	...	15	1,865 0 0	...			
Tweed River	3	130 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	3	441 0 0	...	...	5	960 0 0	...			
Urana	6	1,849 0 0	...	...	...	4	684 2 0	15	2,067 1 0	7	2,273 1 0	11	1,625 0 0	...			
Wagga Wagga	11	2,083 1 0	3	580 0 0	...	...	...	2	409 0 0	...	...	6	290 0 0	...			
Walcha	9	1,096 0 0	4	360 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	440 0 0	...			
Walgett	5	960 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	1	80 0 0	...	...	2	80 0 0	...			
Warialda	10	1,545 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	373 0 0	...			
Wellington	1	50 0 0	2	120 0 0	2	80 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	16	1,020 1 0	...			
Wentworth	2	440 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	1,888 0 0	...			
Windsor	2	80 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wollombi	4	373 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yass	8	430 0 0	1	40 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Young	6	1,200 0 0	2	643 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grand Total	436	69,948 1 0	74	13,948 1 0	128	12,507 3 0	287	24,591 0 27	33	4,279 0 32	938	123,274 2 19					

Number of C.Ps. lapsing reversed during 1884, 113—Area, 9,343 acres 2 roods.

SCHEDULE XXV.

RETURN showing the number of Transfers of Conditional Purchases received and dealt with from 1st January to 31st December, 1884.

No. of Transfers received	7,727
" " intimated to Treasury	6,017
" Conditional Purchases thereby transferred	12,925
" Transfers upon which Stamp duty paid	3,151
Amount of Stamp duty paid thereon	£3,780 3 0
No. of Transfers registered or in Registrar-General's Office for registration	7,307
" Crown Solicitor's Certificates received	180
" Notices despatched informing parties and Crown Lands Agents of registration of transfers...	10,280

SCHEDULE XXVI.

RETURN showing the number of Transfers in each District dealt with from 1st January to 31st December, 1884, and the areas of the Conditional Purchases included therein.

District.	No. of Transfers.	Area.	District.	No. of Transfers.	Area.
	No.	a. r. p.		No.	a. r. p.
Albury	309	83,262 2 39	Lismore	205	27,645 0 38
Armidale	249	75,186 1 39	Maitland	8	667 0 0
Balranald	7	2,579 0 0	Macleay River	77	8,770 0 15
Bathurst	32	3,282 1 0	Manning River	31	2,993 2 20
Bega	126	19,629 0 9	Metropolitan	4	1,410 0 0
Berrima	96	11,048 3 2	Mitchell	42	3,553 0 0
Bingera	19	6,042 0 36	Molong	185	45,446 3 26
Bombala	104	29,052 0 10	Moree	20	7,626 1 0
Bourke	4	1,640 0 0	Mudgee	66	8,098 2 32
Braidwood	63	10,515 2 0	Murrumbidgee	93	22,089 3 0
Brewarrina	4	1,360 0 0	Muswellbrook	43	6,404 2 0
Brisbane Water	31	6,055 0 0	Narrabri	55	22,069 0 0
Broulee	33	7,659 0 0	Narrandera	37	16,569 0 0
Burrowa	208	47,211 0 0	Newcastle	16	5,030 3 0
Camden	24	1,515 3 0	Orange	62	17,447 2 25
Carcoar	81	15,138 0 0	Parkes	22	8,321 3 0
Casino	44	9,517 3 0	Paterson	7	528 3 0
Cassilis	89	26,280 3 0	Patrick's Plains	46	7,518 0 36
Cobar	9	1,572 0 0	Penrith	2	680 0 0
Condobolin	37	16,251 2 21	Port Macquarie	7	486 0 0
Cooma	264	73,528 2 2	Port Stephens	14	1,450 0 0
Coonamble	53	24,317 2 21	Queanbeyan	78	17,250 3 8
Coonabarabran	17	2,495 2 0	Raymond	2	381 2 0
Corowa	113	44,101 0 16	Rylstone	61	8,005 0 6
Cootamundra	123	37,986 3 30	Scone	87	13,501 2 0
Cowra	63	18,842 3 0	Shoalhaven	44	4,792 0 5
Deniliquin	185	78,509 0 36	Tamworth	216	47,652 2 25
Dubbo	104	25,612 3 9	Tenterfield	23	4,416 1 0
Dowling	33	3,444 0 0	Tumut	127	33,134 1 22
Dungog	5	488 2 0	Tweed River	15	2,262 0 0
Eden	28	4,605 1 0	Urana	125	55,626 3 10
Forbes	90	29,242 1 0	Wagga Wagga	151	53,712 3 37
Glen Innes	100	23,240 0 6	Walcha	53	17,766 2 36
Goulburn	83	14,171 1 0	Walgett	5	1,145 2 0
Grafton	119	18,496 1 7	Warralda	12	3,909 2 0
Grenfell	90	30,937 3 15	Wellington	40	6,300 0 0
Gundagai	113	34,394 2 20	Wentworth	5	1,816 0 0
Gunnedah	66	24,213 0 32	Windsor	3	640 0 0
Gunning	66	8,301 0 0	Wollombi	6	420 0 0
Hartley	33	5,106 2 0	Wollongong	13	720 0 0
Hay	40	16,654 2 0	Yass	62	12,885 0 0
Hillston	16	5,080 0 0	Young	360	95,723 1 25
Inverell	105	22,918 3 34			
Kiama	14	2,230 0 0			
Liverpool	3	660 1 0			
			Total	6,017	1,525,456 0 30

NOTE.—The foregoing is exclusive of transfers (about 2,008) at Registrar-General's Office, awaiting registration.

SCHEDULE XXVII.

RETURN showing the number and area of cases referred to the Inspectors of Conditional Purchases during the year 1884.

District.	Residence Cases.			Declaration Cases.			Lapsed and Forfeited Cases.		
	No.	Area.		No.	Area.		No.	Area.	
		a. r. p.			a. r. p.			a. r. p.	
Albury	59	12,568 1 0		97	18,401 0 37				
Armidale	105	17,429 3 0		284	35,200 0 0				
Balranald	19	8,914 0 0							
Bathurst	35	2,917 0 0		77	5,976 3 0	3	120 0 0		
Bega	36	2,530 0 0		46	2,970 2 0	1	40 0 0		
Berrima	50	3,432 1 0		47	2,595 1 0				
Bingera	41	7,302 0 0		14	2,250 0 0	1	40 0 0		
Bombala	66	13,488 3 0		95	11,385 2 32	2	80 0 0		

SCHEDULE XXVII—continued.

District.	Residence Cases.			Declaration Cases.			Lapsed and Forfeited Cases.		
	No.	Area.		No.	Area.		No.	Area.	
		a.	r. p.		a.	r. p.		a.	r. p.
Bourke	70	29,599	0 0	7	1,728	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Braidwood	30	2,549	3 0	41	6,168	3 0	.....	.....	.....
Brewarrina	33	12,724	2 0	11	2,843	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Brisbane Water	43	2,464	0 0	36	3,273	2 0	.....	.....	.....
Broulee	21	1,826	3 0	19	1,452	3 20	.....	.....	.....
Burrowa	90	12,043	3 0	112	14,770	2 0	1	50	0 0
Camden	13	660	0 0	28	1,231	0 30	.....	.....	.....
Carcoar	61	7,876	1 0	94	7,857	1 0	.....	.....	.....
Cassilis	34	4,607	1 0	66	9,378	2 0	.....	.....	.....
Cobar	23	3,455	0 0	22	2,528	0 30	.....	.....	.....
Condobolin	6	2,529	0 0	22	7,616	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Cooma	199	29,275	2 0	352	46,051	0 32	.....	.....	.....
Coonabarabran	24	4,335	0 0	24	3,356	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Coonamble	194	74,086	3 0	51	18,255	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Cootamundra	35	7,394	3 0	159	23,590	3 0	1	320	0 0
Corowa	100	34,652	2 30	135	52,202	2 16	4	1,006	0 0
Cowra	63	10,986	3 0	80	11,309	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Deniliquin	62	27,154	2 20	57	20,197	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Dowling	13	580	0 0	12	592	2 0	.....	.....	.....
Dubbo	130	40,913	2 0	187	58,809	0 0	1	100	0 0
Dungog	7	490	2 0	11	861	2 0	.....	.....	.....
Eden	39	5,262	2 0	20	1,544	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Forbes	42	12,598	2 0	98	29,403	1 0	1	54	3 0
Glen Innes	112	16,899	1 0	107	12,834	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Goulburn	95	7,778	0 0	158	10,472	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Grafton	168	17,769	1 0	100	10,257	1 14	2	150	0 0
Grenfell	66	17,606	0 0	103	19,151	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Gundagai	59	11,965	0 0	378	47,796	2 30	5	208	0 0
Gunnedah	67	23,565	2 0	48	10,642	1 0	.....	.....	.....
Gunning	62	4,853	3 0	159	13,324	3 0	1	60	0 0
Hartley	37	1,950	0 0	59	4,253	0 12	1	40	0 0
Hay	172	90,530	0 0	64	33,759	1 0	.....	.....	.....
Hillston	78	29,651	0 0	35	8,495	1 0	12	480	0 0
Inverell	91	22,523	2 0	84	11,830	1 34	.....	.....	.....
Kiama	3	200	0 0	4	297	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Lismore	361	42,842	2 0	290	31,882	0 32	2	80	0 0
Liverpool	8	978	0 0	6	723	1 0	.....	.....	.....
Macleay River	54	4,135	3 0	66	5,775	2 0	.....	.....	.....
Maitland	2	184	1 0	8	777	3 20	.....	.....	.....
Manning River	65	3,876	1 0	99	5,507	2 0	.....	.....	.....
Metropolitan	5	1,960	0 0	5	1,452	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Mitchell (see Wilcannia)									
Molong	88	14,504	1 0	138	16,214	3 0	2	100	0 0
Morree	195	91,511	0 0	44	12,345	3 0	2	796	3 0
Mudgee	17	1,070	2 0	32	2,515	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Murrumbidgee	14	1,740	1 0	40	3,675	1 9	.....	.....	.....
Muswellbrook	20	1,410	0 0	53	3,173	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Narrabri	141	68,866	2 0	40	12,785	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Narrandera	99	51,944	3 0	57	21,555	3 0	1	320	0 0
Newcastle	4	170	0 0	15	1,904	0 23	.....	.....	.....
Orange	19	1,100	0 0	15	994	1 10	1	60	0 0
Parkes	15	3,602	0 0	18	4,187	2 0	.....	.....	.....
Parramatta	8	390	0 0	2	80	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Paterson	6	440	0 0	11	922	3 0	2	130	0 0
Patrick's Plains	16	1,755	0 0	30	3,934	1 0	.....	.....	.....
Penrith	4	360	0 0	5	225	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Port Macquarie	12	510	0 0	2	80	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Port Stephens	14	1,380	0 0	13	2,102	0 0	1	40	0 0
Queanbeyan	144	18,584	1 0	447	38,972	2 0	.....	.....	.....
Raymond Terrace	8	400	0 0	3	120	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Richmond River	103	24,828	1 0	73	8,046	0 0	3	1,335	0 0
Rylstone	15	610	0 0	29	1,992	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Scone	16	3,317	1 0	77	4,391	1 0	1	40	0 0
Shoalhaven	16	871	3 0	24	1,149	2 30	.....	.....	.....
Tamworth	81	11,679	1 0	66	8,248	3 0	1	50	0 0
Tenterfield	63	9,867	0 0	35	3,018	3 0	1	120	0 0
Tumut	78	11,167	1 0	101	9,504	2 0	6	410	0 0
Tweed River	90	12,597	1 0	65	6,420	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Urana	111	49,500	0 0	90	27,111	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Wagga Wagga	339	133,029	3 36	312	78,754	3 37	.....	.....	.....
Walcha	40	7,250	0 0	179	29,286	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Walgett	45	23,121	1 0	3	1,200	0 0	1	40	0 0
Warialda	109	38,427	1 11	64	15,843	2 12	10	987	0 0
Wellington	39	2,699	3 0	41	3,043	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Wentworth	30	12,245	0 0	51	12,712	1 0	4	660	0 0
Wilcannia	20	4,550	0 0	16	1,520	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Windsor	10	489	0 0	12	500	2 0	2	80	0 0
Wollombi	10	701	3 0	19	1,052	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Wollongong				5	405	0 0	.....	.....	.....
Yass	32	2,817	3 0	115	10,882	0 0	1	51	0 0
Young	35	10,861	3 0	108	19,703	2 34	.....	.....	.....
	5,354	1,326,886	1 17	6,527	1,003,602	1 14	77	8,057	2 0

NOTE.—Grand Total, 11,958 cases. Area, 2,338,545 acres.

SCHEDULE XXVIII.

RETURN showing the number of Instructions issued to and Reports received from Inspectors of Conditional Purchases during the year 1884.

Inspectors.	Number of Instructions issued.	Number of Reports received.	Remarks.
Barnes W. J.	564	437	Appointed Acting Commissioner of Conditional Sales, 1st May, 1884.
Brown W.	566	633	
Carne T. B.	374	368	
Cumming V.	627	632	
Davies T. A.	501	370	
Evans E.	212	217	
Franks R. C.	691	384	
Griffin J. H.	263	255	
Harper W.	286	377	
Keele J.	372	280	
Manton A.	813	478	
M'Phillamy J. S.	681	867	
Mulligan F. B.	651	667	
O'Hara J. S.	551	693	
Page J. C.	450	580	
Rowlandson J. G.	253	292	
Smith G.	361	186	
Spicer W.	967	614	
Thompson F. A.	376	445	
Trollope F.	380	777	
Wilshire T. H.	1,420	497	
Wisdom J. B.	599	459	
	11,958	10,508	

SCHEDULE XXIX.

RETURN showing the number of Cases referred to and the Reports received from the Commissioner of Conditional Purchases during the year 1884.

Commissioners.	Complaints of Inspectors of Conditional Purchases; notices of abandonment; complaints accompanied by fee of £10.	Claims	Total.	Reports received.	
				During 1884.	During 1885, upon Conditional Purchases investigated in 1884.
1. Sydney Blythe	360	16	376	322	71
2. Henry James Bolding	342	11	353	400	202
3. Henry Burne	384	10	394	398	.....
4. Charles Cropper	461	6	467	529	.....
5. Whittingdale Johnson (appointed Deputy Stipendiary Magistrate for the Metropolitan District, 1st May, 1884)	359, less 322 transferred to Mr. Phillip Wood Street, leaving	37	1	38	248
6. Phillip Wood Street	Transferred from Whittingdale Johnson	322	.....	824	413
	776, less 274 transferred to Mr. Frederic Trollope, leaving	502			173
7. Frederic Trollope (appointed Acting Commissioner of Conditional Sales, 1st May, 1884)	Transferred from Phillip Wood Street	274	9	654	494
	Referred from the Department	371			2
	3,053	53	3,106	2,804	448

SCHEDULE XXX.

RETURN showing the number and area of Conditional Purchases taken up prior to Lands Act Amendment Act of 1875, but which during 1884 have been brought under the 8th clause of that Act, i.e., to pay off the balance of purchase money by yearly instalments of 1s. per acre.

District.	No. of C.P.s	Area.	District.	No. of C.P.s	Area.
Albury	5	a. r. p. 520 0 0	Hay	1	a. r. p. 160 0 0
Armidale	1	40 0 0	Inverell	26	6,737 0 32
Bathurst	7	548 2 20	Molong	7	667 1 0
Bega	2	130 0 0	Mudgee	6	420 0 0
Berrima	2	50 0 0	Murrumbidgee	37	6,017 3 14
Bingera	3	180 0 0	Muswellbrook	2	80 0 0
Bombala	1	120 0 0	Narrabri	1	200 0 0
Broulee	1	50 0 0	Newcastle	1	50 0 0
Cassilis	7	440 1 0	Orange	1	50 0 0
Condobolin	3	120 0 0	Queanbeyan	53	705 0 0
Coonabarabran	3	140 0 0	Seone	1	40 0 0
Coonamble	4	469 0 0	Singleton	1	40 0 0
Deniliquin	6	1,920 0 0	Wagga Wagga	1	50 0 0
Dowling	7	312 1 0	Warialda	3	404 0 0
Dubbo	17	1,420 3 0	Wellington	5	200 0 0
Eden	2	370 0 0	Wilcannia	1	100 0 0
Glen Innes	2	398 3 0	Windsor	3	118 1 0
Goulburn	3	140 0 0			
Grafton	1	45 0 0	Total	226	23,454 0 26

SCHEDULE XXXI.

RETURN for year 1884.

Conditional Purchases.

Number of cases sent for deed, 945.

Area of above, 108,655a. 2r. 25p.

Amount of balance, including deed fees, £83,905 6s. 3d.

Number of certificates issued, 7,500.

Number of selectors reported non-resident at inspection, 833.

Area of above, 212,046 acres.

Number of declarations received, 9,426.

SCHEDULE XXXII.

PRE-EMPTIVE LEASES.

Districts.	Number of Applications made in 1884.	Area applied for during the year 1884.	Districts.	Number of Applications made in 1884.	Area applied for during the year 1884.
		acres.			acres.
Albury	41	24,728	Lismore .....	.....	.....
Armidale	115	70,421	Maitland .....	.....	.....
Balranald	7	7,671	Macleay River	3	1,140
Bathurst	23	8,450	Manning River	9	3,972
Bega	5	1,880	Metropolitan .....	.....	.....
Berrima	6	5,645	Mitchell	13	3,780
Bingera	27	14,963	Moama .....	.....	.....
Bombala	30	23,521	Molong	22	14,448
Bourke	30	23,283	Moree	54	68,100
Braidwood	12	3,133	Mudgee	37	19,257
Brewarrina	50	56,671	Murrurundi	11	6,570
Brisbane Water .....	.....	.....	Muswellbrook	4	1,192
Broulee	8	3,600	Narrabri	35	43,235
Burrowa	19	8,682	Narrandera	21	26,693
Camden .....	.....	.....	Newcastle	1	229
Campbelltown .....	.....	.....	Orange	2	360
Carcoar	17	10,166	Parkes	14	11,850
Casino	23	22,683	Parramatta	1	480
Cassilis	14	14,769	Paterson	1	600
Cobar	5	8,533	Patrick's Plains	1	150
Condobolin	13	14,663	Penrith	1	250
Cooma	92	48,356	Port Macquarie	3	1,510
Coonamble	82	101,249	Port Stephens	6	4,940
Coonabarabran	14	7,963	Queanbeyan	35	26,234
Corowa	8	2,704	Raymond Terrace	3	1,200
Cootamundra	29	30,474	Rylstone	7	2,255
Cowra	11	6,990	Scone	8	5,293
Deniliquin	22	12,521	Shoalhaven	4	1,260
Dubbo	50	48,212	Tamworth	71	42,730
Dowling .....	.....	.....	Tenterfield	13	5,917
Dungog .....	.....	.....	Tumut	26	21,839
Eden	11	4,960	Twced River .....	.....	.....
Forbes	35	32,473	Urana	20	10,390
Glen Innes	20	18,779	Wagga Wagga	96	91,913
Grafton	3	1,450	Walcha	30	16,833
Goulburn	40	13,101	Walgett	20	19,076
Grenfell	37	36,395	Warialda	46	18,195
Gundagai	7	3,750	Wellington	19	13,858
Gunnedah	29	19,748	Wentworth	15	13,024
Gunning	5	2,070	Windsor	2	2,560
Hay	25	25,106	Wollombi	1	240
Hillston	53	66,061	Wollongong .....	.....	.....
Inverell	41	27,503	Yass	4	2,316
Kiama .....	.....	.....	Young	16	10,837
Lithgow	19	5,459			
Liverpool	1	1,920		1,754	1,345,431

SCHEDULE XXXIII.

RETURN of Pre-emptive Leases renewed for the year 1884.

District.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.	District.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.
		acres.	£ s. d.			acres.	£ s. d.
Albury	397	321,873	865 3 2	Burrowa	381	215,362	703 13 2
Armidale	629	430,758	1,391 13 7	Campbelltown .....	.....	.....	.....
Balranald	218	246,411	771 6 4	Camden	32	16,648	59 15 8
Bathurst	453	239,948	820 10 6	Carcoar	374	216,959	742 5 4
Bega	3	715	3 19 5	Cassilis	476	329,367	1,062 19 1
Berrima	31	13,206	47 9 1	Casino	202	142,342	453 14 4
Bingera	82	55,494	187 17 4	Cobar	19	22,889	75 16 8
Bombala	141	109,639	352 5 5	Cooma	828	469,913	1,601 4 3
Bourke	57	74,322	238 1 6	Coonabarabran	186	164,190	542 4 11
Braidwood	204	110,753	357 1 8	Coonamble	484	597,440	1,904 5 4
Brisbane Water	3	1,070	4 0 0	Condobolin	128	121,962	451 12 5
Brewarrina	180	187,138	588 12 4	Cootamundra	92	91,639	290 12 1
Broulee	19	11,627	39 12 0	Corowa	74	90,093	297 9 5

SCHEDULE XXXIII—continued.

District.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.	District.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.
		acres.	£ s. d.			acres.	£ s. d.
Cowra	107	70,844	218 15 0	Newcastle	35	26,061	87 11 4
Deniliquin	296	231,634	745 9 6	Orange	76	48,551	154 4 8
Dowling	1	1,600	5 0 0	Parramatta	91	86,983	281 7 9
Dubbo	731	952,578	2,746 8 6	Patrick's Plains	26	7,698	28 8 10
Dungog	8	4,850	16 9 6	Penrith	17	7,851	28 0 4
Eden	26	17,960	58 7 1	Port Macquarie	56	29,351	106 16 4
Forbes	262	279,646	889 15 8	Queanbeyan	384	259,304	833 8 4
Glen Innes	163	124,596	391 3 11	Raymond Terrace	9	7,172	22 15 8
Goulburn	563	271,086	936 0 5	Rylstone	168	11,266	358 13 10
Grafton	92	66,799	228 10 9	Scone	296	243,813	770 2 4
Grenfell	283	267,132	847 1 4	Shoalhaven	28	19,489	65 12 11
Gundagai	160	103,347	336 5 9	Tamworth	309	244,026	783 19 9
Gunnedah	68	43,572	147 4 8	Tenterfield	128	86,453	279 11 5
Gunning	201	119,401	374 3 10	Tumut	228	135,437	446 3 9
Hay	907	1,373,953	4,316 12 0	Tweed River	1	810	2 10 8
Hillston	380	665,305	2,111 7 11	Urana	138	116,107	381 12 10
Inverell	346	192,992	631 4 1	Wagga Wagga	418	404,152	1,301 7 0
Kiama	6	4,430	15 0 0	Walcha	121	96,678	312 6 7
Lismore	110	66,906	200 13 8	Walgett	237	280,852	888 13 10
Lithgow	27	14,455	49 11 11	Warraldra	430	439,405	1,417 6 1
Liverpool	11	7,203	23 3 3	Wellington	340	226,161	750 2 0
Maitland	73	67,900	243 18 2	Wentworth	107	153,815	486 5 4
Manning River	194	155,877	501 2 11	Windsor	9	4,311	14 5 10
Macleay River	648	821,686	2,619 18 8	Wollombi	4	1,553	5 10 0
Metropolitan	144	94,119	329 7 4	Wollongong	155	81,903	271 8 2
Mitchell	159	104,414	339 7 4	Yass	52	46,304	146 5 5
Molong	30	21,710	66 19 5	Young	16,093	14,327,884	46,232 12 11
Murreurundi	181	309,129	973 8 4				
Muswellbrook	360	525,536	1,792 6 0				
Narrandera							
Narrabri							

SCHEDULE XXXIV.
RETURN of Auction Leases renewed for 1884.

District.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.	District.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.
		acres.	£ s. d.			acres.	£ s. d.
Albury	15	10,760	72 8 10	Liverpool	2	1,860	5 16 4
Armidale	21	11,895	64 17 5	Maitland	23	18,430	57 12 6
Balranald	315	219,856	752 6 6	Manning River	11	7,950	24 17 1
Bathurst	35	28,230	89 3 0	Macleay River	11	7,950	24 17 1
Bega	3	1,240	4 2 6	Metropolitan	11	7,950	24 17 1
Berrima	7	3,775	13 10 9	Mitchell	5	9,986	31 4 3
Bourke	51	35,389	114 11 6	Molong	5	3,510	11 10 0
Braidwood	2	1,920	6 0 0	Mudgee	91	63,587	221 16 5
Brisbane Water	2	1,920	6 0 0	Murreurundi	12	7,145	23 5 1
Brewarrina	1	2,740	12 15 8	Muswellbrook	6	2,874	12 16 0
Broulee	5	2,740	12 15 8	Narrandera	3	1,384	4 7 3
Burrowa	119	87,239	303 9 10	Narrabri	1	550	1 14 5
Campbelltown	146	104,840	328 2 10	Newcastle	97	64,490	223 10 7
Camden	458	333,128	1,122 7 2	Orange	4	2,470	7 14 5
Carcoar	238	165,144	570 15 0	Parramatta	25	24,321	95 13 1
Cassilis	15	1,094	34 13 2	Paterson	15	9,920	31 0 0
Casino	8	3,215	11 8 9	Parkes	42	29,660	94 8 9
Cobar	25	22,743	70 14 0	Patrick's Plains	191	145,956	477 18 6
Condobolin	2	1,886	5 19 2	Penrith	27	19,140	27 16 6
Cooma	2	598	2 4 8	Port Macquarie	3	1,920	6 0 0
Coonabarabran	8	4,469	16 2 6	Port Stephens	144	101,074	317 14 3
Coonamble	14	9,518	60 8 5	Queanbeyan	196	67,210	222 19 3
Cootamundra	3	1,980	6 4 0	Raymond Terrace	56	39,420	130 3 1
Corowa	4	3,840	12 0 0	Rylstone	13	8,714	27 8 0
Cowra	1	1,100	3 8 10	Scone	1	2,240	7 0 0
Deniliquin	10	8,960	34 19 0	Shoalhaven	1	900	2 16 3
Dowling	1	1,100	3 8 10	Tamworth	3	1,372	17 11 6
Dubbo	10	8,960	34 19 0	Tenterfield	1	81	1 0 0
Dungog	1	1,100	3 8 10	Tumut	1	900	2 16 3
Eden	10	8,960	34 19 0	Tweed River	3	1,372	17 11 6
Forbes	1	1,100	3 8 10	Urana	1	81	1 0 0
Glen Innes	10	8,960	34 19 0	Wagga Wagga	1	81	1 0 0
Goulburn	93	75,350	243 14 11	Walcha	1	200	1 0 0
Grafton	72	47,970	170 1 7	Walgett	1	200	1 0 0
Grenfell	3	1,216	4 10 0	Warraldra	474	344,292	1,215 14 11
Gundagai	11	7,433	60 13 1	Wellington	21	15,650	24 9 6
Gunnedah	76	62,825	221 11 6	Wentworth	40	28,920	93 12 0
Gunning	5	7,274	25 16 10	Windsor	3	1,190	4 0 6
Hay	3	1,320	10 1 3	Wollombi	3,543	2,372,774	8,384 5 11
Hillston	19	5,925	24 6 9	Wollongong			
Inverell	14	9,630	30 2 4	Yass			
Kiama	222	79,936	449 14 9	Young			
Lismore							
Lithgow							

SCHEDULE XXXV.

RETURN of Leases advertised for Sale by Auction during the year 1884.

Districts.	Gazetted.		Withdrawn.		Sold.				Open for Selection.	
	Lot.	Area.	Lot.	Area.	Lot.	Area.	Annual Rent.	Rent Paid.	Lot.	Area.
		acres.		acres.		acres.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		acres.
Albury	7	2,330½	2	387½	5	1,943	39 1 11	19 11 3	...	.....
Armidale	3	2,320	...	.....	3	2,320	33 17 6	33 17 6	...	.....
Bathurst	13	6,780½	1	900	12	5,880½	63 8 10	34 19 5	...	.....
Bega	1	317	...	.....	1	317	1 0 0	0 10 0	...	.....
Bombala	2	1,275	...	.....	2	1,275	13 12 0	13 2 0	...	.....
Braidwood	46	29,946	1	185	14	8,339	26 7 7	13 7 9	31	21,422
Brisbane Water	229	165,273	...	.....	25	19,340	60 9 10	30 4 11	204	145,933
Broulee	6	1,680	...	.....	2	580	6 0 8	3 0 4	4	1,100
Burrowa	6	2,517	2	705	2	1,035	3 4 10	1 12 5	2	777
Carcoar	27	17,273	9	5,025	18	12,248	96 9 5	53 0 9	...	.....
Cooma	9	2,076	5	941	3	715	3 0 0	3 0 0	1	424
Cootamundra	2	2,270	...	.....	...	.....	...	...	2	2,270
Condobolin	4	3,500	...	.....	4	3,500	10 18 11	5 13 10	...	.....
Corowa	3	806	1	208	2	598	2 4 8	1 12 4	...	.....
Cowra	9	3,430	...	.....	6	2,875	30 2 4	15 1 2	3	1,155
Deniliquin	6	3,640½	1	681	4	2,319½	7 18 10	3 19 5	1	640
Eden	1	670	...	.....	1	670	2 4 0	1 2 0	...	.....
Forbes	10	2,182	...	.....	5	1,355	5 1 3	3 10 8	5	827
Glen Innes	1	560	...	.....	...	.....	...	...	1	560
Goulburn	91	61,354	15	7,668	23	14,557	47 10 8	39 7 9	53	39,129
Grafton	22	15,090½	...	.....	12	7,520½	24 1 11	24 1 11	10	7,570
Grenfell	3	1,463	1	960	...	.....	...	...	2	503
Gunning	4	2,275	1	300	3	1,975	6 3 6	5 8 6	...	.....
Hay	1	305	...	.....	1	305	4 0 0	4 0 0	...	.....
Hillston	2	620	...	.....	2	620	2 1 3	2 1 3	...	.....
Inverell	3	860½	...	.....	2	740½	3 3 9	3 3 9	1	120
Lithgow	39	26,334	2	1,280	21	14,174	70 12 1	70 12 1	16	10,880
Molong	2	900	...	.....	1	380	1 3 9	0 11 11	1	520
Mudgee	8	3,702	1	257	4	3,190	9 19 5	9 19 5	3	255
Murrurundi	1	105	...	.....	1	105	1 0 0	1 0 0	...	.....
Muswellbrook	10	6,560	...	.....	1	640	2 0 0	2 0 0	9	5,920
Narrabri	1	550	...	.....	1	550	1 14 5	1 14 5	...	.....
Patrick's Plains	2	1,140	...	.....	2	1,140	3 11 4	3 11 4	...	.....
Port Stephens	4	3,440	...	.....	3	2,803	8 15 1	8 15 1	1	640
Queanbeyan	8	4,395	1	640	3	1,050	3 15 0	1 17 6	4	2,705
Scone	1	390	...	.....	1	390	1 4 5	1 4 5	...	.....
Shoalhaven	1	216	...	.....	...	.....	...	...	1	216
Tamworth	7	2,907½	1	300	6	2,607½	9 12 8	9 12 8	...	.....
Tumut	3	1,108	...	.....	2	1,000	3 12 6	3 12 6	1	108
Urana	10	5,276½	2	1,695	3	1,372½	17 11 6	17 1 6	5	2,209½
Wagga Wagga	4	4,154	...	.....	1	520	1 12 6	0 16 3	3	3,634
Walcha	2	2,690	1	770	1	1,920	6 0 0	6 0 0	...	.....
Wellington	4	2,640	...	.....	3	2,000	6 5 0	6 5 0	1	640
Windsor	122	90,830	...	.....	21	15,650	48 19 6	24 9 6	101	75,180
Wollombi	312	228,051	...	.....	...	.....	...	...	312	228,051
Yass	5	4,565	...	.....	5	4,565	14 5 5	7 2 9	...	.....
Young	3	1,190	...	.....	3	1,190	4 0 4	2 0 3	...	.....
	1,060	721,956½	47	22,902½	235	146,274½	607 18 7	493 15 6	778	553,384½

SCHEDULE XXXVI.

REPORT for 1884.—Ringbarking.

Kind of Lease.	No. and area of applica- tions made in 1884.		No. and area granted in 1884.		No. and areas of applica- tions made in previous years, but granted in 1884.		Total No. and area granted in 1884.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
		acres.		acres.		acres.		acres.
Pre-emptive Lease	191	161,778	31	21,918	125	124,530	156	146,448
Auction Lease	27	20,389	4	1,894	11	6,846	15	8,740
	218	182,167	35	23,812	136	130,376	171	155,188

SCHEDULE XXXVII.

SCHEDULE XXXVII.

RETURN of Land resumed for Railway purposes (required for construction of Railways).

	County.	Parish.	Lots.	Area.
				a. r. p.
Goulburn to Cooma	Murray	Molong	4	15 0 10
	do	Carwoola	1	5 3 0
	do	Tuggeranong	5	20 1 38
	do	Gegerline	1	0 0 35
	do	Burra	1	4 0 12
	do	Keswong	4	11 1 23
	do	Mankellan	7	23 2 2
Orange to Molong	Ashburnham	Boree Nyranng	6	16 2 34
Narrandera to Jerilderie	Mitchell	Corobomilla	1	9 0 20
		Total	30	106 1 14

SCHEDULE XXXVIII.

STATEMENT of Area of Land alienated and unalienated in the Colony on the 31st December, 1884.

1. Area alienated in all forms prior to 1861	acres.
2. Area alienated by Auction and after Auction Selection, from 1861 to 31st December, 1884	7,338,539
3. Do by Improvement Purchase during same period	12,655,511
4. Do by Conditional Purchase during same period for which Deeds have issued	2,047,914
5. Do by all other forms during same period	1,088,436
	1,184,022
Area alienated up to 31st December, 1884, including lands set apart for public purposes	24,314,422
6. Estimated area of unalienated land in the Colony on 31st December, 1884	171,567,728
Estimated area of Colony	195,882,150
7. Area conditionally purchased up to 31st December, 1884, exclusive of forfeitures, lapsings, cancellations, and voidances, but for which deeds have not issued*	16,363,311

* This area is included in item No. 6.

REPORT of the Surveyor-General to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Surveyor-General's Office, Sydney, 3 September, 1885.

1. In making my Annual Report for 1884, I propose to confine it exclusively to the work done during the year and to any practice divergent from that of other years which may have occurred.

2. Returns giving full particulars as to cost, number, and nature of instructions issued to and dealt with by surveyors of all classes will be found at pages 68 to 73 inclusive.

3. Returns giving particulars of the number and employment of salaried surveyors will be found on page 66.

4. The vacant positions for second-class surveyors, appearing in Estimates for 1884, were filled by the appointment of four licensed surveyors, three of whom were previously employed on temporary salary.

5. A vacancy for a second-class surveyor under the head of General Survey of the Colony was filled up by the appointment of a surveyor previously employed on temporary salary. This appointment was made to take effect from 1st January, 1883.

6. The number of licensed surveyors employed at the end of the year 1884 was 198 against 196 of the previous year; in addition to those six have been transferred to the permanent staff.

7. The following table shows the average cost per acre of measurement by licensed surveyors, from 1873 to the end of 1884, viz.:—

1873	...	...	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1877	...	...	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1881	...	...	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1874	...	...	0 11	1878	...	...	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1882	...	...	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
1875	...	...	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1879	...	...	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1883	...	...	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
1876	...	...	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1880	...	...	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1884	...	...	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$

8. In estimating the cost of survey per acre it has been the practice to include in the amount all lineal measurements, some of which, roads and feature surveys for instance, are but indirectly concerned.

9. The increased cost of licensed surveys in 1884 arises from the stoppage of measurements for auction sale. These surveys being generally in blocks are carried out at a cheaper rate than conditional purchases which are more isolated.

10. The licensed surveyors admitted during the year are as follows:—

At the June Examination:—

Messrs. T. M. Stephen
A. B. Wood
P. F. B. Adams
H. V. Haynes
S. F. von Arnheim
P. S. Murray
C. E. Bowler
A. Peake
C. R. Cuninghame
J. F. C. Goodridge
C. A. Martin
J. T. McCann

Messrs. W. B. Bridges
H. L. Barrington
T. B. U. Sloman
C. Coane
A. H. W. Senior
B. J. Brown
M. V. Murphy
F. D. Fisher
G. Soares
W. Jahn
J. Andrews
R. Bornstein

At the December Examination:—

Messrs. A. M. Mendell
G. W. Walker
J. Silk
A. H. C. B. Conroy
F. de la Motte Mott
G. W. Leeming
T. H. Fawns
A. J. P. Hitchins
G. E. Wicks

Messrs. J. L. Clarke
A. C. M. Lockhart
A. T. Creswell
S. R. Irving
J. Murray
J. E. Muntz
C. D. Adams
J. E. Daly
W. Short

11. Those licensed under the Real Property Act are as follows:—

Messrs. J. H. Balmain
J. R. Blacket
T. Bossley
E. A. Bonney
E. J. Burgess
A. W. Canning
E. H. Dawson
S. H. Dawson
G. W. Dewdney
J. E. Flynn
H. Folkard
W. A. Harper

Messrs. F. W. Hawkins
W. A. Lewis
A. I. Liddell
A. E. Mackay
D. H. Murray
H. Shute
P. F. Smyth
J. Tarrant
W. M. Thomas
G. A. Tillett
W. B. H. Warner

12. On 31st December, 1883, the licensed surveyors had on hand the following instructions, viz.:—

Under six months date...	...	...	...	...	...	2,670
Over six and under twelve months	...	...	...	...	...	1,067
Twelve months and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	615

Total 4,352

On 31st December, 1884:—

Under six months date...	...	...	...	...	...	2,869
Over six and under twelve months	...	...	...	...	...	637
Twelve months and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	261

Total 3,767

13. As licensed surveyors have to meet all expenses, such as labour, horses, forage, equipment, &c., in advance, and to wait for payment of balances of accounts, there is evidently a limit to compulsion in carrying out instructions that can only be executed at a loss; consequently some latitude has been allowed in time when claims for measurement are not pressing. Occasionally, under exceptionally difficult circumstances, the expense of travelling or a charge per diem is allowed, but in either case it is special.

14. The average earnings of the licensed surveyors fell in 1884 to £694 against £770 in 1883, which was considered unremunerative. There is no doubt that many surveyors have only held their districts in hopes of improved circumstances arising out of the new Land law.

OFFICE STAFF—PROFESSIONAL.

15. The number of temporary draftsmen at the end of 1884 was 222. Of this number fifty-two have had less than twelve months' experience; consequently, although the strength of the office is numerically great, it is still weak. The effect of the loss of 121 draftsmen during 1881 and 1882 is still severely felt.

16. In addition to the staff of draftsmen, permanent and temporary, eight permanent and thirty-three temporary clerks are employed in the professional branch, in duties not requiring skill in drawing; they are principally employed in keeping books of entry and despatch of papers, and assisting in various ways, thus saving the time of the professional officers.

Number of draftsmen in office at end of 1884:—

Permanent Staff	...	...	109—and 9 litho. draftsmen.
Cadets...	...	...	15 paid from "salaries."
			5 paid from "contingencies."
Temporary Staff.			Parish Map Compilation.
Special Class	...	...	75
1st	"	...	81
2nd	"	...	32
3rd	"	...	20
4th	"	...	8
5th	"	...	4
6th	"	...	2
			222
			24

Number who have served less than twelve months, 52.

Number who left the office in 1884:—Permanent, 5; temporary, 18.

THE SURVEYOR-GENERAL.

17. During 1884 the whole of the work known as Charting has been dealt with under Geographical Division; the term Charting Branches no longer applies.

18. At the commencement of 1884 the whole of the Colony was divided into thirteen Geographical Divisions, each Division dealing with the whole of the work under alienation.

On the 31st December, 1883, the total undealt with Charting cases in the several Divisions

were 7,632 plans; 14,354 portions; 2,529,995 acres.

Received during 1884 9,857 " 17,694 " 1,820,070 "

Therefore the total to be dealt with in 1884 was 17,489 " 32,048 " 4,360,065 "

The total dealt with during 1884 11,993 " 23,434 " 3,122,777 "

Balance in Geographical Divisions on 31st December, 1884... .. 5,496 " 8,614 " 1,238,288 "

19. By comparing this statement with the report of 1883, folio 38, the decrease of cases received is shown to be 1,561 plans, while the amount of work dealt with compared with the previous year is shown to be an increase of 2,349 plans, containing 4,200 portions and 278,065 acres, and a decrease of the work on hand as compared with the previous year of 2,196 plans and 5,740 portions.

20. Charting cases delayed by being under reference to surveyor for amendment or explanation, 1,217 cases, being 1,992 less than on the 31st December, 1883.

21. Submission cases to Department of Lands of which the plans are with the draftsmen on the 31st December, 1884, 705 cases.

22. The plans delayed on account of being under reference to surveyors being 1,217, and under submission to Lands 705 (plans with Charting Draftsmen), equal a total of 1,922 plans, and deducted from the total undealt with cases on hand on the 31st December, 1884, viz., 5,496 plans, leaves the number that can be progressed with, 3,574 plans.

23. The number of memoranda sent to surveyors on subjects requiring explanation during 1884 was 4,107 memos., a decrease as compared with 1883 of 1,280 memos.

24. The total number of cases requiring submission to a higher authority in 1884 was 9,085 cases, an increase over 1883 of 2,786 cases.

25. The conditional purchase and volunteer land order applications received during 1884 were 9,618 applications, which added to cases in branch on 31st December, 1883, give a total of 10,864, from which if deducted the number dealt with during 1884, viz., 9,592, the remainder, 1,272, represent the total number on hand on the 31st December, 1884.

26. This total in the Geographical Divisions on the 31st December, 1884, may be considered large, but when the facts are taken into consideration that over a thousand applications were received during the month of December in the several divisions, and that the officers had to be taken off their legitimate work to complete the District Surveyors' Office maps, to accord with the maps of this office for working the Land Act of 1884 in the District Offices, I am of opinion that the arrears will be considered sufficiently accounted for.

27. The following tabular statement shows the state of the charting, &c., work in each of the Geographical Divisions on the 31st December, 1884.

CHARTING RETURN ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1884.

Geographical Division.	The names of the Heads of the Geographical Divisions.	Cases received during month.	Portions.	Unissued.	Submitted to Lands.	For examination.	Under reference to Surveyor.	Dealt with during month.	Portions.	Miscellaneous Branch at end of month.	Portions.
1	Mr. Hall	16	28	56	39	10	59	13	14	216	288
2	" Small	5	5	84	83	59	75	84	125	476	599
3	" Packer	102	187	81	66	93	129	40	86	580	841
4	" Rennie	35	35	10	54	10	82	70	82	250	340
5	" Slade	72	145	123	10	2	97	2	2	311	910
6	" Bennett	32	41	62	43	18	88	20	23	459	794
7	" J. J. Callachor	63	71	79	61	43	125	19	23	627	1,161
8	" Blake	16	35	88	104	36	99	68	75	566	685
9	" M. A. McLean	20	26	161	27	6	33	40	74	111	175
10	" H. Hare	29	61	92	29	27	113	31	35	406	484
11	" Burnell	24	95	17	31	23	97	17	19	361	606
12	" A. J. Hare	85	106	...	102	65	133	98	116	832	1,117
13	" Gall	6	13	...	51	96	88	12	44	303	620
	Total	505	848	853	700	488	1,218	514	718	5,498	8,615

APPLICATIONS.

Geographical Division.	The names of the Heads of the Geographical Divisions.	Improvement Purchase.		Conditional Purchase.	
		Received during the month of December.	In Division on the 31st December.	Received during the month of December.	In Division on the 31st of December.
No.					
1	Mr. Hall	370	616	30	21
2	" Small	47	190	76	167
3	" Packer	6	4	91	24
4	" Rennie	17	54	16	20
5	" Slade	6	14	160	172
6	" Bennett	21	151	54	105
7	" J. J. Callachor	5	8	85	209
8	" Blake	11	19	114	183
9	" M. A. McLean	573	746	22	29
10	" H. Hare	2	32	80	81
11	" Burnell	4	119	166	524
12	" A. J. Hare	2	29	88	63
13	" Gall	17	20	125	239
	Total	1,081	2,002	1,107	1,837

28. The total number of improvement purchase applications remaining in divisions on the 31st December, 1884, may be considered large; but I consider these arrears to be sufficiently accounted for by the fact that a large number of the applications having been made in the western part of the Colony, and not less than 1,290 improvement purchases having been received only during the months of November and December, in Geographical Division No. 9, and 750 in No. 1, and the work having to be laid aside for the urgent necessity of completion of maps for the district offices, in view of the Land Act of 1884 coming into force on the 1st January, 1885. The total number of improvement purchases received during the year in the above divisions have been very great, not less than 2,150 in the former division and 1,230 in the latter division, together about five-eighths of the total number received in all the divisions.

Aggregate total—

On hand, 31st December, 1883	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,958
Received during 1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,212
								<u>17,170</u>
Dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,489
								<u>1,680</u>
Aggregate balance on hand, 31st December, 1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,680

32. To meet the influx of work (C.P. certificates) seven description writers by piece-work were employed during the latter part of the year, at a cost of £413 3s. 6d., and an extra examiner for six weeks.

33. DIAGRAM BRANCH.

The total number of diagrams for deeds prepared in duplicate in this branch

during the year 1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,874
Do 1883	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,305
								<u>531</u>
Decrease in 1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	531
On hand in Branch, 31st December, 1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67

34. In addition to the above class of work the Assistant Examiner of Diagrams has been occupied in furnishing necessary information on about 530 plans for description writers.

35. This branch is assisted by draftsmen who, for diagrams or deeds, are employed by piece-work at a cost during the year 1884 of £854 11s.

36. HARBOUR FRONTAGE AND SPECIAL LEASE BRANCH.

Applications received during 1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,878
In branch, 31st December, 1883	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
								<u>2,055</u>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,055
Dealt with during 1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109 charting.
Do do	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,809 administrative.
								<u>1,918</u>
Balance on hand, 31st December, 1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	137

37. As stated in a previous report the head of this branch supervises the examination of candidates for employment as temporary draftsmen. During the year 1884 the candidates who passed the test examination for employment numbered seventy-six, and a considerable portion of his time is expended in the assessment of plans presented for inspection, and also of plans drawn by candidates under examination. A large number of the plans submitted are not sufficiently good to warrant an examination, and in the case of others, which may be sufficiently good to admit of the applicants being examined, they prove themselves by failing in other subjects necessary to be efficient in, ineligible for employment.

38. He also assists the Chief Draftsman in dealing with applications for professional assistance in the office and field. The head of this branch has also to act in respect to water frontage matters, as Secretary to the Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers and Surveyor-General (constituting a Board to report on such matters), and on their behalf to supply information and advice to applicants.

MISCELLANEOUS BRANCH.

39. This branch deals with applications for Public Schools, General Cemeteries, Police Stations, Schools of Art, Post, Telegraph, and Court Rooms, Gaols, Show Grounds, Pounds, Baths, Hospitals, Town Halls, Church Sites, &c., &c., and Railway resumptions.

Miscellaneous cases received during 1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,137
Railway resumptions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	123
								<u>2,260</u>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,260
representing 2,795 portions.								
In branch on 31st December, 1883	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
								<u>2,406</u>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,406
Total of work dealt with—								
Charting	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	354
Administrative	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	772
Previously issued work	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
								<u>2,256</u>
Balance on hand, 31st December, 1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Number of reminders returned and dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	405
Conditional sales tracings dealt with under contract at a cost of £23 17s. 3d...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	598

40. LEASE BRANCH.

Auction Leases—

The number of auction leases refused during the year 1884

was	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 = 4,930 acres
Granted and charted	...	...	...	...	...	471 = 1,329,272	„

Total received during the year ... 475 = 1,334,202 „

The number of auction leases dealt with during the year was	...	...	...	...	...	475
Showing a decrease from 1883 of	...	...	...	...	...	153

Pre-leases—

Pre-leases—

Received during 1884 and in hand the 31st December,									
1883	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,989	= 1,546,530½ acres
Received and refused during 1884									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	410	= 295,553½ „
Applied for prior to 1884 (refused)									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	= 114,336 „
Total									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	554	= 409,889½ „
A decrease from the year 1883 of									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,312 cases
Number of pre-lease cases in branch, 31st December, 1884									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	211 „
Conflicting Claims—									
Submitted in 1884, received, and in hand									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,820
Dealt with									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,625
In hand on 31st December, 1884									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	195
Increase in number of cases dealt with above 1883									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Interference of pre-lease with auction measurements—									
Number of cases received during 1884 and in hand									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	655
Dealt with									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	647
In hand									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number received being 104 more than in 1883.									
The number of cases received from the Geographical Divisions respecting									
improvements during the year were									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,136
Dealt with									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,091
In hand, 31st December, 1884									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
The number received being 739 more than in 1883.									
Permission to Ringbark—									
Dealt with									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	158
In hand									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Applications for ringbarking received and dealt with									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	346
In hand,									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
The total number of parish maps charted up during the year was									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,690
The total number of tracings prepared for the Land Board (showing leases) at									
a cost, £426 15s....									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,500

41. In addition to the above, 3,000 applications were examined, but being in right of freeholds within runs, the leases were noted for cancellation and no tracings were prepared.

42. In submitting this report of the Lease Branch I may remark that on the 7th November, in order to meet anticipated applications for conversion of leases under the provision of the "Crown Lands Act of 1884" and the preparation of the necessary tracings required to show boundaries of leases, assistance was sought from the Geographical Divisions for this duty, and about 1,500 cases were transferred to these divisions, but owing to the Geographical Divisions being fully taxed with work, assistance only was given to a very limited extent, and contract or piece-work had to be resorted to, and, as before stated, over 9,500 tracings have been prepared at a cost of £426 15s., besides a large number having to be made in the branch as ordinary work; and between the 19th of November and the 31st December not less than 12,500 leases were cursorily examined with reference to the land in right of which they were granted, and that all possible information appear on the lease maps before the 1st January, 1885, and in readiness to facilitate dealing with applications under the 52nd clause of the "Crown Lands Act of 1884" during the ninety days allowed by that Act, and also in order to chart the leases gazetted during the latter end of December, overtime work had to be resorted to, and the officers of the Lease Branch remained at the duty till 10 o'clock at night, and by that means the required work has been accomplished without addition to the ordinary staff of the branch in a most satisfactory manner, and though there is a decrease on the previous year of the numbers of lease applications dealt with during 1884, nevertheless the large quantity of undefined leases previously to 1880, and the revision of lease boundaries, render it necessary on account of errors in the compilations of old maps, discovered by new compilations on large scale, the draftsmen throughout the year have been heavily taxed with work.

ASSISTANT OFFICER, PROFESSIONAL BRANCH.

43. This branch is of a professional character, under the Deputy Surveyor-General, and reports on cases under the alienation clauses of the Lands Acts.

44. The same duties were performed in this branch during the year 1884, including completion of action in Survey Branch of purchases legalized under the "Crown Lands Purchases Validation Act, 1881," and the preparation of Schedules of Purchases proposed to be legalized under authority of Parliament.

45. The existing duties in this branch are now performed by the Deputy Surveyor-General.

ROADS BRANCH.

46. The Roads Branch of this Department reports in all cases of application for roads through alienated land, under the Act 4th William IV, No. 11; the alignment of streets, under Act 2nd Victoria, No. 2; the alienation of unnecessary roads, under section 10 of 25th Victoria, No. 1; the granting of one road in lieu of another, under section 26, and resumption of land for roads from any conditional purchase, under section 27 of 43rd Victoria, No. 29; and granting of public gates, under 39th Victoria, No. 10. It is under the charge of an officer, who reports for the Surveyor-General to the Department of Mines, and in some cases to the Under Secretary for Lands, and he is assisted by two other professional officers, as heads

heads of divisions, and a staff of draftsmen and clerks, who carry out the necessary action respecting the roads of the Colony, in two divisions, north and south, and in these branches several improvements peculiar to the geographical divisions of the Alienation Branch have been adopted, and the records kept are in a very efficient state.

47. The number of papers received during the year 1884 reached 7,206, and on many of these separate and distinct action had been several times taken. The number of miles of road surveyed was 1,520, delineated by 249 plans, in addition to 40 plans showing 239 streets; 362 applications for roads, deviations in roads, and for alignment of streets have been received; 642 reports from surveyors, irrespective of 289 reports accompanying plans of survey; 380 objections and claims for compensation, which required investigation, and in 26 cases compensation was recommended to be granted by reports from this branch. There are many hundreds of thousands of roads in this Colony, any one of which may form the subject of inquiry, complaint, application for resurvey, dedication, &c., or may be applied for to be purchased under the Crown Lands Alienation Act. On each and every such inquiry or application the necessary information is given personally to the public, or is supplied in the shape of a minute of recommendation to the Under Secretary for Mines, and in some cases to the Under Secretary for Lands.

48. Comparison with the previous returns shows a steady increase of work in this branch.

RESERVE BRANCH.

49. The work performed by the Reserve Branch is as follows, viz.:—Recommending reservations from sale and lease, consisting of water supply, timber, travelling stock, camping, temporary commons, public recreation, &c.; the cancellation and modifications of reserves under the 6th section of the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861," reporting on resumptions for public parks and recreation reserves; reservations for public purposes of all kinds under the 4th section of that Act; and applications in virtue of improvements within reserves; dedications for recreation and permanent common; boundaries for proclamation for new gold-fields under the Mining Act; reserves from sale on account of gold under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861"; town and suburban boundaries; alterations in designs of same; population reserves; boundaries under the Towns, Police, and Municipal Acts, and modification and alteration in mining and municipal districts. The preparation of electoral registration, school, licensing, and police districts is acted upon by the officer in charge of this branch; also applications to mine under reserves and roads.

50. This branch also carries out the examination of all plans received for auction sale, for the purpose of ascertaining before sending on whether sufficient reservations had been made for public purposes.

51. Reserves for travelling stock, with camping sites at reasonable intervals, have been notified along a considerable number of stock routes; in many instances tracks have been marked, and the boundaries of the reserves defined on the ground.

52. The total area reserved for travelling stock during the year being 1,122,303 acres.

53. 815,900 acres have been reserved along projected lines of railway or lines in course of construction.

54. 1,739,669 acres have been reserved for the preservation and promotion of the growth of timber during the same period.

55. Total area of land reserved from conditional purchase during the year 1884 included an area of 6,933,124 acres.

56. With a view to remove doubt or uncertainty as to the position of reserves, a large number have been defined on the ground.

57. A considerable number of unnecessary reserves have been subdivided for sale.

58. A map of the Colony has been published showing the towns, principal centres of settlement, the railway lines completed and in course of construction, stock reserves or driftways, tanks and wells along the stock routes, with their local names, and the positions and names of railway stations where stock can be trucked. The map will be found of considerable value to owners of stock, drovers, and others engaged in pastoral pursuits.

59. RESERVES FROM SALE.

Purpose.	No.	Notified.	No.	Revoked.
		a. r. p.		a. r. p.
Aborigines	6	213 2 0	...	...
Access	115	89,884 2 36	15	3,731 2 8
Access to tidal waters	1	290 0 0	...	...
Access and camping	1	41 0 0	1	530 0 0
Baths	1	4 0 0	...	...
Beneficial occupation of Crown Lands ... ..	...	...	1	306 0 0
Bridge	2	48 0 0	1	1,280 0 0
Camping	225	152,395 1 6	58	35,746 2 13
Camping and travelling stock	8	6,155 0 0	2	1,168 0 0
Cemetery	6	139 0 3	...	...
Census ... ..	...	...	3	15,172 0 0
Commissioners' quarters	1	240 0 0	...	...
Commonage	10	12,624 0 38	12	4,983 3 36
Crossing	18	495 2 0	4	277 0 0
Drainage	5	3 2 36	...	...
Driftway	26	25,453 0 0	2	182 0 0
Gold (on account of) ... ..	...	...	6	53,385 0 0
Gold-field (within open) ... ..	...	...	1	21,500 0 0
Hospital	1	2 1 0	...	...
Island ... ..	...	...	1	5 0 0
Landing-place	1	30 0 0	...	...

RESERVES FROM SALE—continued.

Purpose.	No.	Notified.			No.	Revoked.		
		a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.
Limestone	4	570	0	0	1	62	0	0
Mining	9	592,590	2	0	98	785,105	3	21
Pending completion of Census	...	...	...	...	7	7,470	1	3
„ declaration of deviation in road	...	...	...	...	1	268	0	0
„ report of Department of Mines	...	...	...	...	1	29,560	0	0
Police purposes	39	1,767	1	10½	5	547	2	34
Population ... ..	...	...	...	...	3	320,147	0	0
Post and Telegraph Office	1	0	2	0	...	...	...	...
Pound	15	313	2	3	2	27	0	38
Powder magazine	...	...	...	...	1	0	3	20
Public buildings	91	409	2	27	10	67	3	0
„ park	2	79	1	34	...	...	...	...
„ purposes	12	47,891	3	25	44	22,513	0	37
„ schools	120	1,458	2	4	13	227	0	11
„ traffic ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	42	0	0
Quarry	15	4,165	3	15	4	20	0	0
Railway purposes	124	815,900	0	20	50	93,734	1	38
Recreation	97	21,193	1	1	17	975	0	9
Refuge in time of flood	14	18,305	0	0	5	8,384	0	0
Road metal	6	6,462	2	20	1	3,840	0	0
Road purposes	2	322	0	0	...	...	...	...
Shipping of stock	...	...	...	...	1	4,960	0	0
Slaughter-yards...	1	10	0	0	...	...	...	...
Special lease	64	3,097	2	0	2	8	0	0
Specially exempted	2	31,900	0	0	...	...	...	...
Suburban	1	438	0	0	...	...	...	...
Tank	9	14,307	0	0	1	2,280	0	0
Timber	235	1,739,669	0	0	117	752,654	2	9
Timber licenses (exempted from operation of)	1	1,920	0	0	...	...	...	...
Telegraph	1	0	2	0	...	...	...	...
Town	1	208	0	0	...	...	...	...
Town extension...	2	640	0	0	1	300	0	0
Town and suburban purposes...	...	...	...	...	1	157	0	0
Trigonometrical purposes	3	101	2	0	1	50	0	0
„ station	26	6,660	0	16	3	1,014	0	0
Trucking-yards...	2	32	0	0	...	...	...	...
Travelling stock	275	1,122,303	1	0	256	258,666	3	25
Water supply	768	2,121,854	1	25	620	1,139,723	3	16
„ and travelling stock	2	2,330	0	0	...	...	...	...
Village	38	86,793	3	0	65	30,866	1	6
„ (future) ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	320	0	0
Wharf	10	130	1	28	2	40	0	10
Unspecified	1	1,280	0	0	...	...	...	...
Totals	2,420	6,933,124	3	27½	1,442	3,602,300	1	14

60. RESERVES FROM LEASE.

Purpose.	No.	Notified.			No.	Revoked.		
		a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.
Aborigines	1	1,280	0	0	...	...	...	...
Access	19	2,848	3	35	3	1,256	0	0
Camping	10	2,810	2	0	11	1,768	1	18
Commonage	9	17,633	0	0	10	1,202	2	7
Crossing	2	241	3	0	...	...	...	...
Driftway	1	144	0	0	...	...	...	...
Mining	1	35	0	0	5	11,515	0	0
From pastoral lease	2	1,240	0	0	22	20,421	0	0
Population	2	74,240	0	0	...	...	...	...
„ boundary ... ..	...	...	...	...	3	802	0	0
Public purposes	1	565	0	0	13	5,619	0	0
„ traffic ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	42	0	0
„ watering place	...	...	...	...	1	159	0	0
Railway ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	110	0	0
Recreation	2	2,462	3	0	...	...	...	...
Road purposes	9	6,067	0	0	1	3,610	0	0
Quarry ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	617	0	0
Sale	3	967	0	0	4	580	0	0

RESERVES FROM LEASE—continued.

Purpose.	No.	Notified.	No.	Revoked.
		a. r. p.		a. r. p.
Shipping of stock ... ..	...	.....	1	2,060 0 0
Site for future village ... ..	...	.....	1	1,400 0 0
Site for village ... ..	...	.....	1	2,590 0 0
Special lease	38	3,879 3 20	5	208 0 0
Tank	2	400 0 0	1	640 0 0
Town and suburban lands	4	2,983 0 0	1	8 1 8
Timber	2	1,280 0 0	1	1,280 0 0
Travelling stock	11	7,513 0 0	12	6,984 0 0
Village	14	16,271 0 0	7	3,104 1 0
Water supply	31	21,716 2 36	22	20,645 0 0
Unspecified ... ..	...	.....	3	42 1 34
Totals	164	164,578 2 11	131	86,662 3 27

MISCELLANEOUS.

Purpose.	No.	Notified.	No.	Revoked.
		a. r. p.		a. r. p.
Cattle sale-yard and pound	1	20 0 12	...	.....
Census ... ..	...	.....	2	581 1 0
Common permanent	1	170 0 0	...	.....
„ temporary	20	31,019 0 0	70	23,880 2 2
Exemption from quarry license ... ..	...	.....	1	19 1 0
Gold-fields open	87	1,563,118 1 0	14	611,903 1 33
„ reserved	39	12,099,999 0 0	29	5,412,653 0 0
Preservation of graves	1	0 1 13	...	.....
Public bath	1	2 2 0	...	.....
Recreation	1	120 0 0	...	.....
Suburban lands	22	21,207 0 0	...	.....
Towns and villages	19	4,425 0 0	2	645 1 7
Totals	192	13,720,081 0 25	118	6,049,632 3 2

61. The following table shows the number of cases received and dealt with in this Branch during the years named:—

Year.	Number received.	Number dealt with.
1880	9,743	9,630
1881	11,397	11,528
1882	11,600	11,850
1883	11,652	11,646
1884	12,258	11,561

62. At the end of 1884 there were 953 cases in the Branch.

63. In addition to the above work performed in the Branch, reserves were charted and examined on 11 new county maps, 845 parish maps, and 45 town maps, being an increase of 1 county, and 467 parish, and 8 town, maps, as compared with 1883.

64. A portion of the latter end of the year was occupied in preparing descriptions for reclamations and notifications required in connection with the “Crown Lands Act of 1884.”

LAND DISTRICT MAP BRANCH.

65. The Land District Map Branch continued to provide two sets of maps for each Land Agent during the year 1884.

No. of sets of Land District maps supplied to Land Agents	108
No. of maps included in the above... ..	5,103
No. of newly compiled parish maps on which the Land District boundaries have been charted and certified to	886
No. of maps supplied to Conditional Purchase Inspectors	155
No. of letters and papers dealt with	249

66. Besides the ordinary staff this branch is largely assisted by contract draftsmen, who perform the work under piece-work. And during the year the expenditure in that class of work has been about £1,243 3s. 4d., equivalent to seven second-class draftsmen.

COMPILING AND PUBLISHING BRANCH.

67. In comparing this report with that of the previous year a satisfactory increase in the number of parish maps compiled will be seen, the total number compiled in 1884 being 886, or 504 in excess of 1883, and notwithstanding this increase in the number of parish maps compiled a considerable amount of miscellaneous work has been dealt with in this branch, as shown by the schedule in detail.

68. With the view of pressing on the publication of parish maps with all the most recent information, and also in prospect of the Land Act of 1884 coming into force on the 1st January, 1885, in January last a new or third division of this branch was formed, and in October another or fourth division, resulting in a marked increase in the publication of parish maps; the former of these new divisions is located at the head office, and the latter in the old Survey Office.

69. On reference to the Annual Report of 1880 it will be seen that during the year 1880 1074 parish maps were completed in the compiling and charting division, and that 760 were in office use previously to that year, and the returns of 1881-82 and 1883 show that not less than 2,885 parish maps were placed in office use during those years, making a total to 31st December, 1883, of ... 3,833

And compiled and placed in office during 1884 ... 886

Total in office use on 31st December, 1884 ... 4,719

70. The numbers printed and published during the years 1878 to 1884 inclusive have been 4,280. The total number of counties which have been wholly completed in parish maps to the

31st December, 1884, are ...	61 counties.
Very nearly completed ...	8 „
And in course of compilation ...	40 „
Total...	109

71. The total number of counties in the Colony being 141, the balance of counties not yet in course of compilation in parish maps is shown to be 32; those, with the exception of two counties on the scale of 1 mile to 1 inch, are situate in the Western Division.

72. The following statement gives in detail the work performed by the Compiling Branch during the year 1884 :—

During the year 1884 the number of parish maps compiled in Compiling Branch, divisions Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 was ...	718
And in Geographical Divisions ...	168
Total ...	886

During 1883.

Compiled in Compiling Branch, divisions Nos. 1 and 2... ..	268
In Geographical Divisions... ..	114
Total	382

Showing an increase in 1884 of ... 504

In addition to the above the number of parish maps, of which second editions have been prepared ... 87

The number of parish maps in course of compilation in Compiling Branch, divisions 1, 2, 3, and 4, on 31st December, 1884, was ...	179
And in Geographical Divisions ...	36
Total	215

The number of parish maps in course of compilation in Compiling Branch, divisions Nos. 1 and 2, on 31st December, 1883 ...	158
And in Geographical Divisions ...	15
Total	173

Increase over 1883 ... 42

The total number of parish maps printed and published in 1884 was... 682
Do do in 1883 was... 476

Increase over 1883 ... 206

A statement showing progress of parish maps is attached :—

73. County Maps—

County maps compiled during the year on scale of 2 miles to 1 inch ...	4
Do do in 1883 ...	17

Decrease in 1884, owing to the attention of draftsmen having been directed to compilations of parish maps ... 13

74. *Towns and Villages.*

One town map, completed in 1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
During 1883	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Decrease in 1884							3

75. *Tracings and Drawings by Contractors.*

During the year 1884 the number was	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,862
Do 1883 do	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,573
Increase over 1883							109

Colony Map.

76. A map of the Colony is under compilation on the scale of 8 miles to 1 inch, and based on the general triangulation of the Colony.

77. *Topographical Surveys.*

Instructions issued to surveyors during 1884 for measurement of feature surveys necessary for the compilation of parish maps							312 miles.
Do	during 1883	...	...	...	...	...	553 "
Decrease in 1884							241 "

78. *Plans of Feature Surveys.*

Received into Branch during 1884	...	...	...	...	...	1,712	"
Do	during 1883	...	...	...	...	918	"
Increase over 1883							794 "

79. *Feature Surveys.*

Examined in the Branch by Computers during 1884, including 239 miles of survey sent from other branches for examination							1,762 "
Do	in 1883	...	...	...	...	...	1,431 "
Increase over 1883							331 "

80. *Plans awaiting Examination.*

In Branch 31st December, 1884	...	...	...	...	...	17	"
Do 31st December, 1883	...	...	...	...	...	16	"

Miscellaneous Work.

81. Other than tracing and drawing above specified as performed by contractors, performed by the compiling draftsmen during 1884:—

82. Preparing maps of the Goulburn Municipality; map of the Licensing District of Waratah; Colony map, showing different scales of fees paid to licensed surveyors charting trial and railway lines on plans, &c.; work in connection with maps for the Rabbit Nuisance Act; map and diagram showing rainfall throughout the Colony; maps showing land district and surveyors' district boundaries, &c., and maps of the Quarantine Station. Preparing the following village and town maps for office use: Villages of Blayney, Woombah, Currathool West, Loftus, Bateman, Colombo, Booligal, Umaralla, Narromine, Cobborah, Katoomba, Cungegong, Girilambone, Guyra, and Glenbrook; towns of Wellington, Albury, Cooma, Jugiong, Parkes, Wentworth, Bourke; also, sheet five, county of Georgiana, and preparing litho. and reference of county of Cooper.

PLAN RECORD BRANCH.

83. The work of this branch is the custody of all original plans, excepting those kept in Geographical Divisions, and lithographs of auction plans, as records and surveyors' field-books, sketch-books, &c., &c.

Number of plans in Branch	...	...	...	...	...	112,590
Do issued and returned during 1884	...	...	...	...	...	181,150
Do of new plans received from Charting Branch	...	...	...	...	...	5,000
Do plans sent to and received from mounter	...	...	...	...	...	25,000
Do exhibited to the public	...	...	...	...	...	1,850

84. There are also in the branch 1,760 auction sale lithographs, 1,200 surveyors' field-books, twelve sketch-books, containing sketch-plans, surveyors' descriptions, and Government Gazettes, from the year 1882 to 1883 inclusive.

SALESMAN

SALESMAN OF PUBLIC MAPS.

85. This officer has the custody of all published lithographs and is salesman of the same, and a record is kept by him of the stock in hand, either by purchase, issue, for office, for land agents, or officers in the field and other departments, and forwards each day to the Secretary and Cashier a statement of lithographs sold:—

Lithographs received.	Maps.	Copies.	Value.		
			£	s.	d.
Counties	20	3,700	1,012	0	0
Cities, towns, villages, environs	21	3,800	380	0	0
Parishes	682	68,700	3,435	0	0
Auction sale plans	266	9,845	492	5	0
Miscellaneous	44	25,650	3,543	15	0
	1,033	106,695	8,863	0	0

£ s. d.

Lithographs sold 6,748 407 11 8

Lithographs issued for use in various branches and to other departments:—

Counties	2,045	613	10	0
Towns	1,954	195	8	0
Parishes	37,326	1,866	6	0
Auction sale plans	1,338	66	18	0
Detailed surveys	1,062	159	6	0
Index maps	319	23	18	6
Geographical divisions	230	28	15	0
Large scale Colony maps	54	27	0	0
Small do do	304	15	4	0
Large scale S. Route maps	248	186	0	0
Small do do	579	57	18	0
Trigonometrical sheets	274	54	16	0
Miscellaneous	1,870	368	1	6
	47,603	3,662	1	0
Letters dealt with			614	
This return shows an increase of lithographs received over the year 1883			12,958	
Increased issue over 1883			13,225	
Sold less than 1883			5,881	

CLERK OF CHARTING BRANCH AT HEAD OFFICE.

86. Number of papers received, entered, and despatched from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1884:—23,683 cases.

PLAN-MOUNTING BRANCH.

87. The duties of this officer need not be described. The number of original plans and maps of various kinds, lithographs, &c., mounted during the year, 3,029; maps in book form, county maps, reference to counties, binding catalogue books, 87.

88. Miscellaneous work, mounting maps on rollers, packing maps for post, &c., &c., and other items of a miscellaneous character.

Contract work—	£	s.	d.
Mounting 1,061 lithographs; total cost... ..	66	1	0
Cataloguing 24,372 ; do	103	6	10½
1,768 auction sales lithographs	8	15	2
	£173	3	0½

Linen expended:—Fifty-nine rolls, varying in width from 100" to 36" ... 3,089 yards.

Linen on stock on 31st December:—193 rolls, from 38", 48", and 100" ... 7,047 "

89. The average strength of the several divisions in the office under the various headings during 1884 is shown by the following tabular statement:—

	Permanent Staff.	Temporary Staff.	Clerks.	Cadets.	
Examiners of charting	8	.....	.....	.....
Geographical Division, No. 1	4	7	1	1	
Do 2	5	10	1	.....
Do 3	6	6	1	1	
Do 4	4	6	1	1	
Do 5	5	7	1	1	
Do 6	4	9	1	1	
Do 7	5	7	1	1	
Do 8	4½	9	1	1	
Do 9	3	7	1	1	
Do 10	5	5	1	1	
Do 11	3	7	1	1	
Do 12	5	8½	1	1	
Do 13	3	6	1	.....
Noting Branch	1	2½	2	1	
Description do	4	.....	2½	.....	This branch has been also assisted by contractors for about 6 months.
Diagram do	2	.....	1	.....	Seven (7) diagram draftsmen employed on piece-work.
Harbour frontage, &c., Branch	2½	6	.....	.....
Miscellaneous Branch	1	5	1½	.....	½-time of Clerk, C.P. tracings, till August.
Lease do	6	15½	1	¾	
Roads do	9½	9½	3½	2	
Reserve do	3½	21½	1½	2	
Land District do	2	9¾	.....	.....	Assisted by contractors who perform work by piece-work
Compiling do No. 1	3	15	.....	.....
Do do 2	2	14	1	.....
Do do 3	2	7	.....	.....
Do do 4	¾	4	.....	.....	This branch commenced work the 9th October, 1884, with 17 draftsmen.
Do feature survey	1	3	.....	.....
Do miscellaneous contract..	1	7	.....	.....	This division is assisted by draftsmen on piece-work.
Do lithographic draftsmen...	11	3	.....	.....
Do printers	4	8	.....	.....	Including stone polishers.
Do clerks .....	.....	.....	4	.....	Including computing clerks.
Plan records	2	3	.....	.....
Cataloguing field-books .....	.....	1	.....	.....
Salesman of public maps	2	.....	.....	.....
Clerks of Charting Branch	1	3	.....	.....
Clerk for auction schedules ..	1	.....	.....	.....
Plan-mounters	2	1	.....	.....
General Survey Branch	9	5	1	.....
Draftsmen on miscellaneous duties...	1	.....	.....	.....
	140½	238	32½	16¾	
The resignations during the year and left for the field	7	20	.....	1	
District Survey Offices ... ..	.....	3	.....	.....
	7	23	.....	.....

Absences on account of sickness and otherwise :—

One officer, permanent staff, 10 months.

Do do 7 do.

Do do 6 do.

Do do 4 do.

Do on temporary staff, 6 do.

90. One officer (permanent staff) has been employed for twelve months on matters relating to the Land Act of 1884.

91. LIST OF COUNTIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Showing progress of compilation in Parish Maps, and the divisions in which the Counties are situate under the "Crown Lands Amendment Act, 1884."

County.	Division of the Colony.	
Arrawatta	Eastern and Central	Complete in compilation of parish maps.
Argyle	Eastern	do excepting 1 map in hand.
Ashburnham	Eastern and Central	do do 2 maps do
Auckland	Eastern	10 compiled and 42 in course of compilation.
Baradine	Central	41 do 35 do
*Barrona	Western	Nil compiled.
Bathurst	Eastern	Complete in compilation, excepting 1 parish map in hand.
Benarba	Central	do parish maps.
Beresford	Eastern	do do excepting 3 parish maps in hand.
Bland	Eastern and Central	do do
*Blaxland	Western	Nil compiled.
Bligh	Eastern	Complete, excepting 2 maps in hand.
Bourke	Central	do in parish maps.
*Booroodarra	Western	Nil compiled.
Boyd	Central	Complete in parish maps, excepting 7 maps in hand.
Brisbane	Eastern	Complete in parish maps.
Buccleuch	do	do
Buckland	Eastern and Central	19 compiled, and 10 in course of compilation.
Buller	Eastern	Complete in parish maps.
Burnett	Eastern and Central	do
Cadell	Central	18 compiled, and 10 in course of compilation.
Caira	Western	18 do county not fully subdivided in parishes.
Camden	Eastern	Complete in parish maps.
*Canbelego	Central and Western	1 compiled; county not yet subdivided in parishes.
Clarence	Eastern	9 do 29 in course of compilation.
Clarendon	Eastern and Central	Complete in parish maps.
Clarke	Eastern	do excepting 3 in course of compilation.
Clive	do	26 compiled, and 26 do
Clyde	Central and Western	2 do county only partly subdivided in parishes.
Cook	Eastern	Complete in parish maps.
Cowper	Central	20 compiled: county only partly subdivided in parishes.
Courallie	do	Complete in compilation of parish maps.
Cowley	Eastern	2 compiled; others in course of compilation.
Cooper	Central	Complete in parish maps.
*Culgoa	Western	Nil compiled.
Cumberland	Eastern	In parish maps.
Cunningham	Central	Complete, excepting 27 parishes.
Dampier	Eastern	15 compiled, and 20 in course of compilation.
Darling	do	Complete in parish maps.
*Delalah	Western	Nil compiled.
Denham	Central	Complete in parish maps.
Denison	do	do
Dowling	do	do
Drake	Eastern	20 compiled, and 19 in course of compilation.
Dudley	do	4 do 13 do
Durham	do	Complete in compilation of parish maps.
*Evelyn	Western	Nil compiled.
Ewenmar	Central	Complete in compilation of parish maps.
*Farnell	Western	Nil compiled.
*Finch	do	do put in hand for compilation.
*Fitzgerald	do	do
Fitzroy	Eastern	19 compiled; 26 in course of compilation.
Flinders	Central	15 do 56 do
Forbes	Eastern and Central	Complete in compilation.
*Franklin	Western	do
Georgiana	Eastern	Nil, put in hand.
Gipps	Central	Complete, excepting 15 parish maps in course of compilation.
Gloucester	Eastern	Complete.
Gordon	Eastern and Central	do
Gough	Eastern	do
Goulburn	do	Nil, put in hand.
Gowen	Central	Complete in compilation.
Gregory	do	do
Gresham	Eastern	do
*Gunderbooka	Western	Nil compiled.
Harden	Eastern	Complete in compilation.
Hardinge	do	do
Hawes	do	21 compiled; 17 in course of compilation.
Hume	Eastern and Central	18 do 25 not compiled; to be put in hand.
Hunter	Eastern	Complete in compilation.

NOTE.—Counties marked thus * are in the Western District, in which counties but little or no alienation has as yet taken place.

LIST OF COUNTIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES—*continued.*

County.	Division of the Colony.	
Inglis	Eastern	Complete in compilation.
*Irrara	Western	Nil compiled.
Jamison	Central	Complete in parish maps.
Kennedy	do	do excepting 4 parish maps in hand.
*Kilfera	Western	Nil compiled.
*Killara	do	do
King	Eastern	12 compiled and in hand for compilation.
*Landsborough	Western	Nil compiled.
Leichhardt	Central	Complete in compilation, excepting 5 parish maps in hand.
Lincoln	Eastern and Central	Complete in compilation.
*Livingstone	Western	Nil compiled.
Macquarie	Eastern	Complete in parish maps.
*Manara	Western	Nil compiled.
*Menindee	do	do
Mitchell	Central	Complete in parish maps.
Monteagle	Eastern and Central	do
*Mootwingee	Western	Nil compiled.
*Mossgiel	do	do
*Mouramba	do	4 compiled, and others in hand.
Murchison	Eastern and Central	Complete in parish maps.
Murray	Eastern	do
Nandewar	Central	do
Napier	do	do
*Narran	Western	Nil, in hand for compilation.
Narromine	Central	Complete in parish maps.
Nicholson	do	do excepting 4 parish maps in hand.
Northumberland	Eastern	18 complete, and others in course of compilation.
Oxley	Central	Complete in compilation.
Parry	Eastern	do
*Perry	Western	Nil compiled.
Phillip	Eastern	Complete.
*Poole	Western	Nil compiled.
Pottinger	Eastern and Central	Complete in parish maps.
Raleigh	Eastern	do excepting 1 parish map in hand.
*Rankin	Western	Nil compiled.
Richmond	Eastern	Complete in parish maps, excepting 2 parish maps in hand.
*Robinson	Western	3 compiled; others in course of compilation.
Rous	Eastern	Complete in compilation, excepting 4 parish maps in hand.
Roxburgh	do	38 complete; the rest in hand.
Sandon	do	15 do
Selwyn	do	Complete in compilation.
Stapylton	Central	do
Sturt	do	do
St. Vincent	Eastern	do
*Taia	Western	6 complete; the rest of the county not subdivided in parish maps.
*Tandora	do	Nil compiled.
*Tara	do	do
*Thoulcanna	do	do
*Tongowoko	do	do
Townsend	Central	Complete in parish maps.
*Ularara	Western	Nil compiled.
Urana	Central	do but in hand for compilation.
Vernon	do	do do
Wakool	do	Complete in parish maps.
Waljeers	Western	Compiled, excepting 17 parishes.
Wallace	Eastern	Complete in parish maps.
Waradgery	Central	do
Wellesley	Eastern	do
Wellington	do	Complete, excepting 4 parish maps in hand.
*Wentworth	Western	9 compiled.
*Werunda	do	Nil compiled.
Westmoreland	Eastern	Complete, excepting 2 parish maps in hand.
White	Central	Complete in parish maps.
*Windeyer	Western	Nil compiled.
*Woore	do	do
Wynyard	Eastern	Complete in parish maps, excepting 1 parish map in hand for compilation.
*Yancowinna	Western	Nil compiled.
*Yanda	do	1 compiled; county not yet subdivided in parishes.
*Yungnulgra	do	Nil compiled.
*Yantara	do	do
*Young	do	do

Note.—Counties marked thus * are in the Western District, in which counties but little or no alienation has as yet taken place.

ACCOUNT AND CLERICAL BRANCH.

92. This branch employed officers both on the fixed and temporary staff—seventeen of the former and twenty-seven of the latter, during the year 1884; the salaries ranged from £62 up to £450 per annum, and the total cost of the branch was £8,542 Os. 2d.

93. The business of the branch is divided into the following heads, viz. :—

Accounts.
Correspondence.
Record of Measurements, &c.
Stores.
Statistics.

94. The duties under the first head may be summarized as follows :—

The total amount of accounts rendered for services of the past year, was	...	£349,612
The amount of balances of licensed surveyors' accounts for 1883 and prior years, passed for payment	... ..	28,195
		£377,807
Total amount of salaries and contingencies paid was	... ..	354,593
Balance...	... ..	£23,214

95. The total number of letters, &c., written, recorded, and despatched during the year was over 21,000 on professional subjects, added to which about 25,000 notices of payment were sent out, and 1,351 on questions requiring Ministerial approval.

96. The number of communications received from surveyors—salaried and licensed—was 33,532.

97. The number of special cases submitted for my decision direct from this branch was about 10,000.

98. The number of returns prepared during the period was eight, which were of a very exhaustive character, and occupied a considerable time in preparation; the number is no criterion of the work involved.

99. At page 68 appears a return showing the cost of each survey district, the number of instructions issued and carried out, the balance representing those transferred or remaining on hand at the end of the year. The number of instructions remaining on hand at the end of the year is no criterion of the energy or otherwise of the surveyor, the number being affected by the return of instructions by other licensed surveyors who resign or change districts. Following this is a similar return respecting the services of the temporary salaried surveyors.

100. The premises occupied by the Department are as follows :—

Head office, Bridge-street.

Trigonometrical, General Survey, Compiling and publishing Branches, Wolfen's Buildings, Bridge-street.

Diagram, Description, and Noting Branches, Exchange Buildings, Bridge-street.

Charting Branches, Sutton's Buildings, George-street.

Charting and I. P. Branches, Foy's Buildings, George-street.

Lease Branch, Gilchrist, Watt, & Co.'s Buildings, O'Connell-street.

Roads and Charting Branches, Gilchrist, Watt, & Co.'s Buildings, Bent-street.

Plan Mounting Branch, &c., Curcier & Adet's, Macquarie-place.

101. TRIGONOMETRICAL BRANCH.

Annual Report for 1884.

Name.	Stations Completed.			Horizontal Angles Observed.			Vertical Angles Observed.							New Stations formed.			Stars observed.			Miles.		
	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	18 inch.	10 inch.	8-inch and smaller.	18 inch.	10 inch.	8-inch and smaller.	Hills observed from.	Hills observed to.	Hills visited.	Hills re-visited.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	Azi-muth.	Time.	Latitude.	Travelled on duty.	Moved Camp.	Length of Lines traversed.
Conder W. ....	..	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	216	433	726	1138	..	only chs.
Brooks J.	12	7	7	..	8950	505	..	423	..	36	555	44	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	2537	383	..
Cameron J.	4	16	13	..	4804	820	..	1060	492	32	417	37	36	..	..	..	201	55	29	2256	1064	114 35
Gregson F. J.	4	25	27	..	2247	..	..	182	4690	68	278	90	95	..	..	..	..	..	..	2867	986	..
Mackay A. E.	6	24	37	1223	..	1902	133	..	2312	77	525	21	11	..	..	..	188	18	178	2472	522	4 9
Taylor E. H. ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	175	..	2	22	29	..	..	..	3757	797	..
Healy J. ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	140	..	11	14	9	..	..	..	1690	1502	..
Swannell T. C. ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	..	4	44	0	..	..	..	5754	825	..
Griffin E. ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106	2	0	12	22	..	..	..	4907	..	..
Total	26	72	84	1239	11031	8317	133	1665	7494	213	1775	647	171	23	92	60	555	506	924	26872	5579	118 44

Field staff.

102. The accompanying table shows, in a tabulated form, the work done by the field staff of this branch in the twelve months ending December 31, 1884, and the following remarks are submitted in explanation thereof :—

103. No. 1 18-inch altazimuth has been used by Mr. W. J. Conder, Superintendent of Trigonometrical Surveys, in the astronomical determination of the latitude and longitude of Mudgee, Coonabarabran, Walgett, and Coonamble.

104. No. 2 18-inch altazimuth was employed in measuring the horizontal angles at Warrawolong and Yengo, two of the main stations for extending the triangulation northerly, eventually to join the Queensland Trigonometrical Survey at the boundary of the Colony.

105. The triangulation of the County of Cumberland may now be said to be complete, all necessary stations known to be required having been observed, and the triangles computed and co-ordinates calculated therefrom.

106. In the County of Northumberland three stations are still to be observed in the main series, and thirteen stations in the secondary triangulation. These latter will fix twenty-six intersections or tertiary stations, principally required for due connection of detail surveys. With one exception, the whole of the main stations in County Argyle have been observed, but some of them will have to be re-visited with the small

small instrument to fix sundry new stations for detail work, and, under this aspect, they are classed as secondary stations. There are forty-one stations of this class still to be observed, and they will fix seventy-six intersections, and when these are done counties Northumberland and Argyle may be considered completed, at any rate so far as present requirements are known.

107. In the middle of July the surveyor engaged in the county of Argyle was detached for the survey of meridian circuits, starting at the astronomical station, Coonamble, the meridian of which was as initial, and all lines in the survey were referred, as to inclination, to this meridian. This method adopted of survey has been advised for localities where the natural conformation of the ground precludes ordinary trigonometrical survey operations, and, briefly, it consists, primarily, in the careful measurement of the outside boundaries of a block, referring them carefully to the true meridian by stellar observations at every few miles; and, secondly, in the survey of such subdivision lines (all marked in the most permanent manner) as shall divide this block into suitably small areas. Any portion (isolated or otherwise) which may hereafter be selected within reach of these lines to be surveyed and connected therewith, and thus the meridian circuit survey will furnish the basis of an accurate map or plan of that particular locality, showing not only land to be sold but also lands already alienated, and by means of the initial point the information can be located on a general map of the Colony. (See Appendix for memorandum of an extended system of general survey.)

108. The results of this survey are satisfactory. In the first circuit, where especial care was taken to obtain accuracy, the average closing error is about a fifth of an inch per mile. In circuits No. 2 and No. 3, where some of the lines were measured with just ordinary care, the error is about 14 inches per mile, which, although large comparatively with circuit No. 1, is still sufficiently accurate for all practical purposes. The cost of this survey was rather under a halfpenny per acre. (See Appendix for report, by Mr. W. J. Conder, on meridian circuits.)

109. The astronomical stations previously mentioned are four out of a number of selected places outside the reach of the trigonometrical survey, which require to be fixed as a basis on which to effect on a larger scale than hitherto an accurate compilation of a map of the Colony, and, amongst other reasons, to afford a means for arriving at its area.

110. The Trigonometrical Branch is now fully supplied with all needful instruments for the equipment of at least three parties of astronomical observers. During the year a new transit instrument has been constructed under the joint direction of the Government Astronomer and the Superintendent of Trigonometrical Surveys. This instrument is one of the most powerful portable transit in field use in the world, and is probably the largest in any of the Australian Colonies. It has a double filar micrometer eye-piece, so that it can be used as a zenith telescope for the determination of the latitude, as well as a transit instrument for obtaining time and azimuth. The object glass is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, with a focal length of 60 inches, and it is expected that, by its means, the probable errors in the resulting observed latitudes and longitudes will be reduced below their present limits, without in any way increasing the cost, either as to time or money, or the tax on the observer's physical capabilities.

111. Two barrel chronographs for electrical and chronometrical appliances have been added to the equipment of the Trigonometrical Branch, and a contract for the supply of three sets of three chronometers has been partly carried out by the supply of one set. (See Appendix by J. Brooks, F.R.G.S., for a description of the methods of determining latitude and longitude and of the instruments used.)

112. It will be proper here to note the arrival of the new standard bar. Beyond a mere preliminary examination, to see that all was right, it was not deemed advisable to make any comparisons until it had rested for a time on its supports at the Sydney Observatory.

113. The piling overseers have formed 175 new stations; some of these extend the main triangulation scheme northerly, almost to Armidale, and part of them carry the county triangulation down the coast to the south end of the county of Camden. In addition, this number of new stations includes second and third class stations required for the accurate definition of the Newcastle population boundary.

114. During the year fifty-one field books of observations at main and county stations and five of minor work, together with thirteen astronomical books, have been checked, and the results tabulated and entered in duplicate in the abstract and bearing books. Office staff

115. The positions of 137 stations in Cumberland have been fixed, completing the triangulation of that county, together with those of thirty-three minor stations near Port Hacking.

116. The positions of 529 stations in Sydney and suburbs—the majority of which had been fixed from the Harris-street base—have been re-computed from the Richmond base, which has now been adopted as the standard for the triangulation of the Colony; but in order to do this it was necessary to reobserve certain of the stations in the Sydney triangulation. This was done in November and December, and the value of the resulting co-ordinates greatly improved.

117. The altitudes of twenty stations in the main series of triangles and of nine in the diagonal series, which connects the Lake George and Richmond bases, with those of 117 stations in county Cumberland, have been computed.

118. Astronomical observations for latitude and longitude have been made at Mudgee, Coonabara-bran, Coonamble, and Walgett, and reduced in this branch, and the latitude and azimuth of Warrawolong and Yengo have been similarly computed.

GENERAL SURVEY.

119. The system of marking and connecting isolated surveys, with a view to embodying them in a general survey, has been continued during 1884. Sufficient data has now accumulated for the commencement of several additional parish maps on any desired scale, and with a view to their production several surveyors were occupied during the year in filling up gaps. Without any large amount of additional survey this office now possesses the necessary material to map out about one-third of the Metropolitan County.

120. The difficulty of preparing maps for publication by reason of the want of a sufficient drawing staff, has been more than usually felt during the year, owing to the resignation of three draftsmen and computers, whose places it was found impossible to fill, and since the commencement of this year (1885) there have been two further resignations. The disproportion between the office and field staff has been before noticed in my report of last year's operations. However, notwithstanding this thirty-two sheets

of the detail survey of the city and suburbs have been placed in the lithographers' hands for printing, making up to the end of the year a total of fifty-seven of these maps published.

121. The amount of survey work done in the city and suburbs is illustrated by the accompanying map, which shows by the colour the work received from the eighteen surveyors employed.

122. It was hoped to have published a general map of the county of Cumberland on the scale of 2 inches to a mile during the year, but the great press of current work precluded the possibility of doing so, though this map has advanced considerably towards completion.

123. The map of the parish of Botany has been placed in the hands of the lithographers, but as drawing such a plan on the stone takes a considerable time, and as only one lithographer could be spared owing to the press of work in preparation of parish maps, &c., required under the Land Act of 1884, publication has not been made. The maps of this class (scale, 10 inches to a mile) will prove very useful, as, in addition to showing all the Crown grants and every building, fence, road, &c., the scale is sufficient to allow of the various private subdivisions of the original grants being shown.

124. The map of the parish of Alexandria is now being plotted and is in a forward state; and maps of other parishes will be proceeded with, now that the surveys are in so advanced a state. It is hoped, however, that additional drafting assistance will be available during the ensuing year to enable these maps to be produced without delay, as the current work of the examination of surveyors' plans occupies the greater part of the present office staff.

125. The register of the trigonometrical stations around Sydney and suburbs and at Newcastle and in county of Murray has been printed, and copies supplied to the surveyors requiring this information, thereby doing away with a good deal of the clerical labour of copying out these descriptions.

REMARKS.

126. The average earnings of Licensed Surveyors, omitting those who have rendered accounts for less than £100, is £694, being £76 less than the previous year. Many surveyors have evidently worked without profit, but towards the end of the year an increased percentage was allowed on fees to Licensed Surveyors in certain districts to enable the number of surveyors on temporary salary to be reduced and replaced by Licensed Surveyors paid by fees.

127. Consideration of paragraphs 15 to 19 will show a large increase in the working efficiency of the office, notwithstanding that fifty-two draftsmen have less than one year's experience. The explanation lies in the fact that the resignations, &c., have fallen during 1884 to twenty-three, and that the office is recovering from the loss of services in 1881 and 1882 so much complained of in previous reports. Compared with the work of 1883 the increase is from 9,600 to 11,993 cases, and estimating the services of Charting Draftsmen employed in preparation for Land Act to be equivalent to 1,000 cases, the work performed during the year equals 13,000 cases, an amount never before approached.

128. I observe with considerable satisfaction at page 199 of the Report of the Royal Commission on Land Titles and Surveys of Victoria, a very favourable report on the measurements, &c., adopted in the General Survey of New South Wales. The Commissioner, Mr. A. C. Allan, writes as follows:—"I had a consultation in Sydney with the Surveyor-General and the leading officers of his survey staff on the alleged advantages and comparative economy of their new system of chainage, the progress of the development of which I have been familiar with for years; and to thoroughly satisfy myself of its merits, went into the 'field,' saw the whole process, and took a part in the measurements. The results were quite up to the statements made; measurements by the system can be obtained to within 3 inches to a mile, and this for all purposes of a first-class town survey is practically accurate, and beyond the limits of accuracy to which buildings could be erected."

129. With the year 1884 the employment of Mr. W. J. Conder ceases. With him the Department loses services which have been carried out for several years with rare ability. As an Astronomical Observer Mr. Conder's performances have scarcely been surpassed in any country. The loss is regretted by all who have worked with or under him.

130. In my return for 1883 I took occasion to show the extent to which the demand upon my personal services had reached. During 1884 there has been no cessation. On the contrary, I have found myself scarcely able to do more than deal with matters brought under notice, allowing no time for the exercise of that tentative insight into services rendered which is so important in the management of a large department wherein so much authority is necessarily delegated.

P. F. ADAMS.

APPENDIX.

MERIDIAN CIRCUIT SURVEY AT COONAMBLE.

By W. J. Conder.

131. This survey comprises meridian circuit No. 1, being the outside boundaries of a group of five runs known as Coonamble North, Coonamoon, Coonamoon Back, Bulgogar, and Weetahiba, occupied by one lessee, and meridian circuits, Nos. 2 and 3 (combined), being the outside boundaries of six runs known as Opposite Coonamble, Tooloon, Quoonmoon, Coombarrah, Budgegong, and Kialgara, occupied by two lessees.

132. The system adopted in carrying out this survey consists of the establishment of one station as the origin, the meridian at this station being adopted as the initial meridian.

133. All lines in the survey are then described with reference to their inclination to the direction of this initial meridian, and the position of all corners or permanent marks are defined by rectangular co-ordinates therefrom, with this station as the origin.

134. In this instance the position of the origin (a station in the town of Coonamble) was determined, as to latitude and longitude, astronomically; also a permanent meridian mark was left for reference, in the position shown on the plan.

135. The survey was performed with more than ordinary precautions to ensure accuracy. The true azimuth was found at eighteen places at intervals averaging about 6 miles by observations of close circumpolar stars at or near their elongations, and thence the bearings of the lines (allowing for convergence); this value was then compared with that obtained from the survey operations, and any errors, cumulative or otherwise, in the measurement of angles or production of straight lines, were exposed and corrected.

136. For the azimuth observations and angular work an 8-inch theodolite, provided with striding level and micrometer, was used; the production of lines and other parts of work were performed with a 6-inch theodolite.

137. The chainage was made in duplicate with wire ribbands of different lengths, and corrections were applied for variations in temperature; uniformity of extension was secured by the use of spring balances. Great care was exercised in using the ribbands; for instance, marks were made on pegs driven into the ground in lieu of arrows; long grass, brush, and rubbish, were carefully removed from the lines, and the ribbands were frequently compared as to length with standards provided for that purpose.

138. In order that this survey may be available for future reference for an indefinitely long period special attention was paid to the marking, which is as permanent as practicable.

139. At all corners and in long lines at distances not exceeding 5 miles, a bottle filled with concrete has been placed 2 feet below the surface of the ground; standing on this a post 5 x 5 in., projecting 4 feet, has been placed in a hole dug for the purpose 2 feet square, filled in and well tamped with selected earth of a different description, as to color and quality, from that excavated.

140. That part of these posts projecting above the surface has been painted white, and the requisite letters or numbers for identification cut thereon and pricked out with black paint; this is in addition to the ordinary marking of trees, lock-spitting, &c.

141. As to the measure of precision attained in the survey, the small closing error of the circuit furnishes very strong evidence, which, taken in conjunction with the close agreement in the azimuth, determined independently by the method hereinbefore described, together with the slight differences in length shewn by the duplicate measurements, establish beyond reasonable doubt the correctness of the survey, and shew that it is sufficiently reliable to be made use of for reference, as the standard for all surveys within the included area.

142. The errors in closing these meridian circuits are for No. 1 = 0.3 links latitude, 1.4 links departure, or error per mile = 0.026 links. Ditto, 2 & 3 = 40.6; 82.5 or error per mile, = 1.8 links.

143. In the circuit Nos. 2 and 3 for part of the eastern boundary a road survey has been adopted which was not surveyed by Mr. Cameron; the azimuth of this survey was checked at each end, and found correct, and several portions of it were rechaind, to compare the length of the chain used for the road with that used for the circuit; the marking also was found so good that it appeared superfluous to survey this part again; this may perhaps account for the comparatively large closing error. I am however doubtful whether this is due, either to the road survey or to unavoidable small cumulative inaccuracies, and should recommend in this instance that some kind of tie lines should be run through the survey, so as to locate a discrepancy if it exists which might be easily rectified, and in case the error should then appear approximately evenly distributed the range per mile is not so large as to impair the practical utility and accuracy of the survey.

144. The total cost of the survey, allowing 4½% for 5 months wear and tear on £500, the value of instruments and equipment, and all contingent and travelling expenses, amounts to £701 2s.

145. The total length, 126.4 miles (of which there are 21.8 miles of connections), = to £5 10s. 11½d. per mile.

146. The length of the circuit only, 104.6 miles, which cost £580 6s. 1.2d., and includes an area of 293,500 acres at a cost of ½d. per acre.

147. In future surveys the cost per acre must depend chiefly on the area to be included, for double the cost at the same rate per mile may include four times the area. A considerable reduction may also be expected in the rate per mile for future surveys, partly because this was an experimental survey, which necessarily must be a slower process than one in which every detail is known, and every difficulty anticipated and provided for.

148. The cost is also in a very great measure dependent on the degree of precision expected; this should be regulated entirely by the practical requirements, and it should be understood that time and labor expended in the endeavor to attain greater accuracy than this is for all practical purposes wasted. From my own observation and experience I am of opinion that a range of error not exceeding 2 links per mile can be secured with ordinary care and attention; this will necessitate the use of a spring balance and one thermometer, the reading of which should be noted at frequent intervals, but not necessarily for every chain. As this range of error in adjoining surveys may have contrary signs, it will then cause an apparent discrepancy of 4 links per mile between them. The measurements should be in duplicate with tapes of various lengths, and I think the ordinary method of using arrows will suffice in lieu of pegs driven into the ground, and marked at the extremities of each tape (a very much slower and more expensive process).

149. The angular measurements should be repeated four times, and all productions of straight lines made by using the mean of two reversals of the telescopic axis.

150. Azimuth observations should be made at convenient intervals, which must be arranged to suit circumstances only, as a very serious waste of time will occur from confining the surveyor to a definite limit between which such observations should be made; experience will indicate for each officer entrusted with this work when his azimuth requires strengthening in this way, and unless he feels sufficient interest in his work to take this precaution, his results will soon show that he is not fit to be entrusted with surveys of this character.

151. In times of drought, and also during the hottest summer months, I think it is very undesirable that this work should be attempted on the level country in the western division of this Colony. The cost is very much enhanced by the necessity for using forage at famine prices for the horses employed on the work, and the excessive heat must have a very prejudicial effect on the physical and mental conditions of the officers and others engaged thereon.

152. I estimate that this class of survey can be carried out satisfactorily at the rate of £4 10s. per mile, which for a surround of 100 miles, in the form of a square, is equal to 1.08 farthings per acre.

[Memorandum by Surveyor-General of an extended System of General Survey. 13 December, 1883.]

Prefatory.

153. The question as to how legislation, in accordance with the Land Bill now before Parliament, will affect this Department has been frequently asked, and other information is being sought, having reference to the public surveys; and as this is a subject which has had a great deal of consideration at my hands, I take the present juncture as a suitable one to place the results thereof on record. It is assumed that provision for staying selection pending survey operations will be enacted, as it appears in the present Bill, and has already appeared in the Bill previously submitted to Parliament, and without such power it is obvious survey before selection is open to defeat.

Power to stay selection during survey.

Survey systems of other countries.

154. The survey systems of North America, India, the Australian Colonies, and New Zealand have been examined (as far as published results can throw light on the subject), and that of New Zealand appears to approach nearest to our requirements; but being, like the Indian, based upon triangulation, it could not be applied in an emergency even if this country were as well suited to trigonometrical operations as New Zealand, whereas triangulation is only possible in about one-third of it.

155. Survey by meridian circuit is common to the systems of both New Zealand and India, but it has not heretofore been adopted without the help of triangulation, and in this respect the system proposed differs.

North American system.

156. The survey systems of Canada and the United States being based upon actually measured lines, extended hundreds of miles in the direction of the cardinal points, apply well in countries enjoying an equable rainfall, but neither would be applicable in its integrity to this Colony, where stretches of waterless country must be measured across; and, again, as such surveys must be made in the true meridian, they would be at variance with the local magnetic meridians heretofore adopted, and lead to confusion and public inconvenience. Although unsuited as a system of general survey for this Colony, a modification of the American systems may be applicable to the "Western division," where selection before survey is excluded, and in this view I am eliciting information as to where water sufficient for survey purposes exists.

Modification suited to Western division.

Central division.

157. This paper will, however, be confined to operations in the "Central division," in consequence of the importance of the interests existing therein; division of pastoral holdings and selection before survey being important features in the Bill, I shall describe the system as applied thereto. In this view I propose to surround "holdings" or groups thereof, to the extent of some 400 square miles, with surveyed circuits, or, rather, astronomically corrected traverses, laid down with the greatest accuracy that can be attained, in order that they may fit together on county or general maps. This being attained, the further subdivision into individual holdings and halves thereof will follow, and, further on, the resumed half be divided into areas averaging some 6 square miles (3,840 acres), which may be designated traverse circuits; from these maps could be prepared for exhibition at the local land offices, Boards, &c.

System proposed.

Traverses corrected astronomically. Pastoral holdings. Reconnaissance and classification survey. Not arbitrary.

158. The last-mentioned divisions would vary in dimensions, and only be bounded by arbitrary lines where no natural feature or established boundary exists. It should be borne in mind that the smaller divisions of the survey (traverse circuits) are not arbitrary areas or geodetic quantities, as is the case in the North American systems, and that the general survey and surveys for the alienation of land are two distinct functions, the former ending as soon as material has been collected to map and classify the public estate. These maps will show the features, reserves, roads, frontages, and alienated land, and can be prepared rapidly by photo-lithography; and being common data for both local Board and Land Court, will tend to reduce the chances of confusion which I fear will arise out of conflicting information.

Maps.

159. In these maps the public will have before them information as to what the Crown offers for sale; frontages, reserves, &c., being also shown, together with the position of all marks used on the ground.

160. Under the present system the public can, at best, only learn what has been measured or sold whereas under the system now advocated information as to what is unsold is the important feature.

Information supplied to public. Information at present available.

161. Under the system proposed all future surveys may be made to the same meridian. It will provide full information to selectors in describing the land they wish to acquire; it will be of great service in keeping the local Boards, Survey Office, and Land Court in accord, and provides for the classification of the public lands before conflicting interests arise,—an advantage to which I attach much importance; it reduces the chances of conflicting surveys, and the danger now experienced of taking up land exempted from sale, also waste of survey where land is taken up in areas differing from those measured. Capabilities.

162. Should it be determined to lease and not to alienate the public estate, the amount of survey required beyond the traverse circuits would be trifling, and in many cases the lease could be drawn up from the map alone. Facilitates the issue of leases.

163. In estimating the cost of survey under the proposed system it is assumed that the meridian circuits (embracing about 400 square miles each) will adjoin and have common boundaries, although circuits may be measured either separate or collectively. Estimate of cost.

164. In the "Central district" it is estimated that the cost of the general survey, up to the point at which the runs are halved, will probably be under 1d. per acre on the whole area, and the further subdivision into traverse circuits, frontages, &c., would little, if at all, exceed 2d. per acre in addition; therefore the total cost of preliminary surveys for maps of the Colony would be about 3d. per acre, from first to last.

165. In making the estimate no account has been taken of any probability of contribution from lessees of holdings, who may, from want of surveys, be unable to comply with the requirements of the Bill in supplying maps of their runs.

166. A few years since a scheme based on measured meridian circuits without triangulation would not have been entertained by any experienced surveyor, but recent improvements in the measurement of distances, the direction of lines by astronomical observation, and the number of trained surveyors now in the Department capable of conducting these operations, have enabled me to advise the adoption of a scheme based thereon. Practicability.

167. There is nothing in the proposed system to militate against subdivisions, however large, in anticipation of demand and selection, as in such cases the operation of the general survey would end when the boundary of the land to be subdivided was marked. The advantage would be that for about 1d. per acre extra subdivisions and all other surveys could be placed geodetically on the maps in their exact positions, and thereby avoid never-ceasing uncertainty and repeated complications now frequent.

168. If this system of survey meets with favourable consideration, I would advise a trial of it by the survey of three meridian circuits as soon as surveyors may be available.

169. I estimate the number of surveyors who are qualified to lay out meridian circuits at thirty, but they are all at present engaged on important surveys, chiefly in the county of Cumberland, from which it would be impossible to remove them suddenly.

170. The principal drawback to the scheme is conveyed in the last paragraph, but I am unable to devise any other form of standard survey effective from the outset.

171. Although the survey of the meridian circuits may appear to be a simple matter, it would, in the "Central division," occupy thirty qualified surveyors twelve months to define them and cut them up into holdings; but as many surveys of runs exist which could be used in the division of "holdings," it is not expected that the whole would be required at the outset. Magnitude.

172. The present survey practice came into operation under the Land law of 1861, and not being under any general system is unsatisfactory and expensive; for, without power to stay selection during the course of a survey, selectors have power to alter the design with every new selection made, before the survey is officially accepted, and in consequence of this measurement in advance of selection has been practically abandoned.

173. The success of the proposed system will be found to depend upon the exercise of the right to stay selection during survey. If exercised extensively, and if all the surveyors who are qualified could be lent from their present employment for a period, I believe the result would be, on the whole, satisfactory, although much inconvenience would be felt by their removal.

174. The accompanying diagram* illustrates and explains the system of general survey recommended; it represents a meridian circuit embracing three (3) holdings, divided into leased half, and resumed half, and the latter into traverse circuits. The diagram only illustrates the system, and does not show the whole amount of survey involved. I mention this, as an estimate of cost of survey made from the diagram alone would be considerably below the actual cost.

DESCRIPTION OF THE METHOD OF DETERMINING THE LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE OF PLACES IN NEW SOUTH WALES,

By J. Brooks, F.R.G.S.

175. The latitude and longitude of the Sydney Observatory is adopted as initial point, and all places in New South Wales whose positions are astronomically determined are referred to it. The determination of the latitude itself is independent of any observations which may be made at Sydney, but in the case of longitude it is the difference in time between the required place and Sydney which is observed. There are many ways of determining the latitude, but the method known as Talcott's, based on the measurement of small differences of zenith distances, is undoubtedly the best. Chauvenet says that it is one of the most valuable improvements in practical astronomy of recent years, surpassing all previously known methods (not excepting that of Bessel, by prime vertical transits) both in simplicity and in accuracy. Captain Talcott invented an instrument called the Zenith Telescope for this purpose, but it has been shown that a transit or an altazimuth instrument fitted with a micrometer eye-piece may be successfully

* Note.—The diagram is not reproduced in this Report.

successfully used as a substitute for the Zenith Telescope, with the additional advantage that one instrument serves two purposes:—(1st), the determination of the latitude, and (2nd), the true time at, and also azimuth of, the place of observation.

176. The No. 1 altazimuth is so fitted, and, with one exception, it is the instrument hitherto used for the purpose under description. The essential principle of Talcott's method is that the telescope shall make absolutely the same angle with the vertical (or the level) at the observations of both stars of a pair. Two (or more) stars are selected, which culminate at nearly equal zenith distances, one or more south, and the rest north of the zenith. The differences of their zenith distances should be well within the run of the micrometer screw to avoid observations near the edge of the field. The stars' right ascension should be so nearly the same that their transits may occur within a period during which the instrument may be assumed to have remained unchanged, but sufficient time must be allowed between each star for reading the micrometer and level, and for reversing in azimuth. A programme having been prepared, subject to the above conditions, the middle wire of the instrument is brought into the meridian, the vertical circle set to the mean zenith distance of the two stars, and the level brought at or near zero. Having set for the star which culminates first, when the star comes into the field, the assistant starts counting the seconds from the chronometer, and the observer bisects the star as nearly as possible on the middle wire, or, failing in doing this satisfactorily, he bisects it as soon after as possible, and in either case the actual time of bisection is recorded. The level, and then the micrometer, is read, the instrument rotated 180 degrees in azimuth and the second star observed in same manner. This process is repeated with other pairs of stars until a sufficient number of observations have been made, that is from 100 to 120 single observations, or 25 to 30 pairs on four nights. Any error in the declination of a star necessarily lessens the precision of the result, and the uncertainty in the catalogued position of some of the stars, is the only weak point in the method, but the facility of multiplying the number of pairs on account of the simplicity of the observations compensates for this to a great extent. Copies of the actual observations for latitude at Walgett, and the calculated results illustrating this method, are added, Walgett being selected as the most recently determined.

177. The determination of the longitude is a more difficult matter.

178. The method generally adopted in the United States and other countries has been somewhat varied in this Colony, and now it consists practically in causing the clock at (say) Walgett to record on the chronograph at Sydney, whilst the Sydney clock is recording on the same chronograph, and then the Sydney clock records on the chronograph at Walgett, whilst the clock there is recording its seconds. In this way it is possible to get the difference between the two clocks within a hundredth of a second, and the problem is reduced to obtaining the actual clock errors at the time of comparison, and thus the difference of the time at the two places at the same absolute instant, and herein lies the whole difficulty.

179. A site having been selected for the Observatory at the place whose longitude is required, a block of stone is marked and buried for reference hereafter, an annulus of brick and cement built on which to set the steel cone (the stand of the instrument); the altazimuth being duly placed on this cone, is set vertically over the mark in the stone, and adjusted for collimation level and azimuth as nearly as possible. It is rarely that these adjustments are made exactly, and the times of observation are more easily corrected for the small errors by means of computed corrections.

180. The error of collimation is reduced to small limits by bisecting any well defined terrestrial mark, distant a mile or so (the micrometer head having been set at zero), and then rotating the instrument through 180 degrees (using the horizontal circle for this purpose), plunging the telescope and bisecting the mark by means of the micrometer screw. Half the difference of the readings is the collimation correction and the micrometer head is set to this. The instrument is next brought into or near the meridian by computing the mean time of transit of a slow moving star, using an ordinary watch for first approximation, and following it with the telescope until that time. The axis of the telescope is levelled and the transit of a star near the zenith noted on the chronograph using the chronometer. It is evident that any small error in the azimuth will not much affect the time of transit of a star in the zenith. It is only necessary that the telescopic axis shall be as near level as possible. The difference between the right ascension of the star and the chronometer time will be the approximate error of chronometer in sidereal time. The process is now repeated with another slow moving star, this time using the chronometer with its error properly applied. The reading of the horizontal circle will be a close approximation to the meridian reading, and any small deviation is found and allowed for in the observations now to be described. A programme is prepared in groups of three or four stars at or near the zenith, and one or two circumpolar stars, one if possible, being sub-pole. For this purpose those stars only are used whose right ascensions are well determined. The zenith or time stars, and, when possible, the circumpolars are selected from the nautical almanac, otherwise the circumpolars are selected from the Melbourne catalogue. It is necessary that the intervals between the stars should be as short as possible, so as to eliminate unknown variations in the chronometer rate. When possible the level is read, reversed, and read again just before and after each star. The times of transit of the stars over the wires are recorded on the barrel chronograph by the observer pressing the signal-key, every individual second being automatically recorded by the chronometer. The instrument is now rotated through 180 degrees, and another group of stars observed as before; any error in collimation, and also inequality of pivots, is thus eliminated, and a mean of the two corrections deduced from these two groups is the clock correction at or about the middle time of all the observations. This process is repeated with two other groups of stars, and then, if practicable, clock signals are exchanged with Sydney. The observations then proceed in same manner; that is, a group of stars, instrument reversed, another group, instrument reversed, and so on, until, if possible, a second exchange of signals is made, when two or more groups will close the evening's work. A single night's work (says Chauvenet), however, is not to be regarded as conclusive, although a large number of stars may have been observed and the results appear very concordant; for experience shows that there are always errors which are constant, or nearly so, for the same night, and which do not appear to be represented in the corrections computed and applied.

181. Generally signals are exchanged with Sydney on from three to five nights, depending somewhat on the observers good fortune in having clear cloudless nights at both stations.

Description of Instruments.

182. The 18-inch altazimuth is an excellent instrument, by Troughton and Simms. As originally sent Altazimuth. to this Colony, it was provided with two telescopes, one having an object glass of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches and 26 inches focal length, and two vertical circles attached, one of them being read by two micrometer microscopes, the other by a simple microscope, and used as a pointer; also, a double filar micrometer for measuring small angles in altitude and azimuth and parallactic motion, so that the eye-piece can be moved to view any part of the field distinctly.

183. The other telescope had a 3-inch object glass of 36 inches focus without circles, and with only simple eye-piece. The tube of smaller telescope was afterwards altered by the addition of a truncated cone (properly counterpoised) large enough for the coil and 3-inch object glass; and thus increased optical power was gained in conjunction with all the facilities offered by the micrometer eye-piece.

184. The horizontal circle is firmly attached to the base of the instrument, which consequently has but one vertical axis (therein differing from the smaller instruments in general use, which have an inner and outer axis, the first carrying the telescope, and the second the horizontal circle). This circle is read by four equi-distant micrometer microscopes. Two lamps are used for illumination; these stand on brackets which are removable at pleasure from the standards. By means of prisms and reflectors (added since the instrument left the maker's hands) these lamps illuminate the horizontal circle immediately under the micrometers, as well as supplying the light for illuminating the wires in the micrometer eye-piece. When desired, the prisms can be turned aside, and the vertical circle is then duly illumined.

185. The 18-inch altazimuth is invariably stood upon a triangle (repeating stand) on the top of a truncated cone of sheet steel, which has foot-screws for roughly levelling up. This cone is covered on the outside with felt, the inside being left exposed. The triangle has three screws for moving the instrument bodily, until it is placed vertically over the mark indicating the station. It has latterly been the practice (as soon as the instrument has been properly centred) to place a foundation of cement below and around the lower rim of the steel cone (to relieve the foot-screws), and thus it was rendered almost as firm as solid rock. The excellent quality of this instrument will be apparent by comparing the results obtained with the published records of similar operations. No doubt these results are in a measure due to the possession, by the late superintendent, Mr. W. J. Conder, of an uncommonly keen faculty for observing, as even with the best instruments an ordinary observer will, as a rule, produce only ordinary results.

186. This instrument consists of a cylinder (round which a sheet of paper is wrapped) and clockwork The electric chronograph. to rotate it once in a minute, also two pendulums with a governor to regulate the clockwork. The motive power is a hanging weight. The object of the chronograph is to convert the audible clock beats into visible signals by means of an electro-magnet, which acts upon an arm carrying a glass pen, the point of which rests on the paper.

187. The electro-magnet carriage runs upon two parallel brass rods, and a string having one end fast to the carriage passes over a pulley to a small drum connected with the clockwork; as this drum revolves the carriage is drawn along, and the pen describes a perpetual spiral; and when the paper is removed from the cylinder the successive minutes are found recorded in successive parallel lines. One such sheet will contain the record of about two hours work.

188. The chronometer breaks the circuit at every second, and allows a spring to move the pen laterally for a short distance, but circuit being almost immediately closed, the magnet again attracts the arm and the pen draws a straight line until the next second, when the process is repeated, and so on, until the whole of the paper is filled. Having thus obtained a visible time scale, its application to the exact recording of an astronomical observation is simple. So far the electric current has passed from the battery through the clock to the electro magnet, and thence back to the battery. A signal key is now interposed, so that the current on its way to the battery passes through this key. The observer holding it in his hand, or so that he can touch it, breaks or makes circuit at will. Now whenever the observer taps on his key he will produce on the paper a mark somewhat similar to that made by the chronometer. In order to identify the seconds on the paper, the electrical part inside the chronometer is so arranged that the 60th second does not record, and the observer has only to note the first minute shown, and then to count the seconds. The paper is generally cut off by passing a penknife down the middle of the line of minutes.

The first second is at the left hand, and the 59th second at the right hand edge. The chronometers employed are in sets of three, so arranged that any one of them can be used during observations, and the other two are alternately electrically connected with the first. They record their seconds simultaneously, and in this way any two are used as a check on the third. These chronometers are made by Kullberg, of London, and the electrical appliance afterwards added by Allerdin & Son, of Sydney.

189. A sheet showing the chronographic record of star observations by Mr. Conder is appended.

190. The computations and deduced difference of longitude between Sydney and Walgett are also shown in the Appendix.

LATITUDE—Walgett. Zenith pairs. Observed by W. J. CONDER.

Date.	Stars.	Observed Latitude.	Mean.	\sqrt{n}	Mean $\frac{\sum}{\sqrt{n}}$	v .	v^2 .
1884.		30° 1' 30"					
18 October	Cape 11,344—11,400	1.71					
19 "	" " "	1.23					
20 "	" " "	2.93					
22 "	" " "	3.11					
23 "	" " "	1.55	2.11	2.236	4.72	.20	.04
18 "	" 11,428—11,448	1.17					
19 "	" " "	0.73					
20 "	" " "	2.90					
21 "	" " "	0.86					
22 "	" " "	1.93					
23 "	" " "	3.10					
24 "	" " "	2.18	1.84	2.646	4.87	.47	.22
18 "	" 11,476—11,490	1.41					
19 "	" " "	1.61					
20 "	" " "	2.97					
21 "	" " "	1.43					
22 "	" " "	2.26					
23 "	" " "	1.64					
24 "	" " "	1.77	1.86	2.646	4.92	.45	.20
19 "	" 11,476—11,539	2.94					
20 "	" " "	3.58					
21 "	" " "	2.54					
22 "	" " "	2.97					
23 "	" " "	2.88					
24 "	" " "	2.35	2.88	2.449	7.05	.57	.32
19 "	" 11,490—11,508	0.25					
20 "	" " "	2.08					
21 "	" " "	1.07					
22 "	" " "	2.17					
23 "	" " "	1.20					
24 "	" " "	2.10	1.48	2.449	3.62	.83	.69
19 "	" 11,508—11,539	1.68					
20 "	" " "	2.68					
21 "	" " "	2.18					
22 "	" " "	2.87					
23 "	" " "	2.43					
24 "	" " "	2.68	2.42	2.449	5.93	.11	.01
19 "	" 11,567—11,587	2.56					
20 "	" " "	3.48					
21 "	" " "	2.79					
22 "	" " "	3.23					
23 "	" " "	2.95					
24 "	" " "	2.75	2.96	2.449	7.25	.65	.42
19 "	" 11,567—11,610	2.27					
20 "	" " "	3.38					
21 "	" " "	2.52					
22 "	" " "	3.36					
23 "	" " "	2.45					
24 "	" " "	3.08	2.84	2.449	6.96	.53	.28
19 "	" 11,633—11,652	0.93					
20 "	" " "	3.49					
21 "	" " "	2.82					
22 "	" " "	3.72					
23 "	" " "	3.21					
24 "	" " "	2.64	2.81	2.449	6.88	.50	.25
19 "	" 11,707—11,746	0.79					
20 "	" " "	2.45					
21 "	" " "	1.13					
22 "	" " "	2.00					
23 "	" " "	1.91					
24 "	" " "	1.91	1.70	2.449	4.16	.61	.37
19 "	" 11,783—11,799	2.19					
20 "	" " "	3.08					
21 "	" " "	2.40					
22 "	" " "	3.45					
23 "	" " "	2.90					
24 "	" " "	3.11	2.86	2.449	7.00	.55	.30
19 "	" 11,833—11,869	2.11					
21 "	" " "	2.44					
22 "	" " "	3.07					
23 "	" " "	3.06					
24 "	" " "	2.35	2.61	2.236	5.84	.30	.09
19 "	" 11,919—11,961	2.23					
20 "	" " "	2.88					
21 "	" " "	1.88					
22 "	" " "	3.17					
23 "	" " "	2.57					
24 "	" " "	1.76	2.42	2.449	5.93	.11	.01
18 "	" 11,991—12,016	1.55					
19 "	" " "	2.14					
21 "	" " "	1.79					
22 "	" " "	4.11					
23 "	" " "	1.40					
24 "	" " "	1.63	2.10	2.449	5.14	.21	.04

LATITUDE—Walgett—continued.

Date.	Stars.	Observed Latitude.	Mean.	\sqrt{n}	Mean $\frac{\sum}{\sqrt{n}}$	v .	v^2 .
1884.		30° 1' 30"					
19 October	Cape 12,054—12,101	2°20					
20 "	" " "	2°27					
21 "	" " "	2°56					
22 "	" " "	1°98					
23 "	" " "	3°04					
24 "	" " "	1°94	2°45	2°449	6°00	°14	°02
19 "	12,134—12,150	2°03					
20 "	" " "	2°36					
21 "	" " "	1°68					
22 "	" " "	1°43					
23 "	" " "	3°21					
24 "	" " "	2°58	2°22	2°449	5°44	°09	°01
19 "	12,160—12,197	1°77					
20 "	" " "	3°47					
21 "	" " "	2°70					
22 "	" " "	2°53					
23 "	" " "	4°41					
24 "	" " "	3°21	3°02	2°449	7°40	°71	°50
19 "	12,230—12,270	1°84					
20 "	" " "	2°80					
21 "	" " "	2°09					
22 "	" " "	1°30					
23 "	" " "	2°76					
24 "	" " "	2°57	2°23	2°449	5°46	°08	°01
19 "	12,297—12,338	0°46					
20 "	" " "	2°43					
21 "	" " "	1°24					
22 "	" " "	0°46					
23 "	" " "	1°71					
24 "	" " "	1°20	1°25	2°449	3°06	1°06	1°12
20 "	12,381—12,420	3°26					
21 "	" " "	3°60					
22 "	" " "	2°60					
23 "	" " "	3°49					
24 "	" " "	2°87	3°16	2°236	7°07	°85	°72
20 "	63— 83	3°43					
21 "	" " "	1°88					
22 "	" " "	2°91					
23 "	" " "	3°70					
24 "	" " "	2°31	2°85	2°236	6°37	°54	°29
23 "	111— 164	3°01					
24 "	" " "	1°33	2°17	1°414	3°07	°14	°02
21 "	132— 164	2°32					
22 "	" " "	3°12					
23 "	" " "	4°05					
24 "	" " "	2°72	3°05	2°000	6°10	°74	°55
21 "	220— 266	1°97					
22 "	" " "	2°66					
23 "	" " "	3°27					
24 "	" " "	2°87	2°69	2°000	5°38	°38	°14
21 "	268— 306	1°36					
22 "	" " "	1°66					
23 "	" " "	2°22					
24 "	" " "	1°58	1°70	2°000	3°40	°61	°37
21 "	352— 386	0°60					
22 "	" " "	1°76					
23 "	" " "	1°85					
24 "	" " "	0°50	1°18	2°000	2°36	1°13	1°28
22 "	352— 401	1°34					
23 "	" " "	1°92					
24 "	" " "	0°65	1°30	1°732	2°25	1°01	1°02
				62°117	143°63		°929
					2°31		

Latitude, 30 1 32.31. P.E. \pm 0.08.

WALGETT. AZIMUTH AND CLOCK ERROR. October 25th, 1884. W. J. CONDER, Observer.			Az. 0°04' E. η <i>Aquarii</i> .	
	22h. 29m. 27·03s.		44·01	·18
			·00	
	CL. + 17·16		44·19	
Circle E. Level, 4·00 W. β <i>Aquarii</i> . M.C. 1092.			λ <i>Aquarii</i> .	
21h. 25m. 30·16s.	47·02		54·19	·19
Level correction =	·22		·00	
	47·24			
21h. 33m. 7·68s.	23·44		CL. + 17·31	54·38
Level correction =	1·22			
CL. + 17·07	24·66		Circle W. Level 1·42 W. β <i>Pegasi</i> . M.C. 1182.	
M.C. 1092. δ <i>Capricorni</i> .			22h. 58m. 12·80s.	29·92
21h. 40m. 41·38s.	58·30			·05
Level correction =	·24			29·97
			23h. 10m. 26·47s.	49·00
CL. + 17·15	58·54			1·37
Az. 0°30' E. ϵ <i>Pegasi</i> .			CL. + 17·41	50·37
21h. 38m. 32·40s.	49·32		M.C. 1182. ι <i>Piscium</i> .	
Level correction =	·19		23h. 34m. 2·73s.	19·96
Az. „ =	·01			·07
				20·03
CL. + 17·10	49·50		CL. + 17·44	Az. 3·76 W.
Circle W. Level 2·35 W. 16 <i>Pegasi</i> . M.C. 1111.			ν <i>Pegasi</i> .	
21h. 47m. 50·16s.	67·05		23h. 19m. 39·21s.	56·30
	·09			·06
	67·14			·22
20h. 52m. 45·45s.	64·22		CL. + 17·37	56·58
	·78			
CL. + 17·25.	65·00		November 3.	
M.C. 1111 and θ <i>Aquarii</i> .			Circle E. Level 1·52 W. 16 <i>Pegasi</i> . M.C. 1111.	
22h. 10m. 46·00s.	62·96		21h. 47m. 50·00s.	84·28
	·13			·06
CL. + 17·20	63·09			84·34
Az. 4°56' W. α <i>Aquarii</i> .			21h. 52m. 43·73s.	80·12
21h. 59m. 52·71	69·73			·51
	·12		CL. + 34·61	80·63
	·15			
CL. + 17·29	70·00		M.C. 1111. γ <i>Aquarii</i> .	
Circle E. Level, 3·44 W. γ <i>Aquarii</i> . M.C. 1148.			22h. 15m. 43·08s.	77·37
22h. 15m. 43·19s.	60·13		0·17 W. =	·01
	·18			
	60·31		CL. + 34·45	77·38
22h. 34m. 14·37	30·65		Az. 4°66' W. ι <i>Aquarii</i> .	
	·91		22h. 0m. 13·35s.	47·72
CL. + 17·13	31·56		0·17 W. =	·01
M.C. 1148. δ <i>Aquarii</i> .				·09
22h. 48m. 32·96s.	50·06		CL. + 34·47	47·82
	·19		θ <i>Aquarii</i> .	
CL. + 17·29	50·25		22h. 10m. 45·88s.	80·20
			0·17 W. =	·01
				·12
			CL. + 34·45	80·33

Circle W. Level 0.58 W. η Aquarii. M.C. 1148.		M.C. 24. β Ceti.	
22h. 29m. 26.92s.	61.58 .08	0h. 37m. 49.53s.	84.51 .04
	61.61	Cl. + 34.99	84.55
22h. 34m. 13.17s.		Az. 2.37" E. 12 Ceti.	
	48.51 .15	0h. 24m. 10.77s.	45.70 .03 — .07
Cl. + 34.75	48.66	Cl. + 34.89	45.66
Circle W. M.C. 1148. δ Aquarii.		13 Ceti.	
22h. 48m. 32.85s.	67.51 .10	0h. 29m. 20.30s.	55.29 .03 — .07
1.75 W.		Cl. + 34.95	55.25
Cl. + 34.79	67.61	Circle E. Level 1.04 E. ϵ Piscium. M.C. 83.	
Az. 1.90" W. η Pegasi.		0h. 56m. 59.39s.	94.30 — .05
22h. 37m. 37.33s.	71.83 .02 .13		94.25
0.58 W.		1h. 6m. 7.59s.	42.38 — .36
Cl. + 34.65	71.98	Cl. + 34.83	42.02
λ Aquarii.		M.C. 83 and ν Piscium.	
22h. 46m. 36.96s.	71.73 .10 .05	1h. 35m. 27.68s.	62.73 — 0.5
1.75 W.		Cl. + 34.96	62.68
Cl. + 34.92	71.88	Az. 0.87" E. θ Ceti.	
Circle E. Level 0.49 W. α Pegasi. M.C. 1182.		1h. 18m. 17.26s.	52.22 — .06 — .02
22h. 59m. 2.42s.	36.82 .02	Cl. + 34.88	52.14
	36.84	η Piscium.	
23h. 10m. 21.68s.	64.52 .47	1h. 25m. 20.79s.	55.82 — .05 — .04
Cl. + 34.66	64.99	Cl. + 34.94	55.73
M.C. 1182. ϵ Piscium.		Circle W. Level 0.46 E. β Arietis. M.C. 124.	
23h. 34m. 2.66s.	37.13 .02	1h. 48m. 18.36s.	53.42 — .02
Cl. + 34.68	37.15		53.40
Az. 5.01" W. ν Pegasi.		1h. 59m. 29.96s.	66.26 — .12
23h. 19m. 39.12s.	73.60 .02 .29	Cl. + 35.18	66.14
Cl. + 34.79	73.91	M.C. 124. 123 Piazzi.	
κ Piscium.		2h. 29m. 47.42s.	82.50 — .02
23h. 21m. 2.68s.	37.11 .03 .17	Cl. + 35.16	82.48
Cl. + 34.63	37.31	Az. 2.64" W. 67 Ceti.	
Circle West. Level 0.59 W. ι Ceti. M.C. 24.		2h. 11m. 15.70s.	50.86 — .03 — .07
0h. 13m. 34.56s.	69.64 .03	Cl. + 35.20	50.90
	69.67		
0h. 19m. 43.45s.	77.80 .11		
Cl. + 35.05	77.91		

ξ^2 Ceti.		λ Aquarii.	
2h. 22m. 3.68s.	38.76 — .02 — .11	22h. 46m. 36.95s.	73.62 — .08 — .00
Cl. + 35.17	38.85	Cl. + 36.59	73.54
November 4.		Circle W. Level 2.41 W.	
Circle W. Level 0.74 W.		α Pegasi. M.C. 1182.	
16 Pegasi. M.C. 1111.		22h. 59m. 2.41s.	38.98 — .11
21h. 47m. 49.99s.	86.19 — .03		39.09
	86.22	23h. 10m. 21.14s.	58.28 — .33
21h. 52m. 43.54s.	81.90 — .25		60.61
Cl. + 36.48	82.15	Cl. + 36.76	
M.C. 1111. γ Aquarii.		M.C. 1,182. ω Piscium.	
22h. 15m. 43.06s.	79.48 — .04	23h. 53m. 24.94s.	61.58 — .12
Cl. + 36.58	79.52	Cl. + 36.82	61.70
Az. 4.08" W.		Az. 1.56" W.	
ι Aquarii.		ν Pegasi.	
22h. 0m. 13.33s.	49.83 — .04 — .08	23h. 19m. 39.11s.	75.41 — .09 — .09
Cl. + 36.62	49.95	Cl. + 36.48	75.59
θ Aquarii.		ι Piscium.	
22h. 10m. 45.86s.	82.35 — .04 — .10	23h. 34m. 2.65s.	39.27 — .12 — .6
Cl. + 36.63	82.49	Cl. + 36.80	39.45
Circle E. Level 1.425 E.		Circle E. Level 0.55 E.	
η Aquarii. M.C. 1148.		ι Ceti. M.C. 24.	
22h. 29m. 26.90s.	68.51 — .07	0h. 13m. 34.56s.	71.49 — .03
	68.44		71.46
22h. 34m. 13.04s.	51.08 — 1.50	0h. 19m. 43.40s.	80.35 — .11
Cl. + 36.54	49.58	Cl. + 36.89	80.24
M.C. 1148. δ Aquarii.		M.C. 24. δ Piscium.	
22h. 48m. 32.83s.	69.51 — .09	0h. 42m. 43.75s.	80.58 — .03
Cl. + 36.59	69.42	Cl. + 36.81	80.55
Az. 0.19" E.		Az. 0.04" E.	
η Pegasi.		12 Ceti.	
22h. 37m. 37.32s.	73.72 — .05 — .01	0h. 24m. 10.76s.	47.58 — .03 — .00
Cl. + 36.34	73.66	Cl. + 36.79	47.55
		β Ceti.	
		0h. 37m. 49.52.	86.48 — .03 — .00
		Cl. + 36.93	86.45

Circle W. Level 0.62 W. <i>ε Piscium</i> . M.C. 83.		Circle E. Level 0.91 E. <i>β Arietis</i> . M.C. 124.	
0h. 56m. 59.39s.	96.17 03	1h. 48m. 18.37s.	55.50 — 04
	96.20		55.46
1h. 6m. 7.50s.	45.18 22	1h. 59m. 29.93	68.14 — 24
Cl. + 36.89	45.40	Cl. + 37.20	67.90
M.C. 83. <i>ν Piscium</i> .		M.C. 124. 123 <i>Piazzii</i> .	
1h. 35m. 27.68s.	64.57 03	2h. 29m. 47.43s.	84.52 — 04
Cl. + 36.99	64.60	Cl. + 37.14	84.48
Az. 1.80" W. <i>θ Ceti</i> .		Az. 2.11" W. <i>67 Ceti</i> .	
1h. 18m. 17.26s.	54.21 04 04	2h. 11m. 15.70	52.83 — 05 06
Cl. + 37.03	54.29	Cl. + 37.14	52.84
<i>η Piscium</i> .		<i>ξ² Ceti</i> .	
1h. 25m. 20.79	57.59 03 09	2h. 22m. 3.68s.	40.75 — 04 09
Cl. + 36.92	57.71	Cl. + 37.12	40.80

WALGETT—CLOCK ERROR AND RATE.

T	Clock.	Az.	T	Clock.	Az.
October 25th, 1884.			November 3rd.		
h. m.	s.	"	h. m.	s.	"
21 26	C.E. 17.07	0.30 E.	21 48	C.E. 34.61	4.66 W.
39	10		22 0	47	
41	15		11	45	
21 35	17.107		16	45	
			22 4	34.495	
21 48	C.W. 17.25	4.56 W.			
22 0	29				
11	20				
22 0	17.247		22 29	C.W. 34.75	1.90 W.
			38	65	
			49	79	
22 16	C.E. 17.13	0.04 E.	22 39	34.730	
29	16				
46	31				
48	29				
22 35	17.222		22 59	C.E. 34.66	5.01 W.
			23 20	79	
			21	63	
			34	68	
22 58	C.W. 17.41	3.76 W.	23 18	34.690	
23 20	37				
34	44				
23 17	17.407				
At			0 14	C.W. 35.05	2.37 E.
21 48	17.177		24	34.89	
22 56	17.314		29	34.95	
			38	34.99	
Rate ...	0.121		0 26	34.970	

WALGETT—CLOCK ERROR AND RATE—*continued.*

T	Clock.	Az.	T	Clock.	Az.
h. m.	November 3rd.	"	h. m.	November 4th.	"
0 57	s. C.E. 34·83	0·87 E.	22 59	s. C.W. 36·76	1·56 W.
1 18	·88		23 34	·80	
25	·94		53	·82	
35	·96		23 29	36·793	
1 19	34·902				
1 48	C.W. 35·18	2·64 W.	0 14	C.E. 36·89	0·04 E.
2 11	·20		24	·79	
22	·17		38	·93	
30	·16		43	·81	
2 13	35·178		0 30	36·855	
At				C.W.	
22 22	34·612		0 57	36·89	1·80 W.
23 52	34·830		1 18	37·03	
1 46	35·040		25	36·92	
0 0	34·827		35	36·99	
Rate	0·126		1 19	36·958	
	November 4th.			C.E.	
21 48	C.W. 36·48	4·08 W.	1 48	37·20	2·11 W.
22 0	·62		2 11	·14	
11	·63		22	·12	
16	·58		30	·14	
22 4	36·578		2 13	37·150	
22 29	C.E. 36·54	0·19 E.	At		
47	·59		22 23	36·576	
49	·59		0 0	36·824	
22 42	36·573		1 46	37·054	
			0 3	36·818	
			Rate	0·141	

WALGETT—Longitude.

	Sydney to Walgett.	Walgett to Sydney.	Mean Difference.
25th October, 1884.	h. m. s.	h. m. s.	m. s.
Sydney	0 22 0·00	23 39 58·60	
Walgett	— 10 1·56	28 0·00	
Sydney clock slow	3·37	3·37	
Walgett clock fast	17·46	17·38	
Difference of longitude ..	12 19·27	12 19·35	12 19·310
Sydney	0 30 0·00	0 25 58·53	
Walgett	— 18 1·58	14 0·00	
Sydney clock	3·37	3·37	
Walgett clock	17·48	17·47	
	19·27	19·37	19·320
3rd November.			
Sydney	0 0 0·00	0 4 7·81	
Walgett chr., No. 3	— 23 47 52·32	23 52 0·00	
Sydney clock	1·47	1·47	
Walgett chr., No. 3	34·80	34·81	
" No. 1 faster than No. 3	— 24·64	24·64	
	19·31	19·45	19·380

WALGETT—Longitude—continued.

						Sydney to Walgett.	Walgett to Sydney.	Mean Difference.
3rd November.						h. m. s.	h. m. s.	m. s.
Sydney	...	...	...	...	...	0 8 0.00	0 14 7.80	
Walgett chr., No. 3	...	...	...	...	...	— 23 55 52.37	2 0.00	
Sydney clock	...	...	...	...	...	1.47	1.47	
Walgett chr., No. 3	...	...	...	...	...	34.82	34.83	
"	No. 1 faster than No. 3	...	...	...	...	— 24.63	24.63	
						19.39	19.47	12 19.430
Sydney	...	...	...	...	...	1 55 0.00	1 58 7.76	
Walgett chr., No. 3	...	...	...	...	...	— 43 17.12	46 0.00	
Sydney clock	...	...	...	...	...	1.47	1.47	
Walgett chr., No. 3	...	...	...	...	...	35.04	35.05	
"	No. 1 faster than No. 3	...	...	...	...	.....	— 24.80	
						19.39	19.48	19.435
4th November.								
Sydney	...	...	...	...	...	0 13 0.00	0 9 41.33	
Walgett chr., No. 3	...	...	...	...	...	— 0 52.53	23 58 0.00	
Sydney clock	...	...	...	...	...	1.35	1.35	
Walgett chr., No. 3	...	...	...	...	...	36.81	36.81	
"	No. 1 faster than No. 3	...	...	...	...	— 26.48	.....
						19.35	19.49	19.420
Sydney	...	...	...	...	...	0 21 0.00	0 17 41.34	
Walgett chr., No. 3	...	...	...	...	...	— 8 52.32	6 0.00	
Sydney clock	...	...	...	...	...	1.35	1.35	
Walgett chr., No. 3	...	...	...	...	...	36.83	36.82	
"	No. 1 faster than No. 3	...	...	...	...	— 26.50	.....
						19.36	19.51	19.435
Sydney	...	...	...	...	...	1 43 0.00	1 46 41.16	
Walgett chr., No. 3	...	...	...	...	...	— 30 52.32	35 0.00	
Sydney clock	...	...	...	...	...	1.35	1.35	
Walgett chr., No. 3	...	...	...	...	...	37.02	37.03	
"	No. 1 faster than No. 3	...	...	...	...	— 26.64	.....
						19.41	19.54	19.475
Mean						.....	.....	12 19.40

				h. m. s.
Longitude, Sydney	...	...	...	10 4 50.81
"	Walgett, W. of Sydney	...	...	12 19.40
Longitude, Walgett				9 52 31.41
P.E.				± 0.014

Azimuth.

1884.	Cir. E.	Cir. W.
	"	"
25 October	0 17 E	4 16 W
3 November	2 93 W	0 72 W
4 " 	0 63 W	2 48 W
Mean 	1 13 W	2 45 W
MM. 1" 79 W		

SCHEDULE A.

LIST of Surveyors employed in charge of Districts in 1884.

Name.	Address.	Number of District.	Name.	Address.	Number of District.
Allworth E. R.	Braidwood	86	Loxton C. C.	Inverell	7, temply.
Anderson W.	Pilliga	15	Lardner F. T.	Tamworth	8, 9
Andrews J.	Wingham.....	part of 103; 31, temply.	Lisle A.	Cargo	19
Arthur G.	Atholton, near Inverell...	2	Langtree J. S.	Bourke	20
Barling J.	Casino	94	Lupton J. H.	Cudal	27, part of
Barton E. H.	Dubbo	18	Loxton T. H.	Lismore	30, temply.
Barling R.	Casino	114	Liddell A. J.	Pictou	40
Baylis J. J.	Narrandera	41, 65	Lester J. E.	Burrowa	43, 52, part of, temply.
Bell T. H.	Cooma	57	Love A. W.	Gundagai.....	61, 80
Biddulph T. L.	Carcoar	113	Lipscomb W. A.	Wagga Wagga	74, 75
Blacket J.	Mitchell's Creek <i>via</i> Rydal	25	Landon A.	Walma, Walgett	92
Burgess A. P.	Wilcannia	143, 144	Loder G.	Tamworth	96
Burgess E. J.	Wheelbah <i>via</i> Hay.....	66, 116	Lupton J. H.	Cudal	135
Carter G. B.	Ivanhoe <i>via</i> Booligal	106	Martyn J. G.	Armidale	5
Christie W. H.	Goulburn.....	42	Myelcharane W.	Hartley	24
Combes J. B.	Carcoar	26	Maitland A.	Forbes	45
Commins E. J.	Cooma	56	Martin J. C.	Cooma	81
Commins G. W.	Wagga Wagga	63, 82	Meldrum R. W.	Grenfell	101
Conroy J. M.	Yass	43, 50	M'Cord T. C.	Queanbeyan.....	52, part of
Cowley W.	Albury	70, 77, 85	M'Dougall A.	Hay	67
Creed W.	Warmatta <i>via</i> Corowa	76	M'Carthy A.	Coolac	120
Clarke F.	Smithtown, Kempsey	30, temply.	North O. F. N.	Grafton	28, 29
Callaghan M. J.	Wyong Creek <i>via</i> Gosford	35, 36	Nash H. M.	Yass	51A, 128
Cowley P.	Dubbo	104, 23, part of	Nicholson S.	Milton	112
Cowper H. P.	Moree	145	O'Connor H. A. D.	Dubbo	136
Drummond W.	Tenterfield	4	Paton N.	Tamworth	11, 12, 13
Davidson W. R.	Coonabarrabran	16	Peppercorn J. S.	Tumbarumba	60, 132
Duffy J. C.	Grenfell	44	Pratt R. G.	Wagga Wagga	62
Davis H. M.	Marengo	105	Russell F.	Warialda	1
Dawson J.	Ilford	110	Rae W. A.	Forbes	89, 108
Dawson E. H.	Balranald	117	Ronald R.	Glen Innes	119
Dawson S. H.	Montefiores	134, 27, part of	Ryan J.	Trunkay	127
Foikard H.	Inverell	6	Rigaut P.	Narrabri	138
Fisher R.	Coonamble	95	Shoobert W. A.	Vale of Clwydd	88
Farrar W. J.	Nyngan	118	Sellar D. B.	Hillston	68
Garland B. C.	Wagga Wagga	64	Smith J.	Albury	78, 79
Granter J.	Bourke	139	Shaffle G. H.	Bowral	87
Herborn O. A.	Mudgee	22, 23, part of	Solling F. P.	Moree	121
Hosie H. C.	Young	47, 48	Scott W. N.	Euabalong	126
Harper C. A.	Moruya	54	Trickett O.	Warialda	3
Hungerford M. O.	Bombala	58	Turner E. W.	Gunnedah	14, 91
Hunter F. V.	Wardell	115	Torry H. A.	Wellington	21
Holmes H. C.	Glen Innes	93	Tucker J.	Wallsend	37, 103, part of
Hicks J. E. (Tem. Sal) ..	P.O., Camden Haven.....	131	Tozer V. F.	Cootamundra	46
Isaac F.	Goulburn.....	53	Tarrant J.	Wentworth	84
Irby F. W.	Armidale	129	Vernon J.	Seone	33
Jamieson W.	Wilcannia	133, temply.	White H. O'S.	Gresford	32
Jones W.	Dubbo	17	Worth C.	Merriwa	34
King C. W. B.	Bourke	102	Walker J. E.	Oxley	69, 99
			Webb C. E.	Coonamble	141, 142
			Woolrych (Dis. Sur.) ..	Hill-st., Newtown	39

SCHEDULE B.

RETURN of Measurements made by Licensed Surveyors, including those on temporary salary, during the years 1883 and 1884, and the comparative cost of same.

Class of Measurement.	Area, 1883.			Area, 1884.		
	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.
Conditional Purchase	1,493,419	3	37	1,031,348	3	12
Measured for auction	973,564	2	27	181,189	1	29
Government and public purposes	62,110	1	24	67,510	1	21
In right of improvements	240,354	1	5	259,517	0	21
Volunteer Land Orders	2,987	1	0	2,296	0	0
Linear measurements reduced to area by allowing 20 acres per mile, 4,986 miles, 47 chains 59 links for 1883; 4,837 miles 38 chains 48 links for 1884 ...	97,929	0	0	96,749	0	0
Special Leases	1,575	2	14	5,323	1	0
	2,862,218	0	27	1,613,939	0	3
Total amount of accounts rendered	£139,451	13	8	127,256	10	10
Average cost per acre	0	0	11½	0	1	6½

RETURN showing the number and nature of instructions issued to Surveyors for action or

Name.	Where employed.	Date of Appointment to present position.	Instructions issued for action, &c., during the year.											Instructions.		
			Roads.	Reports.	Feature surveys.	Reserves.	Conditional purchases.	Auction.	Government and public purposes.	Improved purchase.	Volunteer Land Orders.	Special Leases.	Total.	Roads.	Reports.	Feature surveys.
DISTRICT SURVEYORS.																
Twynam E.	Goulburn	1 Jan., 1863	55	39	55	71	283	5	59	93	...	9	609	19	51	...
Greaves W. A. B.	Sydney	25 May, 1863	66	57	5	39	280	6	39	7	3	22	524	32	51	1
Wood J. H.	Albury	1 Aug., 1866	30	34	1	107	92	17	48	49	...	23	401	9	23	...
Dewhurst A.	Tamworth	1 Jan., 1875	20	32	...	57	38	6	27	38	...	5	223	16	64	2
Bolton C. F.	Wagga Wagga	1 Jan., 1875	19	50	6	86	54	3	44	303	2	30	597	15	66	2
Dalglish J. C.	Goulburn	7 June, 1875	4	1	...	2	48	...	1	3	...	1	60	...	2	...
Betts A. C.	Cooma	7 June, 1875	40	55	10	51	241	10	39	25	...	8	479	12	56	2
Donaldson P. R.	Grafton	1 Jan., 1876	32	39	5	43	25	26	55	22	2	6	262	28	66	2
Woolrych F. B. W.	Sydney	1 Oct., 1877	111	62	4	16	60	2	26	84	...	13	378	7	44	1
Chard J. S.	Armidale	1 Jan., 1880	33	163	4	63	85	12	30	27	1	12	430	23	56	2
Allworth J. W.	East Maitland	7 Oct., 1880	59	113	2	35	97	5	51	13	...	23	398	30	56	1
Finley F. G.	Inverell	1 May, 1882	6	22	3	39	45	10	6	82	...	3	216	2	19	1
Crouch H. A.	Orange	1 June, 1883	74	101	13	86	118	20	121	118	...	18	669	23	57	1
			556	768	108	695	1466	122	546	864	8	173	5306	216	610	15
FIRST-CLASS SURVEYORS.																
Deering J. W.	Five Dock	1 Aug., 1866	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	9	...	6	16
Smith T. H.	Dubbo	22 Aug., 1876	30	53	12	69	68	10	38	201	...	7	488	18	54	2
Wansbrough C. H.	South Kingston	1 Oct., 1877	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sheaffe G. H.	Bowral	21 May, 1878	43	41	7	45	124	8	27	14	...	4	313	24	48	9
M'Donald R.	Hay	1 July, 1878	15	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	19	33	18	8
Hedgeland G. C.	Bondi	7 Oct., 1880	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	1	...
Handcock R.	Waratah	8 Dec., 1880	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	3	1
M'Master C. J.	Bingera	1 Jan., 1882	1	...	...	6	12	...	4	3	...	4	30	3	7	2
M'Farlane E.	Bourke	1 Jan., 1882	9	32	3	59	53	1	31	504	10	11	713	2	93	...
Wood W. H. O'M.	Quacanbeyan	1 Jan., 1882	6	1	...	...	2	...	3	...	...	...	12	25	8	6
Orr W.	Deniliquin	16 April, 1882	4	10	1	2	52	5	5	41	1	...	121	7	30	3
Vickery E. G.	Goulburn	1 May, 1882	9	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	12	12	17	4
Tritton J. L.	Dubbo	1 May, 1882	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	15	16	4
Nash W. H.	Petersham	1 Jan., 1883	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1
Sharp A.	Forbes	1 Jan., 1883	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	13	15	4
Walker W. G.	Hay	1 Jan., 1883	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	3	4	1
Ebsworth A.	Bega	1 Jan., 1883	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	5	10	10	1
Ebsworth E.	Pennant Hills	1 Jan., 1883	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	4	4	2
Conolly T. W.	Westworth	1 Jan., 1883	6	16	4	23	21	4	4	216	...	3	297	3	23	...
Laing C. W.	Moree	1 Jan., 1883	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	3	1	2
Halliday E. J.	Cooma	1 Jan., 1883	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	14	20	7
Barlow M.	Wilcannia	1 Jan., 1883	4	15	2	18	38	1	6	359	...	8	451	4	12	5
			135	180	29	224	372	30	126	1,342	11	38	2,487	205	390	84
SECOND-CLASS SURVEYORS.																
Metcalfe C. J.	Young	8 Mar., 1878	2	4	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	10	16	8	1
Cobcroft E. J.	East Maitland	1 Jan., 1882	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	7	5
Thurburn C.	Orange	1 Jan., 1882	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	11	18	11
Chapman A. W.	Glen Innes	1 Jan., 1882	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	17	16	2
Hicks J. E.	Camden Haven	1 Jan., 1882	4	1	1	...	35	...	1	...	...	...	42	6	5	2
Ewing T. T.	Lismore	1 Jan., 1882	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	15	14	7
Dove G. L.	Keepit, via Somerton	24 July, 1882	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	12	3	4
Mackenzie R. B.	Bondi	1 Jan., 1883	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
Richmond J.	Sydney	1 Jan., 1883	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	1	1	7
Riley V. B.	Bowral	1 Jan., 1883	4	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	8	2
Hogarth H.	Armidale	1 Jan., 1883	2	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	18	1
Mills S.	Burwood	1 Jan., 1883	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Perdriau S. E.	St. Leonards	1 Jan., 1883	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	4	4	2
Mackay A. E.	Wollombi	1 Jan., 1883	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	35
Burgess J. O.	Grafton	1 Jan., 1883	6	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	15	6	2	6
Anderson J.	Grafton	1 Jan., 1883	...	...	...	...	48	...	...	...	2	...	50	...	4	...
Park A. J.	St. Leonards	1 Jan., 1883	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	...	3	...
Smythe P. F.	Arncliffe	1 Jan., 1883	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	5	1
Chanier A. F.	Summer Hill	1 Jan., 1883	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	2	2
Kelly J. M.	Singleton	1 Jan., 1883	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	18	1
Pennefather G.	Cooma	1 Nov., 1883	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	2	1
Bray A. H.	Wagga Wagga	1 Apr., 1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
Broughton J.	Katoomba	1 Apr., 1884	...	1	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	5	3
Thompson W. M.	Sydney	1 Apr., 1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chesterman A. H.	Kogarah	1 Apr., 1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
			37	14	3	2	113	...	5	4	2	3	183	138	151	104

distribution, and those dealt with by them; also the cost of their services for the Year 1884.

carried out personally.								Cost of Service.			Instructions on hand 1st January, 1884.				Instructions on hand 31st December, 1884.			
Reserves.	Conditional purchases.	Auction.	Government and public purposes.	Improved purchase.	Volunteer Land Orders.	Special Leases.	Total.	Salary.	Equipment, Wages, &c.	Total.	Under 6 months.	6 and under 12 months.	Over 12 months.	Total.	Under 6 months.	6 and under 12 months.	Over 12 months.	Total.
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.								
44	13	3	7	3	5	2	147	525 0 0	312 10 0	837 10 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	11	4	10	2	3	10	159	525 0 0	518 9 6	1043 9 6	62	18	10	90	55	6	1	62
52	8	7	7	12	...	17	135	525 0 0	507 2 6	1032 2 6	25	7	5	37	30	4	9	43
64	4	7	14	4	...	4	179	525 0 0	541 3 0	1066 3 0	...	...	...	...	3	2	0	5
77	8	6	13	9	...	22	218	525 0 0	477 1 0	1002 1 0	80	18	11	117	41	11	13	65
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	525 0 0	549 12 4	1074 12 4	47	7	13	67	76	12	7	95
26	5	6	4	...	...	1	111	525 0 0	197 9 3	1022 9 3	19	10	4	33	50	6	9	65
68	10	13	13	2	...	9	211	525 0 0	511 4 0	1036 4 0	22	2	1	25	16	...	...	16
3	1	...	4	1	...	2	63	525 0 0	864 2 4	1389 2 4	4	...	1	5	1	...	2	3
57	8	8	5	5	...	13	177	525 0 0	487 14 0	1012 14 0	24	3	2	29	65	5	2	72
33	5	2	7	2	...	43	179	525 0 0	485 0 6	1010 0 6	50	5	2	57	70	31	4	105
51	...	4	...	2	...	5	81	525 0 0	563 12 0	1086 12 0	29	6	...	35	31	3	...	34
36	5	4	11	9	...	15	161	525 0 0	590 17 10	1115 17 10	30	3	6	39	14	1	2	17
546	78	64	95	51	8	143	1826	...	...	13,728 18 3	392	80	62	534	452	81	49	582
1	...	...	...	7	...	1	31	425 0 0	541 12 0	966 12 0	2	...	4	6	...	...	...	...
32	...	1	6	7	...	...	120	425 0 0	634 8 4	1059 8 4	23	1	1	25	18	2	...	20
...	16	...	...	1	...	...	23	425 0 0	437 13 3	862 13 3	12	17	...	29	6	5	1	12
55	13	5	11	5	...	19	189	425 0 0	606 2 6	1031 2 6	33	2	7	42	68	9	2	79
9	12	2	9	...	...	2	93	425 0 0	577 15 0	1002 15 0	16	2	...	18	3	4	...	7
2	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	425 0 0	479 10 0	904 10 0	...	1	6	6	1	...	4	5
2	...	...	...	...	5	...	16	425 0 0	468 17 11	893 17 11	4	5	3	12	...	2	2	4
22	6	...	...	5	...	...	45	425 0 0	426 9 6	851 9 6	39	9	1	49	2	2	...	4
52	5	4	13	11	3	6	189	425 0 0	583 6 0	1008 6 0	13	5	2	20	18	...	...	18
5	9	...	2	1	...	4	60	425 0 0	745 15 0	1170 15 0	7	1	5	13	2	2	4	8
34	5	5	5	5	...	6	100	425 0 0	394 3 4	819 3 4	25	4	3	32	52	1	2	55
13	8	2	6	2	...	1	65	425 0 0	394 11 8	1,019 11 8	17	1	2	20	10	10	1	21
40	6	5	8	2	...	6	102	425 0 0	485 4 6	910 4 6	14	7	6	27	3	...	1	4
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	425 0 0	428 16 0	853 16 0	1	...	4	5	...	2	...	2
25	6	1	5	25	...	3	97	375 0 0	632 13 6	1,007 13 6	27	1	...	28	6	2	1	9
22	...	2	2	4	...	5	43	375 0 0	593 1 0	968 1 0	12	9	6	27	2	2	4	8
27	5	3	10	1	...	6	73	375 0 0	585 0 0	960 0 0	12	9	6	27	15	3	2	20
4	15	...	2	...	...	3	34	375 0 0	534 9 0	909 9 0	2	6	2	10	10	1	3	14
16	4	1	...	7	...	3	57	375 0 0	525 8 10	900 8 10	1	1	...	2	2	3	...	5
22	...	...	2	1	...	...	31	375 0 0	552 19 6	927 19 6	2	1	...	3	...	...	1	1
5	13	1	2	...	...	...	62	375 0 0	526 16 6	901 16 6	10	6	2	18	9	2	2	13
26	13	3	4	7	...	4	78	375 0 0	704 0 1	1,079 0 1	28	19	12	59	44	2	10	56
414	136	35	87	91	8	69	1,519	...	...	21,008 13 5	300	107	71	478	271	54	40	365
24	10	2	10	22	...	5	98	325 0 0	634 18 8	959 18 8	...	...	...	...	28	26	2	56
1	1	...	...	...	...	6	25	325 0 0	569 17 0	894 17 0	2	3	...	5	5	8	...	13
5	3	4	5	1	...	1	59	325 0 0	633 14 4	958 14 4	17	4	4	25	11	...	1	12
33	...	3	3	4	...	22	100	325 0 0	498 10 0	823 10 0	7	...	2	9	13	...	...	3
2	11	5	3	1	...	1	36	325 0 0	514 11 0	839 11 0	19	9	21	49	9	7	13	39
6	30	...	3	2	...	1	78	325 0 0	713 5 0	1,038 5 0	13	2	4	19	6	3	3	12
2	7	...	...	4	...	...	32	325 0 0	514 15 0	839 15 0	2	1	...	3	6	1	...	7
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	8	325 0 0	518 1 0	843 1 0	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	2
...	1	2	...	...	...	4	16	325 0 0	703 16 6	1,028 16 6	1	1	...	2	1	...	...	1
1	8	1	8	...	...	...	41	325 0 0	614 10 0	939 10 0	11	2	...	13	17	2	1	20
29	26	1	1	4	...	...	84	325 0 0	565 13 0	890 13 0	6	...	...	6	17	...	...	17
1	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	325 0 0	427 10 7	752 10 7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	...	...	1	17	...	...	31	325 0 0	522 16 5	847 16 5	8	8	2	18	5	2	1	8
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	325 0 0	542 17 3	867 17 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	41	2	5	15	...	1	81	325 0 0	587 10 0	912 10 0	25	9	4	38	12	1	1	14
1	40	1	...	...	1	...	47	325 0 0	673 1 0	998 1 0	29	25	34	88	10	10	5	25
14	3	2	2	1	...	13	38	325 0 0	483 10 5	803 10 5	3	...	2	5	2	1	4	7
...	3	2	1	...	...	...	22	325 0 0	675 6 0	1,000 6 0	...	2	4	6	7	7	1	15
3	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	325 0 0	604 10 0	929 10 0	3	...	...	3	6	...	...	7
7	13	3	1	1	...	...	45	300 0 0	546 10 0	846 10 0	6	4	7	17	9	9	...	18
3	34	1	...	3	...	...	44	300 0 0	526 7 0	826 7 0	...	...	...	...	9	6	...	15
...	18	1	...	2	...	...	31	300 0 0	458 11 6	758 11 6	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
3	4	1	1	...	...	...	15	300 0 0	581 15 0	881 15 0	...	...	...	...	19	6	4	29
...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	300 0 0	281 16 6	581 16 6	...	...	...	...	...	D tail	...	...
1	...	...	...	1	...	1	5	300 0 0	345 4 7	645 4 7	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
142	255	31	45	78	1	55	1,000	...	...	21,713 17 9	152	70	85	307	196	90	37	323

RETURN of Licensed Surveyors employed, giving the Locality of their employment, date of Appointment, number of 1st January and 31st December, 1884, and the

Name.	Where employed.	Date of appointment as Licensed Surveyor.	No. of District, if in charge.	Instructions on hand 1st January, 1884.				Instructions on hand, 31st December, 1884.				Roads.	Reports.
				Under 6 months.	6 and under 12 months.	Over 12 months.	Total.	Under 6 months.	6 and under 12 months.	Over 12 months.	Total.		
Anderson W.	Pilliga	13 Sept., 1864.	.....	30	6	14	50	15	5	3	23	..	2
Arthur G.	Atholton, near Inverell	6 Feb., 1875	.....	25	6	.....	31	22	9	.....	31	3	3
Aliporth H. C.	Sydney	3 Feb., 1871	.....	1	8	13	22	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Allworth E. R.	Braidwood	2 July, 1880.	.....	31	11	3	45	26	12	3	41	1	2
Andrews J.	Wingham	26 June, 1884	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	42	10	2	54	1	.....
Barrington H. L.	Cooma	26 June, 1884	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	9	8	30	.....	.....
Barling J.	Casino	13 June, 1865	.....	15	4	3	22	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	1
Barling R.	Casino	16 April, 1869	.....	13	9	2	24	9	3	.....	12	1	1
Barton E. H.	Dubbo	12 July, 1872	.....	19	4	.....	23	12	2	.....	14	1	1
Baylis J. J.	Narrandera	22 Jan., 1878	.....	37	3	.....	40	26	1	.....	27	1	1
Beil T. H.	Wilcannia	15 Feb., 1876	.....	15	8	4	27	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Berthou W.	Bairnald	25 July, 1873	.....	9	15	1	25	2	1	3	6	.....	1
Blacket J. R.	Mitchell's Creek, via Rydal	2 July, 1878	.....	42	9	3	54	39	18	3	60	5	1
Bossley T.	Brewarrina	3 Nov., 1874	.....	8	19	2	29	.....	.....	11	11	.....	1
Bray A. H.	Corowa	22 Jan., 1877	.....	48	7	3	58	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Burgess E. J.	Whealbah via Hay	25 July, 1873	.....	5	.....	1	6	4	.....	5	5	.....	3
Burgess A. P.	Wilcannia	3 July, 1878	.....	32	34	12	78	90	2	13	105	.....	4
Bullock C. C.	Sydney	29 June, 1877	.....	2	.....	7	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Biddulph T. L.	Carcoar	27 June, 1876	.....	31	13	4	48	4	.....	.....	4	2	2
Callaghan M. J.	Wyong Creek, via Gosford	15 Feb., 1876	.....	13	4	1	18	10	11	15	36	.....	1
Carter G. B.	Iranthoc, via Booligal	15 Feb., 1876	.....	6	.....	.....	6	102	5	1	108	.....	1
Christie W. H.	Goulburn	9 Nov., 1863	.....	30	3	2	35	17	1	.....	18	1	1
Christie W. B.	P. O. Hay	14 July, 1871	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43	.....	.....	43	.....	.....
Chauncy C. S.	Bourke	27 June, 1879	.....	.....	1	11	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chambers P.	Wellington	2 Jan., 1880	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commios G. W.	Wagga Wagga	21 May, 1862	.....	17	2	.....	19	20	12	2	34	2	3
Combes J. B.	Carcoar	31 Dec., 1863	.....	26	3	.....	29	14	7	15	36	1	1
Commings E. J.	Cooma	2 Jan., 1880	.....	24	1	.....	25	8	.....	.....	8	.....	.....
Cowley W.	Albury	29 Jan., 1873	.....	27	1	1	29	17	.....	.....	17	1	2
Conroy J. M.	Yass	6 Feb., 1875	.....	27	3	.....	30	37	13	1	51	8	.....
Cowley P.	Dubbo	19 Feb., 1883	.....	16	10	6	32	21	2	3	26	5	.....
Cowper H. P.	Moree	7 July, 1882	.....	30	20	15	65	12	5	.....	17	.....	1
Canning A. W.	Bega	28 Jan., 1882	.....	20	4	11	35	25	6	.....	31	.....	1
Creed W.	Warrnatta via Corowa	15 Oct., 1872	.....	42	3	2	47	9	.....	.....	9	.....	1
Clarke F.	Smithtown, Kempsey	19 Feb., 1883	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	4	4	30	.....	.....
Campbell J. A. D.	Coonamble	6 Feb., 1865	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Davis H. M.	Marengo	14 April, 1862	.....	5	3	9	17	1	1	.....	2	.....	.....
Davidson W. R.	Coonabarrabran	16 April, 1869	.....	18	2	1	21	16	1	.....	17	5	.....
Dawson E. H.	Belconnald	12 Jan., 1877	.....	1	1	.....	2	97	6	4	107	.....	2
Dawson J.	Ilford	27 June, 1876	.....	10	4	.....	14	6	.....	1	7	2	1
Dawson S. H.	Montefiores	2 Jan., 1882	.....	6	.....	.....	6	10	1	.....	11	1	.....
Dewdney G. W.	Ballina	19 Feb., 1883	.....	12	12	4	28	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Donaldson G. G.	Goulburn	22 Jan., 1878	.....	12	17	11	40	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Drummond W.	Tenterfield	11 Feb., 1863	.....	8	3	.....	11	15	2	8	25	2	.....
Dranan T. J.	Wingen	2 July, 1878	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	1	3	.....	1
Duffy J. C.	Grenfell	29 Jan., 1873	.....	19	26	15	60	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Evans J.	Angledool, Walgett	15 Jan., 1869	.....	.....	3	.....	3	.....	1	2	3	.....	1
Farrer W. J.	Nyngan	8 Aug., 1875	.....	42	5	1	48	37	4	.....	41	.....	1
Fisher R.	Coonamble	12 Jan., 1877	.....	33	.....	1	34	15	2	.....	17	.....	6
Fisher R.	Grafton	29 Jan., 1873	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	1	1	.....	1
Folkard H.	Inverell	2 Jan., 1880	.....	20	10	4	34	34	11	3	48	.....	1
Finn J. F.	Musclebrook	6 July, 1883	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16	9	8	33	.....	.....
Garland B. C.	Wagga Wagga	3 Feb., 1871	.....	111	14	.....	125	49	20	12	81	1	1
Garvan C. F.	Lismore	27 June, 1879	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Granter J.	Bourke	15 Feb., 1876	.....	33	3	6	42	225	.....	.....	225	.....	1
Haynes H. V.	Grafton	26 June, 1884	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	2	.....	16	.....	.....
Harper C. A.	Moree	19 Nov., 1862	.....	27	37	31	95	20	17	5	42	1	1
Hall J.	Wingham	9 Jan., 1854	.....	36	4	2	42	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Harper W. A.	Sydney	6 July, 1883	.....	1	.....	.....	1	6	1	.....	7	.....	.....
Harris E. A.	Bourke	14 July, 1871	.....	4	6	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Harnett W. E.	Silvertown	28 Jan., 1882	.....	11	6	3	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Haylock C.	Cooma	18 Jan., 1867	.....	.....	4	13	17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Herborn O. A.	Mudgee	10 Jan., 1881	.....	26	27	2	55	56	35	3	94	.....	.....
Holmes H. C.	Glen Innes	27 June, 1879	.....	26	7	1	34	16	.....	.....	16	.....	1
Hosie H.	Young	21 Sept., 1859	.....	12	2	.....	14	4	3	1	8	2	1
Horneman C. W.	Lismore	10 Jan., 1881	.....	2	6	.....	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hungerford M. O.	Bombala	22 Jan., 1878	.....	23	25	5	53	26	6	2	34	1	.....
Hunter F. V.	Wardell	23 Dec., 1875	.....	19	2	9	30	13	10	2	25	3	2
Irby F. W.	Armidale	2 July, 1880	.....	34	10	.....	44	29	18	.....	47	1	.....
Isaac F.	Goulburn	22 Jan., 1878	.....	59	23	8	90	49	1	.....	50	2	2
Jamieson W.	Wilcannia	10 Jan., 1881	.....	15	.....	1	16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jones W.	Dubbo	27 June, 1881	.....	1	.....	.....	1	13	1	.....	14	1	3
Keele E. J.	Sydney	27 June, 1876	.....	16	9	2	27	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
King C. W.	Bourke	3 Feb., 1874	.....	21	.....	.....	21	36	.....	.....	36	1	3
Kirkwood J. D.	Goodooga	6 July, 1883	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39	2	7	48	.....	.....
Langtree J. S.	Bourke	28 Jan., 1882	.....	11	12	9	32	121	6	.....	127	.....	1

District (if any), number and nature of Instructions issued to and dealt with by them, the number on hand on the amount of Accounts rendered for Fees during the year.

Instructions issued during the year.									Replies to instructions during the year.										Amount of accounts rendered for Fees			
Feature Surveys.	Reserves.	Conditional Purchase.	Auction.	Government and public purposes.	Improved purchase.	Volunteer land orders.	Special Lease.	Total.	Roads.	Reports.	Feature surveys.	Reserves.	Conditional Purchase.	Auction.	Government and public purposes.	Improved purchase.	Volunteer Land Orders.	Special Lease.				Total.
...	...	22	...	1	...	...	...	25	2	4	1	4	22	2	5	11	...	...	51	£	s.	d.
...	...	75	...	2	...	...	...	85	5	...	1	3	36	8	1	2	...	...	56	567	17	6
1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	530	9	8
1	...	91	...	...	5	1	...	101	1	3	...	...	82	2	1	1	...	...	90	792	0	1
...	...	53	...	...	...	...	...	51	5	1	...	3	15	1	4	...	...	...	29	255	2	6
...	3	3	...	14	...	...	1	...	...	21	141	5	10
...	...	39	...	...	1	8	...	54	6	1	2	1	40	6	3	5	2	...	63	651	15	3
...	...	31	...	...	5	1	...	39	3	1	1	...	33	7	3	2	...	...	50	661	8	2
...	...	26	...	...	1	...	...	28	1	4	8	...	45	3	2	7	...	4	78	928	5	6
...	...	54	1	1	11	...	...	69	1	3	2	1	57	3	5	60	...	1	133	419	0	9
...	...	23	...	...	1	...	...	25	...	5	1	2	51	5	1	5	...	...	70	493	13	9
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	19	2	3	7	...	...	33	372	10	11
...	...	40	...	...	5	...	...	51	5	4	2	6	43	8	7	7	...	1	83	350	1	0
...	...	7	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	5	...	...	9	221	2	6
...	...	35	...	...	6	...	...	41	2	4	1	4	29	1	1	45	...	3	86	616	6	7
...	...	8	...	...	21	...	...	33	1	3	2	2	20	3	...	77	...	2	110	1,891	10	0
...	2	183	13	10
...	...	50	1	...	...	...	...	61	3	3	...	2	71	6	2	3	...	...	90	955	12	4
...	...	13	...	...	1	...	...	15	1	1	7	...	22	4	...	11	...	...	46	411	14	8
4	1	...	...	6	1	2	2	4	...	2	1	10	...	1	23	590	0	7
...	...	82	...	1	...	...	...	85	1	2	...	1	103	11	6	...	...	...	124	763	1	1
...	1	...	...	13	...	...	14	134	5	11
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	24	136	7	11
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	11	10
...	...	80	...	...	18	...	...	103	1	3	...	...	76	16	8	9	...	...	113	620	10	11
...	...	31	...	...	4	...	...	37	...	...	...	2	17	1	2	5	...	...	27	178	0	0
...	...	78	1	...	1	...	...	82	1	7	1	2	113	8	1	2	...	...	135	966	8	7
...	...	50	...	...	8	2	1	64	2	3	...	6	53	11	5	18	...	6	104	912	0	6
...	...	66	...	...	...	...	...	74	3	1	3	2	149	12	4	...	...	...	174	1,268	13	2
...	5	1	5	1	1	67	1	3	6	...	2	87	423	15	3
...	1	...	...	...	1	54	2	...	9	1	67	268	13	10	
...	...	58	...	...	...	...	...	59	...	...	...	...	58	1	1	...	...	...	60	675	12	3
...	...	30	...	...	6	...	...	37	...	4	...	...	40	2	...	26	...	...	72	502	7	7
...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	2	60	...	...	...	...	...	82	918	16	0
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	1	...	3	19	4	...	3	...	...	33	258	4	1
...	...	40	...	...	2	...	...	47	5	3	3	2	57	4	7	3	1	2	87	560	13	6
...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	6	11	0
...	...	34	...	...	...	...	...	37	2	2	2	5	19	3	2	3	...	2	40	711	10	4
...	...	28	...	...	...	...	...	29	...	4	5	6	41	2	3	5	...	...	66	795	3	1
...	27	...	...	...	...	...	27	177	6	6
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	65	...	...	...	...	...	67	2	...	3	3	41	2	...	2	...	6	59	608	11	1
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	5	219	13	4
...	...	5	1	...	1	...	...	8	...	10	1	2	103	3	2	12	...	...	133	895	3	1
1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	66	10	0
1	...	11	...	2	...	...	...	15	1	2	...	4	30	1	2	24	...	...	64	507	15	9
...	...	101	...	4	...	...	...	111	...	6	...	4	107	6	...	51	1	2	177	1,227	1	1
...	1	...	2	...	1	6	2	2	...	...	...	13	734	9	10
...	...	63	...	...	...	...	...	64	5	11	3	6	40	2	4	...	...	3	74	649	9	6
...	7	...	...	5	...	...	12	171	2	8
...	...	183	1	...	33	...	...	219	...	7	5	1	151	13	...	35	...	...	212	1,560	10	0
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	9	8	7
...	...	22	...	...	3	...	...	26	2	1	11	10	27	1	1	29	...	...	82	1,243	4	4
...	26	3	...	...	...	...	29	267	17	10
...	...	93	...	...	...	...	...	95	2	3	...	1	73	...	...	1	...	...	80	541	14	11
...	...	65	...	3	...	...	1	71	7	1	...	7	55	4	6	1	...	2	83	407	9	7
...	2	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	661	1	6
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	6	2	3	2	2	3	10	...	3	32	602	18	2
...	...	41	...	...	1	...	...	42	...	5	2	2	73	27	1	2	...	7	119	758	10	8
...	3	...	2	1	...	...	...	18	...	...	24	67	8	1
...	...	97	...	...	5	...	...	102	...	3	...	3	39	4	3	26	...	...	78	636	3	8
...	...	66	...	...	...	...	...	67	...	7	3	...	92	...	5	3	...	1	111	958	9	7
...	...	7	...	...	4	...	...	14	2	1	...	4	12	2	6	13	...	1	40	811	13	7
...	7	...	...	2	...	...	9	33	16	6
...	...	146	...	...	1	...	...	148	2	1	...	4	142	2	2	4	...	...	157	990	7	3
...	...	92	...	...	...	1	...	98	3	2	...	...	69	5	3	1	2	...	85	997	17	7
...	...	86	...	...	1	...	...	88	1	...	2	2	74	1	1	2	...	...	83	588	17	2
...	...	145	...	...	...	...	...	149	3	5	...	1	117	...	...	...	...	...	126	1,044	13	6
...	3	4	...	...	1	...	...	8	36	2	5
...	...	12	...	...	1	...	...	17	...	10	5	2	20	2	2	9	...	...	50	520	1	3
...	...	33	...	...	12	...	...	46	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	5	...	...	4	...	1	15	1	12	1	2	32	4	4	14	...	1	71	541	12	8
1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	3	2	18	2	3	31	7	1	70	744	15	4
...	...	6	...	...	10	...	...	17	...	5	1	3	18	6	1	43	...	3	78	1,469	6	8

RETURN of Licensed

Name.	Where employed.	Date of appointment as Licensed Surveyor.	No. of District, if in charge.	Instructions on hand 1st January, 1884.				Instructions on hand 31st December, 1884.				Roads.	Reports.
				Under 6 months.	6 and under 12 months.	Over 12 months.	Total.	Under 6 months.	6 and under 12 months.	Over 12 months.	Total.		
Lungstaff R. W.	Sydney	25 Jan., 1879		20			20					3	1
Landon A.	Walgett	15 Feb., 1876		23	14	3	40	6	2		8		1
Lardner F. T.	Tamworth	15 Feb., 1876		15	18	2	35	22			22		1
Lisle A.	Cargo	12 July, 1876		16		1	17	20	1	1	22		1
Liddell A. J.	Pictou	12 July, 1872		14	8	23	45	18	3	4	25		3
Lipscomb W. A.	Wagga Wagga	15 Oct., 1872		36			36	43	1		44	2	2
Lester J. E.	Burrowa	28 Jan., 1882		18	1		19	14			14		
Loder G.	Tamworth	12 July, 1872		2			2	8			8		1
Love A. W.	Tareutta	12 Jan., 1877		22	9		31	20	1		21		6
Loxton C. C.	Inverell	15 Feb., 1876		10		3	13	4		2	6		
Loxton J. F.	St. Leonards	12 July, 1872						2		3	5		
Lupton J. H.	Cudal	7 July, 1882		27	2		29	52	1		53	2	1
Manning E. R.	Brewarrina	29 June, 1877		34	27	4	55	18	3	1	22		4
Martyn J. G.	Armidale	12 Jan., 1877		6	13		18	39	4		43		
Martin J. C.	Cooma	27 June, 1879		35	10	5	50	35	15	3	53	1	1
Mann H. F. K.	Dural	22 Jan., 1878						16	2	1	19		
Maitland A.	Forbes	6 Feb., 1875		13		1	14	16	6	7	29		2
Mayson A. T.	Brewarrina	28 June, 1880		18	4	1	23						
Meldrum R. W.	Grenfell	3 Feb., 1874		23	9		32	10	1		11		3
Moatla G. V.	Delegute	19 Feb., 1883		4	2	9	15						1
Mylocharane W.	Hartley	25 Oct., 1867		33	10	15	58	56	8	20	84	1	1
M'Carthy A.	Coolac	29 Jan., 1873		13	3	2	18	13	5		18		
M'Cord T. C.	Queanbeyan	3 Feb., 1874		26	19	18	63	26	15	1	42	1	1
M'Colloch J.	Deniliquin	16 June, 1857		11			11	25	4		29		
M'Dougall S. A.	Hay	6 Feb., 1875		8	1	1	10	11	1		12	1	2
McEwen J. H.	Singleton	2 Jan., 1880		20	3		23						1
MacCabe H. O.	Wollongong	29 June, 1877											
Macdonald J. M.	Port Macquarie	12 July, 1872		19	18	20	57						
Martin C. A.	Tumut	26 June, 1884						50	36	8	94		
MacPherson A.	Sydney	25 Nov., 1865											
Nash H. M.	Yass	12 Jan., 1877		43	20	1	64	70			70	5	2
Nicholson S.	Milton	10 Jan., 1881		32	31	5	68	21	14	12	47	1	3
North C. F. N.	Grafton	27 June, 1879		88	33	19	140	10	4	1	15		1
O'Connor H. A. D.	Dubbo	3 Feb., 1874		12	1	1	14	10	1		11		
Paton N.	Tamworth	29 June, 1879		15	7	8	30	48	29		77	2	3
Peppercorn J. S.	Tumbarumba	27 June, 1871		27	21	3	51	22	10	2	34		1
Pitt G. M.	North Richmond	1 Feb., 1859											1
Potter C. W.	Corunna near Wagonga	6 Feb., 1875		22	9	4	35	5	21	16	42		
Pratt R. G.	Wagga Wagga	30 June, 1882		49	37	36	122	43	30	5	78	1	4
Rae W. A.	Forbes	28 Oct., 1873		34		1	35	9	2		11		3
Rignat P.	Narrabri	7 Aug., 1874		7	6	5	18	4		1	5		2
Ronald R.	Glen Innes	3 Nov., 1874		14			14	15	1		16		
Robberds J. E.	Cobar	28 Jan., 1882		17	1	2	20	26		1	27		1
Russell F.	Warialda	12 July, 1872		32	8	2	42	15	3	1	18	1	
Ryan J.	Trunkley	2 July, 1878		12			12	15	5		20	4	1
Scannell W.	Silverton	3 Nov., 1874											1
Sanderson E.	South Gundagai	24 Nov., 1855		2			2	1			1		
Scott W. N.	Rumbalong	3 Aug., 1875		11	3	1	15	37	9	3	49		
Schleicher A.	Sydney	29 Jan., 1873		4	2	16	22						
Sellers D. B.	Hillston	12 Jan., 1877		42	29		71	21			21	2	
Sewell E. G.	Albury	6 July, 1883		18	9	14	41					2	2
Shoobert W. A.	Vale of Clwydd	22 July, 1870		11	1	7	19	2	3	6	11		
Small A. N.	Wyndham	2 July, 1880		19	16	5	40	37	8	3	48		1
Smith J.	Albury	5 July, 1881		34	19	9	62	38	2		40	1	1
Solling F. P.	Moree	25 July, 1873		25			25	9			9		
Stinson A. L.	Narrandera	2 July, 1878		15	16	7	38	11	7	2	20		
Senior A. A. W.	Grafton	26 June, 1884						7	1	4	12		
Tarrant J.	Wentworth	27 June, 1879		13	7		20	28	7	1	36		4
Tozer V. F.	Cootamundra	16 April, 1869		39	16	5	60	29	30	2	61		14
Torry H. A.	Wellington	27 June, 1879		35	5	3	43	33	1		34	7	2
Trickett O.	Moree	27 June, 1876		8		1	9	17	1	1	19		1
Tucker J. J.	Wallsend	22 Jan., 1878		32	3	1	36	7	1	1	9		2
Turner E. W.	Gunnedah	15 Feb., 1876		11	4	1	16	6	1		7	2	
Vernon J.	Scone	14 Jan., 1864		26	1	3	30	31	18		49		
Walker J. E.	Oxley	2 July, 1880		35	51	42	128	12			12		1
Waltham J. F.	Cooma	7 July, 1882		15	11	38	50						
Warner W. B. H.	Armidale	6 July, 1883		9	7	8	24	28	17		45	1	
Webb C. E.	Coonamble	2 July, 1878		9			9	32	1		33		2
White H. O'S.	Gresford	12 Jan., 1877		16	4	2	22	11	2	1	14		
Williams V.	Blayney	25 May, 1866											
Wilkinson L. A.	St. Mary's	27 June, 1879		67	23		90						
Worth C.	Merriwa	29 Jan., 1873						10			10	1	1
				2,670	1,067	615	4,352	2,869	637	261	3,767	102	158

Surveyors, &c.—continued.

Instructions issued during the year.									Replies to instructions during the year.										Amount of accounts rendered for fees.	
Feature surveys.	Reserves.	Conditional purchase.	Auction.	Government and public purposes.	Improved purchase.	Volunteer Land Orders.	Special Leases.	Total.	Roads.	Reports.	Feature survey.	Reserves.	Conditional purchase.	Auction.	Government and public purposes.	Improved purchase.	Volunteer Land Orders.	Special Leases.			Total.
1		26			3			34												£ s. d.
1		4						6	1	5	2	4	37	7	2	15		3	76	943 3 10
		83						84		1	3	2	67		2	1		1	77	818 6 9
		15			1			17	1	2	3	1	12	4		3			26	516 12 3
		64						67		4		8	89	2					103	1,021 6 5
		187		5	9			205	2	12	2	1	160	44	3	13	1	2	240	1,830 13 11
		83						83		2		2	99	8	1	1			113	863 8 0
		25	1	1				28	2	12		2	28	6	1	16		2	69	424 0 7
		60	1	2	4			73		15		5	114	13	3	7		1	158	1,046 4 11
		40						40	2	1		3	37	2		4	1		60	282 5 7
										1	2								3	109 19 9
		101			1			105	3	8		3	114	5		2			130	1,153 9 8
		2			1			7		7		5	7	2	2	37			60	668 17 8
		25						25		2	2	5	25	1					35	399 0 1
		60			2			64		8	1	2	120	19	3	4			157	1,183 11 4
		3			1			4				1	48	2		1			52	445 11 9
		14			3			19		2	2	8	30	3		13		1	59	697 0 1
					1			1		2	3	14	5	7		26			57	642 15 9
		59	1	2	10			75		1		2	122	13	1	20			159	1,217 6 5
		43						44		1		1	42	1					45	444 1 10
1		79			1			83	3	1			34	1	1				40	310 6 1
		16		1	1			18	12	3			19	1	2				37	289 17 9
		75			2			79					84				1		85	542 16 10
		2			3			5	1	4		2	18	1		21			47	373 9 0
1		18		1	8			31		15			18	3	3	25		1	65	644 5 11
		16						17		1		3	36	1					41	321 17 0
								1		3	1	1	6		2			1	2	12 14 1
1		3						4										1	59	412 19 5
									2	1			4			1			8	24 5 5
		103	1					111	16	4	3	3	199	10	1	3			239	1,757 10 0
		37			4			45		4	1		99	5	3	4			116	922 5 1
		121						122	1	4	2		124	1	1			1	134	992 10 0
										3	1	5	14			8			31	292 9 11
		100						105	2	3		4	89	11	3	5	1		118	1,138 10 3
		62			3			66	4	4	1	2	61	2		3		1	78	497 10 9
						1		2	2	1			2						5	66 6 6
			1					1		1		1	41	5	2				50	443 15 2
		158						163	1	5	2	4	190	6		2	1		211	1,167 15 6
1		28	1	1	14			48		3		2	41	9		70		1	126	513 0 1
		5			2			9	3	11	1	4	25	4		6	4	1	59	816 1 8
		92			3			95		4		1	73	3	2	1	3		87	676 16 2
		1						2	2	1		12	7	1		12	1	1	37	618 15 9
		99	1					101		2	1	4	119	4		10			140	844 16 10
		76						81	12	3		6	35	6	7	4			73	1,099 11 7
		1						2		3	1		10		2				16	77 1 8
		1						1	1	3			2						6	43 11 6
2	1	15			14			32		6		3	13	2	5	10		3	42	906 15 2
													23						23	217 11 4
		10			2	3		17	1	3		1	19	1		79	6	1	111	1,077 10 2
		2			2			8	2				53	1	3	4			63	599 15 9
		1						1	2				25	4	1		2		34	301 14 6
1		92						94	1	4	1		114	1		3			124	1,028 1 5
		129			6			137	2				64	3	4	4	1		78	1,038 19 11
		66				1		67		1			77	2		9	1		90	658 16 8
		11		1	19			31		7		1	29	7	2	25	2	2	75	727 9 3
													8						8	193 4 7
		5			1			10		7	2	2	11			4			26	650 18 3
		157		2	8			161	2	7		6	104	3	1	21			144	1,395 17 6
		126						135	9	8	3	4	141	7	2	3		1	178	1,018 17 3
		43				2		46	1	2	3		31	2	3	6			45	681 13 1
		93						95	4	8		2	109	2	3		2	2	132	1,078 12 8
		59	1	1				63	1	7	1	2	58	7	2	2			80	1,075 5 7
		164						164		3			39	2	1	2		3	50	312 0 10
1		81	1		1			85		5			71	4		4			84	584 0 2
		19						19	1				46	4					52	171 11 7
		149						150		4		4	71	4					83	576 7 7
		10			3			15	1	5		2	3			7			18	230 2 3
		48			6			54	1	1			40		1	8			51	512 11 0
											1								1	0 18 9
											1	6	9	1		22			39	378 16 11
		98				4		104	1	2	1	3	82	2	1		2		94	936 6 1
20	1	3,878	14	27	321	24	3	6,548	200	434	139	311	6,772	512	205	1,252	43	85	9,953	88,856 14 6

RETURN showing the number and nature of Instructions issued to Temporary Salaried Surveyors, the number acted on,

Name	Address.	Date of appointment as Licensed Surveyor.	Instructions on hand 1st January, 1884.				Instructions on hand 31st December, 1884.				Roads.	Reports.
			Under 6 months.	6 and under 12 months.	Over 12 months.	Total.	Under 6 months.	6 and under 12 months.	Over 12 months.	Total.		
Burdett F. L.	Manly	3 Feb., 1874.	1	17	...	18	1	...	3	4	...	...
Kelly J. B.	Lismore	7 Jan., 1879.	12	27	27	66	1	3	25	29	1	...
Parsons G.	Fernmount	7 Jan., 1879.	12	14	4	30	13	7	4	24	4	3
Abernethy W.	Mudgee	27 June, 1879.	3	2	...	5	3	2	4	9	1	...
MacCallum G.	Cooma	27 June, 1879.	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	2	2	1
Pinnington S. J.	Gundagai	27 June, 1881.	16	3	12	31	4	4	6	14	...	3
Johnson E. H.	Murwillumbah, via Brisbane	27 June, 1881.	2	19	25	46	...	1	8	9	1	...
Sim W.	Forest Lodge	28 Jan., 1882.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bushy W. F.	Molong	28 Jan., 1882.	18	1	...	19	15	1	3	19	9	1
Broughton J.	Katoomba	10 Jan., 1881.	2	8	4	14	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pring T.	Petersham	29 June, 1877.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Thomas W. M.	Sydney	10 Jan., 1881.	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pool J.	Brunswick	10 Jan., 1881.	...	...	4	4	6	2	...	8	...	...
Robb A.	North Shore	28 Jan., 1882.	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Garvan C. F.	Lismore	27 June, 1879.	45	53	20	118	1	1	5	7	...	2
Nalder W. H.	Kempsey	27 June, 1879.	38	25	48	111	7	2	11	20	7	1
Stafford G. M.	Double Bay	28 Jan., 1882.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lewis W. A.	Lismore	19 Feb., 1883.	6	7	25	38	...	...	...	...	...	...
Manning H. C.	Kangaroo Valley	19 Feb., 1883.	15	8	5	28	12	...	...	12	...	1
Graeme H. W.	East Maitland	19 Feb., 1883.	9	1	...	10	10	7	...	17	2	...
Evans H. A.	Kempsey	19 Feb., 1883.	2	3	...	5	16	...	...	16	2	...
Flynn J. E.	Grafton	10 Jan., 1881.	1	...	5	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Thompson W. M.	Double Bay	2 July, 1880.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goodwin T. H. H.	Wilcannia	22 July, 1870.	2	...	10	12	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chesterman A. H.	Kogarah	28 Jan., 1882.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arnheim C. T.	Lismore	30 June, 1882.	5	2	10	17	...	...	...	...	...	...
Terry H. M.	Dubbo	27 June, 1881.	11	6	2	19	2	...	...	2	...	3
Thornhill W.	Paddington	21 June, 1883.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bootle F. J. E.	Murwillumbah via Brisbane	6 July, 1883.	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	3	...	1
Bentley S. R.	P. O. Sackville	6 July, 1883.	10	17	15	42	6	4	13	23	...	2
Chambers P.	Wellington	2 Jan., 1880.	3	1	...	4	11	2	...	13	6	...
Foster W. H.	East Maitland	6 July, 1883.	...	...	...	...	23	12	...	35	1	...
Glasson R. G.	Bombala	28 Jan., 1882.	...	3	10	13	20	...	...	20	...	...
Tuxen P. V.	Sydney	27 June, 1881.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mann H. F. K.	St. Leonards	22 Jan., 1878.	4	3	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stearns S. A.	Sydney	19 Feb., 1883.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Adams W. E.	George's River	30 June, 1882.	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wilkinson L. A.	St. Mary's	27 June, 1879.	67	23	...	90	1	3	...	4	...	6
Hawkins F. W.	Marrickville	28 Jan., 1883.	1	...	1	2	3	2	...	5	...	...
Murray D. H.	Petersham	30 June, 1882.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Somerville R. N.	Lismore	10 Jan., 1884.	...	...	...	...	11	7	...	18	...	...
Lexton T. H.	Lismore	27 June, 1879.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Horneman C. W.	Lismore	10 Jan., 1881.	...	...	...	...	7	6	3	16	...	...
Dewdney G. W.	Ballina	19 Feb., 1883.	...	...	...	...	8	10	5	23	...	1
Pennefather C.	Grafton	2 July, 1880.	...	...	...	...	15	4	3	22	...	...
King W. L.	Burwood	10 Jan., 1884.	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
O'Connor H. A. D.	Dubbo	3 Feb., 1874.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Jamieson W.	Wilcannia	10 Jan., 1881.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chapman E. C. S.	St. Leonards	12 Feb., 1884.	...	...	...	...	1	...	10	11	...	1
Lucas M.	Darlinghurst	19 Feb., 1883.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shute H.	Croydon	22 Jan., 1884.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Langstaff R. W.	Sydney	25 Jan., 1879.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Truscott J. F.	Burwood	6 July, 1883.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			286	247	229	762	203	80	104	387	38	29

the number on hand on 1st January, and 31st December, 1884, and the cost of their Services during the year.

Instructions issued during the year.									Instructions dealt with during the year.										Total cost of Services, 1884.		
Feature surveys.	Reserves.	Conditional purchase.	Auction.	Government and public purposes.	Improved purchase.	Volunteer Land Orders.	Special Leases.	Total.	Roads.	Reports.	Feature surveys.	Reserves.	Conditional purchase.	Auction.	Government and public purposes.	Improved purchase.	Volunteer Land Orders.	Special Leases.			Total.
...	...	34	...	...	...	...	...	35	2	1	...	2	24	1	...	...	...	...	30	£	s. d.
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	8	11	4	4	2	40	1	1	...	...	...	50	930	10 0
...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	5	10	6	4	34	2	3	2	...	...	65	1,024	2 0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	1	...	...	1	4	7	8	...	1	46	924	4 2
...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	6	8	17	...	16	4	1	7	6	...	3	4	879	11 6
...	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	1	1	4	50	2	1	...	...	1	62	712	6 8
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	933	16 6
...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	5	...	1	1	1	14	1	...	1	...	1	2	987	10 0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	7	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	71	639	10 7
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	964	10 3
...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	1	1	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	341	13 4
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	584	8 11
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	575	1 4
...	...	73	...	...	1	...	...	76	1	4	4	...	35	1	2	...	...	...	14	823	9 6
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	9	9	6	4	9	18	5	3	1	...	4	5	560	14 6
...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	43	1,020	2 0
...	...	6	...	...	1	...	...	8	10	3	3	4	82	2	6	...	...	...	59	972	15 8
...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	4	2	8	3	15	4	6	1	...	...	5	595	9 6
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	11	3	4	...	51	3	1	...	...	1	23	876	8 6
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	22	1	2	4	...	...	...	43	875	18 0
...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74	1,009	0 6
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	943	2 6
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	3	4	1	...	12	...	...	1	196	18 4
...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	1,271	18 8
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	4	3	...	2	27	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	201	1 1
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	8	2	9	7	2	2	13	...	14	33	883	4 4
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	925	9 0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	220	16 6
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	9	4	2	1	15	2	4	1	...	...	7	905	10 4
...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	8	12	8	2	11	6	3	1	1	...	1	38	959	15 9
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	2	3	8	...	4	2	...	...	45	883	5 6
...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	4	3	1	...	66	3	1	...	...	...	23	843	4 0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	868	10 0
...	8	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	616	19 2
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	11	391	11 2
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	508	18 1
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	3	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	9	373	18 11
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	4	1	7	9	1	...	23	...	...	46	697	19 4
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	1	...	...	...	18	...	...	24	572	5 4
...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	534	4 6
...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	1	2	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	59	902	17 6
...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	37	...	...	2	...	...	23	803	16 5
...	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	3	...	1	31	2	5	...	...	...	39	870	4 3
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	36	2	2	1	2	...	42	740	18 10
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	45	836	17 8
...	6	...	...	...	4	...	...	12	...	2	...	...	16	...	5	...	...	1	20	672	19 7
...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	2	...	26	...	1	1	...	...	24	288	5 8
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	433	18 11
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	715	18 8
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	434	18 0
...	1	303	6 4
...	171	1 7
...	51	13 10
1	2	235	2	3	9	...	2	321	120	116	101	133	782	48	76	115	2	28	1,525	37,097	3 5

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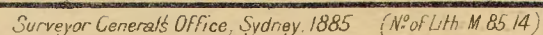
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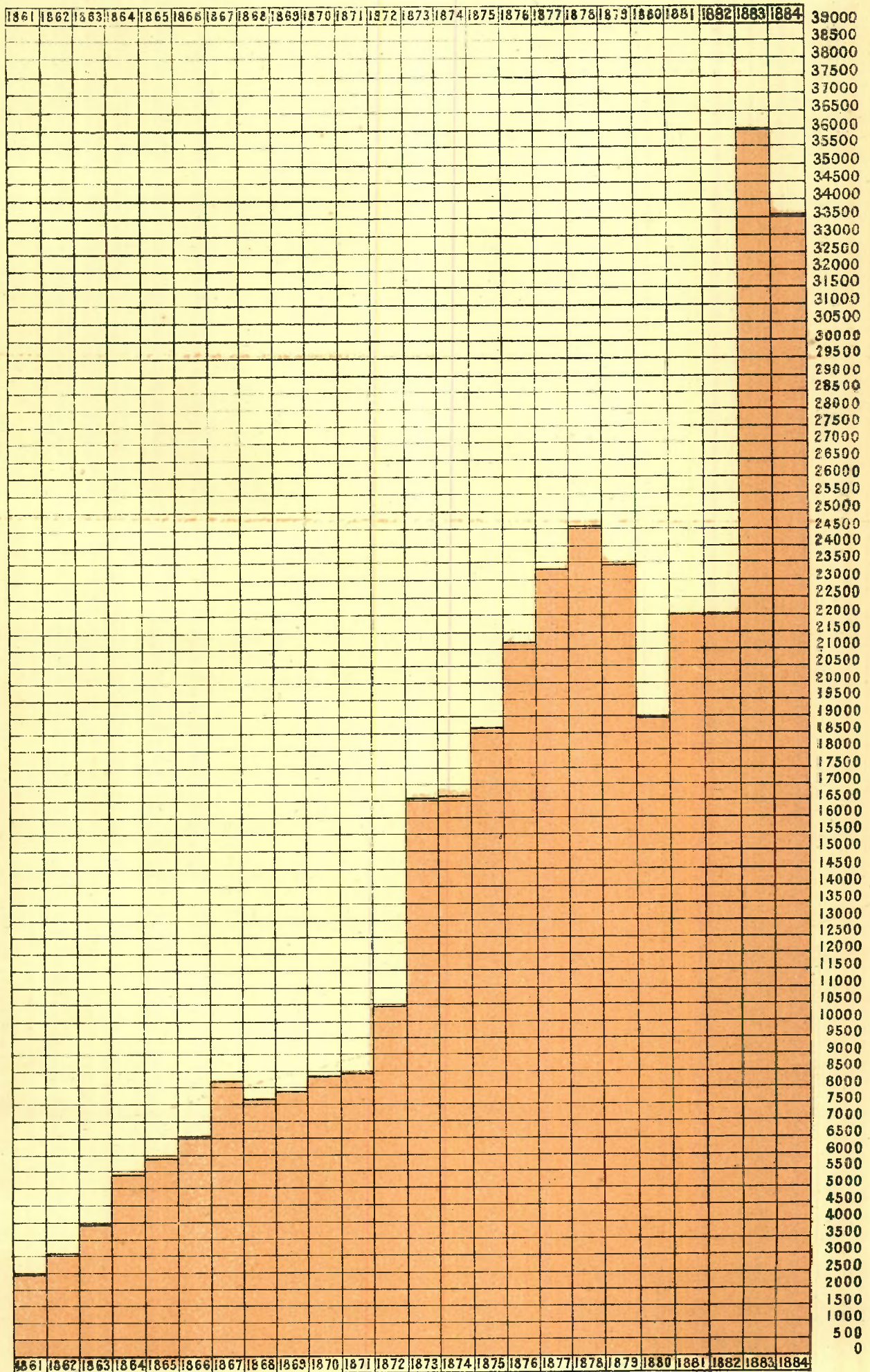
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DIAGRAM

shewing the total number of communications of all sorts received
from Surveyors during the years 1861 to 1884

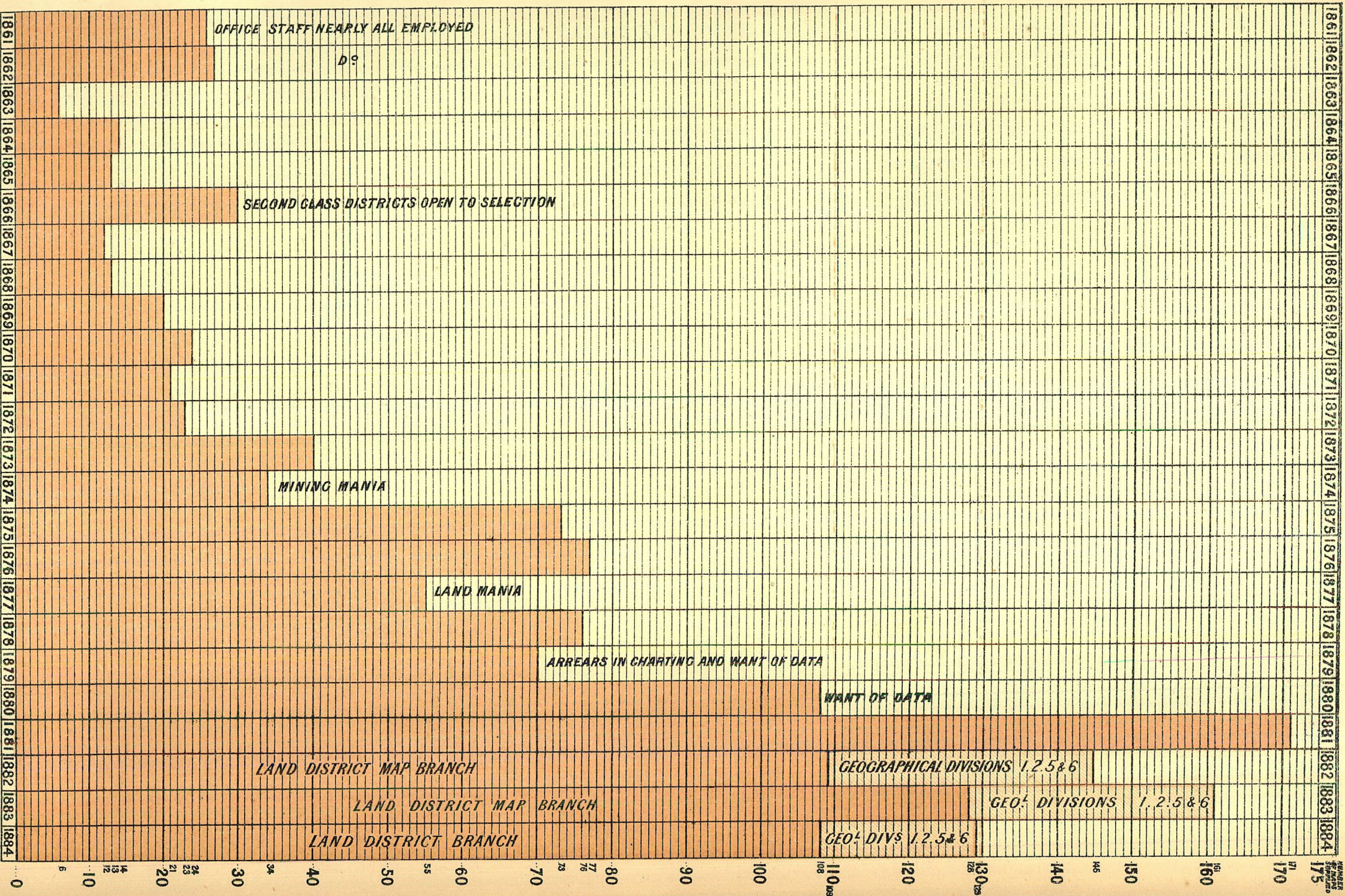


NOTE. Each tinted space represents 500.
The number of communications from Surveyors in 1882 was estimated.
" " " 1883 is actual.

DIAGRAM

Shewing the number of Land District Maps supplied to Land Agents each year from 1861 to 1884

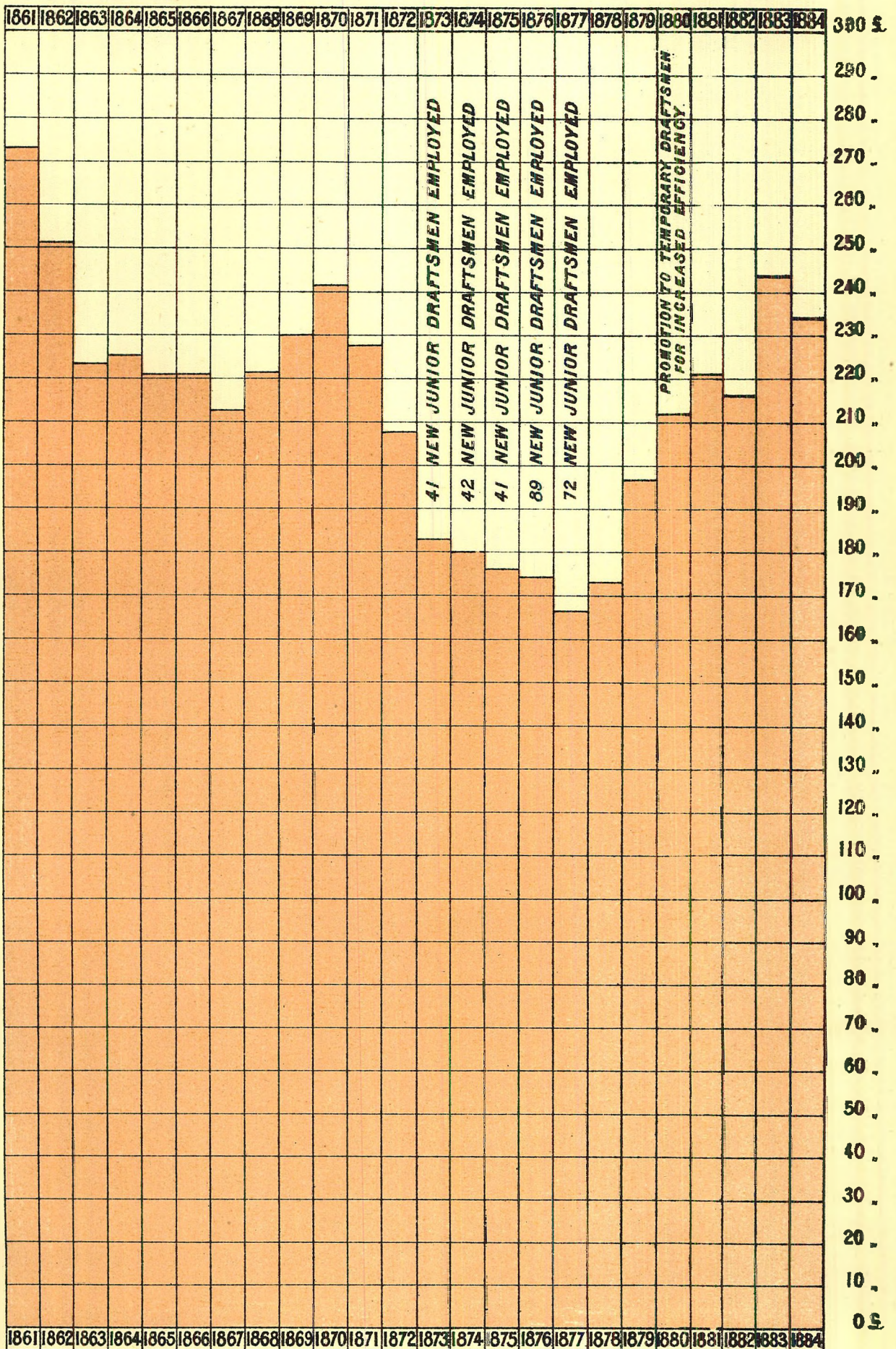
The tint shows the number of maps supplied.



DIAGRAM

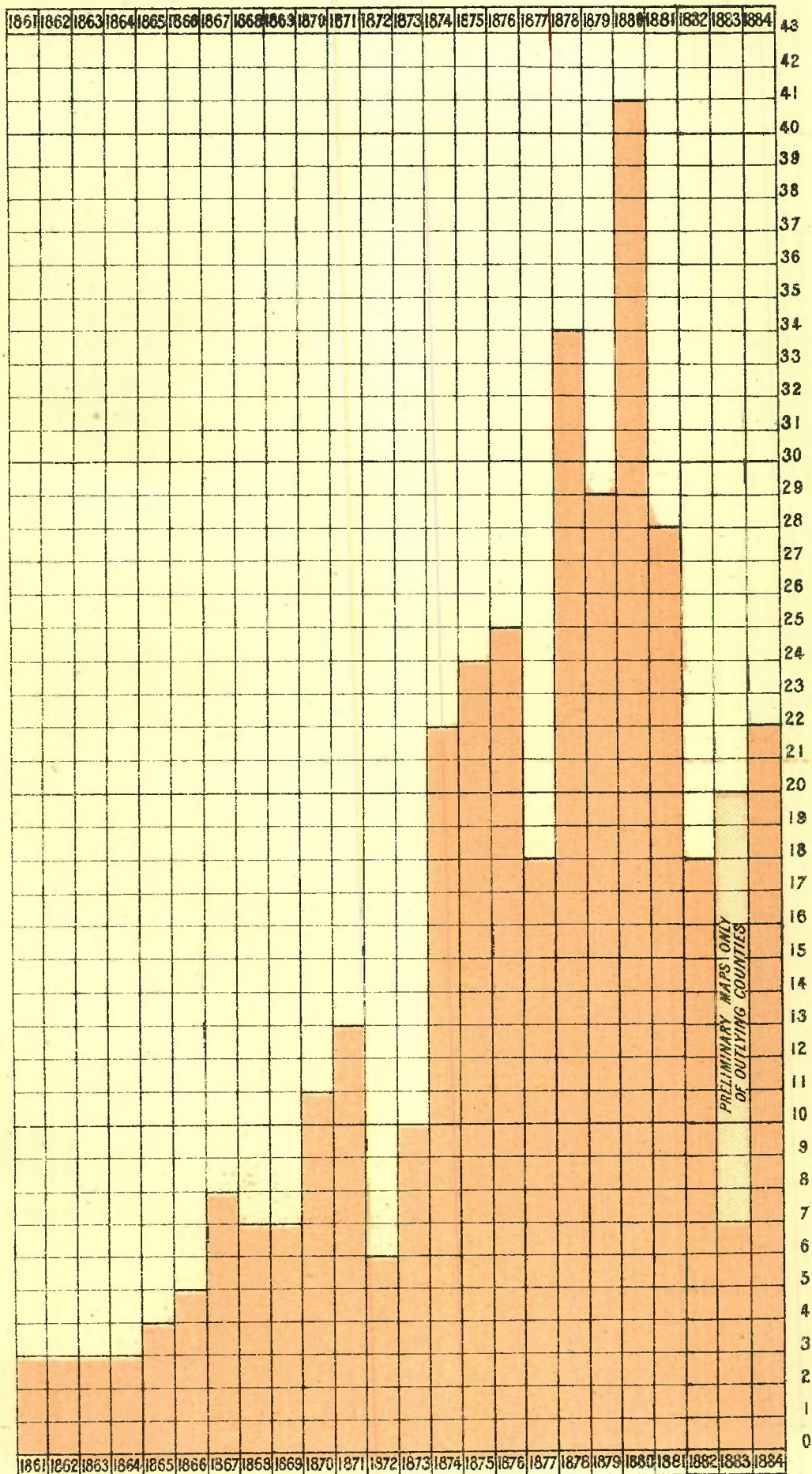
Shewing the average annual salary paid to Officers
employed in the Surveyor General's Department from 1861 to 1884

Each tinted space represents £10.



Shewing the progress made in Compiling new Maps
between the years 1861 & 1884

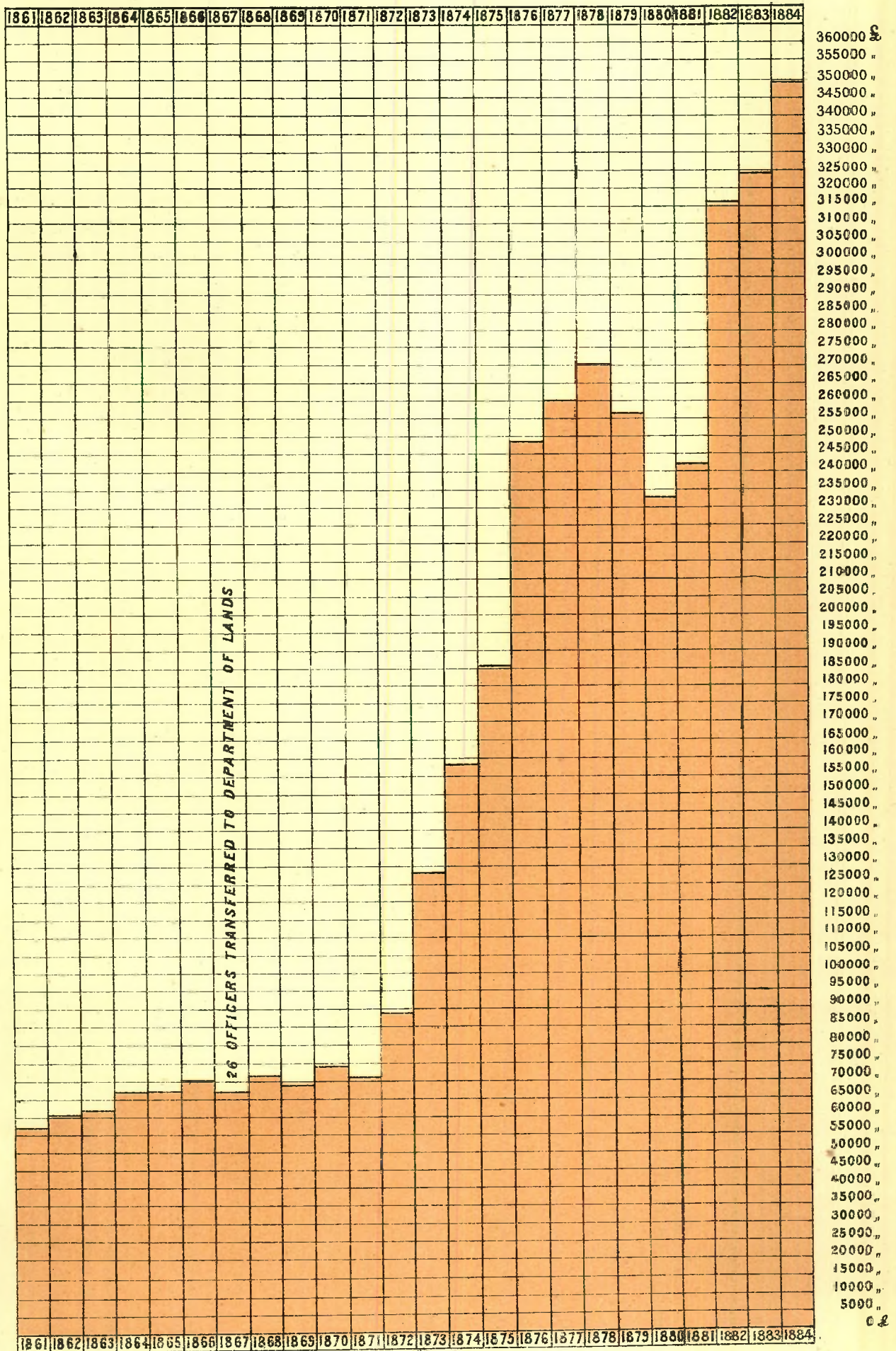
(In Compiling Branches)



DIAGRAM

Shewing total cost of Surveyor Generals Department from 1861 to 1884

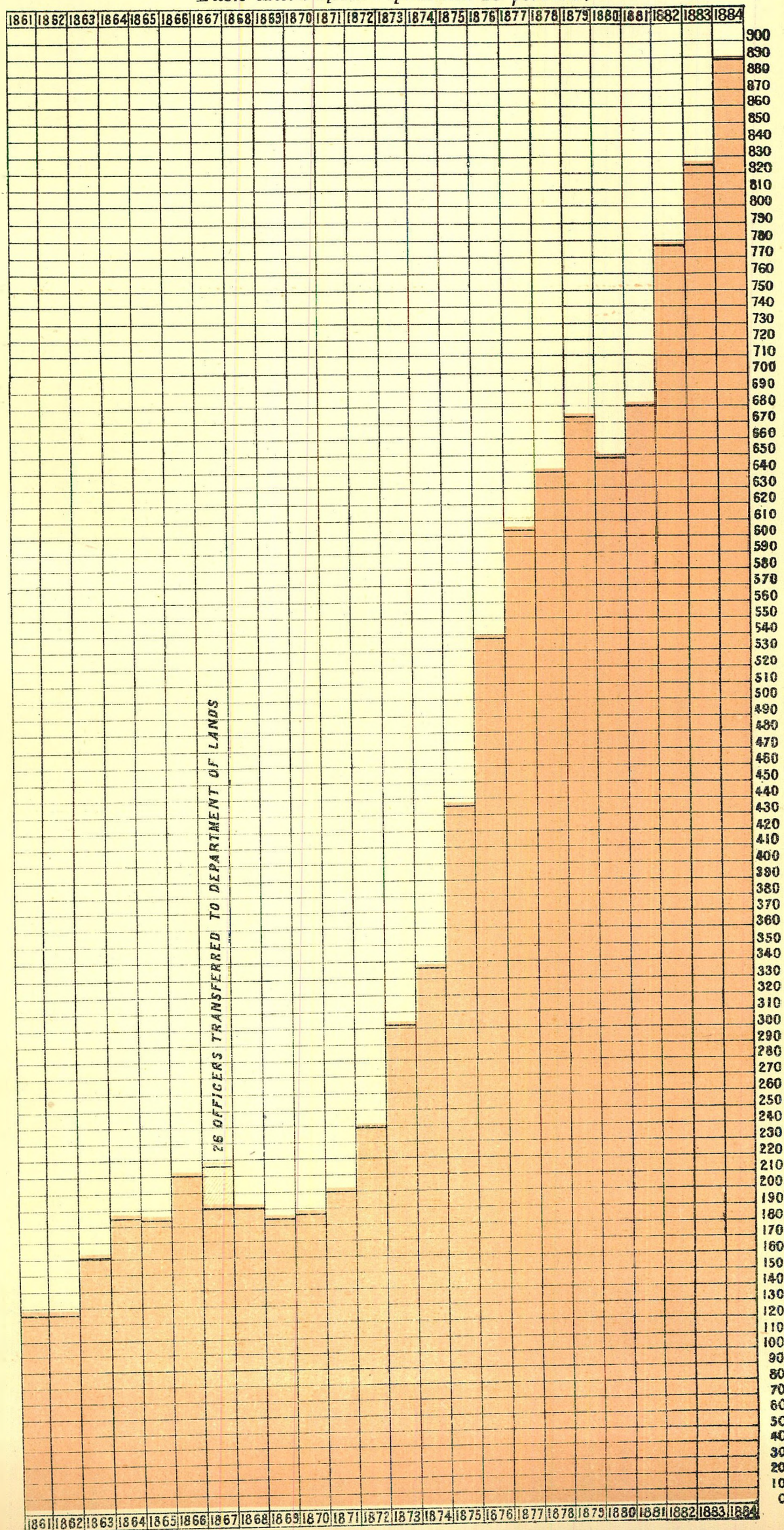
Each tinted space represents £5000.



DIAGRAM

shewing the number of persons (including Licensed Surveyors)
employed in the Surveyor Generals Department from 1861 to 1884

Each tinted space represents 10 persons.



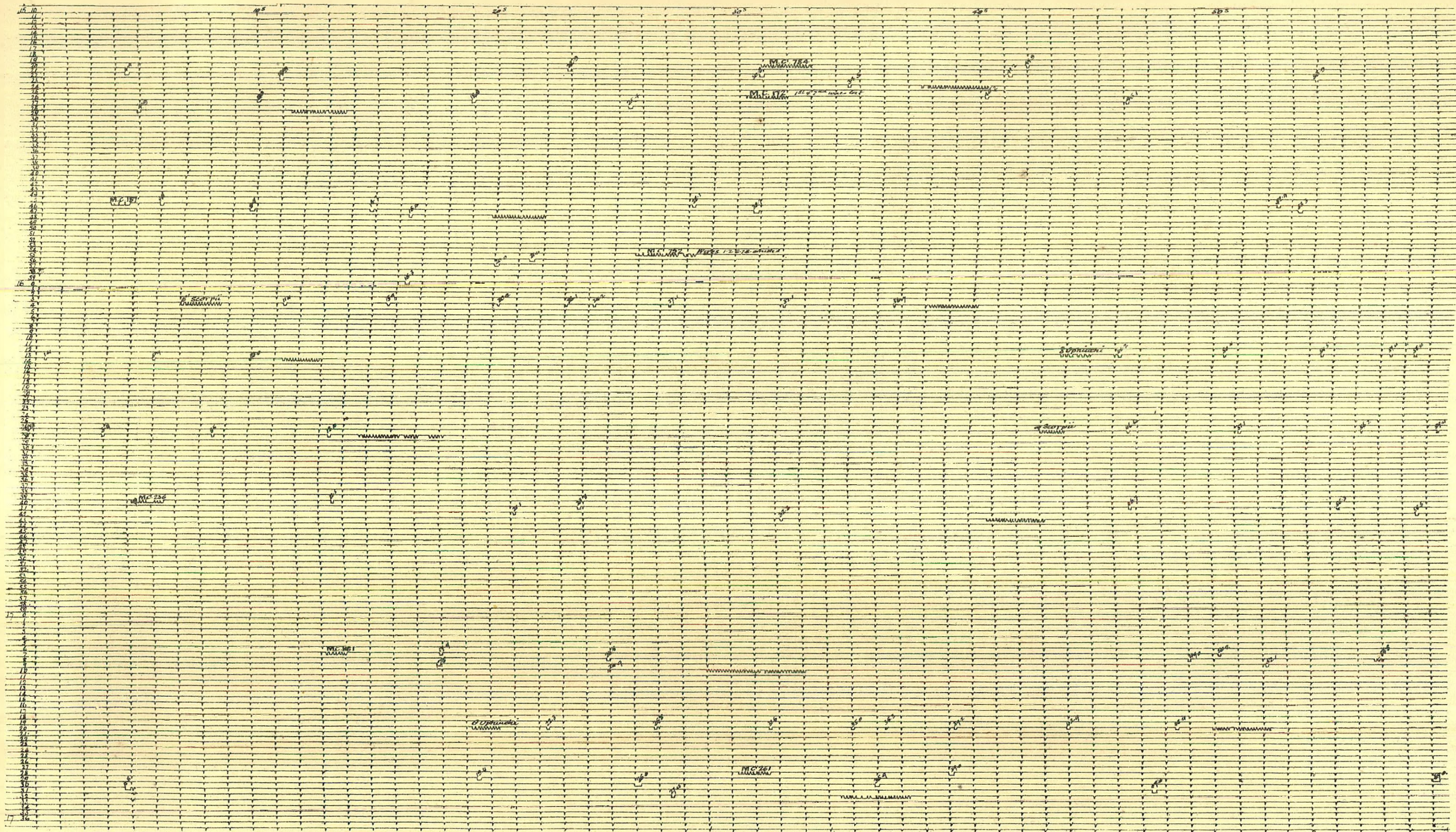
(N^o of Lich M. 85.54)

PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
and Printed at the Surveyor General's Office Sydney N.S.W. September 1885
REDUCED ABOUT ONE HALF



MAP
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES
SHOWING
SURVEYORS' DISTRICTS
AND THE OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF THEM
1884

Scale 32 Miles to 1 Inch

DISTRICT SURVEYORS

J.S. Chard
P.R. Donaldson
A. Dewhurst
T.H. Smith
J.W. Allworth
H.A. Crouch
E. Twynam
W.A.B. Greaves
A.C. Belts
J.H. Wood
C.F. Bolton
F.B. Woolrych
F.G. Finley
E. MacFarlane

(Licensed Surveyors
in charge of Surveyor W.D. or
Surveyor G.H. Shanks)
(Licensed Surveyors Districts 11, 12, 123, 124, 125
in charge of Surveyor W.D. or
Surveyor G.H. Shanks)
(Licensed Surveyors Districts 63, 64, 106, 122
in charge of Surveyor T.W. Conolly)

Note: Existing Railways and those in course of construction shown in blue

LICENSED SURVEYORS IN CHARGE OF DISTRICTS

Nº	NAME	Nº	NAME	Nº	NAME	Nº	NAME
1	F. Russell	37	J.J. Tucker	73	Added to Dist 754	109	Divided between 22 and 110
2	G. Arthur	38	Shoobert	74	W.A. Lipscomb	110	J. Dawson
3	O. Trickett	39	D.S. Woolrych	75	W.A. Lipscomb	111	Vacant
4	W. Drummond	40	A. Liddell	76	W. Creed	112	S. Nicholson
5	J.G. Martyn	41	J.J. Baylis	77	W. Cowley	113	T.L. Biddulph
6	H. Folkard	42	W.H. Christie	78	I. Smith	114	R. Barling
7	C.C. Loxton	43	J.E. Lester	79	I. Smith	115	F.V. Hunter
8	F.T. Lardner	44	J.C. Duffy	80	A.W. Love	116	E.J. Burgess
9	F.T. Lardner	45	A. Maitland	81	J.C. Martin	117	E.H. Dawson
10	Vacant	46	V.F. Tozer	82	G.W. Commins	118	W.J. Farrer
11	N. Paton	47	H.C. Hosie	83	Vacant	119	R. Ronald
12	N. Paton	48	H.C. Hosie	84	J. Tarrant	120	A.M. Carthy
13	N. Paton	49	J.M. Conroy	85	W. Cowley	121	F.P. Solling
14	E.W. Turner	50	J.M. Conroy	86	E.R. Alworth	122	Vacant
15	W. Anderson	51	Included in Dist 86	87	G.H. Sheaff	123	Vacant
16	W.R. Davidson	52	H.M. Nash	88	No District	124	Vacant
17	Jones	53	F. Isaac	89	W.A. Rae	125	Vacant
18	E.H. Barton	54	C. Harper	90	Added to 27 and whole numbered 27	126	W.N. Scott
19	A. Lisle	55	Vacant	91	E.W. Turner	127	J. Ryan
20	J.S. Langtree	56	E.J. Commins	92	A. Landon	128	H.M. Nash
21	H.A. Torry	57	T.H. Bell	93	H.C. Holmes	129	F.W. Irby
22	O.A. Herborn	58	M. Hungerford	94	J. Barling	130	Vacant
23	Divided between 22 & 104	59	Vacant	95	R. Fisher	131	J.E. Hicks
24	W. Mylecharene	60	J.S. Peppercorn	96	G. Loder	132	J.S. Peppercorn
25	J. Blackett	61	A.W. Love	97	Vacant	133	Jamieson
26	J.B. Combes	62	R.G. Pratt	98	Vacant	134	S.M. Dawson
27	Part in Gordon, Shillington, and Murrumbidgee	63	G.W. Commins	99	C. Worth	135	J.H. Lupton
28	C.F.N. North	64	B.C. Garland	100	Vacant	136	H.A. O'Connor
29	C.F.N. North	65	J.J. Baylis	101	R.W. Meldrum	137	Vacant
30	G. Clarke	66	E.J. Burgess	102	G.W.B. King	138	P. Rigaunt
31	Andrews	67	S.A.M. Dougall	103	Divided between 31 & 37	139	J. Granter
32	H.O.S. White	68	D.B. Sellers	104	P. Cowley	140	Vacant
33	J. Vernon	69	J.E. Walker	105	H.M. Davis	141	C.E. Webb
34	C. Worth	70	W. Cowley	106	G.B. Carter	142	C.E. Webb
35	M.J. Callaghan	71	Vacant	107	No District	143	A.P. Burgess
36	M.J. Callaghan	72	Vacant	108	W.A. Rae	144	A.P. Burgess
						145	H.P. Cowper

Boundaries of District Surveyors are shewn thus
do. Licensed do. do.

MAP OF NEW SOUTH WALES

GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS & COUNTIES COMPILED IN PARISHES WITH THOSE
IN COURSE OF COMPILATION
1884



NOTE

Countries completely compiled in Parishes shewn thus

Countries partly compiled in Parishes do

Boundaries of Geographical Divisions shewn thus

Note - Existing Railways and those in course of construction shewn thus

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS.

(PAYMENTS TO PERMANENT OFFICERS, FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1885, TO 30TH APRIL, 1886, OVER AND ABOVE AMOUNTS VOTED FOR SALARIES.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 25 May, 1886.

[Laid upon the Table of the House, in accordance with promise made by the Honorable the Secretary for Lands, in answer to Question No. 2, on Votes and Proceedings, No. 64, of the 21st May, 1886.]

RETURN showing the payments to permanent officers of the Department of Lands during the year 1885, and from the 1st January to 30th April, 1886, over and above the amounts voted as salaries.

Name.	Designation.	Particulars of Service.	Amount.
			£ s. d.
Oliver, C.	Under Secretary	Gratuity for special services during the years 1883 and 1884 in connection with the preparation of the Crown Lands Act and the regulations thereunder.	250 0 0
Oliver, C.	do	Gratuity for special services during the year 1885 in connection with the division of runs and the initiation generally of the working of the Crown Lands Act.	815 0 0
Houston, Wm.	Inspector	Gratuity for special services in the division of runs ...	157 10 0
Keating, J. T.	Draftsman	Overtime while detached specially in connection with division of runs.	52 10 0
Saunders, C. J.	do	do do	26 5 0
Mendes, A. E.	Clerk	Additional duties in connection with division of runs ..	25 0 0
Curry, H. A. G.	Inspector. (In charge of Pre-emptive Lease Branch.)	Overtime in connection with the conversion of Pre-emptive Leases under 48 Vic. No. 18.	83 17 0
Williams, Fredk.	Clerk	Overtime generally, in order to clear arrears of work under repealed Acts, and to assist in extra work involved by the passing of 48 Vic. No. 18.	86 15 0
Croft, J.	do	do do	14 5 0
Thomson, A. O.	do	do do	16 12 6
Adams, W. H.	do	do do	20 17 6
Wallis, A. A.	do	do do	18 0 0
M'Lennan, J. A.	do	do do	16 7 6
Dillon, J. T.	do	do do	17 15 0
Ramsay, J. A.	do	do do	17 12 6
Macdonald, J. R.	do	do do	14 11 0
Chambers, F.	do	do do	12 2 6
Pownall, E. J.	do	do do	12 2 6
Russell, W. O.	do	do do	12 2 6
Longfield, M.	do	do do	11 5 0
Kippax, E.	do	do do	3 0 0
Murray, F. S.	do	do do	1 17 6
Boot, O. A. C.	Emergency Land Agent	do do	18 3 0
Sturrock, W.	do	do do	12 2 6
Rich, H. P.	Clerk	do do	11 7 6
Taylor, J. W.	do	do do	12 2 6
Tindale, W. E.	do	do do	11 7 6
Bremer, F.	do	do do	12 2 6
Dillon, C.	do	do do	10 10 0
Drury, G.	do	do do	10 12 6
Stephenson, F.	do	do do	2 5 0
Oope, C.	do	do do	10 5 0
Capper, W. H.	do	do do	15 9 0
M'Guanne, J. P.	do	do do	11 10 0
Miles, J. R.	do	do do	12 15 0
Gale, C. H.	do	do do	6 7 6

Name.	Designation.	Particulars of Service.	Amount.
Phillips, H.	Clerk	Overtime generally, in order to clear arrears of work under repealed Acts, and to assist in extra work involved by the passing of 48 Vic. No. 18.	£ s. d. 8 7 0
Cohen, V.	do	Extra correspondence involved in connection with division of runs.	44 2 0
Thompson, H. L.	do	do	30 7 6
Davis, T.	do	do	35 10 0
McDonnell, R. A.	do	do	16 14 6
Vincent, F. W.	do	Overtime, Occupation of Runs Branch	12 2 6
Edson, F. M.	do	do	44 0 6
Green, J.	do	do	39 5 0
Davis, W.	do	do	35 19 0
Landers, E. C.	do	do	48 12 0
Williams, E. G.	do	do	18 16 0
Aylward, H. J.	do	do	18 0 0
Meades, A. E.	do	do	23 14 0
Edwards, J.	do	do	25 0 0
Atterbury, B. J.	do	do	2 0 0
Hall, A. T.	do	Short-hand Writer	2 0 0
De Low, R. H.	do	Correspondence Branch	2 0 0
Smyth, W. J.	do	Auction Branch	10 10 0
Russell, W. O.	do	Allowance for extra cost of living, Bourke	50 0 0
Johnson, C. B.	do	do	50 0 0
Makin, H. T.	do	do	50 0 0
Phillips, H.	do	do	50 0 0
Kippax, E.	do	do	50 0 0
Leng, F.	do	do	50 0 0
Dawson, J. C.	do	do	50 0 0

SURVEY OF LANDS.

Adams, P. F.	Surveyor-General	Examination of Licensed Surveyors	20 0 0
Fitzgerald, R. D.	Deputy Surveyor-General ... {	do	20 0 0
Maitland, D. M.	Surveyor	Examination of Cadets	15 0 0
Brooks, J.	do	Examination of Licensed Surveyors	20 0 0
Furber, T. F.	Draftsman in Charge of General Survey Branch.	do	20 0 0
Stopps, A. J.	Draftsman in Charge of Roads Branch.	Examination of Cadets	15 0 0
Chisholm, D. H.	Draftsman	Examination of Candidates for Employment as Temporary Draftsmen.	10 10 0
Peyton, S. L.	do	do	2 2 0
Callachor, J. F.	do	do	6 6 0
M'Lean, M. A.	do	Allowance for extra cost of living in inland town	40 15 10
Shelton, R.	do	do	33 6 8
Bacon, F. B.	do	do	33 6 8
Dowling, P. J.	do	do	22 3 6
Sherring, J. W.	do	do	45 16 8
Bronsdon, E. A.	do	do	32 13 2
Patrick, M.	do	do	37 10 0
Kelly, C. B.	do	do	17 3 0
Biden, E. H.	do	do	10 8 4
Thallon, F. M.	do	do	11 19 2
Lewis, T. H.	do	Overtime work in connection with Crown Lands Act of 1884.	19 10 0
Packer, G. R.	do	do	20 0 0
Willis, J. A. C.	do	do	19 0 0
Freeman, W.	do	do	13 10 0
Armstrong, W. D.	do	do	23 2 0
Gall, A. R.	do	do	19 10 0
Hall, W. H.	do	do	19 10 0
Bennett, L. G. J.	do	do	40 16 0
Goggin, J. F.	do	do	18 10 0
Chisholm, D. H.	do	do	48 17 7
Elwin, T.	do	do	12 17 4
Callachor, T. F.	do	do	36 18 9
Hare, H.	do	do	20 0 0
Slade, J. J.	do	do	20 0 0
Callachor J. J. C.	do	do	19 10 0
Rennie, C. E.	do	do	18 15 0
Small, J. T.	do	do	19 10 0
Sherring, J. W.	do	do	4 10 0
Cripps, C. W.	do	do	3 10 0
Loveridge, W. D.	do	do	2 12 0
Maynard, F. H.	do	do	2 16 0
Fewings, K. W.	do	do	2 5 0
Doubleday, G. H.	do	do	10 0 0
Foulcher, J. H.	do	do	8 12 6
Turri, G. G.	do	do	13 0 0
Van Wassen, L. A.	do	do	14 2 3
Fraser, D.	do	do	8 0 0
Richardson, J. J.	do	do	10 0 0
James, P. B.	do	do	10 0 0
Bouton, A. F.	do	do	9 15 0
Finn, J. J.	do	do	9 5 0
Kelly, C. B.	do	do	9 10 0
Christie, C.	do	do	9 2 10
Middlecoat, W. T.	do	do	8 15 0
Malcolm, R. J.	do	do	12 7 0

Name.	Designation.	Particulars of Service.	Amount.
Fry, J. E.	Draftsman	Overtime work in connection with Crown Lands Act of 1884.	£ s. d. 8 0 0
Bartley, H.	do	do do	8 12 0
Lloyd, E. S.	do	do do	9 0 0
Brierly, E. W.	do	do do	9 15 0
White, J. B.	do	do do	4 4 4
Edwards, C.	do	do do	9 17 6
Burnell, A. J.	do	do do	19 10 0
Thornton, R.	do	do do	16 0 0
Herring, H. C.	do	do do	10 0 0
M'Lean, W.	do	do do	16 0 0
M'Lean, R.	do	do do	12 13 6
Keating, J. T.	do	do do	19 10 0
Saunders, C. J.	do	do do	7 10 0
Hare, A. J.	do	do do	20 0 0
Burt, J.	do	do do	30 11 11
Shelton, R.	do	do do	16 15 0
Cansdell, G. G. M.	do	do do	19 10 0
Vautin, E. S.	do	do do	14 12 0
Quinn, J. J.	do	do do	15 4 0
M'Intyre, W.	do	do do	2 0 0
Bush, G.	do	do do	6 10 0
Curwood, S.	do	do do	9 10 0
Fowler, C. A. W.	do	do do	12 14 10
Meldrum, T. B.	do	do do	10 0 0
Pinnington, H. B.	do	do do	14 6 0
Patrick, M.	do	do do	9 5 0
Hardwick, G. H. J.	do	do do	10 0 0
Gemell, M.	do	do do	8 0 0
M'Minn, D. S.	do	do do	15 13 0
Hassall, J. E.	do	do do	10 0 0
Gregg, D.	do	do do	4 0 0
Thallon, F. M.	do	do do	10 0 0
Grant, W.	do	do do	1 15 0
Alexander, S.	do	do do	10 0 0
Day, W.	do	do do	10 0 0
French, H. J.	do	do do	9 5 6
Calhill, P. J.	do	do do	12 3 9
Robinson, C. J.	do	do do	7 0 0
Biden, E. H.	do	do do	10 0 0
Ballhausen, C.	do	do do	13 12 4
Ferris, J.	do	do do	16 6 6
Rogerson, M.	do	do do	10 9 0
M'Lean, J. A.	do	do do	59 5 0
Fewings, J. G.	do	do do	1 10 0
Bronsdon, E. A.	do	do do	14 10 0
Moses, S. B.	do	do do	15 8 0
M'Lean, M. A.	do	do do	11 0 0
Wilkinson, H. E.	do	do do	3 0 0
Dowling, P. J.	do	do do	12 7 0
Kirke, S. W.	do	do do	12 7 0
Collis, W.	do	do do	14 9 9
Charlton, P. C.	do	do do	1 10 0
Noble, R.	do	do do	1 7 0
Shaw, M.	do	do do	4 14 0
Stevens, T.	do	do do	10 3 7
Small, O.	do	do do	1 10 0
Morath, C. T.	do	do do	1 10 0
Canty, M.	do	do do	8 2 0
Shelton, E.	do	do do	0 10 6
Taylor, J.	Litho-draftsman	do do	3 10 0
Biscoe, E. J. J.	Clerk	do do	7 10 0
M'Lelland, R.	do	do do	0 12 0
Ranchaud, A. B.	do	do do	5 16 0
Macdonnell, A. F.	do	do do	9 15 6
Callaway, R.	do	do do	18 14 0
Outley, R.	do	do do	3 10 0
Eames, R. L.	Salesman of maps	do do	3 10 0
Stobo, R., jun.	Assistant do	do do	3 10 0
Bernauer, J.	Litho-printer	do do	2 4 0

OCCUPATION OF LANDS BRANCH.

Gerard, F.	Draftsman	Overtime in connection with Crown Lands Act of 1884	82 10 0
M'Minn, A. B.	do	do do	75 10 0
Crummer, H. S. W.	do	do do	55 8 0
Windridge, J. W.	do	do do	52 4 0
King, G. H. S.	do	do do	45 16 0
Gread, M. F.	do	do do	17 5 0
Freeman, T. W.	do	do do	19 2 6
1886.			
Pownall, E. J.	Clerk	Overtime in connection with transfer of business under repealed Acts to Local Land Boards.	23 18 0
Rich, H. P.	do	do do	21 10 0
Cupper, W. H.	do	do do	48 12 0
M'Guanno, J. P.	do	do do	34 1 0
M'Donald, A.	do	do do	1 2 0
O'Dwyer, J. E.	do	do do	1 2 0
Harpur, F. M.	do	do do	22 8 0

Name.	Designation.	Particulars of Services.	Amount.
Penny, C. W.	Clerk	Overtime in connection with transfer of business under repealed Acts to Local Land Board.	£ s. d. 23 12 0
Yorke, J. R.	do	do do	33 18 0
Wilkinson, H.	do	do do	49 10 0
Snell, J. H.	do	do do	34 8 0
Fyson, J.	do	do do	10 2 0
Brown, E.	do	do do	7 10 0
Smyth, W. J.	do	Allowance for extra cost of living, Bourke	16 13 4
Russell, W. O.	do	do Cooma	16 13 4
Johnson, C. B.	do	do do	16 13 4
Makin, H. T.	do	do Glen Innes	16 13 4
Phillips, H.	do	do Moree	16 13 4
Kippax, E.	do	do Wilcannia	16 13 4
Leng, F.	do	do do	16 13 4
Dawson, J. C.	do	do Brewarrine	16 13 4

SURVEY OF LANDS.

Chisholm, D. H.	Draftsman	Examination of candidates for employment as Temporary Draftsmen.	10 10 0
Sherring, J. W.	do	Allowance for extra cost of living in inland towns	16 13 4
Patrick, M.	do	do do	16 13 4
M'Lean, M. A.	do	do do	16 13 4
Bronsdon, E. A.	do	do do	16 13 4
Shelton, R.	do	do do	16 13 4
Biden, E. H.	do	do do	8 6 8
Thallon, F. M.	do	do do	8 6 8
Bacon, F. B.	do	do do	16 13 4
Kelly, C. B.	do	do do	8 6 8
Dowling, P. J.	do	do do	16 13 4
			£ 4,795 18 9

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS.

(TOTAL PAYMENTS TO CERTAIN PERMANENT OFFICERS, FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1885, TO 31ST MAY, 1886, FOR SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 8 June, 1886.

[Laid upon the Table of the House, in accordance with promise made by the Honorable the Secretary for Lands, in answer to Question No. 2 on Votes and Proceedings No. 72, of the 4th June, 1886.]

RETURN showing the total amounts paid to certain Permanent Officers of the Department of Lands, including payments for special services rendered during the period from 1st January, 1884, to the 31st May, 1886.

RETURN showing the total amount paid to certain Permanent Officers of the Department of Lands, including payments for special services rendered during the period from 1st January, 1884, to the 31st May, 1886.

Name	1884.				1885.				January to May, 1886.				Grand total.	
	Salary.	Travelling ex- penses.	Other services.	Total.	Salary.	Travelling ex- penses.	Other services.	Total.	Salary.	Travelling ex- penses.	Other services.	Total.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Oliver, C.	900 0 0	29 10 0	.....	929 10 0	930 0 0	.....	* 565 0 0	1,495 0 0	387 10 0	10 10 0	.....	398 0 0	
Edwards, J. R.	500 0 0	189 0 0	.....	689 0 0	758 8 1	39 0 0	.....	797 8 1	302 1 8	81 0 0	.....	383 1 8	
Houston, W. ^a	450 0 0	.....	^a 16 16 0	466 16 0	625 0 0	.....	ⁱ 157 10 0	782 10 0	260 8 4	34 10 0	.....	294 18 4	
Freeman, S.	500 0 0	232 10 0	.....	732 10 0	625 0 0	168 0 0	.....	793 0 0	260 8 4	208 10 0	.....	468 18 4	
Wilson, F. H.	500 0 0	.....	.....	500 0 0	636 17 8	.....	.....	636 17 8	281 5 0	.....	.....	281 5 0	
Cropper, C.	500 0 0	427 10 0	.....	927 10 0	585 5 11	154 4 6	.....	739 10 5	154 3 4	85 0 0	.....	239 3 4	
Blythe, S.	500 0 0	249 19 6	.....	749 19 6	725 0 0	294 0 0	.....	1,019 0 0	302 1 8	150 0 0	.....	452 1 8	
Conder, W. J. ^a	600 0 0	89 5 0	^b 70 0 0	759 5 0	725 0 0	219 0 0	.....	944 0 0	302 1 8	79 10 0	.....	381 11 8	
Blackman, W.	500 0 0	.....	.....	500 0 0	725 0 0	150 0 0	.....	875 0 0	302 1 8	133 10 0	.....	435 11 8	
Park, A. J. ^s	325 0 0	.....	^c 230 0 0	555 0 0	725 0 0	99 0 0	.....	824 0 0	302 1 8	66 10 0	.....	368 11 8	
Cardow, W. C. ⁱ	400 0 0	.....	.....	400 0 0	725 0 0	106 10 0	.....	831 10 0	302 1 8	27 0 0	.....	329 1 8	
Vernon, J. [*]	^d 427 9 9	427 9 9	725 0 0	205 10 0	^e 65 17 6	996 7 6	302 1 8	67 10 0	^f 4 4 0	373 15 8		
Finch, C. E. ^s	550 0 0	.....	.....	550 0 0	725 0 0	204 0 0	.....	929 0 0	302 1 8	61 10 0	.....	363 11 8	
Harriott, T. W. ^m	600 0 0	.....	.....	600 0 0	725 0 0	100 10 0	.....	825 10 0	302 1 8	.....	.....	302 1 8	
McDonald, J. ^j	400 0 0	.....	.....	400 0 0	725 0 0	201 0 0	.....	826 0 0	302 1 8	115 10 0	.....	417 11 8	
Watt, F. W. ^s	450 0 0	.....	^a 10 10 0	460 10 0	725 0 0	95 5 0	.....	820 5 0	302 1 8	49 10 0	.....	351 11 8	
Trollope, F.	450 0 0	285 15 0	.....	735 15 0	725 0 0	90 5 0	.....	815 5 0	302 1 8	36 0 0	.....	338 1 8	
Cupper, W. H.	350 0 0	.....	.....	350 0 0	420 0 0	.....	^h 15 9 0	435 9 0	175 0 0	.....	^h 48 12 0	223 12 0	
Cohen, V.	350 0 0	.....	.....	350 0 0	470 0 0	.....	^h 44 2 0	514 2 0	195 16 8	25 5 9	.....	221 2 5	
McGuanne, J. P.	200 0 0	.....	.....	200 0 0	295 0 0	.....	^h 11 10 0	306 10 0	133 6 8	.....	^h 34 1 0	167 7 8	
Rich, H. P.	300 0 0	.....	.....	300 0 0	320 0 0	.....	^h 11 7 6	331 7 6	133 6 8	.....	^h 21 10 0	154 16 8	
Gerard, F. ^m	450 0 0	.....	.....	450 0 0	470 0 0	.....	^h 82 10 0	552 10 0	195 16 8	.....	.....	195 16 8	
Total for 1884				£ 12,033 5 3	Total for 1885				£ 17,090 2 2	(5 months of 1886)				£ 7,141 14 5
													£ 36,265 1 10	

* Fees, examination of candidates as Temporary Draftsmen. ^b £20, examination of candidates as Temporary Draftsmen, and £50 allowance for stabling. ^c Equipment allowance. ^d Fees paid during 1884 for surveys performed in 1882, 1883, and 1884. ^e Gratuity for special services during 1883 and 1884, in re preparation of Crown Lands Act and Regulations thereunder, £250; and gratuity for special services during 1885 in re division of runs, and initiation generally of working of Crown Lands Act, £315. ^f Gratuity for special services in the division of runs. ^g Fees for surveys performed in 1883 and 1884. ^h Overtime work in re repealed Acts. ⁱ Fees for surveys performed in 1884. ^j In 1884 these gentlemen were employed in Justice Department. ^k Mr. Edwards applied for, and was appointed on 15 September, 1885, to the position of Chairman, Local Land Board, Forbes, at the salary attached to that office. ^l In 1884 these gentlemen were employed in Mines Department. ^m In 1884 Mr. Vernon was employed in Survey Office, and paid by fees as a Licensed Surveyor. He was also Mining Surveyor under Mines Department.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

INSPECTORS OF CONDITIONAL PURCHASES.

(AMOUNTS OF TRAVELLING EXPENSES FOR 1885 AND TO 31 MAY, 1886.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 29 June, 1886.

RETURN showing the amount of Travelling Expenses paid to Permanent and Temporary Inspectors of Conditional Purchases during the year 1885, and from 1st January to 31st May, 1886.

(1.) The number of Inspectors of Conditional Purchases employed during 1885, their names, and the amount paid to each for travelling expenses.

No.	Name.	Amount.	No.	Name.	Amount.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
1	Franks R. C. ...	270 0 0	11	Wilshire T. H....	301 5 0
2	Page J. C. ...	340 0 0	12	Wisdom J. B. ...	272 10 0
3	Harper Wm. ...	168 15 0	13	Griffin J. H. ...	220 0 0
4	M'Phillamy J. S. ...	287 10 0	14	Spicer W. ...	266 5 0
5	O'Hara J. S. ...	307 8 6	15	Cumming V. ...	391 5 0
6	Carne T. B. ...	260 0 0	16	Brown Wm. ...	358 8 6
7	Mulligan F. B... ..	184 7 0	17	Cropper Chas....	52 10 0
8	Rowlandson J. G. ...	178 15 0			
9	Keele J. ...	376 5 0		Total ...	£4,622 14 0
10	Barnes W. J. ...	387 10 0			

(2.) The number of Temporary Inspectors of Conditional Purchases employed during 1885, their names, and the amount paid to each for travelling expenses.

No.	Name.	Amount.	No.	Name.	Amount.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
1	North S. C. V... ..	272 10 0	15	Stanton W. ...	338 15 0
2	Thompson F. A. ...	342 5 0	16	Welman A. ...	176 5 0
3	Manton W. A... ..	397 19 0	17	Langley G. H. ...	318 15 0
4	Maddison W. ...	244 16 0	18	Sim R., junr. ...	302 10 0
5	Roche M. ...	229 0 0	19	Brown J. B. ...	327 10 0
6	Stewart R. B. ...	190 0 0	20	Lawlor J. J. ...	280 17 0
7	Yeo Wm. ...	251 5 0	21	Cox J. W. G. ...	183 18 0
8	Bonnor G. ...	125 0 0	22	Sands L. ...	257 10 0
9	Silcock G. ...	270 0 0	23	Deer E... ..	32 10 0
10	Deighton R. ...	256 5 0	24	Lehane Wm. ...	76 4 0
11	Harrison G. ...	120 1 0	25	Oliver F. ...	208 0 0
12	Lord F., junr. ...	195 17 0	26	Foster H. J. ...	106 5 0
13	Miller T. ...	216 18 0			
14	West G. W. ...	322 16 0		Total ...	£6,043 11 0

(3.) Amount paid to Inspectors of Conditional Purchases for travelling expenses, January 1st to May 31st, 1886.

No.	Name.	Amount.	No.	Name.	Amount.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
1	Franks R. C. ...	68 15 0	11	Wilshire T. H....	87 10 0
2	Page J. C. ...	128 15 0	12	Wisdom J. B. ...	110 0 0
3	Harper Wm. ...	48 15 0	13	Griffin J. H. ...	77 10 0
4	M'Phillamy J. S. ...	108 15 0	14	Spicer Wm. ...	95 0 0
5	O'Hara J. S. ...	102 11 0	15	Cumming V. ...	22 10 0
6	Carne T. B. ...	103 15 0	16	Brown Wm. ...	33 15 0
7	Mulligan F. B....	98 15 0	17	Cropper Chas. ...	85 0 0
8	Rowlandson J. G. ...	37 10 0			
9	Keele J. ...	137 10 0		Total ...	£1,435 1 0
10	Barnes W. J. ...	88 15 0			

(3.) Amount paid for travelling expenses, 1st January to 31st May, 1886, Temporary Inspectors of Conditional Purchases.

No.	Name.	Amount.	No.	Name.	Amount.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
1	North S. C. V....	133 15 0	13	Welman A. ...	3 15 0
2	Thompson F. A. ...	65 0 0	14	Langley G. H....	115 0 0
3	Manton W. A....	100 17 0	15	Sim R., jun. ...	123 15 0
4	Roche M. ...	94 13 0	16	Brown J. B. ...	150 0 0
5	Stewart R. B. ...	128 15 0	17	Lawlor J. J. ...	28 15 0
6	Yeo Wm. ...	72 10 0	18	Cox J. W. G. ...	60 0 0
7	Deighton R. ...	96 5 0	19	Sands L. ...	120 0 0
8	Harrison G. ...	44 0 0	20	Deer E....	81 5 0
9	Lord F., jun. ...	72 2 0	21	Oliver F. ...	106 5 0
10	Miller T. ...	27 10 0	22	Higgins E. ...	5 0 0
11	West G. W. ...	56 1 0			
12	Stanton W. ...	110 0 0		Total ...	£1,795 3 0

(4.) Amount due to Permanent and Temporary Inspectors of Conditional Purchases for travelling expenses.

Name.	Amount.	Name.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Page J. C. ...	30 0 0	Deighton R. ...	33 15 0
Harper W. ...	16 5 0	Stanton W. ...	35 0 0
M'Phillamy J. S. ...	27 10 0	Langley G. H. ...	31 5 0
O'Hara J. S....	22 10 0	Sim R., jun. ...	30 0 0
Keele J. ...	37 10 0	Brown J. B. ...	38 15 0
Wisdom J. B. ...	25 0 0	Sands L. ...	33 15 0
Griffin J. H....	23 15 0	Oliver F. ...	28 10 0
Brown Wm....	77 10 0	Higgins E. ...	6 5 0
North S. C. V. ...	35 0 0		
Manton W. A. ...	32 6 0	Total ...	£626 18 0
Roche M. ...	33 12 0		
Stewart R. B. ...	28 15 0		

NOTE.—There are other claims outstanding against the Department that have not yet reached the head office.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

DISTRICT SURVEYORS UNDER CROWN LANDS ACT.
(POSITION OF.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 3 August, 1886.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 11th May, 1886, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“A copy of the minute by Mr. Secretary Farnell, and approved by the Cabinet, defining the position of the District Surveyors under the ‘Crown Lands Act of 1884’; and also the subsequent minute by Mr. Secretary Abbott upon the same subject.”

(*Mr. Fitzgerald.*)

No. 1.

Minute by Mr. Secretary Farnell.

I WILL notice the concluding paragraph of the Surveyor-General's memo. first. He expresses his regret that the Minister has permitted a surveyor to return his instructions unacted upon.

In the first place the surveyor referred to was at the date of the Surveyor-General's memo. the Metropolitan District Surveyor appointed under the “Crown Lands Act of 1884”; consequently he was not an officer under the jurisdiction or subject to instructions issued by the Surveyor-General, but he was an officer of the Government, and therefore an officer of the Minister for Lands, for all the purposes of the Land Act of 1884. The instructions referred to were as to keeping a certain diary, which was administrative and not professional. And I learn from an answer to my question that the suggestion for the adoption of this diary originated with some of the district surveyors, of which the Metropolitan District Surveyor was not one.

With regard to the district surveyors it will be seen that section 16 especially provides that they are to be appointed as officers under the Minister for Lands for all the purposes of the “Crown Lands Act of 1884,” and for each district respectively they will be officers under the Department of Lands, and not under the Surveyor-General, and that communications with the Department by these officers must be through the Under Secretary for Lands. The district surveyors will be wholly responsible to the Government, and, consequently, to the Minister for Lands, for the skilful and faithful performance of their professional duties. One of the great objects of the Act is decentralisation. To permit the district surveyors to be subject to instructions by the Surveyor-General would frustrate the object of decentralisation. To allow instructions and communications with the district surveyors to permeate through the Surveyor-General's Office would be the continuance of a system that has heretofore been most unsatisfactory, and has to some extent stopped the progress of the whole Department.

The public loudly protested against the system; even the Parliament itself protested against a continuance of it. As to the position of the Surveyor-General under the Act of 1884 I take it that he is a chief among equals, and that his duties are confined to things professional in a general way, and that his functions will be confined to general matters outside and beyond the things specially contemplated by the Act of 1884; that is to say, that he is the Surveyor-General of the Colony, and should be consulted as such. I have nothing whatever to do with etiquette or the prestige of the officers of this Department. I have a solemn public duty to perform, and no officer in this Department shall stand in my way in perfecting the administration of the Department in the most beneficial way to the public, having at the same time a due regard and respect for the opinions of officers who are worthy of it.

13/2/85.

J. S. FARNELL.

The Cabinet approves of the Minister for Lands course, and of his view of the position of the Surveyor-General.—W.B.D., 13/2/85.

751—

No. 2.

[805 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £1 16s. 9d.]

No. 2.

Minute by Mr. Secretary Abbott.

I AM sorry that it has so soon fallen to my lot to dispose of so important a matter in connection with the administration of this Department as is raised by the question whether the work under the repealed Land Acts shall be carried on and disposed of in the Surveyor-General's Office in Sydney, or by the several district surveyors in the country. Before I do this I shall incidentally decide another matter, and that is one relating to the position of the Surveyor-General, as the head of the professional staff of the Lands Department. I have read the minute submitted by my predecessor, Mr. Farnell, to the Cabinet, on the 3rd December, 1884, and whilst I fully endorse the views of the Cabinet in that minute, as to the relative position of the Under Secretary for Lands and the Surveyor-General, I see no reason why the Under Secretary should not be regarded as the permanent head of the whole department, and at the same time recognise the Surveyor-General as the head of the professional branch of the same Department, whose duty it must be to communicate with the Minister, through the Under Secretary, who is, and must be regarded as the permanent head of the whole Department.

Recognising the fact that the Surveyor-General must be the head of the professional branch of the Department, it would never do to have throughout the Colony many district surveyors, each the independent head of the professional service in his own district. If each was to be the head of the professional service in his own district there would be in the Colony no such thing as uniformity of professional practice, and I think this is so very desirable that I have no hesitation in stating that the Surveyor-General must be Surveyor-General more than in name. He must be the head of all the service, and all submissions from the district surveyors on professional matters must be made through him to the Under Secretary for the Minister, and if the Under Secretary should deem it to be in the public interests that he should do so, he must offer such observations on these submissions as he may under the circumstances think advisable. The Minister can decide for himself whether further reference to the professional head is then requisite. The district surveyors, whether they send their communications through the Surveyor-General or through the Under Secretary, will still be officers under the Minister, and will still be responsible to him to the same extent as if their communications were directed to himself. As much of the district surveyors' duties must be such as are connected only with the administrative matters, they should on these subjects communicate with the Under Secretary, who will, if he deems it necessary, refer to the Surveyor-General. In like manner the Under Secretary should be perfectly free to communicate with them on subjects of a kindred nature. Notwithstanding all I have written I have no hesitation in stating that the great principle of the Land Act of 1884, decentralisation, must be carried out to the fullest extent, and district surveyors must act upon their own judgment, and not too readily or needlessly refer matters to the head office; nor should the Surveyor-General too readily interfere with them in the discharge of their respective, onerous, and important duties. If these gentlemen are fit to be district surveyors they are entitled to the fullest confidence and freedom in the discharge of the duties of their offices. The object of the Land Act of 1884, in one of its main principles, was to have the work connected with the alienation and leasing of the Crown lands disposed of in the district where the land so alienated or leased are situated, and I see no reason why this principle should not be carried out to the fullest extent, nor why the work, which has to be disposed of under the repealed Acts, should not be also disposed of in the same way as the new work; on the contrary, I see many strong reasons why it should be.

The progress of the new work must be retarded whilst the old work is delayed, or whilst there is any uncertainty about it; whereas, if each district surveyor was cognizant of the old work of his district, he could proceed with it simultaneously with the new work.

The complaint for the last twenty-five years of the delays of the Survey Office in connection with the administration of the Crown lands, have been loud and deep, and my experience has not been that these complaints were unfounded. The present system has been tried for many years, and most certainly failed to give satisfaction, and I venture to predict that no system which can be introduced can in the future give less satisfaction to the public than that which has been tried for so long and with such bad results. In New Zealand the Colony is divided into eleven land districts, each being under the local direction of a Commissioner and Land Board. The Commissioner's office is known as the principal land office, and in each district there is a principal land office, and it is with these land offices the selector has to transact all business, from the first consultation of the maps, the subsequent selection and purchase of the land, to the final receipt of the Crown grant. What is done in New Zealand can, and must be done in this Colony, in reference to decentralisation, and it is the bounden duty of all officers of the Government service to render their free and full efforts to carry out the policy of the Legislature.

J. P. ABBOTT.

2nd December, 1885.

Minute by Mr. Secretary Copeland.

I HAVE read this correspondence, and desire to say that I concur in Mr. Abbott's minute.

H.C., 17/6/86.

[3d.]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REMOVAL OF LAND OFFICE FROM ARMIDALE TO GLEN INNES.
(CORRESPONDENCE.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 28 January, 1886.

RETURN (in part) to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 24th September, 1885,—That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

- “(1.) Copies of all letters, papers, minutes, and other documents having
“reference to the removal of the Lands and Survey Offices from Armidale
“to Glen Innes.
- “(2.) A Return showing—
 - “(a) The cost of repairs to and rent of Lands Offices at Glen Innes,
“and from whom rented.
 - “(b) The total revenue received from sale or lease of Crown Lands at
“Armidale, Glen Innes, Tenterfield, Inverell, and Walcha respectively.
 - “(c) The number of selections made at each of the above offices since
“the passing of the Land Act, to 1st September.
 - “(d) The number of cases dealt with by Local Boards in each district,
“to 1st September.
 - “(e) The number of applications for conditional leases and for con-
“version of pre-leases, to 1st September, in each district.
 - “(f) The estimated area of Crown Lands within each of the above
“districts.
 - “(g) A plan of the Land Districts of Armidale, Glen Innes, Inverell,
“Walcha, and Tenterfield.”

(*Mr. Proctor.*)

[805 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £23 0s. 5d.]

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REMOVAL OF LAND OFFICE FROM ARMIDALE TO GLEN INNES.

No. 1.

Memorandum by Surveyor-General.

Mr. Houston, Surveyor-General's Office, Sydney, 4 November, 1884.
Mr. Chard states that the only building large enough for Land and Survey Offices at Armidale is the new Telegraph Office, and suggests that it should be borrowed till a new building can be erected.—P.F.A. I have telegraphed for the space in the building now occupied, &c.—P.F.A.

No. 2.

Telegram from Surveyor-General to District Surveyor Chard.

Sydney, 4 November, 1884.

KINDLY send sketch showing space available in line whole building now occupied by District Survey Office, and ascertain if owner is willing to add to it, and on what terms.

No. 3.

District Surveyor Chard to The Surveyor-General.

Sir, Armidale, 4 November, 1884.

In reply to the enclosed telegram I have sent the sketch requested.

The present office occupied by me consists only of the first floor, rented at £50 per annum, four rooms.

The whole building may be rented for £125 per annum, the owner having offered it to me the past few days at that price, and I am to let him know in December.

On the ground floor there are four rooms, each 15 ft. x 14 ft.; on the first floor are four rooms, each 15 ft. x 14 ft., two small attic rooms above, suitable for storing material, two kitchen rooms, about 15 x 14 each.

There are thus ten rooms, besides attics, which I estimate will accommodate twenty draftsmen or other officers, and leaving besides one room for myself and one as a waiting-room for the public.

The place is mortgaged by the owner. I think it is almost unnecessary to ask if they are willing to add to it, as I should be at once met with the query—How long will you take it for?

I shall be in Sydney in about a fortnight, and submit the matter wait till then. I think, however, it would be well to secure it not later than the end of November.

I have, &c.,
J. S. CHARD,
D.S.

Minutes on No. 3.

Mr. Houston,—I do not think the premises now occupied will provide sufficient accommodation. Mr. Chard suggested that the new Telegraph Office should be borrowed till a new building could be erected. Has this been considered?—P.F.A., 6 November.

The premises described by Mr. Chard will quarter the survey staff, assuming them to be satisfactory as to light, &c. Mr. Chard should perhaps be telegraphed to, to ascertain whether suitable additions can be made for the accommodation of the Land Board staff, which would be three rooms of 600, 225, and 400 square feet (superficial space) respectively. He might also be informed that the premises would in all probability be taken for a term of five years.—W. Houston, 6 November, 1884. The Surveyor-General.

No. 4.

Telegram from Surveyor-General to District Surveyor Chard.

Sydney, 6 November, 1884.

PLEASE ascertain whether suitable additions can be made for the accommodation of the local Land Board staff, which would be three rooms of 600, 225, and 400 square feet (superficial space) respectively. The premises would in all probability be taken for five years.

No. 5.

Telegram from District Surveyor Chard to Surveyor-General.

Armidale, 7 November, 1884.

I EXPECT to obtain suitable accommodation for local Land Board; ample space and convenient situation. Intend explaining the matter to you verbally in Sydney next Wednesday.

No. 6.

No. 6.

Telegram from Mr. B. A. Moses to Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 7 November, 1884.

REPORTED local papers Land Office to be removed to Glen Innes; inhabitants indignant; shall I contradict?

Minute on No. 6.

Reply, it is not contemplated to remove the office to Glen Innes.—J.S.F., 8/11/84.

No. 7.

Telegram from Under-Secretary for Lands to Mr. B. A. Moses.

Sydney, 8 November, 1884.

It is not contemplated to remove the Land Office to Glen Innes.

No. 8.

Memorandum by Surveyor-General.

Mr. Houston,

Surveyor-General's Office, Sydney, 12 November, 1884.

Mr. Chard advises that an offer be made to rent the new Town Hall at Armidale, for Lands and Survey Offices; that allotment 8 of section 7 be resumed and a suitable building erected.

He thinks that £400 would be about the rent of the Town Hall whilst the new building is in erection.

Failing this, the loan of the new Telegraph Office, but it will not be ready for three or four months.

The third course, to borrow and repair (£150) the old Public School, during the erection of Lands building. The school is not large enough, however, to house the whole and provide a Court-room apparently.—P.F.A.

Mr. Chard made a plan of the vacant land behind the Telegraph Office; this should be examined with view to erection of a two-story building.—P.F.A.

No. 9.

Memorandum by District Surveyor Chard.

Sydney, 13 November, 1884.

CONCERNING obtaining offices at Armidale for local Land Board, District Surveyor, and Land Agent, I submit the following:—

1. It would undoubtedly be desirable to have these three offices combined in one building.
2. I understand it is intended to erect suitable buildings within two years.
3. The only building suitable for the three offices is the new Town Hall. Its length is about 70 feet, breadth about 40. In addition, a large stage 30×30 fully; three or four small rooms, about 20×20 , and a small gallery. The light is excellent, the building healthy and new, situation central. I have not made any inquiries as to whether it is obtainable, because the matter would have to go before the Municipal Council. If it will suit the Government—and I think it will be the best arrangement they can make—I would recommend wiring to the Mayor of Armidale offering £400 per annum for two years. It will take some time for them to consider and reply. (Present rent of D. S. Office and C. L. Office, about £100 per annum, will be abolished.)
4. The next suggestion is to obtain permission from the Minister for Education for the use of the old Public School; this contains about 3,200 superficial area, besides kitchen, &c., which could be used for packing up plans, &c. The divisions of the building are shown on sketch; the question arises whether it will contain the three offices. As I know nothing of the arrangements concerning Board I can hardly say, the area being a trifle under my estimate. The building has rather a desolate appearance, and will require the expenditure of about £150 to £175 to renovate and make necessary alterations and windows. It is not what may be called a very healthy building, being somewhat old and fusty and not particularly well drained, but there is nothing absolutely injurious. The situation is about 30 chains from business centre.

The above are the only buildings available that have any approach to containing the three offices in one, unless the Telegraph Department will grant us the use of their new office for twelve months; this building, however, will not be available for perhaps four months.

If the offices remain separate. The Crown Land Agent has already his office centrally situate, though it is small. A Board-room, about 30×20 , could be obtained two doors off, together with some small rooms attached. (Estimated cost, £80 to £130 per annum).

The District Surveyor's Office would then have to remain where it is. It is a suitable building, but $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the Land Office and business centre of town. Four rooms are at present occupied, at a rent of £50 per annum. There are six other rooms available of similar size, and the whole is under offer to me at £125 per annum. There are ten rooms 15×14 ; 2,100 superficial feet, good light. Only objection is the separation from the other offices, which must be central. I do not think this objection is very important as a temporary arrangement. A good office ought to be built as early as possible.

J. S. CHARD,
District Surveyor, Armidale.

Minutes on No. 9.

It is suggested, before further action is taken, that the Mayor of Armidale be invited to submit for the consideration of the Government, as to suitability for offices for the accommodation of the Local Land Board and staff, an offer of the new Town Hall or any part of it that may be available. The Government would desire to be informed if any part of the building is occupied, and if so for what purpose; also, whether partitions could be erected where considered necessary. A sketch plan should be supplied of each floor, showing the dimensions of rooms, &c., situation of doors and windows, &c., together with the usual information respecting the term of lease and rental. It may also be added that an immediate reply is required.—W.H., 14/11/84. Yes.—C.O., 14/11/84. It is suggested that a telegram be sent to Mr. Moore asking him to advise by wire when an answer may be expected to the letter of the 15th instant, as the arrangements must be concluded without delay.—W.H., 20/11/84. The Under-Secretary for Lands. Yes.—C.O., 20/11/84.

No. 10.

The Under Secretary for Lands to J. Moore, Esq., Mayor of Armidale.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 15 November, 1884.

It having been suggested, by Mr. District Surveyor J. S. Chard, that the new Town Hall at Armidale is the most suitable building that can be obtained there for the purposes of the working and administration of the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, I have the honor, by direction of Mr. Secretary Farnell, to invite you to submit, for the consideration of the Government, an offer of the premises mentioned, or any part thereof that may be available for, the accommodation of the local Land Board staff.

2. The Government would desire to be informed if any part of the building is occupied, and if so, for what purpose, also whether partitions could be erected where considered necessary.

3. A sketch plan should be supplied of each floor, showing the dimensions of the rooms, &c., situation of doors and windows, with the usual information respecting the term of lease and rental.

4. I am to add that, in view of the urgency of the matter, the Secretary for Lands is desirous of being supplied with the foregoing particulars as soon as possible.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 11.

The Council Clerk, Armidale, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Council Chambers, Armidale, 18 November, 1884.

In reply to your letter of the 15th instant to the Mayor, *re* the acquiring the new Town Hall, or any portion thereof available for the accommodation of the local Land Board and staff, I have the honor to inform you that it would be impossible to let the new Town Hall for purposes named; but the old Town Hall adjoining and other buildings would be available; and as they are very spacious, and partitions could easily be erected, it is thought that they would afford ample accommodation. Should they suit your purposes, the matter of rent could easily be adjusted, as the Council would be prepared to make every concession possible to meet your requirements.

I enclose you a plan of the old Town Hall and rooms off same, all of which you could have except the Library and Reading-room as shown on plan. The sizes are given, so that you see there is a large floor space, and temporary partitions could easily be erected. Awaiting reply,—

I am, &c.,

CHARLES WILSON,

Council Clerk.

Minute on No. 11.

Mr. District Surveyor Chard requested verbally to give report on old Town Hall, offered herein.—W.H., 22/11/84.

No. 12.

Telegram from Mr. E. Grover to W. J. Fergusson, Esq., M.P.

(Presented by Mr. W. J. Fergusson, M.P.)

Fitz Evan Chambers, Sydney, 18 November, 1884.

First resolution—"That in the opinion of this meeting, Glen Innes being the most centrally and conveniently settled town in New England, it is desirable to petition the Minister for Lands that the head centre of the Land Board under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, for the land duties of New England, be established at Glen Innes." Second resolution—"That the resolution as read be adopted and forwarded to the Member for the district, for presentation to the Minister for Lands."

No. 13.

Telegram from Mr. E. Grover to W. J. Fergusson, Esq., M.P.

(Presented by Mr. W. J. Fergusson, M.P.)

Fitz Evan Chambers, Sydney, 18 November, 1884.

THAT, in view of the Crown Lands Act of 1884 coming into operation on the 1st day of January next, and of the establishment of local Land Boards thereunder, your Petitioners respectively request that Glen Innes be appointed as one of the centres of such Board.

That

That Glen Innes is situated in the centre of New England Land District, between the Queensland Border and the southern boundary, and is also centrally situated in respect of its eastern and western boundaries.

That it would be a saving of time and expense to those having occasion to attend such Court, if Glen Innes is made the head centre of the Land Board of this District.

That for many miles surrounding Glen Innes is thickly populated with selectors.

That your petitioners are informed and believe that Tamworth will be made the centre of that Land District. Armidale is only 75 miles distant from there, and is accessible by train in a few hours.

That the distance from Armidale to the northern boundary of the New England Land District is about 140 miles, whereas from Glen Innes to the north boundary is only 76 miles, and the distance of Armidale to the south boundary is only 50 miles, and from Glen Innes to the south boundary is 114 miles, which proves that Glen Innes is the most centrally situated town of the New England Land District.

That, in view of the construction of railway lines from Grafton to Glen Innes, and thence west to Inverell, the town of Glen Innes will thus be made the point of convergence, north, south, east, and west, of railway communication, and will thus greatly facilitate the despatch of business, both with the public and the Lands Department.

EDWARD GROVER,
Chairman.

No. 14.

Telegram from J. Moore, Esq., to R. L. Murray, Esq., M.P.

(Presented by Mr. Murray, M.P.)

Inverell, 19 November, 1884.

THE people here think Glen Innes more central than Armidale for Land Court. Meeting to be held here Friday about it.

No. 15.

Telegram from Mr. E. Grover to W. J. Fergusson, Esq., M.P.

Glen Innes, 19 November, 1884.

SUITABLE premises for temporary Land Offices can be obtained in brick buildings opposite Tattersall's Hotel.

No. 15½.

Telegram from Under Secretary for Lands to J. Moore, Esq.

Sydney, 20 November, 1884.

PLEASE intimate by wire when an answer to my letter of 15th instant may be expected; arrangements must be concluded without delay.

No. 16.

Telegram from J. Moore, Esq., to Under Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 21 November, 1884.

COUNCIL Clerk replied to your letter of 15th on the 18th instant, enclosing plan of building.

No. 17.

Memorandum by District-Surveyor Chard.

Memo. concerning old Town Hall, Armidale. (See sketch.)

THE Hall is centrally situated.

It is not well lighted, but otherwise good.

Extra room *a* is a good and well-lighted room.

b }
c } Useless, except for stores.
d }

My office must now remain where it is for the present, as there is no other suitable building. It will answer for all my requirements.

For Board Room there is the choice of old Public School, old Town Hall, and room near Land Agent's.

At the old Public School there is ample room for their requirements, but it is separated 20 chains from my office and 40 from Land Office, and 30 from centre of town.

Town Hall is centrally situated for business centre, but is separated 10 chains from Land Agent, and 50 from my office, and the extra rooms are not sufficient.

Room near Land Agent's is only two doors from Land Agent, and 60 chains from my office. The extra rooms upstairs will be pretty warm to work in.

The old Public School, or west part of it, would perhaps be the best choice for the Board-rooms as a temporary arrangement till new offices are built. The site is not far from my office.

24 November, 1884.

J. S. CHARD,
D.S.

Minutes on No. 17.

It appears to be impossible to obtain suitable accommodation at Armidale; and as the probability of doing so very materially affected the recommendation of Armidale as a centre, I now beg to suggest that it would be desirable to endeavour to obtain premises at Glen Innes, as there can be no doubt as to the eligibility of the latter as a centre.—C.O., 24/11/84. Appd.—J.S.F., 25/11/84.

No. 18.

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No. 18.

Memorandum by Mr. Houston.

MEMO.—Accommodation is required at Armidale for thirteen hands, District Surveyor, and Chief Draftsman (for Survey Office),

Equal to about	...	...	1,700 square feet
Store-room do	...	...	200 „
			<hr/> 1,900 square feet.

For the local Land Board the following space is required :—

Court-room	...	...	600 square feet
Local Land Board Office	...	...	225 „
For clerical staff	...	...	400 „

1,225 square feet, or about 3,100 square feet in all.

The Under Secretary for Lands.

W.H., 25 Nov. /84.

No. 19.

Telegram from Under Secretary for Lands to Crown Lands Agent, Glen Innes.

25 November/84.

PLEASE report by wire whether office accommodation can be obtained at Glen Innes, in the event of it being determined to establish a Land and Survey Office there. Space required, about 3,100 square feet. State rent, and situation as regards Banks, &c.

No. 20.

Telegram from Council Clerk, Armidale, to Under Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 25 November/84.

MUNICIPAL Council meets to-night. If you require hall, of which plans were sent you, please wire reply, as rent and particulars can be arranged at Council meeting to-night.

Minute on No. 20.

The space is not sufficient, and portion of it is quite unsuitable.—C.O., 25 Nov./84.

No. 21.

Telegram from Under Secretary for Lands to Council Clerk, Armidale.

25 November/84.

THE space is not sufficient, and portion of it is quite unsuitable.

No. 22.

Telegram from J. Moore, Esq., to District Surveyor Chard.

Armidale, 26 November/84.

COUNCIL have unanimously decided last night to let Government have the new Town Hall for Lands Office. Mr. Farnell wired to.

No. 23.

Telegram from Council Clerk, Armidale, to Under Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 26 November/84.

MUNICIPAL Council decided last night to let you have new Town Hall, which is one of largest and best buildings out of Sydney, for temporary Land Office. When would you want possession of it?

Minute on No. 23.

In view of this telegram, it is suggested that the attention of the Mayor of Armidale be directed to the letter of the 15th instant, and an immediate answer requested upon all the points mentioned therein, by wire. Urgent.—W.H., 26 Nov./84.

No. 23½.

Telegram from Under Secretary for Lands to The Council Clerk, Armidale.

26 November/84.

YOUR attention is directed to my letter of the 15th instant, and an immediate answer requested upon all the points mentioned therein.

No. 24.

Telegram from Mr. E. Grover, to W. J. Fergusson, Esq., M.P.

(Presented by Mr. Fergusson, M.P.)

Fitz Evan Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 26 November, 1884.

BRICK building opposite Tattersall's Hotel obtainable. Contains four rooms, each 20 by 15, and kitchen. Rent, I think, thirty shillings per week. Can obtain possession twenty-fourth December. Will this do for Land and Survey Office? If this will not do, send word what would be required.

No. 25.

No. 25.

Telegram from Council Clerk, Armidale, to W. C. Proctor, Esq., M.P.

(Presented by Mr. Proctor, M.P.)

Chambers, Pitt-street, 26 November, 1884.

I SEND you following resolutions, unanimously carried at full Council Meeting last night, for presentation by you to Minister for Lands. Do all you can at once in the matter. Council last night offered Minister for Lands new Town Hall for temporary Land Offices, which is only suitable building in Armidale. Act promptly, as great influence is being brought to bear to have it removed to Glen Innes.

Resolutions:—That we view with surprise the undue efforts made by Glen Innes people to have Land Office removed from Armidale to Glen Innes, and we think the following facts clearly show that Armidale is undoubtedly entitled to the Land Office:—

1. Armidale is nearer the geographical centre of Land District than Glen Innes.
2. Walcha alone, which is 40 miles south of Armidale, has more selections than either Glen Innes, Inverell, or Tenterfield, and Armidale and Walcha together have more than double the number of selections contained in all the rest of the land districts put together, clearly showing that a gross injustice would be done to a large majority of the selectors by removing the Land Office from Armidale.
3. Parliament has already voted a large sum of money for new Land Offices in Armidale on a suitable site selected for the purpose.
4. Suitable temporary offices can be obtained in Armidale for the large staff required to carry out the new Land Act, and there are plenty of private houses for the accommodation of the families connected with the staff.
5. We venture to assert that there is neither suitable offices nor private house accommodation to be obtained in Glen Innes.

For foregoing reasons alone, without many others which could be brought forward, we think no Government would do Armidale the gross and palpable injustice of taking the Land Office to Glen Innes.

Above resolutions to be forwarded by wire to Mr. Proctor, for presentation to Minister for Lands.

No. 26.

Telegram from Crown Lands Agent, Glen Innes, to Under Secretary for Lands.

26 November, 1884.

In reply to your telegram, have made all inquiries. Accommodation difficult to procure, but have succeeded in obtaining for your consideration the following buildings, which will make up the required floor space:—Barry Music Hall, situated in Grey-street, opposite Post and Telegraph Office and Court-house. Dimensions: 27 feet by 74 feet inside, two back rooms about 10 by 8; floor-space about 2,158 feet; rent £200 per annum. This rent may seem high, but it is the only place suitable and procurable, and the position is central and convenient. To make up requisite area a four-roomed, two-story building, also in Grey-street, opposite Tattersall's Hotel, each room 17 by 15, also detached kitchen 14 by 10; floor space about 1,160 feet; total, 3,318 feet; rent, £75 per annum. Both buildings are built of brick, and are in good repair. Barry's building is situated about 50 yards and the latter about 200 yards from the Bank of New South Wales.

No. 27.

Mr. J. Barry to W. J. Fergusson, Esq., M.P.

(Presented by Mr. Fergusson, M.P.)

Dear Sir,

Sydney, 26 November, 1884.

I have much pleasure in furnishing you with particulars of the property known as the Music Hall, Glen Innes, which are as follows, viz.:—Dimensions, 75 ft. long; 30 ft. wide, clear inside walls, and 15 ft. high, i.e. from floor to ceiling; 14-in. brickwork throughout; rental, £200 per annum.

I have, &c.,

JAMES BARRY.

No. 28.

The Council Clerk, Armidale, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Council Chambers, Armidale, 26 November, 1884.

I have the honor to send you, under separate cover, the plans of our new Town Hall, by which you will see the exact size of all the rooms. All the buildings shown on these plans you can have. You will observe that there are several large rooms underneath main floor, and also that there is a kind of gallery across one end of hall, with three large rooms upstairs. Partitions, if required, could easily be erected.

The Council will rent it to you for one or two years, or any term required by you.

If the premises suit, a special meeting of the Council will be convened to decide on rent, which will be reasonable, as the Council desires to assist you in every way possible to get suited.

I have, &c.,

CHAS. WILSON,
Council Clerk.

P.S.—Several theatrical companies from Sydney and elsewhere have applied to rent the Hall during next three months, and as soon as we definitely know your decision of course we will decline all such applications, and would therefore like to know as soon as possible.

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No. 29.

The Crown Lands Agent, Glen Innes, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

27 November /84.
CAN obtain Temperance Hall, floor space 1,276 ft. ; situated in East-street, about 13 chains from Bank of New South Wales ; rent, £52 per annum. Would require repairs to the amount of about £20.

No. 30.

Telegram from J. Moore, Esq., to Under Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 27 November /84.
ORIGINAL plans and other information posted this morning—got them to-morrow.

No. 31.

Telegram from Council Clerk, Armidale, to Under Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 27 November, 1884.
AUTHORIZED by Council to state rent new Town Hall for any period you may want it £300 a year ; all other particulars with plans posted you this morning will reach you to-morrow morning.

No. 32.

Telegram from Messrs. Craigie & Hipgrave to Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 27 November /84.
It has been stated here we advocate removal Land Board to Glen Innes. We desire to state emphatically that in our opinion a great injustice would be done New England if Board were centered in other town than Armidale.

No. 33.

Telegram from Mr. B. A. Moscs to Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 28 November /84.
MONSTER public indignation meeting called by Mayor for Monday. Whole district agitated on the matter *re* reported removal of Land Court to Glen Innes. I gave publicity to Under Secretary's wire of the 8th instant, then contradicting rumour. Wire if I may now contradict rumour of removal.

Minute on No. 33.

Nothing finally decided.—J.S.F., 1/12/84.

No. 34.

Telegram from Crown Lands Agent, Glen Innes, to Under Secretary for Lands.

Glen Innes, 29 November /84.
DR. Segol has placed his two-story building—eight rooms, floor space about 2,000 feet—under offer. The building is made of weatherboard, lined throughout with cedar, is situated almost across the street from Barry's Music Hall, and is nearly adjacent to Court-house and Post and Telegraphic Offices, also near Bank of New South Wales. Rent, two pounds per week.

No. 35.

Telegram from Mr. E. Grover to Secretary for Lands.

Glen Innes, 29 November /84.
AGITATION in Armidale *re* Land centre simply the outcome of jealousy. We are satisfied that you are aware that the Mayor's telegraphic statements are utterly incorrect. As statistics prove, you are aware that Glen Innes is the most central place, and that its lands, with those of Inverell, are unequalled. We are quite content to leave the matter in your hands.

No. 36.

Telegram from Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. B. A. Moscs.

NOTHING finally decided.

1 December, 1884.

No. 37.

Telegram from Messrs. Gawthorp, Crossman, and Garvin, to Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 1 December, 1884.
CAN offer for sale Tattersall's Hotel, Armidale, containing twenty-two rooms in main building, sixteen rooms in out-offices, stables, buggy-houses, &c. Building three-story, occupies 60 feet frontage to Beards-street, suitable for Land Office. Price £6,000.

No. 38.

Telegram from Mr. A. W. Simpson to Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 2 December, 1884.

THE petition of the inhabitants of Armidale and surrounding district humbly sheweth: First—That Armidale is the centre of settlement in New England, as shown by statistics under; that five hundred and forty-nine different selections were made at Armidale during the past twelve months, whilst at Glen Innes and Inverell together there were only two hundred and sixty-one in same period; that 2,232 selections in the Armidale district are not yet dealt with by the Commissioner, and must come before the Board; that selection has increased greatly in Armidale District during past twelve months, and must continue to increase; that the interest on selections payable at Armidale Office is about twenty thousand pounds annually; that revenue received at Armidale Office far exceeds the amount received at Glen Innes and Tenterfield put together.

Second—That Armidale is established centre of New England District, and great private injury and injustice would be done to many Government Officers established here by a removal of centre to Glen Innes.

Third—That a site has been resumed for Land Office here, and money voted for its erection; that the head-quarters of District Surveyor, Commissioner of Inquiry Courts, and Inspector of Conditional Purchases are established here; that better accommodation is offered in Armidale for Survey Staff, both as to offices and residences, than could be obtained elsewhere.

Fourth—That the Land District has been altered in its configuration so as to make Armidale almost exactly the geographical centre of the district.

Fifth—That for the foregoing, and many other reasons which might be advanced, your petitioners respectfully submit that the Central Lands and Survey Offices be established at Armidale.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

No. 39.

Telegram from Mr. A. W. Simpson to Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 2 Dec., /84.

FIRST,—That this meeting having heard with great surprise the rumours of the contemplated removal of the Central Land Department from Armidale to Glen Innes, the claims of the former city being paramount, and the accommodation offered for the greatly increased Survey Department, under Act of eighteen hundred and eighty-four, being superior to any obtainable in any other town.

Second resolution,—That the City of Armidale has been recognized by all preceding Governments as the chief centre of New England. That the great land business transacted at and the large revenue derived from Armidale, compared with any other town in New England, as shown by statistics, clearly proves that Armidale has only received justice, and that a gross injustice would be done by establishing the Central Land Department elsewhere.

Third,—That the foregoing resolutions be forwarded by telegram to the Mayor of Armidale, now in Sydney, for presentation to the Hon. J. S. Farnell, Minister for Lands, and Member for the District.

No. 40.

Telegram from Mr. G. R. Gill to Secretary for Lands.

Walcha, 2 December, /84.

At a large and influential meeting held here last night the following resolutions were carried:—

1st,—This Meeting learns with astonishment the proposal of the Government to establish the Central Land Court under the new Land Act at Glen Innes instead of Armidale—the latter being the most central position.

2nd,—This Meeting respectfully begs to point out that such a step would be a great injustice to this important portion of the district.

3rd,—This Meeting desires to draw the attention of the Honorable the Minister for Lands to the fact that the Land Office has only been established at Walcha for a little over seven years, and during that period over one hundred and sixty-one thousand acres have been conditionally purchased, while the revenue during that period from this portion of the district amounts to over one hundred and thirty thousand pounds.

No. 41.

Minute by Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney.

THE Cabinet approve that the head-quarters of the local Land Board and Survey Office shall be at Glen Innes.

W.B.D.

3/12/84.

No. 42.

Mr. J. McMaster to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Glendon, Glen Innes, 4 December, 1884.

Seeing that the Government have decided to establish the Land Board under the new Lands Act at Glen Innes, I have the honor to inform you that I have a building in Fergusson-street, close to the buildings now occupied by the Crown Lands Agent.

The building is at present occupied by the Manager of the A. J. S. Bank, and his lease expires at the end of the year.

I have the honor to submit these premises to the Government as a site for the new Lands Office, and would refer you for fuller particulars to Mr. Boileau, the Crown Lands Agent at Glen Innes.

I have, &c.,

J. McMASTER.

No. 43.

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No. 43.

J. Moore, Esq., to The Executive Council.

Gentlemen,

Armidale, 4 December, 1884.

We, the undersigned, learn with much surprise the decision arrived at to make Glen Innes the central town of New England, in connection with the local Board and Survey Department under Act of 1884.

We trust that such decision is not irrevocable, and would most respectfully ask that any trusted and impartial officer be sent to the towns of Glen Innes and Armidale, to examine and report upon the accommodation afforded in each place, not only for the Survey Staff and Local Board for the transaction of business, but also as to the possibilities of each town with respect to houses suitable for quarters.

As Armidale has always been the capital of New England, and, in spite of misleading statements to the contrary, can be shown to be nearer to the centre of this large district than any other town, we respectfully submit our request is not unreasonable, and will rest perfectly satisfied with the result of such inquiry and report.

We have, &c.,

JOHN MOORE, J.P., Mayor.

John Tuim, Alderman.

John Bliss, Alderman.

G. Holmes, do

C. Thompson, do

Wm. Butler, do

Wm. Seabrook, do

John Harper, do

C. W. Tompson, do.

And three hundred and eighty (380) other signatures.

No. 44.

Glen Innes, 4 December, 1884.

Telegram from Mr. E. Grover to Under Secretary for Lands.

Will have pleasure in contracting to make alterations required to buildings for Lands and Survey Offices here before first of January next, if ordered at once.

No. 45.

Telegram from J. Moore, Esq., to Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 9 December, 1884.

Mr. Freeman passed through to-day on return to Sydney. Kindly telegraph him at Murrurundi or Newcastle to return to Armidale and carry out prayer of petition by reporting on accommodation here.

No. 46.

Mr. Chief-Inspector Freeman to The Under-Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 10 December, 1884.

I do myself the honor to report that, in accordance with your directions, I proceeded to Glen Innes for the purpose of examining premises available for Land Board Offices.

The best accommodation obtainable, Mr. Barry's Music Hall (a brick building opposite the Court-House and Post and Telegraph Office), if subdivided and added to as per design and specification herewith, and used in conjunction with Dr. Segol's wooden building (locally known as the Temperance Hotel), will be sufficient for the purpose. Necessary alterations and additions to the Music Hall can be effected at a cost of £317 10s.; and the Temperance Hotel can be cleaned, repaired, and added to for £110, as per tender of Mr. Edward Grover, a responsible gentleman, at present Mayor of the town. Mr. Barry's hall can be rented for £200 per annum, and Dr. Segol's premises for £100.

The Government having decided to establish offices at Glen Innes, I beg respectfully to recommend that the premises specified be leased; also that Mr. Grover's offer to effect necessary repairs, alterations, and additions for a total sum of £427 10s. be accepted.

Having in view the speed with which the work is to be carried out, and the cost of building at Glen Innes, the amount of Mr. Grover's tender is not excessive.

It is reported that the Government contemplate erecting a new Court-house on a site lately resumed. If this be done the present building should be secured for the Lands Department, as with about two or three additional rooms (space for which is available within the land enclosed for Court purposes), the place will be well adapted for Land Board and Survey Offices.

I would therefore suggest that the temporary offices be leased for a term of three years, with right of extension for a further period of (say) two years, in case the new Court-house be not available at the end of the first term as anticipated.

I have, &c.,

STEPHEN FREEMAN,

Inspector of Land Offices.

Minutes on No. 46.

Submitted for decision.—C.O., 10/12/84. Approved.—J.S.F., 11/12/84. Telegrams accordingly to Dr. Segol, Mr. James Barry, and Mr. E. Grover; copies herewith.—12.50 p.m., 11 Dec., 1884. Copy of sketch of Music Hall (as designed for subdivision) forwarded to Mr. Grover, 13/12/84, by semi-official note.—S.F.

No. 47.

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No. 47.

Telegram from Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. E. Grover.

11 December, 1884.

YOUR tender for alterations, additions, and repairs to Barry's Music Hall and the Temperance Hotel, as per specification, letter and telegram, for sum of four hundred and twenty-seven pounds ten shillings (£427 10s.) accepted. Mr. Barry's premises are to be taken from the thirteenth instant, and Dr. Segol's from twentieth instant. Dr. Segol has been requested to allow you access to the building within a few days.

No. 48.

Telegram from Under Secretary for Lands to Dr. Segol.

11 December, 1884.

YOUR offer of premises at Glen Innes known as Temperance Hotel accepted; terms—a three years' lease from twentieth instant, with right of renewal for further period of two years if desired by Government; rent at rate of one hundred pounds (£100) per annum.

No. 49.

Telegram from Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. J. Barry.

11 December, 1884.

YOUR offer of premises at Glen Innes known as Barry's Music Hall, with sufficient yard room for necessary out-offices, accepted; terms—a three years' lease from thirteenth instant, with right of renewal for further period of two years if desired by Government; power reserved to lessee to effect any alteration deemed necessary; rent at rate of two hundred pounds (£200) per annum.

No. 50.

Statement of the Deputation from Armidale.

It having been frequently stated by Ministers of the Crown that deputations leave no record of their utterances to which the Minister can refer, we, the undersigned members of the Deputation from Armidale, present the following summary of the grounds upon which we protest, in the name of the inhabitants of Southern New England, against the contemplated establishment of the central Land and Survey Offices at Glen Innes.

We respectfully submit that, inasmuch as Armidale is more centrally situated than Glen Innes, is double the size of that town, contains nearly twice as many inhabitants, and has hitherto been the recognized centre, we may fairly ask what advantages Glen Innes has over Armidale to entitle it to be made the centre for the administration of the new Land Act.

We unhesitatingly assert that better office accommodation is offered at Armidale than at Glen Innes, and we present a petition to the Minister from the people of Armidale asking that an unbiased officer, in whom the Government can place confidence, be sent to examine and report upon the accommodation available in the two towns. We are confident that such a report would uphold our assertion; and we venture to remind the Minister that, although an officer was sent to report upon the accommodation at Glen Innes, that officer did not make a similar report at Armidale.

There are many officers connected with the Lands and Survey Departments who have bought property, built houses, and established homes for themselves at Armidale. Unless it be shown that the Land Act can be better administered from Glen Innes as a centre than from Armidale, we think these officers are hardly treated in being compelled to break up their homes and sell their properties; nor is it fair that Armidale should be to any extent depopulated, unless in the public interests.

In several districts, we have observed, the Government have thought it best to establish the central offices in large towns which are not centrally situated, in preference to small towns having that advantage—Tamworth being chosen in place of Gunnedah being a case in point. Armidale can claim the central offices on both counts; it is more centrally situated and far larger than Glen Innes.

Several misstatements have been made with regard to Southern New England, and Armidale in particular, which we desire to correct. It has been said that Armidale is on the extreme southern boundary of New England. The map attached to this document is issued from the Surveyor-General's Office, and the district over which the Land Board for New England will preside is coloured pink. It will be seen by reference to this map that Armidale is almost precisely in the centre of the district. In further refutation of this statement, we may mention that Tumally, Glen Rock, Tibue, Nowendoc, Hanging Rock, and many other places where there is considerable amount of selection, are situated at distances varying between 120 and 60 miles to the south of Walcha. The estimated population in the Armidale and Walcha Land Districts at the commencement of this year was 14,880, not under 10,000 as has been stated.

It may also be advisable to state that there are in the Armidale and Walcha Districts 5,446 selections, embracing an area of 716,305 acres, and that during this year alone there have been 580 selections made at these two places; whilst at Glen Innes, Inverell, and Tenterfield, in the same period, there have been 482, or 98 less than the two first-mentioned towns. Over £43,000 have been collected at Armidale and Walcha Land Offices this year, and there are in these two districts nearly 2,500 selections not yet dealt with, which will have to be referred to the local Land Board.

Edwin C. Blomfield.
B. A. Moses.
John Bliss.
H. Head.
B. Hardaker.
J. Scholes.

William Drew.
John Quin.
Alfred Godby.
Ru. Blaxland.
L. G. Mallam, B.M., M.R.C.S.

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No. 51.

Telegram from Messrs. Craigie & Hipgrave to Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 16 December, 1884.

DAILY receiving complaints that there is no accommodation for officers, Lands Department, at Glen Innes. We are aware positively that good provision, moderate rents, obtainable here, whereas most outrageous rents are asked at Glen Innes. Trust you will accept Town Hall, rent free.

No. 52.

Telegram from District Surveyor Chard to Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 16 December, 1884.

MR. McLEAN informs me that offices at Glen Innes are unsuitable for drafting; dwelling-houses almost unobtainable. Myself and many of the staff will be much harassed.

No. 53.

Telegram from Council Clerk, Armidale, to Under Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 16 December, 1884.

MUNICIPAL Council will let you have new Town Hall for two or three years rent free for Land Offices.

No. 54.

District Surveyor Chard to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 19 January, 1885.

Sir,

The Hon. the Minister for Mines, speaking at Armidale, on 13 January, concerning Land Board Offices, and the delay in treating with Armidale, is reported to have said,—“The correspondence in this case commenced with a memo. by the Surveyor-General, dated 4th November, 1884, reciting that Mr. District Surveyor Chard had stated that the only building in Armidale large enough for Land Board Offices was the new Telegraph Office—the Surveyor-General adding that he had telegraphed for particulars of present office.”

I desire to state that at that time I had made no official report on the subject, the Surveyor-General's telegram of 4th November asking for particulars of present office being the first intimation received by me on the matter.

If the Surveyor-General's memo. was the result of a conversation about the middle of October, I think he has made an incorrect remembrance of what I said, and but for it I should probably have been asked for a full report on the subject on the 4th November, instead of by Mr. Houston about the 12th.

I trust that they will be placed with the papers. Such papers may be asked for at a future time, and I think it only fair to show that the delay has not been caused by me.

I am, &c.,

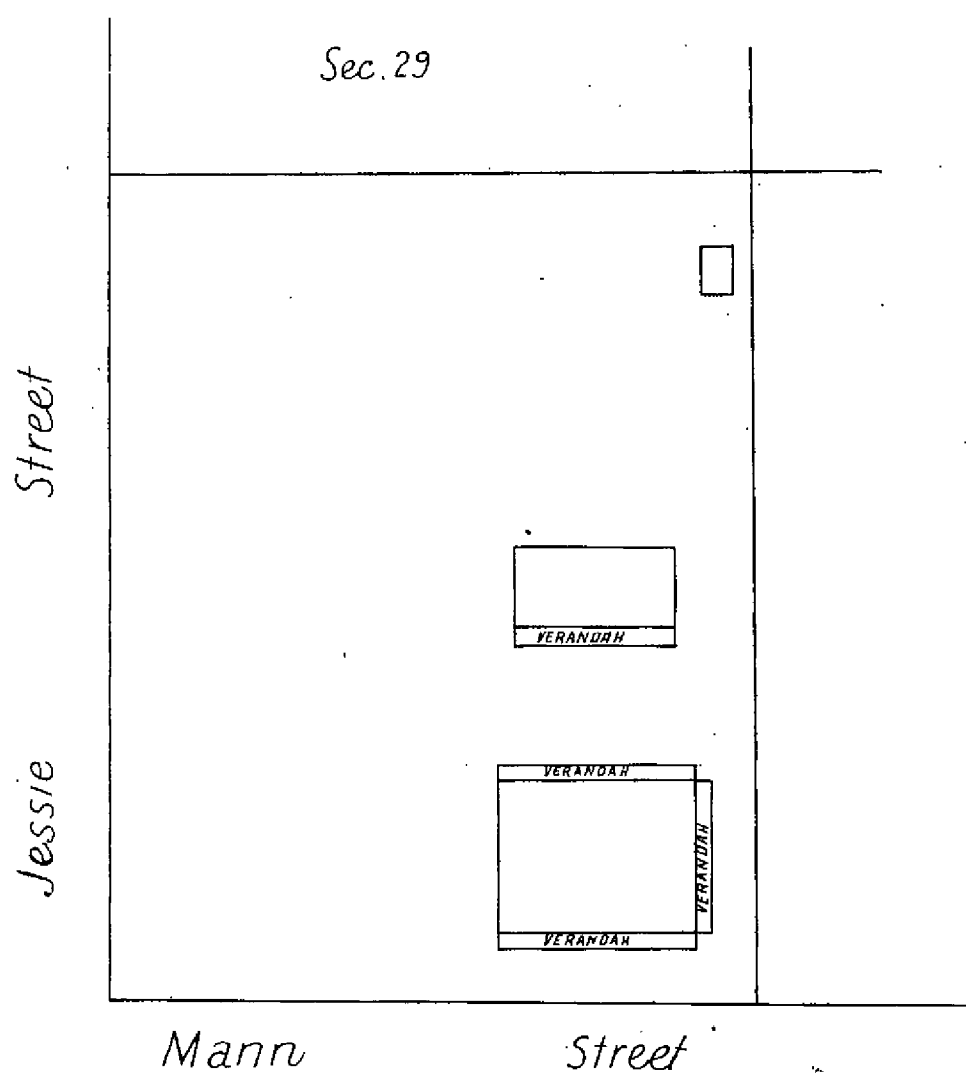
J. S. CHARD,

District Surveyor.

[Three diagrams and one map.]

Sydney: Thomas Richards, Government Printer.—1886.

Enclosure to N^o 3

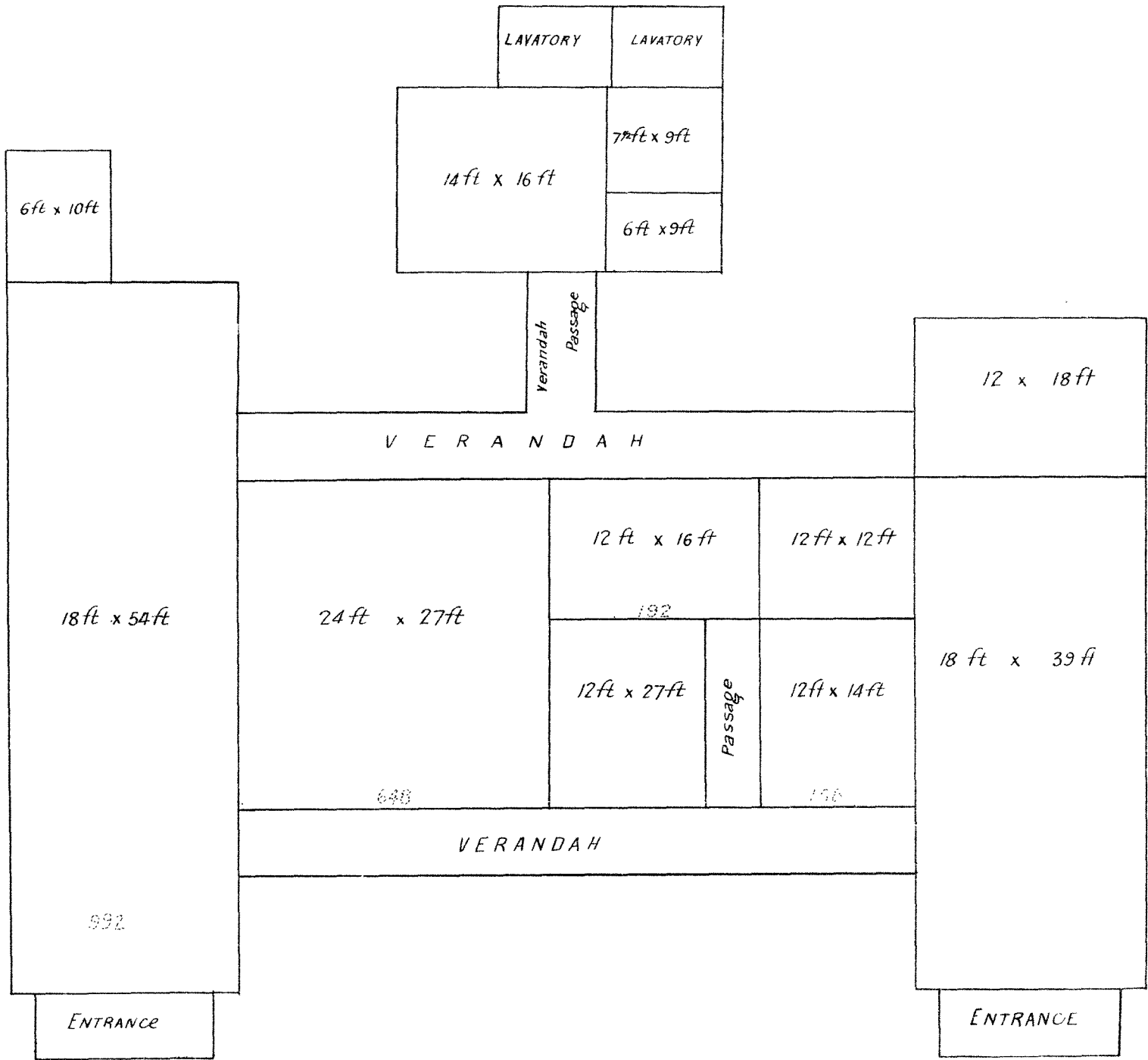
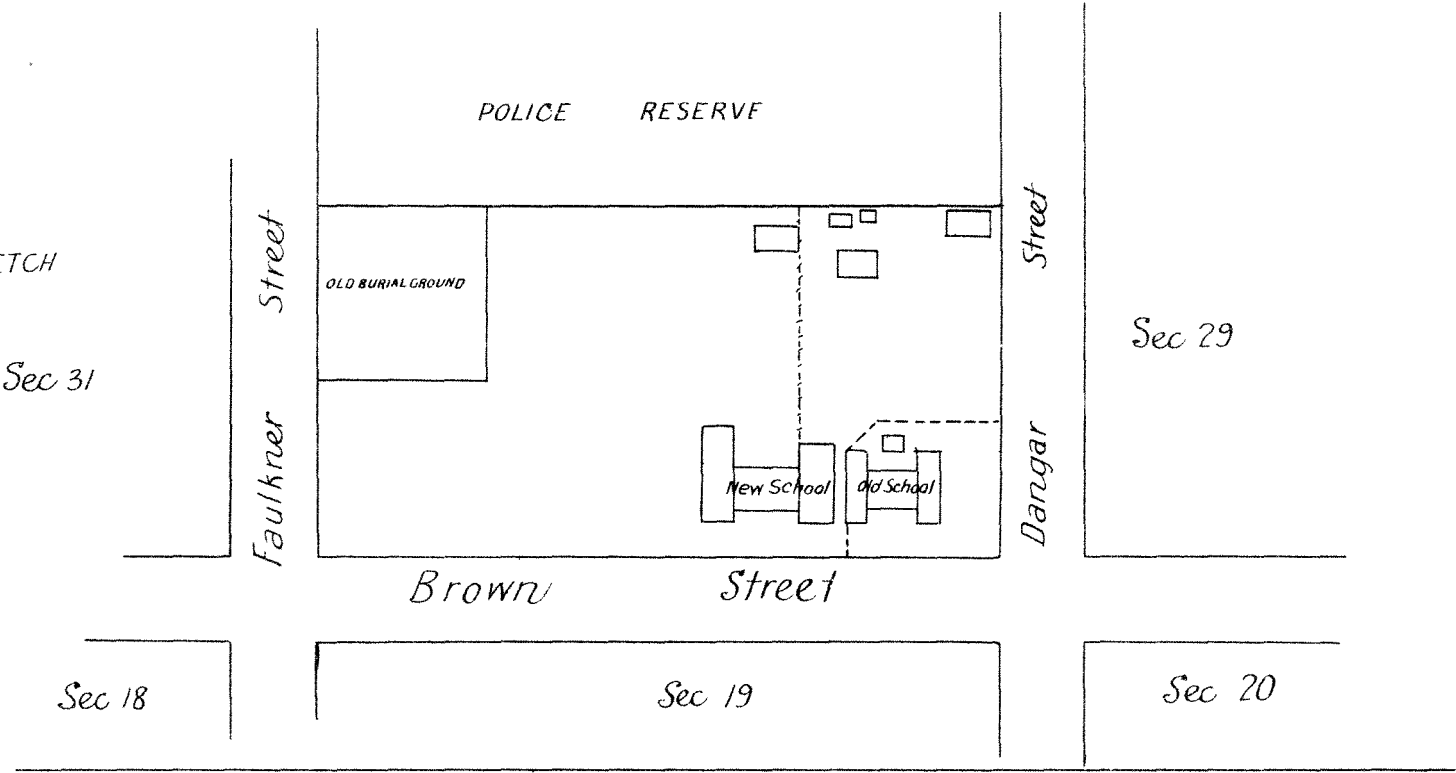


(Sig 167-)

Enclosure to N^o 3

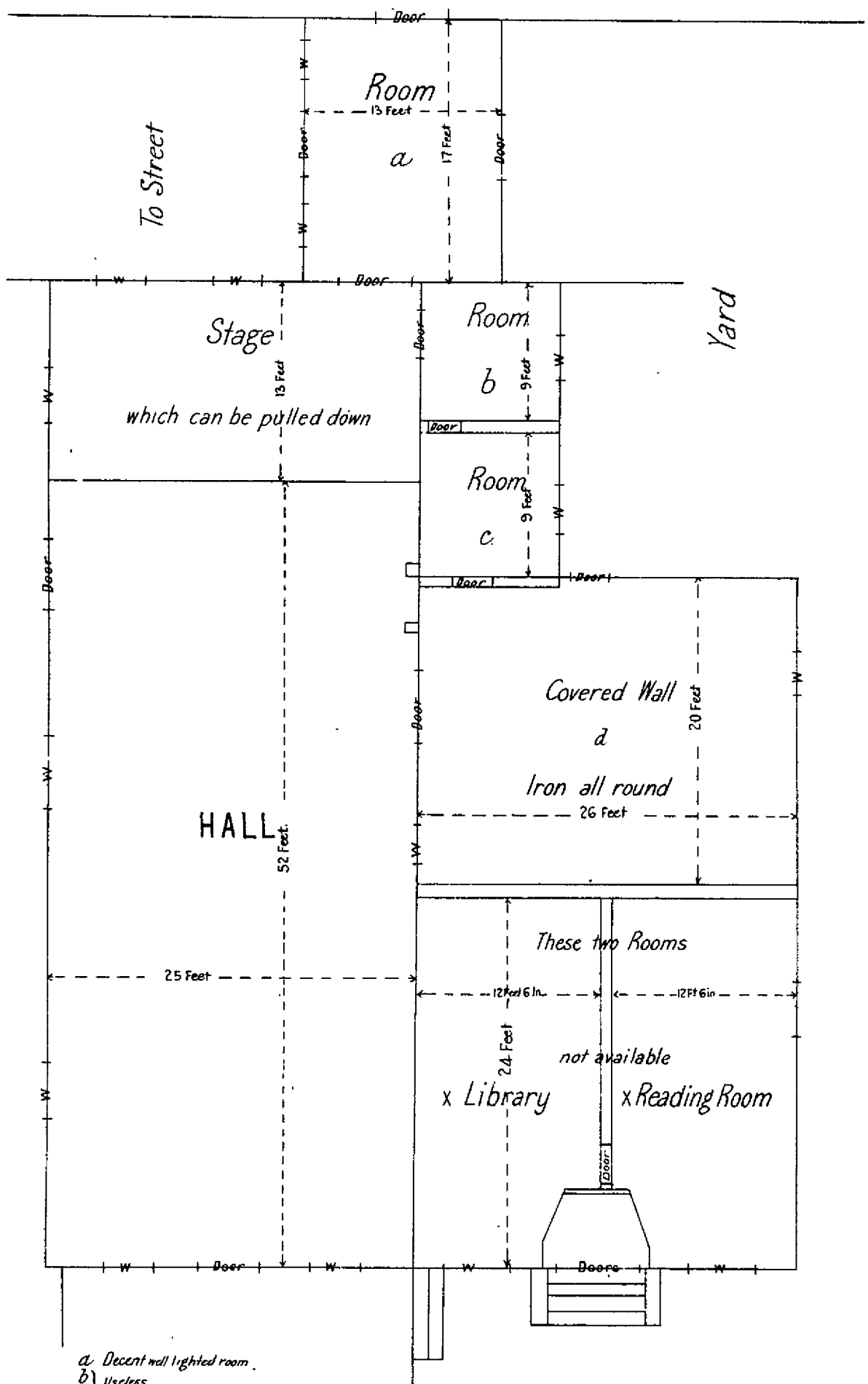
Figures shown in pencil on original are on this Sketch shown thus 648, 168, 192, 992

LOCAL SKETCH



SKETCH OF Armidale Old Town Hall

Enclosure to N^o 17.



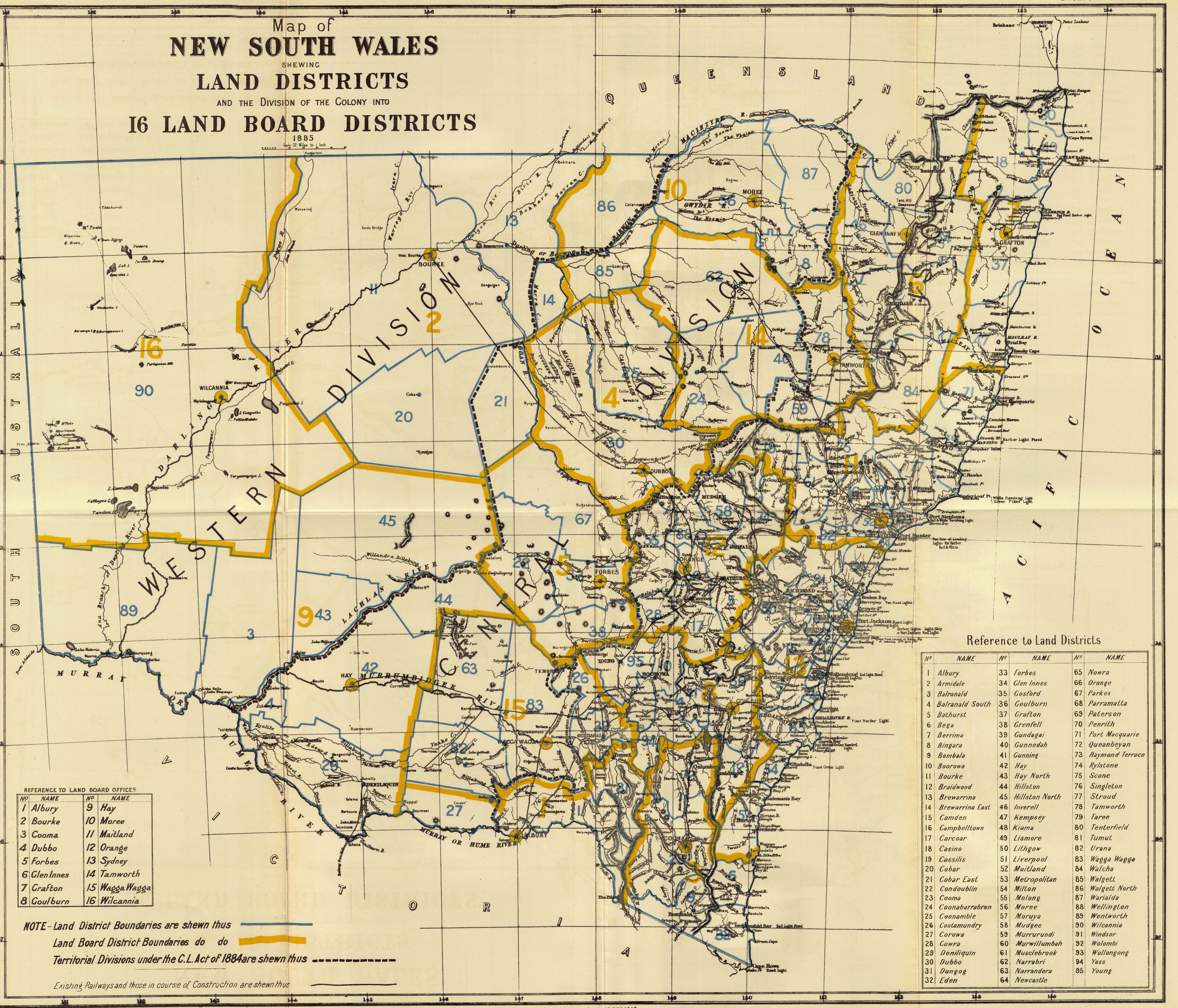
- a* Decent well lighted room.
b } Useless
c }
d Covered with galvanized iron, only useful for stores
- Hall. Good, except not very well lighted
 (Signed) J. S. Chard

(Sig 167—)

Map of
NEW SOUTH WALES
SHEWING
LAND DISTRICTS
AND THE DIVISION OF THE COLONY INTO
16 LAND BOARD DISTRICTS

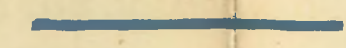

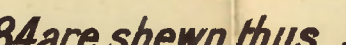
1885

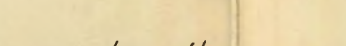
Scale 52 Miles to 1 Inch



REFERENCE TO LAND BOARD OFFICES

N°	NAME	N°	NAME
1	Albury	9	Hay
2	Bourke	10	Moree
3	Cooma	11	Maitland
4	Dubbo	12	Orange
5	Forbes	13	Sydney
6	Glen Innes	14	Tamworth
7	Grafton	15	Wagga Wagga
8	Goulburn	16	Wilcannia

NOTE—Land District Boundaries are shewn thus 
Land Board District Boundaries do do 
Territorial Divisions under the C.L. Act of 1884 are shewn thus 

Existing Railways and those in course of Construction are shewn thus 

Reference to Land Districts

N°	NAME	N°	NAME	N°	NAME
1	Albury	33	Forbes	65	Nowra
2	Armidale	34	Glen Innes	66	Orange
3	Barranald	35	Gosford	67	Parkes
4	Barranald South	36	Goulburn	68	Parramatta
5	Bathurst	37	Grafton	69	Paterson
6	Bega	38	Grenfell	70	Penrith
7	Berrima	39	Gundagai	71	Port Macquarie
8	Bingara	40	Gunnedah	72	Queanbeyan
9	Bombala	41	Gunning	73	Raymond Terrace
10	Boorowa	42	Hay	74	Stylstone
11	Bourke	43	Hay North	75	Scone
12	Braidwood	44	Hillston	76	Singleton
13	Brewarrina	45	Hillston North	77	Stroud
14	Brewarrina East	46	Inverell	78	Tamworth
15	Camden	47	Kempsey	79	Taree
16	Campbelltown	48	Kiama	80	Tenterfield
17	Carcoar	49	Lismore	81	Tumut
18	Casino	50	Lithgow	82	Urena
19	Cassilis	51	Liverpool	83	Wagga Wagga
20	Cobar	52	Maitland	84	Walcha
21	Cobar East	53	Metropolitan	85	Walgett
22	Condoulin	54	Milton	86	Walgett North
23	Cooma	55	Molong	87	Warialda
24	Coonabarrabran	56	Moree	88	Wellington
25	Coonamble	57	Moruya	89	Wentworth
26	Cootamundry	58	Mudgee	90	Wilcannia
27	Corowa	59	Murrumbidgee	91	Windsor
28	Cowra	60	Murrumbidgee	92	Woolambi
29	Deniliquin	61	Musclebrook	93	Wollongong
30	Dubbo	62	Narrabri	94	Yass
31	Dungog	63	Narrandera	95	Young
32	Eden	64	Newcastle		

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REMOVAL OF LAND OFFICE FROM ARMIDALE TO GLEN INNES.
(FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE, &c.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 27 July, 1886.

RETURN (in completion) to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 24th September, 1885, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“(1.) Copies of all letters, papers, minutes, and other documents having reference to the removal of the Lands and Survey Offices from Armidale to Glen Innes.

“(2.) A Return showing,—

“(a) The cost of repairs to and rent of Land Office at Glen Innes, and from whom rented.

“(b) The total revenue received from sale or lease of Crown Lands at Armidale, Glen Innes, Tenterfield, Inverell, and Walcha respectively.

“(c) The number of selections made at each of the above Offices since the passing of the Crown Lands Act to 1st September.

“(d) The number of cases dealt with by the Local Boards in each district to 1st September.

“(e) The number of applications for conditional leases, and for conversion of pre-leases to 1st September, in each district.

“(f) The estimated area of Crown Lands within each of the above districts.

“(g) A plan of the Land Districts of Armidale, Glen Innes, Inverell, Walcha, and Tenterfield.”

(*Mr. Proctor.*)

(a) The cost of repairs to and rent of Land Office at Glen Innes, and from whom rented.

RENT—£100 per annum is paid to L. Segal and £200 per annum to James Barry.

REPAIRS, &c.

									£	s.	d.
E. Grover	...	...	...	Fittings, &c.	...	...	...	...	71	5	0
"	...	...	...	Laying matting, fittings, &c.	...	...	...	...	24	9	2
"	...	...	...	Alterations as per contract	...	...	...	...	433	10	0
"	...	...	...	Painting, &c.	...	...	...	...	15	11	6
"	...	...	...	Erecting chimneys, &c. (Survey Office)	...	...	...	...	98	12	6
								£	613	8	2

731—

[805 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £6 17s. 9d.]

(b) The total revenue received from sale or lease of Crown Lands at Armidale, Glen Innes, Tenterfield, Inverell, and Walcha respectively from 1st January to 30th September, 1885.

Land District.	Land Receipts.	Mining Receipts.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Armidale	23,129 10 1	8 0 0	23,137 10 1
Glen Innes	7,555 10 7	27 12 6	7,583 3 1
Inverell	12,249 0 8	48 0 0	12,297 0 8
Tenterfield	4,428 8 8	.....	4,428 8 8
Walcha	8,036 10 8	12 0 0	8,048 10 8
	Total ... £		55,494 13 2

LAND DISTRICTS OF ARMIDALE, GLEN INNES, WALCHA, AND TENTERFIELD.

(c) The number of selections made at each of the above Offices since the passing of the Crown Lands Act to 1st September, 1885.

District.	No. of Selections.
Armidale	102
Glen Innes	33
Inverell	19
Tenterfield	10
Walcha	34

ARMIDALE, GLEN INNES, INVERELL, WALCHA, AND TENTERFIELD.

(d) The number of cases dealt with by the Local Boards in each district to 1st September.

District.	No. of Cases.
Armidale	186
Glen Innes	19
Walcha	37
Tenterfield	10
Inverell	17

ARMIDALE, GLEN INNES, TENTERFIELD, INVERELL, AND WALCHA.

(e) The number of applications for Conditional Leases, and for conversion of Pre-leases, to 1st September, in each district above mentioned.
Under the 52nd clause.

Armidale	345
Walcha	68
Glen Innes... ..	29
Inverell	222
Tenterfield	78

ARMIDALE, GLEN INNES, INVERELL, WALCHA, AND TENTERFIELD.

(f) The estimated area of Crown Lands within each of the above districts.

District.	Area.
Armidale	1,667,600 acres
Glen Innes	1,000,420 "
Inverell	1,216,790 "
Walcha	1,815,148 "
Tenterfield	1,222,160 "

[Plan.]



1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

LAND OFFICES, GLEN INNES OR ARMIDALE.
(REPORTS IN REFERENCE TO LOCATION OF.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 22 October, 1886.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 29th September, 1886, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Copies of all reports from the Land Board, or any member thereof,
“District Surveyor, or any other person, in reference to the location of
“the Land Offices at Glen Innes, or their removal to Armidale.”

(*Mr. W. J. Fergusson.*)

SCHEDULE.

NO.		PAGE.
1.	Memorandum from Mr. W. J. Fergusson, M.P., to the Secretary for Lands in reference to the location of the Land Board District at Glen Innes or Armidale. 14 April, 1886.....	1
2.	Mr. District-Surveyor Finley to the Under Secretary for Lands. 19 April, 1886.....	1
3.	Mr. Chairman Blythe to the Under Secretary for Lands. 19 April, 1886.....	2
4.	The same to the same. 22 May, 1886.....	2
5.	Mr. District-Surveyor Finley to the same. 25 May, 1886.....	5

No. 1.

Memorandum from W. J. Fergusson, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Fitz-Evan Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 14 April, 1886.

I understand you have asked Mr. Blythe, Chairman of Land Board, Glen Innes, for report as to removal of offices to Armidale. I think it only fair that the Board, as a whole, should be asked for a report. It is well known what Mr. Blythe's report will be before it comes in. Mr. Blythe's residence is still in Armidale.

W. J. FERGUSSON.

No. 2.

Mr. District-Surveyor Finley to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

District Survey Office, Glen Innes, 19 April, 1886.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst, requesting me to furnish you with a report as to whether the public interest is best served by the location of the head quarters of the Land Board District at Glen Innes or Armidale. In reply I beg to say that I will furnish you with the report at as early a date as possible. It will take me some little time to obtain all the information you require, and I desire to make a personal inspection of the buildings now being erected at Armidale before reporting.

I have, &c.,

F. G. FINLEY,

District Surveyor.

No. 3.

1021—A

[805 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £23 4s. 3d.]

No. 3.

Mr. Chairman Blythe to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Local Land Board Office, Glen Innes, 19 April, 1886.

86-2,909 Minl.
Glen Innes.
Armidale.
Inverell.
Tenterfield.
Walcha.

I do myself the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, numbered as by the margin, requesting a general report as to whether the public interest would be better served by making Armidale or retaining Glen Innes as the head quarters of the Land Board districts mentioned in the margin, and also which place is most suitable for furthering the work of the Department.

In reply, I beg to say that I will obtain every possible information on the subject and the various matters touched upon in your letter, and at as early a date as possible will furnish an exhaustive report thereon.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY BLYTHE,

Chairman.

No. 4.

Mr. Chairman Blythe to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Local Land Board Office, Armidale, 22 May, 1886.

86-2,909 Minl.
Glen Innes.
Armidale.
Inverell.
Tenterfield.
Walcha.

I now do myself the honor to reply to your letter of the 16th ultimo, numbered as by the margin, receipt whereof was acknowledged on 19th ultimo, in which I am requested to furnish a general report as to whether the public interest would be better served by making Armidale or retaining Glen Innes as the head-quarters of the Land Board Districts mentioned in the margin; also, which place is most suitable for furthering the work of the Local Branch of the Department.

Enclosures—
Returns Land
Agents.
Map of District.
Plan of building
in course of
erection.

I desire to be guided in my report, apart altogether from any personal bias, and will first submit the following Statistics of work done and prospective work in each place.

TABLE NO. 1.

Number of Conditional Purchases applied for from 6th August, 1885, to 31st March, 1886:—

Glen Innes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Armidale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	237
Inverell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Tenterfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Walcha	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	96

TABLE NO. 2.

Number of Conditional Leases, under 48th clause, applied for during same period:—

Glen Innes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Armidale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Inverell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Tenterfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Walcha	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47

TABLE NO. 3.

Number of Conditional Leases applied for under 54th clause, from 1st January, 1885, to 31st March, 1885:—

Glen Innes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Armidale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Inverell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Tenterfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Walcha	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

TABLE NO. 4.

Number of Conditional Lease applications, under 52nd clause (Conversion of Pre-emptive Leases), from 1st January, 1885, to 31st March, 1885:—

Glen Innes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Armidale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	350
Inverell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	229
Tenterfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Walcha	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66

TABLE NO. 5.

Cases dealt with by the Local Land Boards, from 1st January, 1885, to 31st March, 1886:—

Glen Innes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	257
Armidale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,147
Inverell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	457
Tenterfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	267
Walcha	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	304

TABLE NO. 6.

Amount of Revenue collected by Land Agents, from 1st January, 1886, to 31st March, 1886:—

	£	s.	d.
Glen Innes	7,899	8	7
Armidale	19,750	5	9
Inverell	11,132	0	8
Tenterfield	4,296	15	4
Walcha	7,844	16	11

TABLE

TABLE NO. 7.

Cases under Repealed Acts, from 1st January, 1881, to 31st December, 1884. The five years having only now matured on the 1st of these, a great proportion of them will come under the review of the Board up to April, 1890:—

Glen Innes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	936
Armidale ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,310
Inverell ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	822
Tenterfield ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	525
Walcha ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	384

I submit the figures in the foregoing Tables conclusively show that the public interest (that is the greater number of persons) would be better served by making Armidale the head-quarters.

I am next asked as to the suitability of the Glen Innes buildings for carrying on the work, and whether equally suitable or more suitable buildings are available at Armidale. I have no hesitation in saying that the present temporary buildings in Glen Innes are most unsuitable for the following reasons:—The wooden building, lined throughout with cedar, occupied by myself and clerks as temporary offices, is a most unsafe place from chance of fire (to guard against which requires much care), and being also most inconvenient from its situation at a considerable distance from the Survey Offices, involving constantly travelling backwards and forwards by the clerks, the messenger, the District Surveyor, and myself. Moreover, in addition to the space allotted for draughtsmen, I have been obliged to give up to their use, except during sittings of the Board, the Court-room and Retiring-room of the Board.

That there are no more suitable places in Armidale without an outlay of at least £100, which I could not recommend in view of the accommodation in course of erection. I will deal with this in its proper sequence.

With regard to which place is most suitable for furthering the work of the local branch of the Department, I can only say my frequent necessary absences from Glen Innes cause considerable delay in answering correspondence, signing important papers, such as orders to survey, refund vouchers, &c., which would be to a great extent obviated were the head office in Armidale, as I should then be on the spot where the most work is and could really visit the other towns with greater regularity, while, at the same time, being more constantly at head office and exercising a more strict supervision over its working.

A glance at * map of district herewith will show the relative positions of the various towns, and * Not required. as the work of each Land District is carried on within itself by the Land Agents and different Boards very seldom requiring persons to travel beyond their own district, the question of mere absolute nearness to geographical centre is unimportant.

I now come to the question of the relative character of the accommodation available at each place for residences of the officials, and whether their convenience would be best suited at Armidale, &c. It would be impossible to give a reliable statement of numbers of houses vacant as they might vary each month. I may state generally that house accommodation in Armidale is of a better class than at Glen Innes, while the rents are much lower. Some few of the officers who are now settled in Glen Innes might not desire to remove, but I feel safe in saying that the convenience of the great majority would be best suited at Armidale. I am not, however, prepared to assert that the difference of expense of living in Armidale as compared with Glen Innes would warrant a reduction in the allowances made to officers on their moving up country. The wife and family of the chief draughtsman have not been removed from Sydney; those of the second draughtsman reside in Armidale, and I have not removed my wife and family from the latter place; the other married officials reside in houses or lodgings in Glen Innes.

I submit that the third question, in letter before quoted, as to which place would be most convenient for the greater proportion of the public, and the proportionate number of persons who would be benefited, &c., has already been answered by the statistics quoted.

With regard to the division of the Land Board District into two, having a head-quarters for each, I cannot see that it would be in the interest of the public to recommend it. The probable additional expense would be one extra chairman, one extra district surveyor, certainly one extra chief clerk, and messenger, besides rent or expense of buildings. There would not be sufficient work for two chairmen and two district surveyors were the district divided. The chairman must be in constant communication with the district surveyor, and the latter officer also requires to have his staff constantly under his supervision.

I now come to the last paragraph—whether the buildings now being erected at Armidale could be made suitable? I state unhesitatingly that they can be made perfectly suitable and give infinitely better and safer accommodation than the present temporary places at Glen Innes. I enclose a plan of the buildings and how I would propose to apportion the various offices, giving space for nearly double the number of draughtsmen presently located at Glen Innes.

If any additions should be found necessary hereafter there is a space of 33 ft. wide and the whole depth of the building available, besides other Government land further back on which a building of nearly equal size to the present could, if necessary, be erected.

These premises, I am assured, will absolutely be ready for occupation by 1st October next, and perhaps if it is decided to remove the offices there are some additions ought at once to be made, as erecting a storeroom at the back on space indicated by red dotted lines (say) at a cost of £120; two additional closets; a weatherboard building for the messenger and his wife, if thought necessary, at a cost of about £250, and if hereafter required, a one-storey room for draughtsman, so as not to obscure the light, would easily be added on the space between the proposed messenger's house and Falconer-street.

On looking over the plans and buildings this week with the District Surveyor, he was of opinion that the roof of the upper balcony ought to be raised to admit of more direct light. This, the contractor said, could easily be done. Doubtless, however, Mr. Finley will touch on this matter in his report.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY BLYTHE,
Chairman, Local Land Board, Glen Innes District.

[Enclosure

[Enclosure A.]

TOTAL amount of Revenue received by the Crown Lands Agent, Walcha, during the quarter ending 31st March, 1886, £7,844 16s. 11d. ; exclusive of Gold-fields Revenue, £5 10s, and including applications for permission to ringbark, £10.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Glen Innes, B.C., Walcha, 6/5/86.

EDWD. MARRIOTT,
Crown Lands Agent.

[Enclosure B.]

TOTAL amount of Revenue received by the Crown Lands Agent, Inverell, during the quarter ending 31st March, 1886 :—

	£	s.	d.
Fees	14	6	10
Licenses	11	7	6
Poundage fees	1	10	0
Fines	11	5	0
Conditional purchases of land	10,745	7	6
Mining	36	18	0
Other receipts, &c. (leases)	233	11	4
Sheep Asst. and fine	0	12	0
Transfer of Publicans' licenses	6	0	0
Immigration deposit	4	0	0
Transfer fees, forms, &c.	67	2	6
Total	£11,132	0	8

WALTER SCOTT,
Acting Crown Lands Agent.

[Enclosure C.]

TOTAL amount of Revenue received by the Crown Lands Agent, Glen Innes, during the quarter ending 31st March, 1886 £7,899 8s. 7d. :—

	£	s.	d.
Deposit on conditional purchases	454	2	3
Balances and deed fees	106	13	0
Instalments	6,552	1	7
Interest	386	5	10
Transfer, &c.	65	9	0
Deposits on conditional leases	27	7	0
Renewal, conditional leases	53	3	5
Timber licenses, &c.	83	19	0
Land sales	155	7	6
Total	£7,899	8	7

GEORGE BOILEAU,
Crown Lands Agent.

[Enclosure D.]

RETURN showing the total amount of Revenue received by the Crown Lands Agent at Armidale, during the quarter ending 31st March, 1886 :—

Head of Receipt :—		£	s.	d.
For conditional purchase deposits, 26th clause		523	5	0
Do do 42nd clause		236	12	0
Do do 47th clause		32	0	0
Do do on extra area		31	7	6
Do balances		959	5	6
Deed fees		16	0	0
Instalments on balances		14,652	2	1
Interest on balances		2,768	6	9
Conditional lease deposits		111	17	0
Do renewals		292	18	2
Licenses to cut timber, &c.		20	15	0
Sale of lithographs		1	11	0
Subdivision fees		8	16	0
Parchment forms		5	5	0
Registration fees		24	0	0
Stamp duty		43	6	0
Pamphlet		0	2	6
Value of improvements		1	16	3
Acknowledgment fees (married women's)		1	0	0
Total		£19,750	5	9

L. H. SMITH,
Acting Crown Lands Agent.

[Enclosure E.]

TOTAL amount of revenue received by the Crown Lands Agent, Tenterfield, during the quarter ending 31st March, 1886, £4,296 15s. 4d.

FREDERICK BURNE,
Crown Lands Agent.

Mr. District-Surveyor Finley to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Report—Location of head quarters of the Glen Innes Land Board District.

Sir,

District Survey Office, Glen Innes, 26 May, 1886.

In accordance with your instructions, conveyed to me by your letter of 16th April, 1886, I have the honor to furnish you with a report on the subject as to whether the public interest would be better served by making Armidale or retaining Glen Innes as the head quarters of the Land Districts of Glen Innes, Armidale, Inverell, Tenterfield, and Walcha.

2. I will deal with the various matters in the order in which they appear in your instructions, and in making the report I may state that I am not actuated in any way by motives of a personal nature. There is evidently a very keen rivalry going on between the towns of Armidale and Glen Innes for the possession of the offices, altogether apart from the question of public benefit, and the inhabitants of both the towns are much interested in the question.

3. The first question you request me to report upon is the suitability of the buildings at Glen Innes, and whether equally or more suitable buildings are available at Armidale. In reply to this, I beg to report that the Glen Innes buildings are not suitable, as the District Survey Office is separate from the Land Board Office. This is a bad arrangement, and has not worked well. The respective offices are some 150 yards apart, and some of the officers are constantly passing to and fro seeking information from either office. So far as the Land Board Office is concerned the space is ample in my opinion for the staff. The District Survey Office buildings are too limited for the staff, which now numbers some twelve officers, and I have been compelled to place two draftsmen in the Court-room; this however has not caused much inconvenience, as the Board has only sat on an average about two days a month since the offices were established. But notwithstanding that the office room is limited the work has gone on smoothly, and the principal defect has been the separation of the offices.

For the purposes of this report I have, in company with the Chairman of the Board, inspected the building now being erected at Armidale, and there is no doubt as to the suitability and capacity of it to accommodate the full staff. I enclose you a sketch plan,* which is explanatory in itself, showing the size of the buildings, &c., and how it can be utilized, giving ample accommodation to the Land Board, District Survey Office, and Crown Lands Agent. This building, which is costing upwards of £3,000, will be completed about the beginning of October of this year, at least so I am informed by the contractor. There will be a necessity for some additions, such as out-houses and a store-room for stationery, &c. I show on the plan where these should be erected; the estimated cost will be £120. * Not required.

If the offices are occupied as suggested on the plan, and as proposed by the Chairman and myself, the Land Board Court must be held in the Court-house as at present. There is not in my opinion any other building in Armidale that it would be judicious for me to recommend for offices in the face of the near completion of those referred to above. There is the old Public School, but a cost of from £200 to £300 would have to be incurred in its renovation, and then it would be a make-shift at best. Considering that the lease of the buildings now occupied at Glen Innes will expire at the end of the current year, it appears to me that it would be extremely unwise to remove the office, if such is contemplated, until about that time, thus avoiding any unnecessary expense, and the new buildings at Armidale would be ready for occupation. I would also point out that the work of the district is just now in its most critical stage, and the immediate removal of the offices would cause serious delay and confusion. To sum up these remarks I therefore give it as my candid opinion, for the above reasons, that the offices should remain where they are until, at all events, near the end of this year.

4. The next question is that of residences for the officials. It must be admitted that house accommodation is more plentiful and of a better description in Armidale than it is in Glen Innes; and I believe house rent is at present cheaper in Armidale also; but of course this would probably increase, so far as Armidale is concerned, if the offices were removed. There are empty houses in both towns, but more in Armidale than in Glen Innes; and I do not consider there is very much to choose on this point between either town. The only officers of the staff who do not reside in Glen Innes are the Chairman of the Board and Mr. McLean (draftsman in this office), who have their private residences and families in Armidale. I consider the cost of living in either town as equal, and I would not feel justified in recommending any reduction on the allowances if the offices were removed. There is one thing in connection with this subject that I would draw especial attention to, and that is the fact that one of the officers under my supervision has purchased land in Glen Innes and erected a house thereon; the removal of the office would therefore be a serious matter to him.

5. The next question I come to is the important one of "as to which place would be the most convenient one for the greater proportion of the public." I believe I am correct in saying that one of the principal improvements in land administration, as carried out under the Land Board system of the Act of 1884, is that the Land Boards go to the people and not the people to the Boards. Taking the Land Board District as a whole, I do not consider it makes any difference to the general public as to where the head office is established; the work of the District Survey Office can be carried out efficiently in either of the towns under reference, with equal satisfaction to the general public, if suitable buildings are provided. If it is a desideratum that the head office be established in the town where the most work is, the figures that follow these remarks will show most conclusively that Armidale is that place. Writing from the standpoint of a district surveyor, I must state that Glen Innes is most conveniently and centrally situated for my work. In order to arrive at an approximation to the amount of prospective work in the district, I have compiled the following statistical information, viz. :—

RETURN showing the number of conditional purchases still in existence, out of those taken up, from 1881 to 1885 inclusive, that will be inquired into by the Land Board :—

Armidale Land District	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,143
Glen Innes	..	...	...	...	...	...	767
Inverell	..	...	...	...	...	...	685
Tenterfield	..	...	...	...	...	...	352
Walcha	..	...	...	...	...	...	311

RETURN showing the number of conditional leases, under the 48th and 54th clauses, applied for during 1885, still in existence, and that will be inquired into by the Local Land Board :—

Armidale Land District	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Glen Innes	..	...	...	...	...	...	35
Tenterfield	..	...	...	...	...	...	31
Walcha	..	...	...	...	...	...	24
Inverell	..	...	...	...	...	...	15

RETURN showing the number of conditional leases, under the 52nd clause, applied for that are still in existence, and will come before the Land Board for further inquiry, appraisement, &c. :—

Armidale Land District	...	...	...	...	...	...	292
Inverell	..	...	...	...	...	...	194
Tenterfield	..	...	...	...	...	...	79
Walcha	..	...	...	...	...	...	43
Glen Innes	..	...	...	...	...	...	28

RETURN showing grand total of cases in the Glen Innes District from 1881 to 1885 inclusive to come before the Local Land Board for inquiry :—

Armidale Land District	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,585
Glen Innes	..	...	...	...	...	...	830
Inverell	..	...	...	...	...	...	894
Tenterfield	..	...	...	...	...	...	465
Walcha	..	...	...	...	...	...	378

A perusal of these figures shows that Armidale is far beyond any town in the amount of work which will have to be dealt with. On the other hand it will be observed that putting Glen Innes, Inverell, and Tenterfield together, they show a preponderance of work for the northern portion of the district over Armidale and Walcha in the south. There is one other feature in connection with prospective work, and that is future conditional purchase. Any attempt at arriving at an approximation of this must be surmise. I have, however, gone over the maps, and, speaking from general knowledge, I consider that the greater bulk of the land likely to be conditionally purchased lies to the north of Glen Innes. Armidale, with its much larger population, is necessarily a much more settled district, and the demand for land there has been very great. Consequently very much of the available country is disposed of. Extensive reservations have recently been thrown open in the neighbourhood of Glen Innes and Emmaville, and it is probable there will be an increase of conditional purchase in consequence. However, the effect of this will be seen towards the end of the year. It is worthy of note that upwards of 4,000 cases of conditional leases and conditional purchases applied for previous to the end of 1885 remain to be dealt with by the various local Land Boards throughout the district.

The next question to be replied to is whether it would be desirable in the public interest to divide the Land Board District into two, having a head quarters for each. So far as the District Survey Office is concerned, my own opinion is that the division of the district is not altogether an undesirable thing; but I am aware that the opinion of the Chairman of the Land Board is averse to such a course, as he considers that the work in his branch can easily be performed. The survey work in the district is very great, and the large staff of field officers employed and scattered over the entire district is somewhat difficult to supervise. I cannot, however, see my way to recommend a division of the district on several grounds :—The district, although large in itself, is scarcely large enough for two, and the increased cost of maintaining the two staffs would be very considerable. I have made an estimate of what the probable cost would be, and I consider that it would approach the sum of £5,000 per annum. For although the staff of draftsmen and clerks would not require to be augmented to any great extent, all the principal officers would be duplicated, and the furnishing and rent of an additional office would be large. Apart from this I believe there would still be considerable agitation as to the proper place for head quarters, whether at Glen Innes, Inverell, or Tenterfield.

In conclusion, I would like to draw attention to one fact in connection with the removal of the offices. Owing to the uncertainty that exists as to the final location of the offices many of the draftsmen are afraid to establish permanent and comfortable homes for themselves. It will be to the advantage of the Public Service to have the matter finally settled, then the officers generally will work more contentedly.

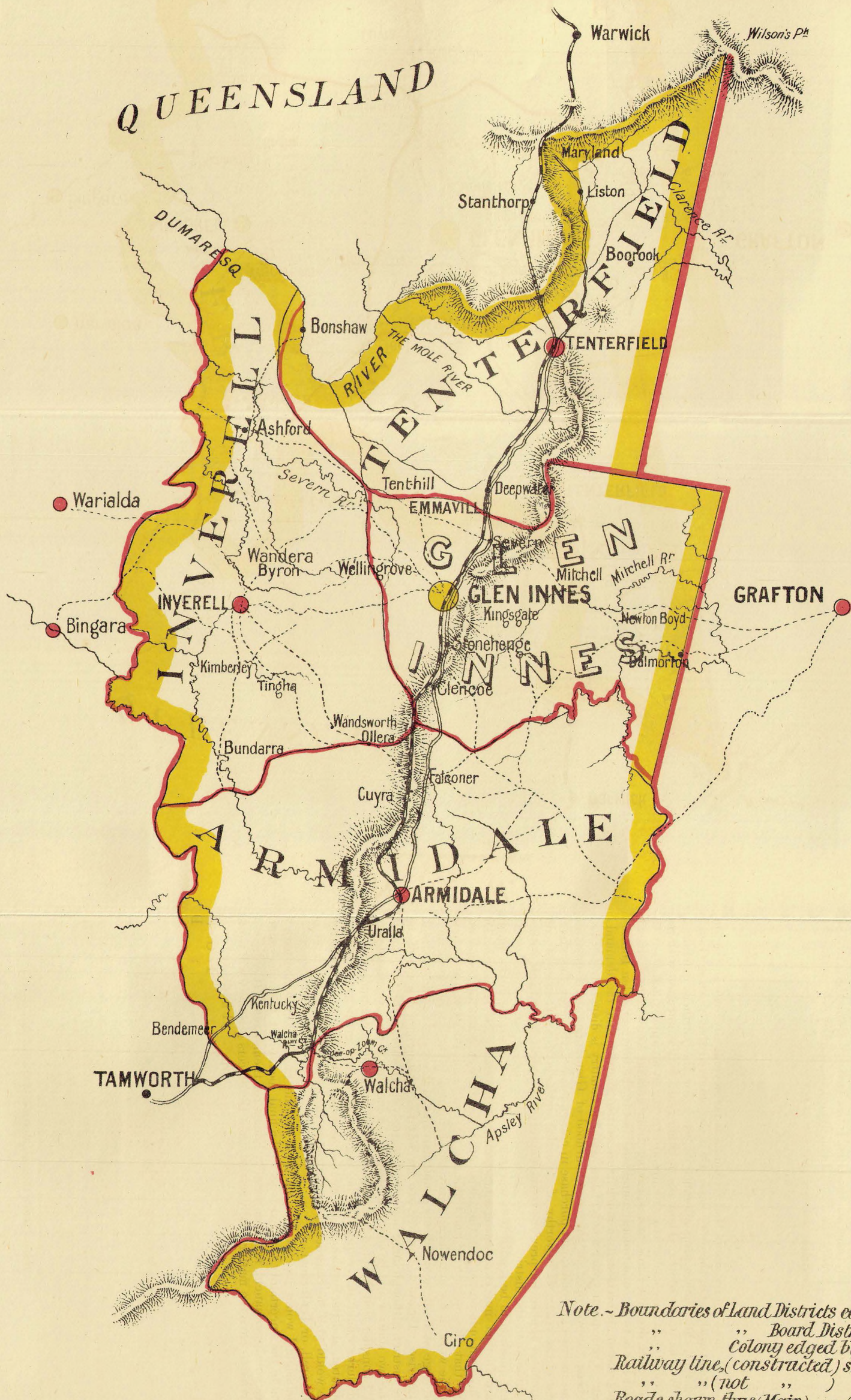
I have, &c.,

F. G. FINLEY,
District Surveyor.

[Plans.]

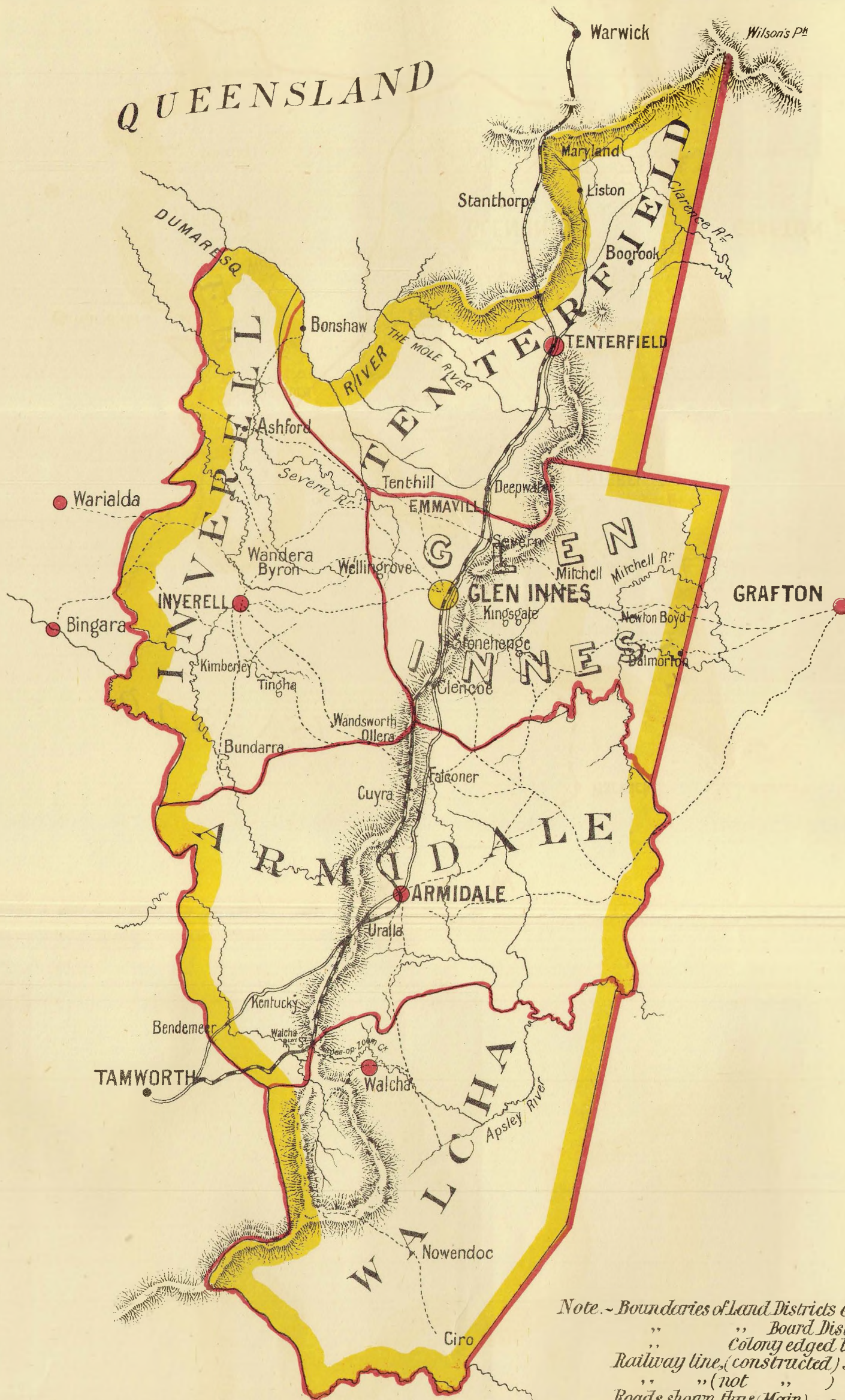
Map shewing the LAND BOARD DISTRICT OF GLEN INNES.

N. S. W.
Scale
0 1 2 Miles.



Map shewing the LAND BOARD DISTRICT OF GLEN INNES.

N. S. W.
Scale 0 5 10 Miles.



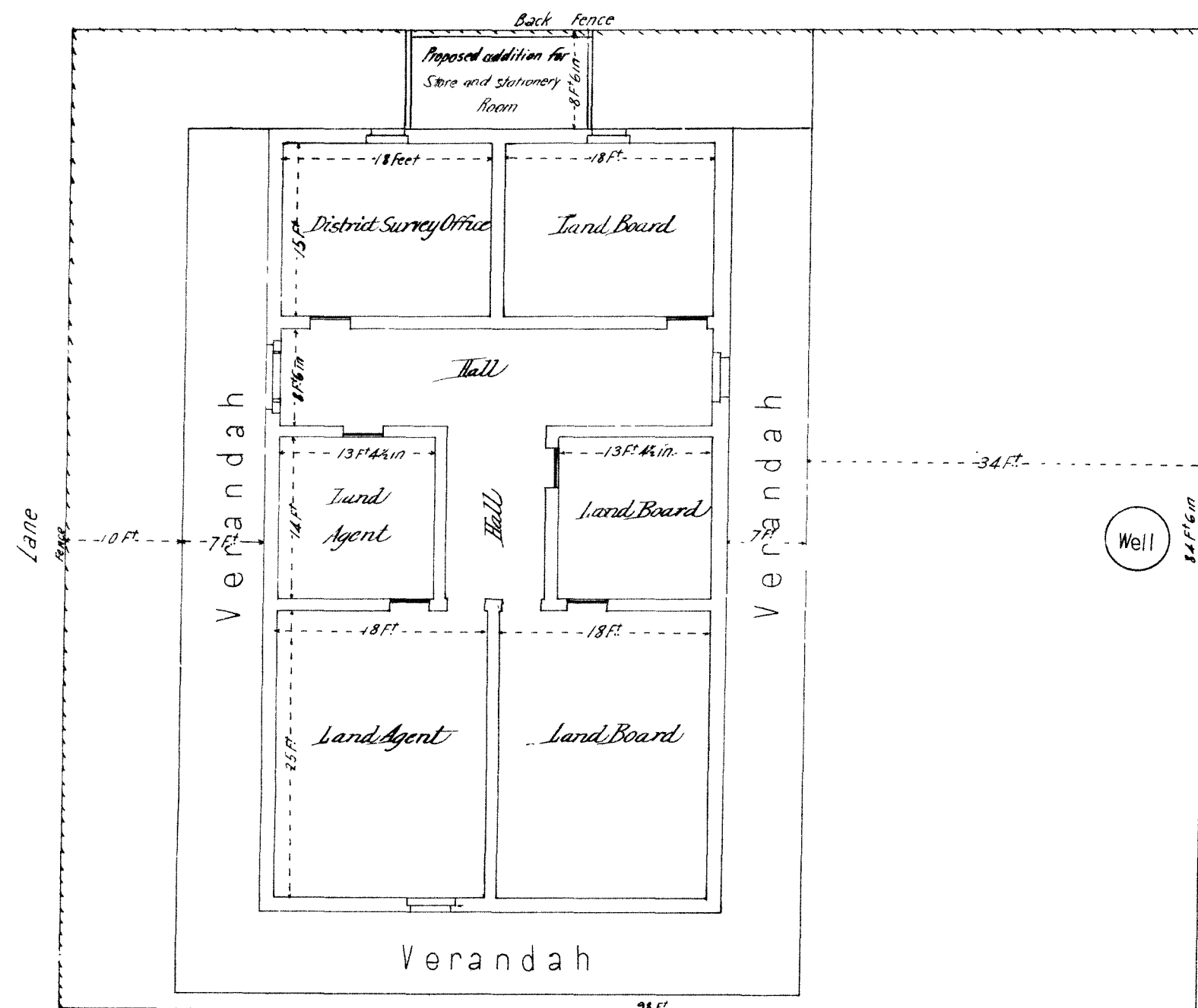
Note.- Boundaries of Land Districts edged red.
" " Board District edged green.
" " Colony edged blue.
Railway line (constructed) shown thus. —
" (not ") " "
Roads shown thus (Main) — (Minor) - - -

Tracing from Plan of Buildings in course of erection at Armidale

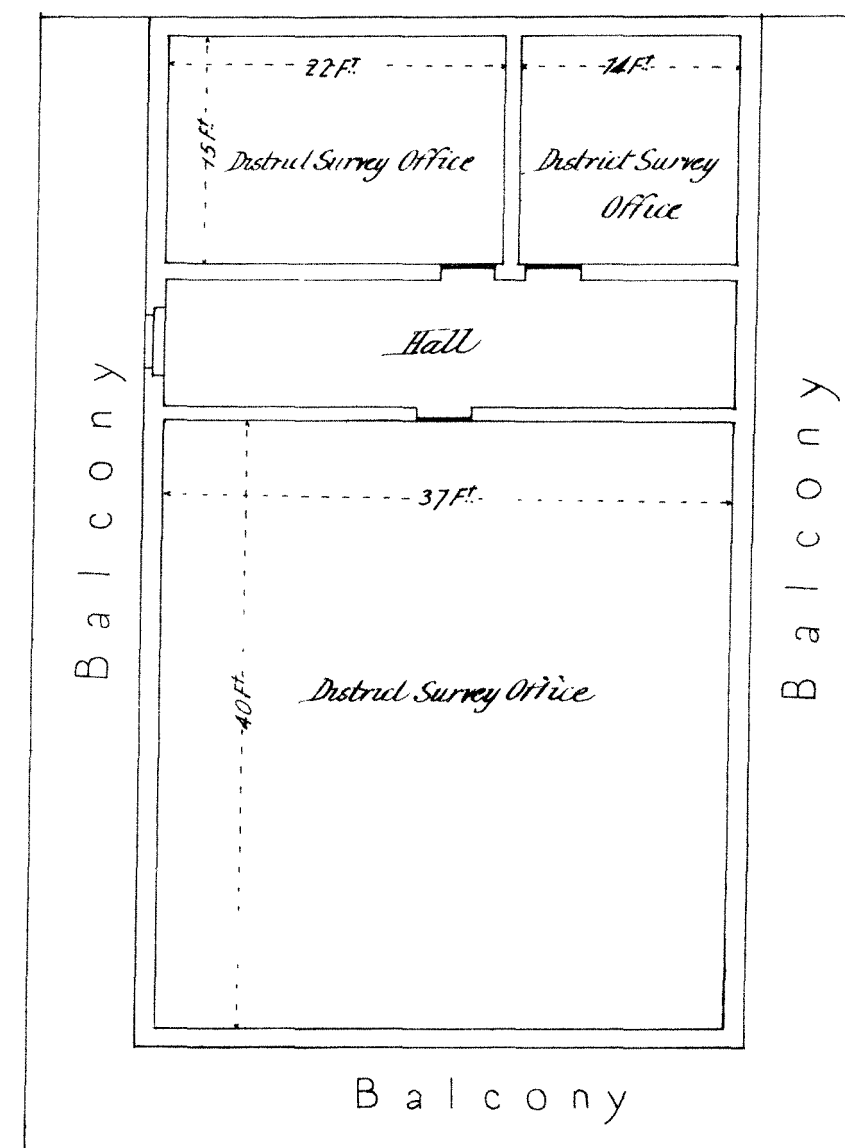
Scale, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to a foot

Ministerial
86/4496
Lands Depart^t

Lane 12 feet wide



GROUND PLAN

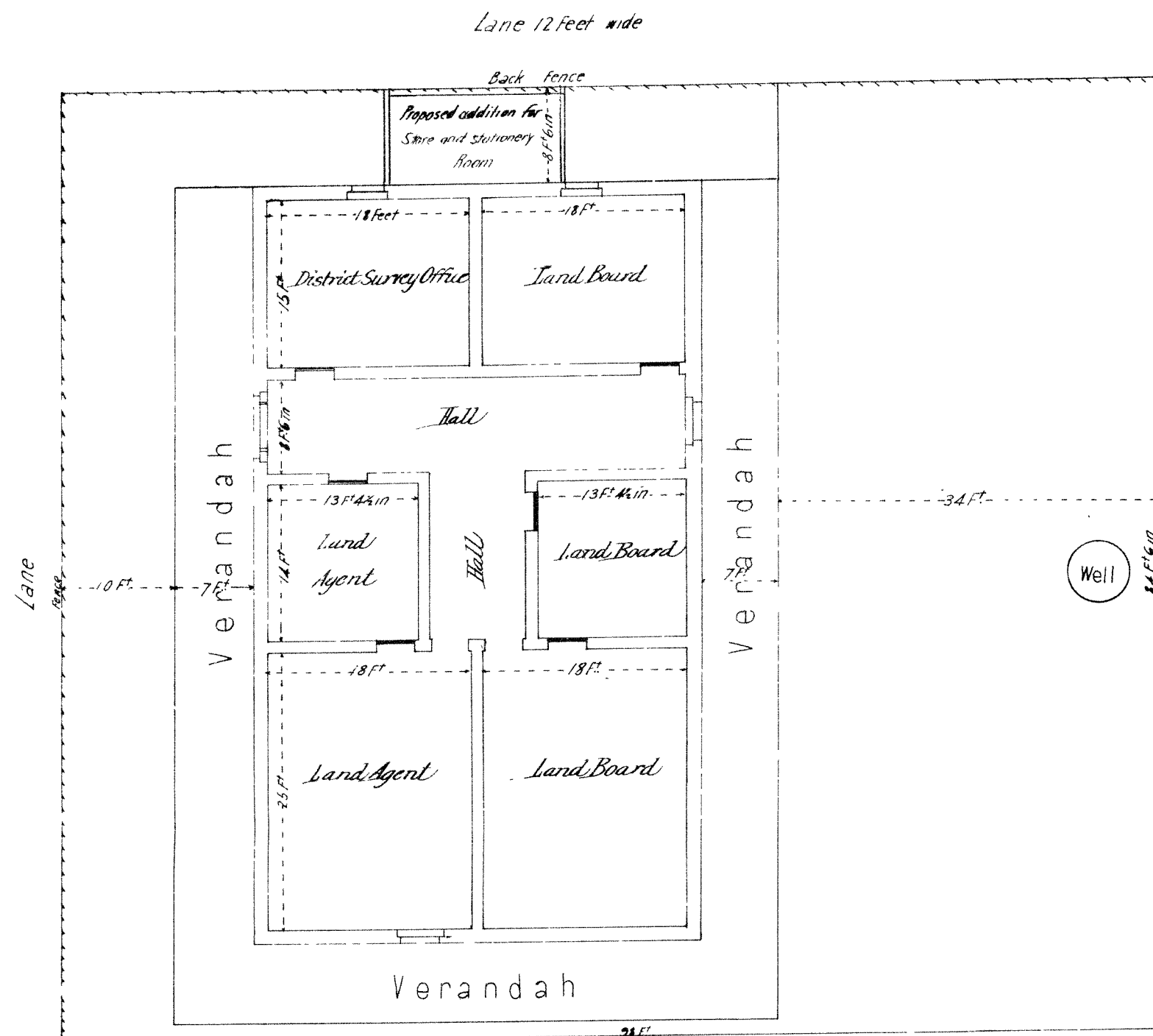


FIRST FLOOR

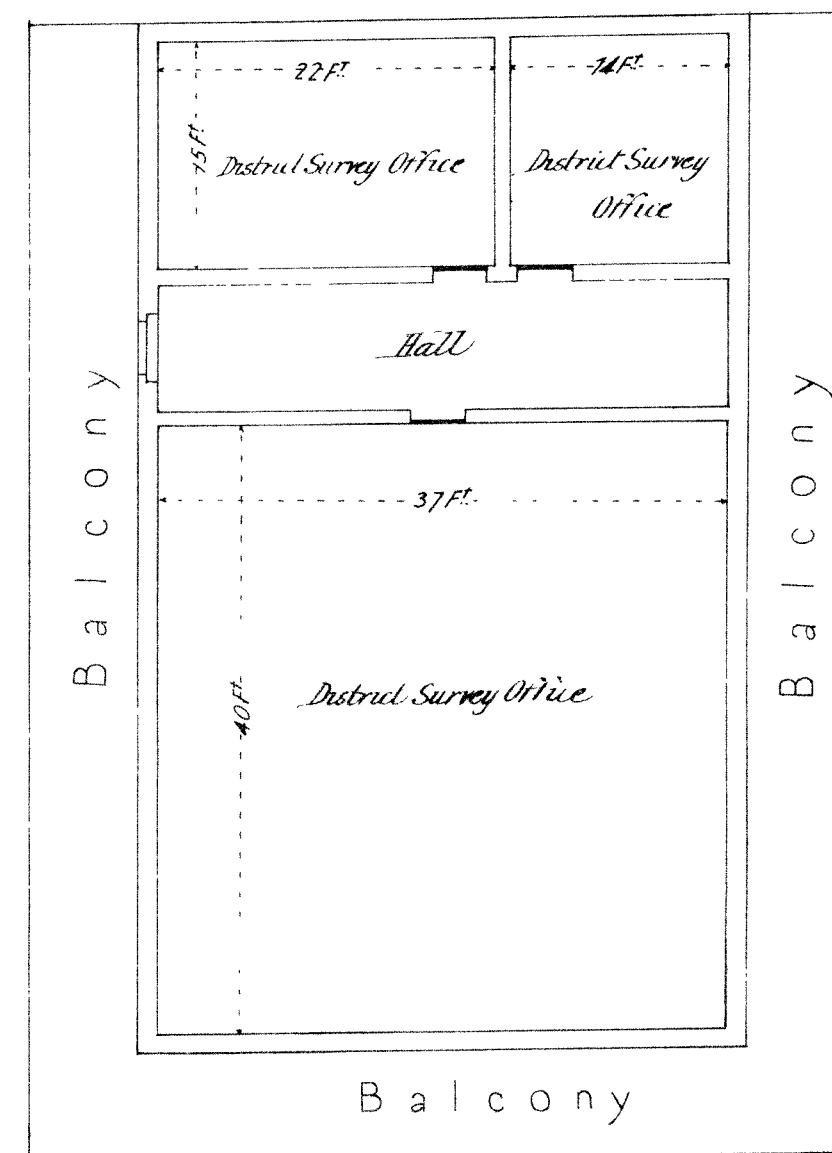
Tracing from Plan of Buildings in course of erection at Armidale

Scale, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to a foot

Ministerial
86/4496
Lands Depart^t



GROUND PLAN



FIRST FLOOR

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

LAND AND SURVEY OFFICES AT BOURKE.

(EXPENDITURE IN AND REVENUE RECEIVED FROM, FOR QUARTER ENDED 31 MARCH, 1886.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 18 May, 1886.

RETURN showing the expenditure in connection with the Land and Survey Offices at Bourke, during the quarter ended 31st March, 1886; also the revenue received during the same period.

<i>Land Office.</i>				£	s.	d.
Salaries of Chairman and Officers; fees to Members Local Land Boards, &c., &c...	...	...	...	584	19	4
<i>Survey Office.</i>						
Salaries of District Surveyor and Staff, including fees to Licensed Surveyors	...	...	...	3,071	13	8
Total expenditure	...	...	...	£3,656	13	0

Revenue received for land within the Land District of Bourke, and the districts presided over by the Chairman of the Local Land Board at Bourke ... £15,904 19 6

In the Land and Survey Offices at Bourke all business is transacted in connection with land included in the Land Districts of Bourke, Brewarrina, Brewarrina East, Cobar, and Cobar East. It should also be noted that the principal portion of the revenue is derived from rents of pastoral holdings payable during the last quarter of the past year in advance for the current year, but such amount is not included in this return.

Department of Lands,
18th May, 1886.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

LAND OFFICES, ARMIDALE, WALCHA, GLEN INNES,
INVERELL, AND TENTERFIELD.

(BUSINESS AT, FROM 1881 TO 1884.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 21 July, 1886.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 11th December, 1885, That there be laid upon the Table of this House, a Return showing,—

- “(1.) The number of Conditional Purchases applied for in the years 1881, 1882, 1883, and 1884, at the following Land Offices :—Armidale, Walcha, Glen Innes, Inverell, and Tenterfield.
- “(2.) The number of applications under 52nd clause to convert Pre-emptive Leases into Conditional Leases received from Armidale, Walcha, Glen Innes, Inverell, and Tenterfield, within the ninety days specified in Act of 1884.
- “(3.) The number of applications for Conditional Leases under section 54, made at Armidale, Walcha, Glen Innes, Inverell, and Tenterfield within the said ninety days.
- “(4.) The number of applications for Conditional Purchases under Act of 1884, received from 6th August to 1st December, at Land Offices, Armidale, Walcha, Glen Innes, Inverell, and Tenterfield.
- “(5.) The number of applications for Conditional Leases under section 48, received at each of the said Offices during the like period.”

(*Mr. Inglis.*)

LAND OFFICES, ARMIDALE, WALCHA, GLEN INNES, INVERELL, AND TENTERFIELD.

RETURN No. 1, showing the number of Conditional Purchases applied for in the years 1881, 1882, 1883, and 1884, at the following Land Offices :—Armidale, Walcha, Glen Innes, Inverell, and Tenterfield :—

	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Armidale	311	288	192	520
Walcha	103	97	46	138
Glen Innes	267	265	176	227
Inverell	224	180	199	224
Tenterfield	140	163	107	116

Return No. 2, showing the number of applications under 52nd clause to convert Pre-emptive Leases into Conditional Leases received from Armidale, Walcha, Glen Innes, Inverell, and Tenterfield within the ninety days specified in Act of 1884 :—

Armidale	345
Walcha	68
Glen Innes	29
Inverell	222
Tenterfield	78

Return No. 3, showing the number of applications for Conditional Leases under section 54, made at Armidale, Walcha, Glen Innes, Inverell, and Tenterfield, within the said ninety days :—

Armidale	88
Walcha	10
Glen Innes	33
Inverell	12
Tenterfield	32

Return No. 4, showing the number of applications for Conditional Purchases under Act of 1884, received from 6th August to 1st December, at Land Offices, Armidale, Walcha, Glen Innes, Inverell, and Tenterfield :—

Armidale	169
Walcha	53
Glen Innes	58
Inverell	40
Tenterfield	25

Return No. 5, showing the number of applications for Conditional Leases under section 48, received at each of the following Offices during the like period :—

Armidale	97
Walcha	20
Glen Innes	12
Inverell	13
Tenterfield	6

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

FOREST RANGERS.
(RETURN OF.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 20 August, 1886.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 15th July, 1886, That there be laid upon the Table of this House, a Return showing,—

- “(1.) The number of Forest and Assistant Forest Rangers employed
“throughout the Colony, the Districts in which they are employed, the
“remuneration received by each, giving the salary and allowances
“separately.
“(2.) The amount of revenue derived from each Forest Ranger's district
“for timber licenses, royalty, &c.”

(*Mr. Wall.*)

FOREST RANGERS.

RETURN to an Order of the Legislative Assembly of the names of Forest and Assistant Forest Rangers, their Districts, and the Amounts paid for Salaries and Allowances respectively; also, the Revenue derived from each Forest Ranger's District, for the years 1883, 1884, and 1885.

Name of Ranger.	Land Districts in which Forest Rangers are employed.	Amount paid for Salary, 1885.	Amount paid for Travelling Expenses and other Allowances, 1885.	Total.	Revenue for 1883. Royalty, Timber Licenses, and other fees.	Revenue for 1884. Royalty, Timber Licenses, and other fees.	Revenue for 1885. Royalty, Timber Licenses, and other fees.	Remarks.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Allan, J. S.	Braidwood, Kiama, Milton, Moruya, and Nowra	205 0 0	221 10 0	426 10 0	478 0 10	476 3 8	454 0 4	In 1886, Land Districts of Bega, Bombala, Cooma, and Eden placed under supervision of Ranger Allan.
Allen, Wm.	Gundagai, Wagga Wagga—Northern portion of	205 0 0	110 10 0	315 10 0	481 8 2	824 5 2	570 3 3	
Brown, G. R.	Cassilis, Mudgee, Rylstone, and Wellington	205 0 0	205 5 0	410 5 0	284 8 9	279 10 0	186 10 0	
Cobcroft, E.	Gosford, Newcastle	205 0 0	72 5 0	277 5 0	277 17 0	397 11 6	435 9 3	In 1886 transferred to Singleton.
Brunker, F. E., Assistant		155 0 0	50 5 0	205 5 0				
Condell, J. G.	Narrandera, Urana	205 0 0	242 5 0	447 5 0	1,100 3 6	365 17 7	180 10 7	Employed principally on ringbarking duty.
Musgrave, T., Assistant		155 0 0	182 5 0	337 5 0				In 1886 transferred to Candelo as Assistant to Ranger Allan.
Cullen, P.	Dungog, Raymond Terrace, Stroud, Wollombi	205 0 0	130 5 0	335 5 0	871 10 0	909 15 0	701 10 0	In 1886 transferred.
Deverell, E. J.	Bingera, Glen Innes, Inverell, Moree, Tenterfield, Walgett North, Warialda	205 0 0	193 10 0	398 10 0	958 5 0	795 5 0	682 0 0	Employed principally on ringbarking duty.
Byron, W., Assistant		155 0 0	202 10 0	357 10 0				
Evans, T. M.	Goulburn, Gunning, Queanbeyan, and Yass	205 0 0	151 10 0	356 10 0	242 0 0	143 10 0	148 17 0	
Green, T. H.	Casino	205 0 0	152 10 0	357 10 0	420 4 0	480 10 0	471 9 10	
Higgins, E.	Maitland, Muswellbrook, Patterson, Scone, Singleton	205 0 0	150 11 2	355 11 2	242 15 0	199 0 0	226 5 0	Resigned in 1886. (See Rudder.)
Huxham, F. P.	Grafton	205 0 0	163 10 0	368 10 0	1,375 15 4	1,444 6 8	745 17 6	
Forster, F. M. C., Assistant		155 0 0	71 13 0	226 13 0				
Kidston, T.	Cobar (part of), Condobolin, Hillston, Hillston North, Parkes (part of)	205 0 0	225 5 0	430 5 0	400 5 0	289 5 0	234 10 0	Employed principally on ringbarking duty.
Manton, J. A.	Deniliquin—Southern portion of	255 0 0	228 10 0	483 10 0	2,946 12 10	5,817 17 2	3,241 0 6	Mr. Manton has general superintendence of all the Murray Timber Reserves below Howlong.
Wilshire, O.	Deniliquin—Northern portion of	205 0 0	188 5 0	393 5 0				
Payten, S.	Corowa	205 0 0	202 5 0	407 5 0				
Guilfoyle, J.		205 0 0	205 5 0	410 5 0				
Cousins, W., Assistant		155 0 0	109 5 0	264 5 0				
Martin, J.	Dubbo, Cobar (part of)	205 0 0	224 10 0	429 10 0	514 19 6	566 5 0	312 10 0	Employed principally on ringbarking duty. Transferred to Gosford in 1886.
Mecham, W.	Kempsey—Northern part of	205 0 0	171 0 0	376 0 0	1,214 2 0	695 3 6	626 0 3	

Name of Ranger	Land Districts in which Forest Rangers are employed.	Amount paid for Salary, 1885.	Amount paid for Travelling Expenses and other Allowances, 1885.	Total.	Revenue for 1883.	Revenue for 1884.	Revenue for 1885.	Remarks.
					Royalty, Timber Licenses, and other fees.	Royalty, Timber Licenses, and other fees.	Royalty, Timber Licenses, and other fees.	
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
MacDonald, W., Assistant	Kempsey—Southern part of	155 0 0	229 5 0	384 5 0	218 10 0	271 1 3	290 10 0	Employed principally on ringbarking duty.
M'Gee, T. H. B.	Coonabarrabran, Coonamble, Narrabri	205 0 0	261 10 0	466 10 0	285 0 0	196 0 0	172 0 0	
King, Geo., Assistant		155 0 0	166 10 0	311 10 0				
Noake, J.	Lithgow (part of), Penrith, Windsor	205 0 0	158 10 0	363 10 0	190 10 0	194 10 0	169 18 0	
Rotton, H. O.	Berrima, Camden, Campbelltown, Liverpool, Wollongong	205 0 0	226 5 0	431 5 0	286 0 1	385 19 3	456 1 5	
Siddins, R. L.	Armidale, Walcha	205 0 0	150 3 0	355 3 0	150 19 6	112 0 6	101 14 6	Employed principally on ringbarking duty. In 1886 transferred to Urana under super- vision of Ranger Condell. Districts placed under Ranger J. S. Allan.
Shadforth, H. S.	Bega, Bombala, Cooma, Eden	205 0 0	126 15 0	331 15 0	182 4 6	233 15 0	222 16 0	
Stevenson, R.	Bathurst, Burrowa, Carcoar, Cootamundra, Cowra, Forbes, Grenfell, Molong, Orange, Parkes, Young Albury, Tumut, Wagga Wagga—Southern portion of Lismore, Murwillumbah	205 0 0	167 10 0	372 10 0	1,084 12 9	755 8 10	935 0 6	Employed principally on ringbarking duty.
Cork, R. J., Assistant		180 0 0	122 10 0	302 10 0				
Postlethwaite, J. G., Assistant		155 0 0	111 5 0	266 5 0				
Taylor, J. S.		205 0 0	141 5 0	346 5 0				
Ward, J., Assistant		155 0 0	189 15 0	294 15 0				
White, T.		205 0 0	137 0 0	342 0 0	546 18 6	625 9 2	422 7 0	
West, G. W. succeeded by								
Powell, H. W.	Gunnedah, Murrurundi, Tamworth	203 10 0	156 12 5	360 2 5	161 10 6	180 8 0	163 12 9	Salary, £205 per annum. Employed princi- pally on ringbarking duty.
Wilson, T. W.	Port Macquarie, Taree	205 0 0	162 15 0	367 15 0	729 16 6	690 12 6	956 19 6	In 1886 appointed a Forest Ranger at £200 per annum, <i>vice</i> Higgins, resigned, stationed at Booral, <i>vice</i> Cullen, transferred. Previ- ously engaged on special duty.
Rudder, A., Acting Assistant Forest Ranger.	See last column	150 0 0	266 12 0	416 12 0				
O'Connell, R.		15 0 0		15 0 0		40 10 0	72 5 0	Acting Forest Ranger at Silverton. A police officer.
Robbys, J.		30 0 0		30 0 0				Acting Forest Ranger, Lord Howe Island.
Stevens, C.		30 0 0		30 0 0				Acting Forest Ranger, Lord Howe Island.
					583 2 0	187 10 0		Amounts paid for fees upon applications for permission to ringbark upon preleases which cannot be apportioned separately.
Total	£	7,588 10 0	6,568 11 7	14,157 1 7	16,469 16 3	17,781 7 9	13,385 16 2	

NOTE.—All Rangers are more or less engaged on ringbarking duty.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(J. J. THOMPSON'S CONDITIONAL PURCHASE ON KARoola RUN

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 23 July, 1886.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 6th December, 1883, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Copies of all papers, minutes, decisions, surveys, correspondence, and other documents, &c., relating to the conditional purchase of 640 acres, made by one J. J. Thompson, on Karoola Run, in the parish of Bukkulla, Warialda or Inverell District, in the year 1877.”

(Dr. Ross.)

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[805 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £55 14s. 8d.]

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No. 1.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 3 August, 1866.

Reserves from conditional purchase.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, directs it to be notified that, in pursuance of the provisions of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the land specified in the Schedule appended hereto shall be reserved from sale until surveyed, for the preservation of water supply or other public purposes.

J. BOWIE WILSON.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT.

* * * * *

No. 67. 640 acres, Main Camp, county of Arrawatta, Inverell. Commencing at a gum-tree marked R over 3, on the eastern bank of the Macintyre River, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above the junction of Bannockburn or Waterford's Creek, near the upper end of a long water-hole; thence by a line north 1 mile; thence by a line west about 1 mile to the river; thence by the river upwards to the starting-point.

Forms portion of the Bukkulla Run.

* * * * *

No. 2.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 March, 1877.

Revocation of temporary reserves.

It is hereby notified for general information that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to revoke, under the 6th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the temporary reservation from sale of the portion of land hereinafter described—the revocation to take effect at the expiration of thirty clear days from this date.

RICHARD DRIVER.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT.

No. 67. 640 acres, Main Camp, county of Arrawatta, Inverell. Commencing at a gum-tree marked R over 3, on the eastern bank of the Macintyre River, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above the junction of Bannockburn or Waterford's Creek, near the upper end of a long water-hole; thence by a line north 1 mile; thence by a line west about 1 mile to the river; thence by the river upwards to the starting-point.

Forms part of Bukkulla Run.

This reserve was notified 3rd August, 1866.

No. 3.

Application by John Jackson Thompson.

D.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Inverell.

No. 58 of 1877.

Application by John Jackson Thompson for the conditional purchase, without competition, of 560 acres unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £140, this 3rd day of May, 1877, at 10 o'clock,—

W. CLARE CARDEW,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Inverell.

Sir,

3 May, 1877.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 560 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £140, being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply.

I am, &c.,

JOHN JACKSON THOMPSON,

Inverell.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Inverell.

Description.

County of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, 560 acres. Commencing at a gum-tree marked R over 3, on the eastern bank of the Macintyre River, being portion of reserve No. 67, gazetted as revoked on March 27, 1877.

Minutes on No. 3.

By the Surveyor-General:—Mr. Licensed Surveyor Macharg to measure, if unobjectionable.—D.L. (for Surveyor-General), 5/6/77. B.C. 12/6/77.

No. 4.

Application by John Jackson Thompson.

G.

[Alienation Act, section 21.]

Application by John Jackson Thompson for the conditional purchase, without competition, of 80 acres unimproved Crown Land, under section 21 of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

Received by me, with a deposit of £20, this 17th day of May, 1877, at 11:35 o'clock,—

W. CLARE CARDEW,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Inverell.

Sir,

17 May, 1877.

Land Agent's Number.	Dates of previous Conditional Purchases.	Area of each Conditional Purchase.
58	3/5/77	560
80	17/5/77	80
Total area..		640

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the 21st section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 80 acres, which adjoins my conditional purchase of 560 acres, upon which I am now residing, or upon which I have resided for three years; and I herewith tender the sum of £20, being a deposit at the rate of five shilling (5s.) per acre on the area for which I apply.

This is the first selection made by me in virtue of my conditional purchase of 560 acres.

I am, &c.,

J. J. THOMPSON,

Bukkulla.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Inverell.

Description.

County of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, 80 acres, adjoining on the north my conditional purchase of 560 acres, made 3rd May, 1877, being portion of reserve No. 67, revoked 27th March, 1877.

Minutes on No. 4.

By the Surveyor-General:—Mr. Licensed Surveyor Macharg to measure, if unobjectionable, if first conditional purchase is satisfactory.—D.L. (pro Surveyor-General), 2/7/77. B.C., 6/7/77.

No. 5.

Application by Frederick Wentworth Wright.

M.

District of Warialda.

[Occupation Act, 1861, Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875.]

Received this 19th day of June, 1877, at 10 o'clock, together with the sum of £1 6s. 10d.

F. CAMERON MACARTHUR,

Land Agent.

Sir,

Bukkulla, 19 June, 1877.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Crown Lands Occupation Act of 1861, and the Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875, and Regulations thereunder, I, the undersigned, as agent for Frederick Wentworth Wright, do hereby apply to be allowed to lease the sections or portion of Crown Lands hereunder described, at the fixed rent of £2 per section, which I hereby tender.

Tho

5

The land in virtue of which I claim to exercise a right of pre-emption is situated as follows, and is now in my possession, viz. :—

County of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, situated on the Macintyre River, containing 143 acres, being auction purchase, on the 23rd day of March, 1877, by Frederick Wentworth Wright, at Warialda.

I have, &c.,

FREDERICK WENTWORTH WRIGHT,

To the Land Agent for the District of Warialda.

By his Agent, PERCY PHILIP WRIGHT.

Description of the section or portion applied for.

429 acres, adjoining the eastern boundaries of said portion, No. 79-280, as described above.

Minutes on No. 5.

429 acres, gazetted 27 November, 1877.—Approved and Agent informed, 23/1/78.

Objectionable, as the land applied for is under lease to J. J. Thompson (*vide* 34 of 1877, 1,920 acres), and there is no other available land.—A.G., 6/5/79.

No. 6.

Mr. P. P. Wright to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Karoola, Bukkulla, via Inverell, 19 August, 1877.

I have the honor to request that you may see fit to cause to be put up to auction portion No. 84, containing about 80 acres, adjoining the southern boundary of reserve No. 515, parish of Bukkulla, county of Arrawatta, and beg herewith to hand you cheque on Bank of Australasia, Sydney, for £2, at 6d. per acre.

I have, &c.,

PERCY PHILIP WRIGHT.

No. 7.

Mr. Licensed Surveyor Macharg to The Surveyor-General.

Sir,

Inverell, 10 September, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the plan of one portion of land, containing 560 acres, numbered 82, in the parish of Bukkulla, county of Arrawatta, applied for by J. J. Thompson, under the 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, and surveyed in accordance with instructions dated 12 June, 1877, No. 47.

Improvements at date of survey consisted of a bark hut and sheep-yard, worth £12. The applicant was not present during the survey. Water permanent.

I have, &c.,

JOHN MACHARG,

Licensed Surveyor.

Minutes on above.

The Surveyor-General.—W. A. B. GREAVES, 26/9/77. Should not the Conditional Purchase Inspector report?—W.D.A., 4/12/78. Description prepared.—W.H.A., 12/12/78. This portion has been taken up in the Land District of Inverell; it should have been selected at Warialda.—W.D.A., 21/2/79.

[*Enclosure B, No. 7.*]

Conditional Purchase 77-58.

Description.

560 acres, county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, portion No. 82. Commencing on the right bank of the Macintyre River, at the south-western corner of portion 83 of 80 acres; and bounded thence on the north by the southern boundary of that portion bearing east 97 chains and 50 links; on the east by a line bearing south 29 chains and 8 links to the Macintyre River; and on all other sides by that river downwards to the point of commencement.

No. 8.

Mr. Licensed Surveyor Macharg to The Surveyor-General.

Sir,

Inverell, 10 September, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the plan of one portion of land, containing 80 acres, numbered 83, in the parish of Bukkulla, county of Arrawatta, applied for by J. J. Thompson, under the 21st section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, and surveyed in accordance with instructions dated 2 July, 1877, No. 62. Improvements, nil. Water permanent.

I have, &c.,

JOHN MACHARG,

Licensed Surveyor.

Minutes on above.

The Surveyor-General.—W. A. B. GREAVES, 26/9/77. Dependent on first conditional purchase.—W.D.A., 7/6/78. Description prepared.—W.J.N., 2/7/78. Conditional Purchase 77-80 has been taken up in the Land District of Inverell; it should have been selected at Warialda.—W.D.A., 21/2/79.

[*Enclosure B, No. 8.*]

Conditional Purchase 77-80.

Description.

80 acres, county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, portion 83. Commencing on the right bank of the Macintyre River, at a point where the southern-side of a road 1 chain wide, dividing it from portion 84 of 77 acres, meets it; and bounded thence on the north by that road bearing east 94 chains and 85 links; on the east by a line bearing south 8 chains and 27 links; on the south by a line bearing west 97 chains and 50 links to the Macintyre River; and on the north-west by that river downwards to the point of commencement.

No. 9.

Mr. Licensed Surveyor Macharg to The Surveyor-General.

Sir,

Inverell, 10 September, 1877.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the plan of two portions of land, containing 240 acres, numbered 84, and water reserve 515, in the parish of Bukkulla, county of Arrawatta, applied for by P. P. Wright, under the 23rd section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, and surveyed in accordance with instructions dated No.

Water permanent.

Application herewith with cheque for £2, being the deposit on 80 acres.

I have, &c.,

JOHN MACHARG,
Licensed Surveyor.

Minutes on above.

The Surveyor-General.—W. A. B. GREAVES, 26/9/77.

Application with deposit herewith. Cheque with Mr. Johnston, in Record Branch, to whom the application has been sent.—H.P.B., 2/10/77.

By Under Secretary for Finance and Trade:—The sum of £2 was credited to Trust Fund Account on the 8th instant.—G.E., Treasury, B.C., 9/10/77. The Under Secretary for Lands Mr. Stevens for auction sale.—W.D.A., 6/4/78.

[Enclosure to No. 9.]

Department of Lands, Sydney, 29 December, 1876.

Reserves from Sale for Water Supply.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, directs it to be notified that in pursuance of the provisions of the 4th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the land specified in the Schedule appended hereto shall be reserved from sale for the preservation of water supply.

THOMAS GARRETT.

New England District, No. 515, county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, about 165 acres. The Crown Lands within the following boundaries: Commencing at the south-west corner of J. Asimus' 80 acres; and bounded thence on the north by southern boundary of that portion and its easterly prolongation, in all about 78 chains; thence on the east by a line bearing south about 20 chains; thence on the south by a line bearing west about 87 chains to the Macintyre River; thence by that river downwards to the point of commencement.

No. 10.

M.

Application by Mr. J. J. Thompson.

District of Inverell.

[Occupation Act, 1861, Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875.]

Received this 29th day of September, 1877, at 12 o'clock, together with the sum of £3.

W. CLARE CARDEW,
Land Agent.

Sir,

Inverell, 29 September, 1877.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Crown Lands Occupation Act of 1861, the Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875, and regulations thereunder, I, John Jackson Thompson, do hereby apply to be allowed to lease the sections or portion of Crown Lands hereunder described, at the fixed rent of £2 per section, which I hereby tender.

The land in virtue of which I claim to exercise a right of pre-emption is situated as follows, and is now in my possession, viz.:—County of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, situated on the Macintyre River, containing 640 acres, being conditional purchases on the 3rd and 17th days of May, 1877, by John Jackson Thompson, at Inverell.

I am, &c.,

J. J. THOMPSON.

To the Land Agent for the District of Inverell.

Description of the sections or portion applied for.

1,920 acres; starting from the north-east corner of the above conditional purchase back to the Ashford road, thence north along said road.

Minute on No. 10.

1,920 acres, gazetted 27 November, 1877. Charted 1,920 acres, Inverell.—A.G., 4/2/79.

No. 11.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 November, 1877.

Approved Claims to Pre-emptive Leases.

It is hereby notified, for general information, that the claims of the undermentioned parties to leases of Crown Lands adjoining their respective freeholds have been approved, pursuant to the Regulations of 27th August, 1875, but subject to such modifications or amendments as may, on further examination, be found to be necessary.

2. Such leases will entitle the lessees to occupy Crown Lands within the limits indicated by the said regulations (extract from which is hereto appended for more convenient reference), or so much thereof as may be open to and not already under lease by pre-emptive right, and may not be exempted from conditional purchase in virtue of improvements, or notified as a reserve.

3. The rent, as hereunder specified, will be for the period from 1st July to 31st December, 1877, and must in each case be paid in full before the lease will have effect. Credit will be allowed for the amounts already paid on deposit of the applications.

4. The leases will be renewable on the ordinary terms by payment of the rent for the ensuing year, between 1st and 30th September.

No. of Lease.	Lessee.		Area of Freehold in virtue of which Lease is granted.	Particulars of Lease.				District.	Office No. of Application and Papers.
	Name.	Address.		Area.	Half-Year's Rent.	County.	Situation.		
*	*	*	Acres.	Acres.	£ s. d.	*	*	*	*
77-34	John J. Thompson	Inverell...	640	1920	3 0 0	Ararawatta	Parish of Bukkulla	Inverell...	77-3,083 C.P.
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
77-111	Frederick W. Wright	Bukkulla	143	429	0 13 5	Ararawatta	Parish of Bukkulla	Warialda	77-2,040
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

5. Unless and until other boundaries shall be determined by the authority of the Minister for Lands the boundaries of lands hereafter leased by pre-emptive right shall be held to be as follows:—

- I. Where the purchased land is taken or measured without frontage to any river, creek, road, or intended road, the pre-emptive leasehold shall surround such purchased land, and shall be bounded by lines parallel to the boundaries thereof, and of length equal to twice the length of the sides to which they are respectively parallel and equidistant therefrom.
- II. When the purchased land has any such frontage the pre-emptive leasehold shall surround such purchased land on all sides other than the frontage, and shall be bounded by lines parallel to the boundaries thereof, and the side lines shall be distant respectively from the side lines of the purchased land by one-quarter the breadth of such land, and the back line shall be distant from the back line of such land by the space which would include three times the area thereof.

E. A. BAKER.

No. 12.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. Frederick W. Wright.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 23 January, 1878.

I am directed to inform you that pre-emptive lease No. 77-111 of 429 acres, in the district of Warialda, notified in the Government Gazette of the 27th November, 1877, as approved in your favour, has been granted in satisfaction of your application of the 19th June, 1877, for a corresponding area.

The annual rent will be £1 6s. 10d., but, as will be understood from the Gazette notice, only half this amount is required for the tenure of the lease up to the end of the current year. This latter sum is covered by the money, £1 6s. 10d., deposited at the time of application; and the amount, 13s. 5d., paid in excess, has, having regard to the date of approval, been retained as part payment of the rent for the ensuing year. The sum due for renewal, 13s. 5d., must be paid on or before the 27th instant.

For each succeeding year the rent must be paid during the month of September of the year preceding; or, if tendered after this date, must be paid, with the incurred penalty, on or prior to the 31st December.

From the last section of the 12th clause of the Crown Lands Occupation Act it will be seen that, should any part of your lease be absorbed by conditional purchases or other alienations, no other land can be allowed in place of it, and that the remaining area can be held only on payment of the rent charged for the lease as originally granted.

As you will be expected when writing to this Department to state the number of the lease, its area, and the date of notification of approval in the Government Gazette, you will find it expedient to carefully preserve this letter on account of its containing the information required.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 13.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Warialda.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 23 January, 1878.

I am directed to invite your attention to the list of approximate claims to pre-emptive leases published in the Government Gazette of the 27th November, 1877, and to request you will be good enough to report to this Department all payments of rent made in common therewith.

Tracings of these leases will be forwarded to you as soon as the conditional purchases have been surveyed and charted on the office maps.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 14.

No. 14.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. J. J. Thompson.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 23 January, 1878.

I am directed to inform you that pre-emptive lease No. 77-34, of 1,920 acres, in the district of Inverell, notified in the Government Gazette of the 27th November, 1877, as approved in your favour, has been granted in satisfaction of your application of the 29th September, 1877, for a corresponding area.

The annual rent will be £6, but, as will be understood from the Gazette notice, only half this amount is required for the tenure of the lease up to the end of the current year. This latter sum is covered by the money (£3) deposited at the time of application. The sum due for renewal (£6) must be paid on or before the 27th instant.

For each succeeding year the rent must be paid during the month of September of the year preceding; or, if tendered after this date, must be paid, with the incurred penalty, on or prior to the 31st December.

From the last section of the 12th clause of the Crown Lands Occupation Act it will be seen that, should any part of your lease be absorbed by conditional purchases or other alienations, no other land can be allowed in place of it, and that the remaining area can be held only on payment of the rent charged for the lease as originally granted.

As you will be expected when writing to this Department to state the number of the lease, its area, and the date of notification of approval in the Government Gazette, you will find it expedient to carefully preserve this letter on account of its containing the information required.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 15.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 23 January, 1878.

I am directed to invite your attention to the list of approximate claims to pre-emptive leases published in the Government Gazette of the 27th November, 1877, and to request you will be good enough to report to this Department all payments of rent made in common therewith.

Tracings of these leases will be forwarded to you as soon as the conditional purchases have been surveyed and charted on the office maps.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 16.

Memorandum by Surveyor-General.

Charting Branch.

MEMORANDUM of subjects requiring explanation or completion in connection with the survey and plan of portion No. 82, transmitted by Mr. Licensed Surveyor Macharg, parish of Bukkulla, county of Arrawatta, letter No. 77-47, of 10th September, and on which Macharg's report in explanation is requested.

Subject.

ATTENTION is drawn to paragraph 45 of Surveyors' Instructions. On the plan of the above portion the off-sets to creek scale as much as 300 links, although the paragraph quoted states that the off-sets must not exceed 150 links.

Mr. Macharg's attention has been frequently called to this matter. He is cautioned to be more careful in the future.

13/4/78.

P.F.A.

Off-sets should be supplied where the river is more than 150 links from the traverse.

13/5/78.

P.F.A.

Report.

I AM sorry the Charting Branch should have considered it necessary to caution me on this subject. I always take great care to comply with paragraph 45, except in occasional instances where the traverse of a minute bend would evidence for the correctness of the work.

20/6/78.

J.M.

On line No. 1 at 1,042.....200

" " 2 " 400.....280

" " 2 " 708.....250

" " 3 " 500.....180

" " 5 " 2,200.....160

J.M.

W.T.M. might be a little more particular in quoting the paragraph. The word "must" is not used in the original.

J.M.

No. 17.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 11 June, 1878.

Land Sales.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, I, the Minister for Lands, do hereby notify that the following lots of land will be offered for sale by public auction, at the undermentioned places, at 12 o'clock on the days specified, at the upset price affixed to each lot respectively. (Deposit 25 per cent.)

JAMES S. FARNELL.

Sale

Sale at the Police Office, Warialda, on Wednesday, the 17th day of July, 1878.
Country Lots.

Lot.	No. of Portion.	Area.	Price per Acre.	County.	Parish.	Situation.
A...	84 ...	a. r. p. 77 0 0	£ s. d. 1 5 0	Arrawatta	Bukkulla	On the right bank of Macintyre River, and adjacent to the northern boundary of portion No. 83 of 80 acres; and adjoining the southern boundary of water reserve No. 615, Karoola Run.

No. 18.

Notification by John Jackson Thompson.

K.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

Notification of alienation of conditional purchase by John Jackson Thompson, in the district of Inverell. I HEREBY notify to you, as the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands for the district of Inverell, that I have, after a residence thereon of at least twelve months, this day alienated to William Thompson, of Bukkulla, the 560 acres of land situated in the county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, which I selected at Inverell, as a conditional purchase, under the 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, on the 3rd May, 1877, as also the following additional purchase:—80 acres, 17th May, 1877.

Dated at Inverell, this 19th December, 1878.

J. J. THOMPSON,

Bukkulla.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Inverell.

I have duly registered the above notification of alienation in the records of this office.

Land Office, Inverell, 19 December, 1878.

W. CLARE CARDEW,
Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands.

Minutes on No. 18.

Mr. Armstrong,—How is it that the plan shows the conditional purchase survey to be within the Warialda Police District, and the application states Inverell. If it is in the Warialda District, the attention should have been drawn of the Chief Commissioner, with a view of having it altered. It is now a law case, and they are about to compromise it in consequence of the wrong Police District being given in the application.—T.H.L., 17/2/79.

Mr. Neate,—Conditional purchase 77-58 and conditional purchase 77-80 should have been taken up at Warialda, not Inverell.—W. D. ARMSTRONG, 17/2/79. Mr. Lackey,—For alteration of districts.—F.H.W., 5/3/79. Mr. Croft,—Please make necessary alterations in register and return, please.—M.L. 6/3/79.

No. 19.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 8 February, 1879.

With reference to pre-emptive lease No. 77-34 of 1,920 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, in the name of J. J. Thompson, I am directed to transmit to you a tracing showing the approximate boundaries of the lease.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 20.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. J. J. Thompson.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 8 February, 1879.

With reference to pre-emptive lease No. 77-34, of 1,920 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, standing in the name of J. J. Thompson, I am directed to inform you that a tracing has this day been forwarded to the Crown Lands Agent.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 21.

Gazette Notice.

Approved claims to Pre-emptive Leases.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 11 February, 1879.

It is hereby notified for general information that the claims of the undermentioned parties to leases of Crown Lands adjoining their respective freeholds have been approved, pursuant to the Regulations of 27 August, 1875, but subject to such modifications or amendments as may, on further examination, be found to be necessary.

2. Such leases will entitle the lessees to occupy Crown Lands within the limits indicated by the said Regulations (extract from which is hereto appended for more convenient reference), or so much thereof as may be open to and not already under lease by pre-emptive right, and may not be exempted from conditional purchase in virtue of improvements or notified as a reserve.

3. The rent, as hereunder specified, will be for the period from 1 January to 31 December, 1879, and must in each case be paid in full before the lease will have effect. Credit will be allowed for the amounts already paid on deposit of the applications.

4. The leases will be renewable on the ordinary terms by payment of the rent for the ensuing year between 1st and 30th September.

JAMES HOSKINS.

* * * * *

Land Agent's number, ; number of lease, 4; lessee's name, Edward S. Wyndham, Inverell; area of freehold in virtue of which lease is granted, 260 acres. Particulars of lease:—Area, 780 acres; rent, £2 8s. 9d.; county Arrawatta; situation, parish of Wyndham; district, Inverell; office number of application and paper, conditional purchase 1878-78.

* * * * *

Extract referred to.

5. Unless and until other boundaries shall be determined by the authority of the Minister for Lands the boundaries of lands hereafter leased by pre-emptive right shall be held to be as follows:—

(1.) When the purchased land is taken or measured without frontage to any river, creek, road, or intended road, the pre-emptive leasehold shall surround such purchased land, and shall be bounded by lines parallel to the boundaries thereof, and of length equal to twice the length of the sides to which they are respectively parallel and equidistant therefrom.

(2.) When the purchased land has any such frontage the pre-emptive leasehold shall surround such purchased land on all sides other than the frontage, and shall be bounded by lines parallel to the boundaries thereof, and the side lines shall be distant respectively from the side lines of the purchased land by one-quarter the breadth of such land, and the back line shall be distant from the back line of such land by a space which includes three times the area thereof.

No. 22.

Mr. H. J. Withers to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

79, New Pitt-street, 19 February, 1879.

William Thompson, 560 acres, Inverell, No. 77-58, 13th clause, 80 acres additional conditional purchase, No. 77-80.

On behalf of Mr. Thompson, I do myself the honor to submit the following, and to request that the voucher for refund of deposit may be made at once, my client only waiting to receive it to re-apply for the land at the proper office. As noted in margin, my client selected 640 acres at the Inverell Lands Office. The plan has been accepted by the Survey Office and charted on the county map. A pre-lease was gazetted in his favour, and the Minister has given his final approval. A tracing of it is now at the Inverell Land Office. My client never occupied the pre-lease until it was charted; he then put sheep on it, and the lessee then commenced an action for trespass, damages £500. The case was tried yesterday in the Supreme Court, and my client, for £2, on the advice of his counsel, Sir George Innes, accepted a nominal verdict, for the following reasons:—

1st. That the conditional purchase having been taken up at Inverell, instead of at Warialda, was bad, and that he had, in law, no claim to the land.

2nd. The pre-lease applied for in virtue of the conditional purchase was void, the conditional purchase being illegal. I respectfully ask that instructions may be given for the voucher to be made out at once, so that my client can proceed to Warialda, the right office, and re-select the land on the 27th instant.

The lessee can institute another action against my client unless he can get a better title.

I have, &c.,

H. J. WITHERS.

Minutes on above.

Portion No. 82, parish of Bukkulla, 560 acres, conditional purchase 77-58, J. J. Thompson, and portion No. 83, parish of Bukkulla, 80 acres, additional conditional purchase 77-80, J. J. Thompson, are in the Land District of Warialda. They were taken up in error in the Land District of Inverell.—W.D. ARMSTRONG, No. 14, Charting Branch, 20/2/79.

By Chief Commissioner:—For cancellation.—A.O.M., 20/2/79. Papers sent to Mr. Neate.—W.D.A., 4/3/79. Transferred from Inverell to Warialda.—H.C., 29/3/79.

Mr. Croft,—The selections appear to have been declared void, as the papers have been in Charting Branch to note. They may now, I think, be put away.—M.L.

No. 23.

The Chief Commissioner to Mr. William Thompson.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Division, Sydney, 21 February, 1879.

I desire to inform you that the application made by you, at Inverell, on the 3rd May, 1877, for the conditional purchase of 560 acres of land is void, as it was made at the wrong Land District.

2. Enclosed is a form which, on being filled up in accordance with the instructions thereon, and forwarded to the Treasury, Sydney, will enable you at once to obtain the refund of your deposit.

I have, &c.,

W. BLACKMAN,

(For Chief Commissioner).

[Enclosure to No. 23.]

[Special Payments Form No. 2.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.]

Conditional Purchase—Revenue refunded.

Dr. to William Thompson.

Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Division, Sydney, 21 February, 1879.

	Amount to be refunded
	£ s. d.
For the following refund, viz., :—C.P., No. 77-58.	
Land Office at Inverell; date of selection, 3rd day of May, 1879; deposit paid on 560 acres.....	.....
Selection void, as the land was applied for in the wrong Land District.	
Deposit to be refunded on 560 acres	£ 140 0 0

11

No. 24.

The Chief Commissioner to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir, Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Division, Sydney, 21 February, 1879.

I desire to inform you that the application of Mr. John Jackson Thompson, on the 3rd May, 1877, for the conditional purchase of 560 acres of land is void, as it was made at the wrong Land District.

2. A form for refund of deposit has been forwarded for the signature of the alienee, the nature of which you will be so good as to explain to him, if required.

I have, &c.,
WM. BLACKMAN,
(For Chief Commissioner).

No. 25.

The Chief Commissioner to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Conditional Purchase.—Revenue Refunded.

Sir, Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Division, Sydney, 21 February, 1879.

I have to inform you that the conditional purchase noted in the margin being void, the land having been applied for in the wrong district, you will be good enough to refund to the selector the sum of £140, being the deposit money paid thereon.

2. I am to add that a receipt form for the disposal of the money has been forwarded to the alienee, with instructions to fill up same and transmit it to the Treasury.

I have, &c.,
WM. BLACKMAN,
(For Chief Commissioner).

C.P. 77-58, Inverell, John Jackson Thompson, 560 acres, 3rd May, 1877, transferred to William Thompson; deposit, £140.

No. 26.

The Chief Commissioner to Mr. W. Thompson.

Sir, Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Division, Sydney, 21 February, 1879.

I desire to inform you that the application made by you, at Inverell, on the 17th May, 1877, for the conditional purchase of 80 acres of land, is void, as it was made at the wrong district.

2. Enclosed is a form which, on being filled up in accordance with the instructions thereon, and forwarded to the Treasury, Sydney, will enable you at once to obtain the refund of your deposit.

I have, &c.,
WM. BLACKMAN,
(For Chief Commissioner).

C.P. 77-80. Deposit paid, £20.

[Enclosure to No. 26.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Conditional Purchase.—Revenue Refunded.

Dr. to William Thompson.

Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Division, Sydney, 21 February, 1879.

	Amount to be refunded.
For the following refund, viz.:—C.P. No. 77-80.	
Land Office at Inverell; date of selection, 17th day of May, 1877; deposit paid on 80 acres	£ s. d.
Selection void, as the land was applied for in the wrong district.	.....
Deposit to be refunded on 80 acres	£ 20 0 0

No. 27.

The Chief Commissioner to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir, Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Division, Sydney, 21 February, 1879.

I desire to inform you that the application of John Jackson Thompson, on the 17th May, 1877, for the conditional purchase of 80 acres of land, is void, as it was made at the wrong Land District.

2. A form for refund of deposit has been forwarded for the signature of the alienee, the nature of which you will be so good as to explain to him, if required.

I have, &c.,
WM. BLACKMAN,
(For Chief Commissioner).

No. 28.

The Chief Commissioner to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Conditional Purchase.—Revenue Refunded.

Sir, Department of Lands, Conditional Sales Division, Sydney, 21 February, 1879.

I have to inform you that the conditional purchase noted in the margin being void, the land having been taken up in the wrong district, you will be good enough to refund to the selector the sum of £20, being the deposit money paid thereon.

2. I am to add that a receipt form for the disposal of the money has been forwarded to the alienee, with instructions to fill up same and transmit it to the Treasury.

I have, &c.,
WM. BLACKMAN,
(For Chief Commissioner).

C.P. 77-80, Inverell, John Jackson Thompson, 80 acres, 17th May, 1877, transferred to William Thompson; deposit, £20.

No. 2.

No. 29.

Application by John Jackson Thompson.

District of Warialda. C. [Alienation Act, section 13.]
Application by John Jackson Thompson, for the conditional purchase, without competition, of
640 acres unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £160, this 6th day of March, 1879, at 10 o'clock,—

F. CAMERON MACARTHUR,
Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Warialda.

Sir,

6 March, 1879.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 640 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £160, being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply.

I am, &c.,

JOHN JACKSON THOMPSON,

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Warialda.

Bukkulla, Inverell.

Description.

County of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, 640 acres, portions Nos. 82 and 83: Commencing at a point on the north bank of the Macintyre River, where the portion No. 82, as surveyed, touches that river; thence by a line north, which forms the eastern boundary of Nos. 82 and 83; thence by a line west, which forms the northern boundary of portion No. 83; to the river southerly and easterly, to the point of commencement.

No. 30.

Application by John Jackson Thompson.

M.

District of Warialda. [Occupation Act, 1861, Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875.]

Received this 7th day of March, 1879, at 10 o'clock, together with the sum of £6.

F. CAMERON MACARTHUR,

Land Agent.

Sir,

Bukkulla, Inverell, 7 March, 1879.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Crown Lands Occupation Act of 1861, the Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875, and Regulations thereunder, I, J. J. Thompson, do hereby apply to be allowed to lease the sections or portion of Crown Lands hereunder described, at the fixed rent of £2 per section, which I hereby tender.

The land in virtue of which I claim to exercise a right of pre-emption is situated as follows, and is now in my possession, viz:—County of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, situated on Macintyre River, containing 640 acres, being conditional purchase, on the 6th day of March, 1879, by me, at Warialda.

I am, &c.,

J. J. THOMPSON.

To the Land Agent for the District of Warialda.

Description.

1,920 acres pre-lease. Commencing on the eastern boundary of my conditional purchase, and running north along portions Nos. 79, 78, 78; thence west to river Macintyre; thence north; thence east to travelling stock reserve; thence by that reserve round portion No. 28, to point of commencement,—and if not here available, then adjoining my conditional purchase on opposite sides.

Minutes on No. 30.

79/28, 640 acres, correct in applicant's name.—W.T., 30/6/82.

1,920 acres, gazetted 23 May, 1879. Charted 1,920 acres, Warialda.—A.G., 19/7/79.

Mr. Brown,—This application should now be cancelled, as it is found that a conditional purchase of A. M'Donald, 76/33, cuts applicant off from the pre-lease applied for, and there is no other available land. M'Donald's conditional purchase is not yet charted on the office maps, and consequently, at the time of dealing with this and J. J. Thompson's former application, its existence was not known.—A.G., 20/8/79.

1,920 acres, now charted on map.—A.G., 24/2/79.

No. 31.

Mr. H. J. Withers to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

79, New Pitt-street, 25 March, 1879.

On behalf of J. J. Thompson, I do myself the honor to request that the sum of £450 may be placed on the Additional Estimates to compensate him for expenses in a lawsuit, Wyndham v. Thompson, for trespass on a pre-emptive lease granted by the Lands Department to my client. The facts are as follow:—

Thompson made application for 640 acres of land, under the 13th clause of the Land Act, at the local Land Office, Inverell, at the same time he applied for a pre-lease in virtue thereof. The applications were sent to Sydney, and finally dealt with both by the Conditional Sales and Charting Branches, and my client was informed that he was entitled to 1,920 acres as a pre-lease; the approval was given by the Minister, and a tracing was sent down to the Inverell Lands Office for my client and the public to see the boundaries. Thompson never occupied the pre-lease until the final approval was given, and I obtained a tracing with the length of each line marked thereon. He then marked them out upon the ground, and

Inverell, 77-58,
77-53, 660 acres
and 80 acres,
parish Bukkulla,
county Arra-
watta.

Pre-lease 34 of
1877, 1,920 acres.

went

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went into occupation by placing some sheep thereon; then the lessee commenced an action against Thompson for £1,000 damages, and obtained a verdict. My client's law expenses, &c., amounted to over the sum now claimed. I respectfully submit that the Charting Branch should never have passed this conditional purchase without getting it transferred from the Inverell Office to the Warialda, the land being just within the police district of the latter. This conditional purchase was passed as correct, my client resided on the land, and now, after two years, he finds himself in the Supreme Court with a debt of £450, through an error made by the Department in granting a pre-lease and representing it as correct, taking rent every year, and thus leading Thompson into the position in which he now stands.

My client is a hard-working farmer, and unless something is done at once ruin will and must come, and caused, not by himself, but by the Government.

I have, &c.,
HENRY J. WITHERS.

Minutes on No. 31.

It has always been the practice of the Department to grant a pre-lease in the district in which the conditional purchase application was made, and to furnish tracings accordingly, which was, as usual, done in this case.

In this instance the conditional purchase appears to have been applied for in the wrong district, and being therefore invalid the pre-lease is of course void.—A.G., 10/4/79.

Conditional Sales Branch,—With respect to the conditional purchase.—C.A.B., 17/4/79.

By Chief Commissioner:—Enclose conditional papers. Urgent.—A.O.M., 17/4/79.

The conditional purchase has already been cancelled at the instance of the applicant's agent. The present matter is a claim for compensation for erroneous action as to the issue of the lease, and is for the attention of the Under Secretary, to whom it is returned.—A.O.M., 19/4/79.

By Under Secretary for Lands:—Immediate. Submitted as to whether the amount is to be placed on the Additional Estimates.—W.W.S., 20/4/79.

By Secretary for Lands:—I am of opinion that before this application can be entertained this Department must be furnished by the applicant with a certified copy of the information laid in the Supreme Court by the plaintiff in the case, together with the evidence given, as well as the verdict of the Jury, and a certified copy of the costs paid by each side, and whether such costs have been taxed.—J.H., 28/4/79.

No. 32.

Mr. E. S. Wyndham to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Karoola, Inverell, 14 April, 1879.

Having been informed that an application for a pre-emptive lease has been made by John J. Thompson, in virtue of his conditional purchase of 640 acres, lately made at Warialda, being portions 82 and 83, in the parish of Bukkulla, county of Arrawatta, and that such pre-lease has been applied for to extend over the Macintyre River, opposite the conditional purchase in question, I beg to point out that the land in question has been applied for by me as a pre-lease in virtue of my conditional purchase, being Nos. 31 and 32, parish Wyndham, and gazetted as approved on 11th February, 1879.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD S. WYNDHAM.

No. 33.

Mr. E. S. Wyndham to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Karoola, Inverell, 14 April, 1879.

Referring to my application for a pre-emptive lease, gazetted as approved in Gazette of 11th February, and numbered 79-4, district of Inverell, I beg to point out that the land is not available in the ordinary form, and to request that the form of the pre-lease may be amended so as to include the land described in the application being on the opposite side of Waterford's Creek.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD S. WYNDHAM.

Minutes on above.

The pre-lease granted to J. J. Thompson, in virtue of portions Nos. 82 and 83, is No. 34 of 1877, and not the one attached; it does not interfere with Wyndham's pre-lease. Wyndham's pre-lease is now charted.—A.G., 7/6/79.

Mr. Gall,—Application for lease 34 of 1877 now attached. Is the land available?—C.A.B., 15/7/79. The pre-lease applied for by J. J. Thompson, in his late application 48 of 1879, is available, and will not interfere with Wyndham's application 4 of 1879.—A.G., 19/7/79.

No. 34.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. H. J. Withers.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 13 May, 1879.

In reply to your letter of the 25th March last, applying, on behalf of Mr. J. J. Thompson, for compensation from the Government for erroneous action on their part with respect to a pre-emptive lease granted to the said J. J. Thompson, in the wrong district, and thereby subjecting him to an action in the Supreme Court, which he lost, I am directed to inform you that the Minister is of opinion that before your application can be entertained you shall furnish a certified copy of the information laid by the plaintiff, together with the evidence and verdict, and a certified copy of costs paid by each, stating whether taxed or not.

I have, &c.,

W. W. STEPHEN,
Under Secretary.

No. 35.

No. 35.
Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 23 May, 1879.

Approved Claims to Pre-emptive Leases.

It is hereby notified for general information that the claims of the undermentioned parties to leases of Crown Lands adjoining their respective freeholds have been approved, pursuant to the Regulations of 27th August, 1875, but subject to such modifications or amendments as may, on further examination, be found to be necessary.

2. Such leases will entitle the lessees to occupy Crown Lands within the limits indicated by the said regulations (extract from which is hereto appended for more convenient reference), or so much thereof as may be open to, and not already under, lease by pre-emptive right, and may not be exempted from conditional purchase in virtue of improvements or notified as a reserve.

3. The rent, as hereunder specified, will be for the period from 1st January to 31st December, 1879, and must in each case be paid in full before the lease will have effect; credit will be allowed for the amounts already paid on deposit of the applications.

4. The leases will be renewable on the ordinary terms by payment of the rent for the ensuing year between 1st and 30th September.

JAMES HOSKINS.

* * * * *
Land Agent's No.—; No. of lease, 48; lessee's name, J. J. Thompson; lessor's address, Bukkulla, Inverell; area of freehold in virtue of which lease is granted, 640 acres; area, 1,920 acres; annual rent, £6; county of Arrawatta; parish of Bukkulla; district of Warialda; Office No. of application and papers, 79-603 C.P.
* * * * *

5. Unless and until other boundaries shall be determined by the authority of the Minister for Lands, the boundaries of lands hereafter leased by pre-emptive right shall be held to be as follows:—

(1.) When the purchased land is taken or measured without frontage to any river, creek, road, or intended road, the pre-emptive leasehold shall surround such purchased land, and shall be bounded by lines parallel to the boundaries thereof, and of length equal to twice the length of the sides to which they are respectively parallel, and equidistant therefrom.

(2.) When the purchased land has any such frontage the pre-emptive leasehold shall surround such purchased land on all sides, other than the frontage, and shall be bounded by lines parallel to the boundaries thereof, and the side lines shall be distant respectively from the side lines of the purchased land by one-quarter the breadth of such land, and the back line shall be distant from the back line of such land by the space which would include three times the area thereof.

No. 36.

Application by Mr. J. Graham.

M.

[Occupation Act, 1861, Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875.]

To be used in Claiming to Lease adjoining Lands under Pre-emptive Right.

District of Inverell.

Received this 29th day of May, 1879, at 10 o'clock, together with the sum of one pound.

W. CLARE CARDEW,
Land Agent.

Sir,

Karoola, Inverell, 29 May, 1879.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Crown Lands Occupation Act of 1861, the Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875, and Regulations thereunder, I, John Graham, do hereby apply to be allowed to lease the sections or portion of Crown Lands hereunder described, at the fixed rent of £2 per section, which I hereby tender.

The land in virtue of which I claim to exercise a right of pre-emption is situated as follows, and is now in my possession, viz:—County of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, situated on the right bank of the Macintyre River, containing 80 acres, being conditional purchase, on the 20th day of September, 1877, by John Asimus, at Inverell.

I am, &c.,

JOHN GRAHAM,
(Per P. P. WRIGHT).

To the Land Agent for the District of Inverell,

Description of the Sections or Portion applied for.

240 acres, adjoining on the east the above conditional purchase, No. 81 of 80 acres.

Minute on No. 36.

240 acres, gazetted 15th July, 1879. Objectionable, there being no available land.—A.G., 11/10/79

No. 37.

Application by Messrs. E. S. Wyndham and P. P. Wright.

M.

[Occupation Act, 1861, Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875.]

To be used in Claiming to Lease adjoining Lands under Pre-emptive Right.

District of Warialda.

Received this 19th day of June, 1879, at 10 o'clock, together with the sum of one pound (£1).

F. CAMERON MACARTHUR,
Land Agent.

Sir,

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Sir,

Inverell, 12 June, 1879.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Crown Lands Occupation Act of 1861, the Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875, and Regulations thereunder, we, E. S. Wyndham and P. P. Wright, do hereby apply to be allowed to lease the sections or portion of Crown Lands hereunder described, at the fixed rent of £2 per section, which we hereby tender.

The land in virtue of which we claim to exercise a right of pre-emption is situated as follows, and is now in our possession, viz.:—

County of Arrawatta, parish of Arthur's Seat, having frontage to travelling stock reserve No. 337, containing 86 acres, being selection on the 7th day of January, 1878, by E. S. Wyndham and P. P. Wright, at Warialda.

I am, &c.,

PERCY P. WRIGHT,

(For Wyndham & Wright).

To the Land Agent for the District of Warialda.

Description.

258 acres of Crown Lands, lying to the west and north of and adjoining our portion No. 27 of 86 acres, all in the parish of Arthur's Seat, county of Arrawatta.

Minutes on No. 37.

258 acres, gazetted 16 December, 1879. This case to stand over until J. J. Thompson's pre-lease 48 of 79, Warialda, has been finally decided.—J.T., 5/3/80. Thompson's case not settled.—H.M., 16/4/80.

No. 38.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 15 July, 1879.

Approved claims to Pre-emptive Leases.

It is hereby notified for general information that the claims of the undermentioned parties to leases of Crown Lands adjoining their respective freeholds have been approved, pursuant to the regulations of 27 August, 1875, but subject to such modifications or amendments as may, on further examination, be found to be necessary.

2. Such leases will entitle the lessees to occupy Crown Lands within the limits indicated by the said regulations (extract from which is hereto appended for more convenient reference), or so much thereof as may be open to, and not already under, lease by pre-emptive right, and may not be exempted from conditional purchase in virtue of improvements, or notified as a reserve.

3. The rent, as hereunder specified, will be for the period from 1st July to 31st December, 1879, and must in each case be paid in full before the lease will have effect. Credit will be allowed for the amounts already paid on deposit of the applications.

4. The leases will be renewable on the ordinary terms by payment of the rent for the ensuing year between 1st and 30th September.

JAMES HOSKINS.

* * * * *
Land agent's No. —; No. of lease, 20; lessee's name, John Graham; address, Karoola; area of freehold in virtue of which lease is granted, 80 acres. Particulars of lease: Area, 240 acres; rent, 10s.; county Arrawatta; situation, parish of Bukkulla; district, Inverell; Office No. of application and papers, 79/985 conditional purchase.
* * * * *

5. Unless and until other boundaries shall be determined by the authority of the Minister for Lands, the boundaries of lands hereafter leased by pre-emptive right shall be held to be as follows:—

(1.) When the purchased land is taken or measured without frontage to any river, creek, road, or intended road, the pre-emptive leasehold shall surround such purchased land, and shall be bounded by lines parallel to the boundaries thereof, and of length equal to twice the length of the sides to which they are respectively parallel, and equi-distant therefrom.

(2.) When the purchased land has any such frontage the pre-emptive leasehold shall surround such purchased land on all sides other than the frontage, and shall be bounded by lines parallel to the boundaries thereof, and the side lines shall be distant respectively from the side lines of the purchased land by one-quarter the breadth of such land, and the back lines shall be distant from the back lines of such land by the space which would include three times the area thereof.

No. 39.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 30 July, 1879.

With reference to pre-emptive lease No. 79/48 of 1,920 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, standing in the name of J. J. Thompson, I am directed to transmit to you a tracing showing the approximate position of the lease.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 40.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. J. J. Thompson.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 30 July, 1879.

With reference to pre-emptive lease No. 79/48 of 1,920 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, in the name of J. J. Thompson, I am directed to inform you that a tracing of the approximate position of the lease has this day been forwarded to the agent for inspection.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 41.

No. 41.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 30 July, 1879.

I am directed to invite your attention to the list of approximate claims to the pre-emptive leases published in the Government Gazette of the 15th instant, and to request you will be good enough to report to this Department all payments of rent made in common therewith.

Tracings of these leases will be forwarded to you as soon as the conditional purchases have been surveyed and charted on the office maps.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 42.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. John Graham.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 30 July, 1879.

I am directed to inform you that pre-emptive lease No. 79/20, of 240 acres, in the district of Inverell, notified in the Government Gazette of the 15th instant as approved in your favour, has been granted in satisfaction of your application of the 29th May, 1879 for a corresponding area.

The annual rent will be £1, but, as will be understood from the Gazette notice, only half this amount is required for the tenure of the lease up to the end of the current year. This latter sum is covered by the money, £1, deposited at the time of application; and the amount, 10s., paid in excess has, having regard to the date of approval, been retained as part payment of the rent for the ensuing year. The sum due for renewal, 10s., must be paid on or before the 15th September next.

For each succeeding year the rent must be paid during the month of September of the year preceding, or, if tendered after this date, must be paid, with the incurred penalty, on or prior to the 31st December.

From the last section of the 12th clause of the Crown Lands Occupation Act it will be seen that, should any part of your lease be absorbed by conditional purchases or other alienations, no other land can be allowed in place of it, and that the remaining area can be held only on payment of the rent charged for the lease as originally granted.

As you will be expected when writing to this Department to state the number of the lease, its area, and the date of notification of approval in the Government Gazette, you will find it expedient to carefully preserve this letter on account of its containing the information required.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 43.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. F. W. Wright.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 19 August, 1879.

I am directed to inform you that the Colonial Treasurer has been authorized to refund to you the sum of £2 0s. 3d., being the rent paid on the pre-emptive lease noted in the margin for 1878 and 1879. The lease has been cancelled, the land applied for being already under lease.

2. I am to add that when the money is ready for payment notice to that effect will be forwarded to you from the Treasury.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 44.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Warialda.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 19 August, 1879.

Amount Rent out of
refunded. which taken.

£2 0s. 3d. 1878 & 1879.

No. 77-111, of 429 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, notified as approved in the Government Gazette of the 27th November, 1877, has been cancelled.

The rent paid for 1878 and 1879 has been authorized for refund; and, in order that full particulars may be entered in your register, the several amounts which form the sum to be returned are clearly shown in the marginal schedule.

It may be mentioned that the lease has been cancelled, as the land applied for is already under lease.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 45.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Revenue Refunded.

Sir,

Lands Department, Sydney, 19 August, 1879.

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to refund to Mr. Frederick W. Wright, of Bukknilla, the sum of £2 0s. 3d., credited at the Treasury on the 10th July, 1877, and 6th August, 1878, being the rent paid on the pre-emptive lease noted in the margin, as the land applied for is under lease to J. J. Thompson.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES A. BROWN,

(Pro Under Secretary).

The

77-111. 429
acres, notified
27th November
1877, district of
Warialda.

111 of 1877, dis-
trict of Warialda
notified 27 Nov-
ember, 1877.

The Auditor-General, for verification.—G.E., Under Secretary. The Treasury, B.C., 26 August, 1879. The above amount of £2 0s. 3d. was credited to the Consolidated Revenue Fund on the above date.—E.A.R., Deputy Auditor-General. Department of Audit, Sydney, B.C., 28th August, 1879. The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Received on the day of September, 1879, the above sum of £2 0s. 3d. sterling, on behalf of F. W. Wright

No. 46.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. J. J. Thompson.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 15 October, 1879.

I am directed to inform you that the Colonial Treasurer has been authorized to refund to you the sum of £6, being the rent paid on the pre-emptive lease noted in the margin for 1879.

The lease has been cancelled, as the land is severed from its basis by a prior lease.

2. I am to add that when the money is ready for payment notice to that effect will be forwarded to you from the Treasury.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,
(Pro Under Secretary).

73-48, 1,920 acres,
notified on the
25th May, 1879,
district of
Warialda.

No. 47.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Warialda.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 15 October, 1879.

I am directed to inform you that Mr. J. J. Thompson's pre-emptive lease, No. 79-48, of 1,920 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, notified as approved in the Government Gazette of the 23rd May, 1879, has been cancelled.

The rent paid for 1879 has been authorized for refund; and, in order that full particulars may be entered in your register, the several amounts which form the sum to be returned are clearly shown in the marginal schedule.

It may be mentioned that the lease has been cancelled, as it is severed from its basis by a prior lease.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,
(For the Under Secretary).

Amount refunded.	Rent out of which taken.	Date when credited at the Treasury.
£6.	1879.	3 April, 1879.

No. 48.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.
Revenue Refunded.

Sir,

Lands Department, Sydney, 15 October, 1879.

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to refund to Mr. J. J. Thompson, of Inverell, the sum of £6, credited at the Treasury on the 3rd April, 1879, being the rent paid on the pre-emptive lease noted in the margin, as there is no available land to satisfy his claim.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,
(Pro Under Secretary).

The Auditor-General, for verification.—The Treasury, B.C., 20 October, 1879. G.E., Under Secretary. The above amount of £6 was credited to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, on the 3rd April, 1879. Department of Audit, Sydney, B.C., 23rd October, 1879.—C. ROLLESTON, Auditor-General. The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Received on the day of 187 , the sum of £6 sterling, on behalf of

No. 49.

Mr. H. Lane to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

79, New Pitt-street, 22 October, 1879.

I do myself the honor to request that a refund of the rent paid by my client, J. J. Thompson, Parish Bukkulla, county Arrawatta, J. J. Thompson, pre-lease 84 of 1877, 1,920 acres, on the pre-lease noted in margin, may be at once refunded. The lease was cancelled some time ago, the conditional purchase being illegal.

I have, &c.,

HENRY LANE.

Minute on above.

Inform that Treasury was authorized to refund the money on the 17th ultimo.—R.H.D., 4/12/79.

No. 50.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 17 November, 1879.

Referring to my letter to you of the 19th August last, notifying the cancellation of Mr. F. W. Wright's pre-lease, noted in the margin, I am directed to inform you that said cancellation has been now revoked, and the lease accepted as unobjectionable.

I have, &c.,

W. W. STEPHEN.

Minutes on above.

By Under Secretary for Finance and Trade:—Under the within authority the refund is to be cancelled, being £2 0s. 3d. rent of pre-lease. The Paymaster. The Accountant. The Examiner. Then the Auditor-General.—G.E., 22/11/79. Verification cancelled. Noted and returned to Under Secretary for Lands,—C. ROLLESTON, 10/12/79. Under Secretary, Department of Lands.

No. 51.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Auditor-General.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 17 November, 1879.

Referring to the cancellation of Mr. Frederick Wentworth Wright's pre-lease, noted in the margin, I am directed to state, for your information, that said cancellation has now been revoked, and the lease accepted as unobjectionable.

I have, &c.,

W. W. STEPHEN.

Minutes on above.

By the Auditor-General:—F. W. Wright, cancellation of lease revoked. The revocation of the cancellation has been noted; but £2 0s. 3d. rent was verified, 28th August, 1879. Perhaps the Under Secretary for Lands will be good enough to obtain and forward to this Department Wright's refund voucher (cancelled) for notation.—C. ROLLESTON, 18/11/79.

By Under Secretary for Lands:—The Under Secretary for Finance will perhaps say whether the amount has been refunded.—W.W.S. Lands Department, B.C., 8/12/79. By the Under Secretary for Finance and Trade:—The Paymaster.—G.E., 13/12/79. No refund has taken place, the voucher having been cancelled by Lands' letter of 18th November, 1879.—J.D.C. Pay Branch, Treasury, B.C., 15/12/79. G.E. The Chief Commissioner, Department of Lands. Mr. Blackman,—As to any further action in the Alienation Branch.—F.W., 31/12/79. Referred to Lease Branch as to further action.—C.N., 19/1/80. Mr. Wilson. By Under Secretary for Lands:—The Auditor-General, with reference to the Treasury blank cover of 15th December, 1879.—W.W.S., B.C., 27/1/80.

No. 52.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. J. J. Thompson.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 8 December, 1879.

I am directed to inform you that the Colonial Treasurer has been authorized to refund to you the sum of £15, being the rent paid on the pre-emptive lease noted in the margin for the years 1877, 1878, and 1879.

2. I am to add that when the money is ready for payment notice to that effect will be forwarded to you from the Treasury.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(Pro Under Secretary).

No. 53.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 8 December, 1879.

I am directed to inform you that Mr. J. J. Thompson's pre-emptive lease, No. 7,734 of 1,920 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, notified as approved in the Government Gazette of the 27th November, 1877, has been cancelled.

The rent paid since the 1st July, 1877, has been authorized for refund; and, in order that full particulars may be entered in your register, the several amounts which form the sum to be returned are clearly shown in the marginal schedule.

It may be mentioned that the lease has been cancelled.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 54.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir,

Lands Department, Sydney, 8 December, 1879.

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to refund to Mr. J. J. Thompson, of Inverell, the sum of £15, credited at the Treasury on the 6th November, 1877, 8th January, 1878, and 2nd October, 1878, being the rent paid on the pre-emptive lease particularized in the margin for the years 1877, 1878, and 1879. The lease has been cancelled.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(Pro Under Secretary).

No. 55.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. J. Graham.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 11 December, 1879.

I am directed to inform you that the Colonial Treasurer has been authorized to refund to you the sum of £1, being the rent paid on the pre-emptive lease noted in the margin for 1879 and 1880. The lease has been cancelled, there being no available land.

2. I am to add that when the money is ready for payment notice to that effect will be forwarded to you from the Treasury.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(Pro Under Secretary).

No. 56.

111 of 1877,
Warialda, 429
acres. Gazetted
27 November,
1877.

77-34, 1,920 acres,
notified on the
27th November,
1877, at Inverell.

Amounts refunded.	Rent out of which taken.	Date when credited at the Treasury.
£ s. d.		
3 0 0	1877	6/10/77
6 0 0	1878	8/1/78
6 0 0	1879	2/10/78

77-34, 1,920 acres
notified on the
27th November,
1877, at Inverell.

79-20, 240 acres,
notified on the
16th July, 1879,
at Inverell.

No. 56.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir, Department of Lands, Sydney, 11 December, 1879.
 I am directed to inform you that Mr. John Graham's pre-emptive lease, No. 7,920, of 240 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, notified as approved in the Government Gazette of the 15th July, 1879, has been cancelled. The rent paid since the 1st July, 1879, has been authorized for refund; and, in order that full particulars may be entered in your register, the several amounts which form the sum to be returned are clearly shown in the marginal schedule.

It may be mentioned that the lease has been cancelled, as there is no available land.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

Amounts refunded.	Rent out of which taken.	Date when credited at the Treasury.
£ s. d.		
0 10 0	1879.	6/8/79
0 10 0	1880.	"

No. 57.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir, Department of Lands, Sydney, 11 December, 1879.
 I am directed to request that you will be good enough to refund the sum of £1 to John Graham, of Inverell. The amount, particulars of which are specified in the margin, has been paid on pre-emptive lease, No. 7,920, of 240 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, district of Inverell, notified on the 15th July, 1879, and the refund has been authorized, as there is no available land.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

Amount to be refunded.	Year for which rent is paid.	Date of credit.
£ s. d.		
0 10 0	1879	6/8/79
0 10 0	1880	"

No. 58.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 16 December, 1879.

Claims to Pre-emptive Leases.

It is hereby notified for general information that the claims of the undermentioned parties to leases of Crown Lands adjoining their respective freeholds have been approved, pursuant to the Regulations of 27th August, 1875, but subject to such modifications or amendments as may, on further examination, be found to be necessary.

2. Such leases will entitle the lessee to occupy Crown Lands within the limits indicated by the said Regulations (extract from which is hereto appended for more convenient reference), or so much thereof as may be open to, and not already under, lease by pre-emptive right, and may not be exempted from conditional purchase in virtue of improvements, or notified as a reserve.

3. The rent, as hereunder specified, will be for the period from the 1st July to the 31st December, 1879. Credit will be allowed for the amounts already paid on deposit of the applications.

4. The rents for the year 1880 must be paid within two months from the date of this notice.

5. The leases will thereafter be renewable, on the ordinary terms, by payment of the rent for each ensuing year, between 1st and 30th September.

JAMES HOSKINS.

* * * * *
 Land Agent's No. —; No. of lease, 100; lessees, E. S. Wynaham and P. P. Wright; lessees' address, Inverell; area of freehold in virtue of which lease is granted, 86 acres; area, 258 acres; rent, 10s.; county, Arrawatta, parish of Arthur's Seat; district, Wairalda; Office No. of applications and papers, 1,629.
 * * * * *

5. Unless and until other boundaries shall be determined by the authority of the Minister for Lands the boundaries of lands hereafter leased by pre-emptive right shall be held to be as follows:—

(1.) When the purchased land is taken or measured without frontage to any river, creek, road, or intended road, the pre-emptive leasehold shall surround such purchased land, and shall be bounded by lines parallel to the boundaries thereof, and of length equal to twice the length of the sides to which they are respectively parallel, and equidistant therefrom.

(2.) When the purchased land has any such frontage the pre-emptive leasehold shall surround such purchased land on all sides other than the frontage, and shall be bounded by lines parallel to the boundaries thereof; and the side lines shall be distant respectively from the side lines of the purchased land by one-quarter the breadth of such land, and the back line shall be distant from the back line of such land by the space which would include three times the area of thereof.

No. 59.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Wairalda.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, December, 1879.

I am directed to invite your attention to the list of approximate claims to pre-emptive leases published in the Government Gazette of the 16th instant, and to request you will be good enough to report to this Department all payments of rent made in common therewith.

Tracings of these leases will be forwarded to you as soon as the conditional purchases have been surveyed and charted on the office maps.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 60.

No. 60.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Messrs. E. S. Wyndham and F. J. Wright.

Gentlemen,

Department of Lands, Sydney, December, 1879.

I am directed to inform you that pre-emptive lease No. 79-100, of 258 acres, in the district of Warialda, notified in the Government Gazette of the 16th instant as approved in your favour, has been granted in satisfaction of your application of the 19th June, 1879, for a corresponding area.

The annual rent will be £1, but, as will be understood from the Gazette notice, only half this amount is required for the tenure of the lease up to the end of the current year. This latter sum is covered by the money, £1, deposited at the time of application; and the amount, 10s., paid in excess has, having regard to the date of approval, been retained as part payment of the rent for the ensuing year. The sum due for renewal, 10s., must be paid on or before the 16th February, 1880.

For each succeeding year the rent must be paid during the month of September of the year preceding; or, if tendered after this date, must be paid, with the incurred penalty, on or prior to the 31st December.

From the last section of the 12th clause of the Crown Lands Occupation Act it will be seen that, should any part of your lease be absorbed by conditional purchases or other alienations, no other land can be allowed in place of it, and that the remaining area can be held only on payment of the rent charged for the lease as originally granted.

As you will be expected when writing to this Department to state the number of the lease, its area, and the date of notification of approval in the Government Gazette, you will find it expedient to carefully preserve this letter on account of its containing the information required.

I have, &c.,

C. A. BROWN,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 61.

Memorandum by Auditor-General.

Wright's Lease 77-11.

7 February, 1880.

WITH reference to the Lands Department blank cover of 15th December last, the Under Secretary for Lands is informed that the refund voucher has been noted as cancelled, and returned to Lands Department on 10th December last.

The case is therefore settled, and these papers are returned for deposit to the Under Secretary for Lands.

C. ROLLESTON.

No. 62.

Mr. H. J. Withers to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

83, New Pitt-street, 5 January, 1881.

I respectfully request that the pre-lease applied for by J. J. Thompson, at Warialda, and situated in county Arrawatta, may be at once dealt with. My client is very anxious to make use of the ground.

I have, &c.,

HENRY J. WITHERS.

Minutes on No. 62.

Papers herewith dealt with in Charting Branch.—T.F.C., 5 January, 1881.

J. J. Thompson's pre-lease, 480-79, was cancelled on 15th October, 1879, owing to his C.P. being cut off from vacant land by Mr. A. McDonald's conditional purchase 76-33 (*vide* L.A. 79-603). Objection was raised to the cancellation on the grounds that McDonald's conditional purchase was not measured according to description, and that if correctly measured the conditional purchase would not adjoin. It has, however, been decided that McDonald's conditional purchase shall stand as measured, with a road of access left for portion No. 82, as Thompson's conditional purchase does not adjoin vacant land excepting the said road. It is submitted as to whether a pre-lease can be granted. A tracing is herewith attached showing portion of conditional purchases referred to.—A.G., 14/1/81.

The vacant land does not adjoin J. J. Thompson's conditional purchase, unless the road of access between No. 104 and Nos. 83 and 84 is included within the lease submitted for decision.—F.H.W., 17/1/81.

By Under Secretary for Lands:—The decision finally settling this case was given by the Minister, which determined the position of McDonald's conditional purchase. If the pre-lease is now granted it will have the effect of granting a lease connected with the holding, in virtue of which it is applied for, by an existing road.—C.O., 23/1/84.

By the Secretary for Lands:—I wish to be furnished with a tracing showing the exact position of the land applied to be pre-leased by Thompson, as I cannot make out by this tracing, nor by his application, what land he sought to obtain on pre-lease.—J.H., 25/1/81.

By the Under Secretary for Lands:—Amended tracing herewith.—C.O., 29/1/81.

By the Secretary for Lands:—I wish to be informed which is the date when the application was made for the conditional purchase of 76-33, as well as the date when the application was made for Thompson's pre-lease.—J.H., 2/2/81.

Conditional purchase 76-33 applied for on 13th April, 1876. Thompson's pre-lease application dated 7th March, 1879.—F.H.W., 7/2/81.

By the Under Secretary for Lands:—Amended tracing herewith.—C.O., 8/2/81.

No. 63.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 28 January, 1881.

Land Office Districts.

HIS Excellency the Governor, in Council, pursuant to the Lands Act Amendment Act, 1875, has been pleased to alter and vary the limits and areas of the Land Districts of Inverell and Warialda, as set forth in the amended descriptions of such districts hereto appended. This notification to take effect on and after the 17th proximo.

JAMES HOSKINS.

Land

Land District of Inverell.

Embracing part of the pastoral district of New England and Gwydir; and bounded on the east from the northern watershed of the Severn River by a line forming the northerly prolongation of the western boundary of H. Gordon's 160 acres at Strathbogie, and that boundary bearing south to the Severn River; and thence by a line bearing south to the eastern watershed of Arrawatta Creek; thence by the range dividing the waters falling to that creek, King's Plains Creek, Swan Brook, and the Macintyre River from those falling to Cameron's Creek, Wellingrove Creek, and the Beardy Waters, tributaries of the Severn River, southerly to the northern watershed of Clark's Creek; thence by the boundary dividing the counties of Gough and Clarke from the county of Hardinge southerly to the head of George's Creek at a point easterly from the north-east corner of portion No. 44, parish of Everett, county of Hardinge; on the south by George's Creek downwards to the north-east corner of portion No. 73-2 on that creek, parish of Abington; and thence by the boundary dividing the parishes of Abington and Laura, bearing southerly to Barlow or Abington Creek, at the south-western corner of W. H. and G. P. Morse's 320 acres, portion 2-67, at Abington; and thence by that creek downwards to the Gwydir or Bundarra River; thence by that river downwards to King John's Creek; and by that creek upwards to the boundary line dividing the parishes of Darbysleigh and Cameron, at a point about 34 chains southerly from the south boundary of portion No. 32, parish of Darbysleigh; thence by the boundary dividing those parishes bearing west to Baker's Creek, at about 4 chains south from the south-eastern corner of portion No. 12, parish of Drummond; thence by Baker's Creek upwards about 1 mile and 24 chains from the south-east corner of portion No. 12 aforesaid; and thence by the boundary dividing the parishes of Drummond and Cameron, as shown on the map of the county of Hardinge, bearing west to the boundary dividing the counties of Darling and Hardinge; and thence by that boundary northerly to the boundary dividing the counties of Darling and Murchison; and thence by that boundary westerly to a point northerly of the Woolshed Station, on Woolshed Creek, parish of Ironbark, county of Darling; thence on the west by a tributary of Three-waterhole Creek, a tributary of Middle Creek, county of Murchison, northerly to Middle Creek; and by Middle Creek to Reedy Creek, by that creek to Keera Creek, and by that creek downwards to the Gwydir River; and thence by that river upwards to tributary of that river, shown on the map of the county of Murchison, dividing the parishes of Evans and Dingo; thence by the boundary dividing the parishes of Dingo and Stag and Turrawarra from Evans, Durham, and Delungra, as shown on the map of the county of Murchison, northerly to the boundary dividing the counties of Murchison and Burnett, at a point about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile west from the north-west corner of portion No. 142, parish of Turrawarra; thence by that boundary easterly to the south-west corner of portion No. 56, parish of Burnett, county of Burnett; thence by the boundary dividing the parishes of Burnett and Gunnee bearing north to Warialda or Reedy Creek; and thence by that creek downwards to the south-west corner of portion 51 of that parish; and thence by the west boundary of that portion bearing north, crossing Boundary Creek, near the western boundary of portion No. 49 of the said parish; thence by that creek easterly and a line east to the south-west corner of portion No. 138, parish of Burnett; thence by the west boundary of that portion and portion No. 134, northerly, and by the southern boundaries of portions Nos. 135 and 136 westerly, and the western boundary of the latter portion northerly, and the northern boundaries of portions Nos. 136 and 135 aforesaid easterly, to the north-west corner of portion No. 134 of that parish; and thence by the boundaries dividing the parishes of Burnett and Gragin northerly to the north-west corner of portion No. 152, parish of Burnett, at the boundary dividing the counties of Burnett and Arrawatta; thence by that boundary westerly to the east boundary of portion of portion No. 52, parish of Graman, county of Arrawatta; thence by the east, the south, and the west boundaries of that portion southerly, westerly, and northerly to its north-west corner; and thence by the western boundaries of the parishes of Graman and Russell, county of Arrawatta, northerly to Cucumber Creek, to its confluence with the Severn River; and thence by the Macintyre River downwards to the boundary dividing the parishes of Severn and Mandoe, at about 1 mile and 45 chains in a direct line below the north-west corner of W. and J. Russell's portion No. 1-67, Eena Run, parish of Severn; thence by the boundary dividing the parishes of Severn and Mandoe bearing east, and the boundaries dividing the parishes of Mandoe, Meriti, Ellis, and Bora from the parishes of Rose, Hetherington, and Texas, as shown on the county map of Arrawatta, to the Dumaresq River, at a point about 1 mile below the north-west corner of P. Callachor's additional conditional portion No. 6, parish of Texas; and thence on the north by the Dumaresq River upwards to the western boundary of the pastoral district of New England; and thence by that boundary southerly to the northern watershed of the Severn River; and thence by that watershed easterly, to the point of commencement.

Land District of Warialda.

Embracing part of the pastoral district of Gwydir; and bounded on the west from the Macintyre River by the western boundary of portion of water reserve No. 895, notified 22nd September, 1879, Carbuckey Run, at Boogoo-you, county of Stapylton, bearing south, and the western and part of the southern boundaries of the parishes of Trinkey and Limebone, county of Stapylton, southerly and easterly to Cropper Creek, as shown on the map of that county at the Surveyor-General's Office, Sydney; and by Cropper Creek south-easterly to the boundary dividing the counties of Stapylton and Burnett; thence by the boundary dividing the counties of Stapylton and Courallie from the county of Burnett southerly to the northern boundary of the county of Murchison; and thence on the south by the boundary dividing the counties of Murchison and Burnett easterly to the boundary dividing the parishes Gunne and Burnett, county of Burnett, at the south-west corner of portion No. 56, parish of Burnett; thence on the east by that boundary bearing north to Warialda or Reedy Creek; thence by that creek downwards to the south-west corner of portion No. 51 of that parish; and thence by the west boundary of that portion bearing north crossing Boundary Creek, near the western boundary of portion No. 49 of the said parish; thence by that creek easterly and a line east to the south-west corner of portion No. 138, parish of Burnett; thence by the west boundary of that portion and portion No. 134 northerly, and by the southern boundaries of portions Nos. 135 and 136 westerly, and the western boundary of the latter portion northerly, and the northern boundaries of portions Nos. 136 and 135 aforesaid easterly, to the north-west corner of portion No. 134 of that parish; and thence by the boundary dividing the parishes of Burnett and Gragin northerly to the north-west corner of portion No. 152, parish of Burnett, at the boundary dividing the counties of Burnett and Arrawatta; thence by that boundary westerly to the east boundary

boundary of portion No. 52, parish of Graman, county of Arrawatta; thence by the east, the south, and the west boundaries of that portion southerly, westerly, and northerly to its north-west corner; thence by the western boundaries of the parishes of Graman and Russell, county of Arrawatta, northerly to Cucumber Creek; and thence by Cucumber Creek downwards to its confluence with the Severn River; and thence by the Macintyre River downwards to the boundary dividing the parishes of Severn and Mandoe, at about 1 mile and 45 chains in a direct line below the north-west corner of W. and J. W. Russell's portion 1-67, Eena Run, parish of Severn; thence by the boundary dividing the parishes of Severn and Mandoe bearing east, and the boundaries dividing the parishes of Mandoe, Meriti, Ellis, and Bora from the parishes of Rosa, Hetherington, and Texas, as shown on the county map of Arrawatta, to the Dumaresq River, at a point about 1 mile below the north-west corner of P. Callachor's additional conditional purchase portion No. 6, parish of Texas; and thence on the north by the Dumaresq and Macintyre Rivers downwards, to the point of commencement.

No. 64.

Memorandum.

On April 13th, 1876, Angus M'Donald applied, under the 13th section, for conditional purchase 76-33 of 150 acres, described as follows:—

Situated on the north bank of the M'Intyre River, adjoining the western boundary of measured portion No. 57, running east; thence north; thence south towards the river.

On May 3rd, 1877, J. J. Thompson applied at Inverell, under 13th section, for conditional purchase 77-58 of 560 acres, and subsequently for 77-80 of 80 acres. These conditional purchases were declared void on the 21st February, 1879, being applied for in the wrong district, the land being in Warialda District. Thompson applied for a pre-lease in virtue of these portions, which was granted as 34 of 1877, of 1,920 acres (edging coloured blue on sketch), which included portion No. 104. This was cancelled on 17th November, 1879, the conditional purchases being void.

On the 6th March, 1879, J. J. Thompson applied at the Warialda office for conditional purchase 79-28 of 640 acres, and on the following day for a pre-lease of 1,920 acres, which was granted as 48 of 1879, in the same position as 34 of 1877, and still including portion No. 104; this was cancelled on the 15th October, 1879, as M'Donald's conditional purchase cut off the pre-lease from the conditional purchase of Thompson.

On June 19th, 1879, John Thompson applied for a conditional purchase, 79-85 of 40 acres, adjoining J. J. Thompson's land, which was refused, the land being included in M'Donald's conditional purchase.

On the 23rd December, 1879, the Deputy Surveyor-General recommended that, as conditional purchase 76-33 had been incorrectly described, a fresh survey should be made, leaving 7 chains between M'Donald's and J. J. Thompson's conditional purchases, to enable the latter to keep his pre-lease. The Chief Commissioner objecting thereto, the Minister decided that only a road of access to portion No. 82 should be reserved (*i.e.*, to J. J. Thompson's conditional purchase), and subsequently, on conditional sales 80-25,781, confirmed his decision.—F.H.W., 14/2/81.

Minutes on above.

The lease appears to have been twice gazetted in the form shown on the enclosed tracing. The conditional purchase in right of which it was originally applied for having been declared void, the lease also became void. The ground of the second refusal having no connection with the conditional purchase, was not in accordance with the present practice of the Department, there being a road of access, which originally formed portion of the lease left. Under the circumstances, it is suggested that the last cancellation be reversed on payment of arrears of rent, and subject to any conflicting interests which may have arisen in the meantime.—C.O., 14/2/81. Approved.—J.H., 15/2/81. Mr. Boot,—Reverse the cancellation of 48 of 1879, and issue slip for payment of rent overdue without fine.—F.H.W., 17/2/81. Mr. Wilson,—Is the pre-lease to include portion No. 104, or any part of it?—A.G., 21/2/81.

J. J. Thompson's pre-lease 48 of 1879 is now charted, and tracing is herewith attached; also Wyndham and Wright's pre-lease 111 of 1877, which, being an undefined lease, was not charted when first dealt with. 111 of 1877 was applied for on the east of portions Nos. 79 and 80, but the form has been modified to admit of 48 of 1879 being granted.—A.G., 24/2/81. Mr. Wilson.

No. 65.

Memorandum by Under Secretary for Lands.

Will the Under Secretary for Finance and Trade be good enough to have the undermentioned lease rent refund voucher cancelled.

J. J. Thompson, £6, authorized on 15 October, 1879, lease 48 of 1879, Warialda.—F.H.W., *pro* Under Secretary, B.C., Department of Lands, Sydney, 18 February, 1881.

Minutes on above.

Under the within authority the refund voucher referred to is to be cancelled. The Paymaster; the Accountant; the Examiner; then the Auditor-General.—G.E., 23/2/81. Refund cancelled.—C.R., 11/3/81.

No. 66.

Mr. H. J. Withers to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

83, New Pitt-street, 2 March, 1881.

On behalf of J. J. Thompson, I do myself the honor to direct your attention to the great loss my client has suffered, caused by the action of the Survey Office in passing a conditional purchase that was afterwards shown to be illegal. My client applied at the Inverell Land Office for 640 acres and a pre-lease

pre-lease in virtue thereof. The conditional purchase was surveyed, examined, and charted in the usual way, and my client informed it was all right; the pre-lease was first gazetted, then finally approved by the Minister for Lands, and my client informed that a tracing of it had been sent to the Inverell Land Office. Not until he obtained this notice did Thompson use his lease, but immediately he placed sheep upon it the lessee commenced an action against him which has ruined my client. The case came on in the Supreme Court, Sydney, and it was shown that the proper Lands Office was Warialda, not Inverell. A verdict was taken for £2 and costs, on the advice of Sir George Innes, counsel for my client. Thompson had resided on this conditional purchase for nearly two years, with his son and family, and was doing very well. On his behalf, I obtained a refund of deposit, and he selected at Warialda, and again applied for pre-lease. Both conditional purchase and pre-lease have now been transferred from Warialda to Inverell, the office which caused so much trouble to my client.

I do now respectfully ask that you will cause to be placed on the Estimates the sum of £600 as compensation for law expenses attending at Sydney for defendant and his witnesses, loss of time in residing two years on his selection and then having to commence residence again—in being compelled to sell sheep which he had purchased, not having any land for them to run on, when his pre-lease was declared void. I may inform you that the £600 will not cover the loss my client has suffered; writs have been issued against him, and he has been brought to the verge of ruin from a position in which he was enabled to make a very respectable income. My client has a large family, and not only does he suffer, but also those dependent on him for support.

In submitting this application to the Honorable the Minister, I feel sure he will act justly with a man who in prosperity has been brought low by no action of his own, but who, on the contrary, did all it was possible to do to be certain that his land was legal before going into occupation.

I have, &c.,

HENRY J. WITHERS.

No. 67.

P. L. Murray, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 10 March, 1881.

Referring to my conversation with you a few nights ago respecting selection of J. J. Thompson, Inverell (or Warialda), I find that there has been some correspondence going on in the matter, so that it will be unnecessary for me to go into the particulars of the case, but refer you to a letter from Thompson's agent (Mr. Withers) to the Chief Commissioner, of 2nd instant, and beg to state that I am personally acquainted with all the facts set forth. I know that the unfortunate selector, Thompson, is ruined, and that it was through the mistake of the Department, and no fault of his. I trust that you will see your way to place £600 on the Supplementary Estimates as compensation for the loss sustained by him.

I am well aware that that sum is not sufficient to compensate him for the loss sustained, but as he has only asked for that sum, I trust there will be no objection to granting it.

I have, &c.,

P. L. MURRAY.

Minutes on No. 67.

By Chief Commissioner:—Urgent.—Charting Branch will perhaps be good enough to say if the conditional purchase of J. J. Thompson was in the Warialda District when he applied for it at Inverell, and how long it was before the error was corrected.—W.B. (for Chief Commissioner), 15/3/81.

Mr. Long.—At the time that J. J. Thompson conditionally purchased the land in question it was wholly within the Land District of Warialda (*vide* attached tracing taken from the maps then in use by the Land Agents of Warialda and Inverell.) The whole of the parish of Bukkulla, including the land applied for by J. J. Thompson, is now in the Inverell District, amended by Government Gazette notice, dated 28th January, 1881.—G. LONG, 18/3/81.

Thompson's claim for compensation submitted. See letter of Mr. Withers for statement of his claim.—W.B., 21/3/81. Cannot the original conditional purchase papers be got.—W.B., 25/3/81. Very urgent. See separate memorandum.—H.A.F., 25/3/81.

By the Secretary for Lands:—Before I can give any consideration to the case, I require to be furnished with a full report from the Conditional Sales, Survey, and Pre-lease Branches on the statements made in the letter of Henry J. Withers, dated March 2nd, 1881, as agent on behalf of the conditional purchaser, J. J. Thompson. It cannot, of course, be expected that I should receive as correct, and without any official comment or explanation, the statement made by any person making a claim for compensation on behalf of another person. I require to be officially notified whether the allegations made in Withers' letter are correct, namely, that Thompson was allowed, unquestioned, either by the Conditional Sales or Survey Branches, to make a conditional purchase in the wrong district, that the Survey Branch did not call attention to this fact with a view to the cancellation of the conditional purchase, and that the Pre-lease Branch gave a pre-lease for the wrong district, a combination of errors by the various branches of this Department which appears to me to be inexplicable. I also wish to be officially informed if the allegations in reference to the trial are truthful; in short, I require to obtain all the information relative to this case from official and not from private sources.—J.H., 23/4/81.

Charting Branch, in the first instance.—W.B., 25/4/81.

The Surveyor-General:—I invite attention to the Minister for Lands' minute, dated as far back as 23rd April, 1881, in which he requires the report of this office on the matter of J. J. Thompson's conditional purchase referred to in that minute, and this cannot be given without papers 77/35,306-7 Conditional Sales. Several applications and personal search have been made for required papers, and they are not to be obtained. Submitted that the attention of the Under Secretary for Lands be invited to the fact with the view to the papers being found and forwarded to this office.—W. D. ARMSTRONG, 13th May, 1881.

By the Surveyor-General:—Under Secretary for Lands accordingly.—P.F.A., 13/5/81.

No. 68.

Memorandum.

J. J. Thompson's case.

THE facts of this case are as follow :—

John Jackson Thompson, on 3rd May, 1877, applied to the Crown Lands Agent at Inverell for a conditional purchase of 560 acres, describing the land as on the Macintyre River, and forming part of reserve No. 67, revoked 27th March, 1877.

A fortnight afterwards he selected, under section 21, 80 acres north of the previous purchase—again alluding to reserve No. 67.

On 29th September, 1877, Thompson applied to the Inverell agent for a pre-lease of 1,920 acres, the application being gazetted as granted on the 27th November of the same year; and a tracing defining the lease being forwarded to the Inverell agent on the 8th February, 1879.

The whole of the land applied for (conditional purchases and pre-leases) formed part of the Warialda District (and not Inverell) at dates of applications, reserve 67 being a very distinct feature on the county map.

It may be mentioned, in passing, that on the 19th June, 1877 (three months prior to the date of Thompson's pre-lease application), one F. W. Wright applied to the Warialda agent for a pre-lease of 429 acres, and although applied for before Thompson, and at the proper office, and gazetted on the same day, the lease was afterwards cancelled, the reason assigned being interference with Thompson.

On 19th December, 1878, the selections were alienated to W. Thompson.

The measurement of Thompson's conditional purchase was charted on the map, although the selection had been taken up in the wrong district, and, so far as the papers obtainable will show, no action was taken either in the Survey or Lands Departments towards rectifying the errors until 21st February, 1879, when a letter was addressed to Mr. Thompson, care of Withers & Company, voiding the conditional purchases, and giving as the reason for so doing that the selections had been applied for at the wrong office. This was after the conclusion of a Supreme Court action against Thompson.

The Supreme Court records show that Wright and Wyndham, lessees of the run upon which Thompson selected, obtained a verdict against him, on 17th February, 1879, for £2 for trespass, the plaintiff's costs being taxed at £204 5s. 5d.

The defendant's costs, as between attorney and client, including witnesses' expenses, are fixed by his solicitor at £216 8s. 6d., as per certified bill with these papers.

Briefly, the selector's applications were received at the wrong office, and, so far as the records of this Department will show, the land was surveyed and charted without attention being drawn to the error.

A pre-lease was granted in the wrong district, including land previously applied for by another person at the proper office, and no departmental action was taken towards voiding until the Supreme Court had adjudicated. In fact, the selector, by his agent, appears to have been the first person to draw attention to the illegality of the proceedings.—S.F., 18/5/81.

Minutes on No. 68.

Referred to the Surveyor-General in reference to his memorandum of the 13th instant. The missing papers cannot be found.—C.O., 25/5/81.

The case was dealt with in Mr. Armstrong's branch. Perhaps some noting on the plan would show who dealt with the case, or whether the usual action in such cases had been taken, namely, returning papers to Conditional Sales Branch for alteration of district, or throw any additional light upon the case in absence of papers.—P.F.A., 30 May, 1881.

No. 69.

Memorandum.

Conditional Sales, 81-10,174.

THE plan is correctly noted as in the Warialda District. I have examined the draftsman's book and the books in use in the branch for entry of papers, but can find no trace of papers having been sent to Records.

The error in a district is generally pointed out by the draftsman when the case is finally examined, and attention of the Conditional Sales Branch called to it when the case is dealt with.

The published map of the county and returned maps from Land Agent with Mr. Long clearly show the portions to be in the Warialda District; but the map is missing that was in use at the Land Agent's Office in 1877. Probably it was borrowed when the trial referred to in the papers was on at the Supreme Court; the solicitor of plaintiff or defendant might give some account of them.

Until the papers are produced the question in abeyance; whether papers were noted cannot be replied to.

6 June, 1881.

W. D. ARMSTRONG.

Minutes on No. 69.

Under Secretary accordingly.—P.F.A., 9th June, 1881.

There can be no doubt that the Department is responsible for not having detected the error. Indeed it must have been apparent when the conditional purchase was charted. Had the error been discovered by the Department the action for trespass against Thompson would very probably not have been brought.

In view of all the circumstances of the case, which are fully set out in memo. of the 18th May, it would appear that Thompson has a claim for consideration with regard to compensation for loss by reason of the action for trespass. The verdict against him was for £2, but the costs in the suit amount to £420 13s. 11d., being a total of £422 13s. 11d. Mr. Thompson's agent claims £600.

Submitted for directions.—C.O., 25/6/1881.

Department of Lands, 8 September, 1881.

On 3rd and 17th May, 1877, Thompson conditionally purchased, at the Inverell Land Office, two portions of land containing 560 acres and 80 acres respectively, forthwith taking possession of same, effecting improvements, and otherwise complying with the requirements of the law.

In 1879, the Crown Lessees of the run on which these selections were situate, observing that the land formed part of the Warialda District, and not Inverell, as supposed by Mr. Thompson, instituted Supreme Court proceedings against him for trespass, and obtained a verdict for £2, with costs. Mr. Thompson on this drew the attention of this Department to the result of the action, and his purchases were thereupon declared void, the land being only available for conditional purchase on application at the Warialda Land Office (*vide* section 13 of the Alienation Act of 1861.)

Verdict	... ..	£2	0	0
Plaintiff's costs taxed	... ..	204	5	5
Defendant's costs as between attorney and client, including witnesses' expenses	216	8	6	

I recommend that the sum of five hundred pounds sterling (£500) be placed on the Estimates for 1882 as compensation on account of the losses sustained by Mr. John Jackson Thompson in defending the action brought against him in the Supreme Court.

JAMES HOSKINS.

Memorandum by Secretary for Lands.

With reference to the claim for compensation made by Mr. John Jackson Thompson, for a conditional purchase of 560 acres and 80 acres, as well as a pre-lease for 1,920 acres, being portion of reserve No. 67, gazetted as revoked on March 27th, 1877, conditional purchases 77-58 and 77-80, made at the Land Office, Inverell, on May 3rd and 17th, 1877, and for a pre-lease of 1,920 acres, also made at Inverell, on September 29th, 1877, such claim for compensation having arisen through an action having been brought against him in the Supreme Court by the lessees of the run for trespass, caused by the land embraced in the conditional purchases and the pre-lease having been applied for in the wrong district, namely, Inverell, instead of Wialla, at which the application should have been made.

The Land Agent must send a reply to the communication from this office upon this subject with the least possible delay, as the matter is about to be brought under the consideration of Parliament.—J.H., 9/9/81.

Minutes on above.

By Under Secretary for Lands :—Resubmit on Saturday.—C.O., 15/9/81.

Memorandum by Secretary for Lands.

A claim for compensation to the amount of £600 has been made on behalf of Mr. John Jackson Thompson, on account of the losses he alleges he has sustained through his having had to defend an action in the Supreme Court, brought by the lessees of the run, Messrs. Wright and Wyndham, for trespass, on the ground that the land he applied to conditionally purchase at the Land Office, Inverell, by conditional purchase 77-58 and conditional purchase 77-80, on May 3rd and May 17th, 1877, as well as the land he applied to pre-lease, 1,920 acres, at Inverell, on September 29th, 1877, should have been taken up at the Land Office, Warialda, as the land is in that district.

The claim was brought before the Cabinet Council yesterday, and the members of the Government present considered that the surveyor who measured this land (Maclarg), and the draftsman who charted his plans of this land for the conditional purchases, as well as the draftsman who charted the pre-lease in virtue thereof, are so much to blame for not discovering the fact of this land being in the Warialda District, instead of the Inverell District, long before the action was brought in the Supreme Court, that the question will probably be considered whether deductions ought not to be made from their salaries to compensate Thompson for the losses he has sustained through having to defend his interests in the Supreme Court, mainly through the apparently inexcusable negligence of the officials through whose hands this case passed.

I am therefore required by the Government to request the Surveyor-General to call upon the surveyor, as well as any draftsman through whose hands this matter passed, to explain why they did not report to the Minister for Lands that the conditional purchases and pre-leases were void through having been applied for in the wrong district.

The Government also wish to be furnished with the names of the officials in the Survey Branch, and the salaries paid to each officer respectively, who is responsible for the negligence manifested in this case.

As the claim for compensation is now being pressed, the Government require this information with the least possible delay.—J.H., 9/9/81.

Minutes on above.

By Under Secretary for Lands:—The Surveyor-General.—C.O., 9/9/81. By Surveyor-General:—Mr. Ellis, for inquiry and report.—P.F.A., 9/9/81. Urgent. All the papers referred in this case.—J. W. Ellis, 9/9/81. Report submitted.—J.W.E., 16/9/81. The Surveyor-General.

No. 73.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 9 September, 1881.

With reference to the claim for compensation made by Mr. John Jackson Thompson, for a conditional purchase of 560 acres and 80 acres, as well as a pre-lease for 1,920 acres, being portion of reserve No. 67, gazetted as revoked on 27th March, 1877 (conditional purchases Nos. 77-58 and 77-80), made at the Land Office, Inverell, on 3rd and 17th May, 1877, and for a pre-lease of 1,920 acres, also made at Inverell, on the 29th September, 1877, such claim for compensation having arisen through an action having been brought against him in the Supreme Court, by the lessees of the run, for trespass, caused by the land embraced in the conditional purchases and the pre-lease having been applied for in the wrong district, namely, Inverell, instead of Wialda, at which office the application should have been made; I am directed by the Secretary for Lands to inform you that the Cabinet require you to explain whether you were not aware of the fact, when this application was made to you by Mr. Thompson, that the land embraced in reserve No. 67, previously revoked, was in the Wialda District, and that the application should have been made at the Wialda Land Office, instead of at Inverell, and why you did not tell Mr. Thompson that he must apply at Wialda for this land.

2. You will be good enough to send a speedy reply to this letter, as the matter is about to be brought under the consideration of Parliament.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,
Under Secretary.

No. 74.

The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Crown Lands Office, Inverell, 12 September, 1881.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, No. 81-6,009 Ministerial, with reference to Mr. J. J. Thompson's conditional purchases of 560 acres and 80 acres, made at Inverell, on the 3rd and 17th May, 1877, and a pre-lease of 1,920 acres, made 29th September, 1877, requiring me to explain why the applications were received at this office instead of at Wialda. I beg to report as follows:—

When the first application was made, on the 3rd May, 1877, for 560 acres, being part of reserve No. 67, I informed the applicant, Mr. Thompson, that the land appeared to be in the Wialda District, and that he should apply at the Wialda Land Office for the same. He referred me to the Gazette, No. 105, of the 27th March, 1877, which proclaimed the revocation of the reserve, describing it as in "the New England District, county Arrawatta, Inverell," and he demanded that I should accept his application, insisting that the land was in the Inverell District, notwithstanding my informing him to the contrary. This he cannot and will not deny, for, in a conversation I had with him subsequent to the Supreme Court action, he fully remembered and acknowledged it to me.

I beg to explain that, at the present time, any objection I may see to an application is noted on the form, but at that date the necessity for such a practice was not seen and not required, to my knowledge. The subsequent application depended on the first one.

In the face of the above-quoted Gazette, I was not in a position to state positively that the land was not in the Inverell District, therefore could not peremptorily decline the application, made in the way it was, but I gave Mr. Thompson all the information at my disposal, showing him the county map, and advising him to go to the Wialda Lands Office.

This he declined to do, insisting upon his application being received, thereby taking all responsibility from me on to himself. It was his own deliberate action against my advice.

Trusting this explanation will be deemed satisfactory.

I have, &c.,

W. C. CARDEW,
Land Agent.

Minutes on above.

Submitted.—O.R., 16/9/81.

By Under Secretary for Lands:—It is desirable that the Land Agent should make a statutory declaration as to Mr. Thompson having insisted on making the application, notwithstanding that he was informed by the Land Agent that the land was not in the Inverell District, but in the district of Wialda.—C.O., 19/9/81.

No. 75.

Memorandum.

J. J. THOMPSON's claim for compensation on account of loss in defending action in Supreme Court, caused by the erroneous action of Survey and Lands Department.

The Surveyor-General,

I submit the following report in result of inquiry into the action of Survey Department in respect of J. J. Thompson's conditional purchases 77-58 and 77-80, dated 3rd and 17th May, taken up in the district of "Inverell," instead of "Warialda." I find that the Land Agent at Inverell had a good map of the county of Arrawatta, showing most clearly the boundary of the Inverell District by a red band, and the lettering "Inverell District" filled in in red, in order to make it perfectly distinct. These conditional purchases form part of reserve No. 67, on the Macintyre River, cancelled 27th March, 1877, of which the Land Agent, Warialda, was informed, and not the Land Agent at Inverell. This map shows most clearly the site of that reserve to be within the Warialda District, and to be about 4 miles on the Macintyre below the crossing of the boundary dividing the police districts of Inverell and Warialda, and to be about 2 miles westerly from the nearest point of that boundary, and, therefore, apparently no excuse for the Land Agent accepting the applications, or for the applicant tendering them at that office. The applications, on reaching the Survey Branch, were dealt with by Mr. Temporary Draftsman Hamilton, who ceased to be employed in this office in August, 1878, and who should have observed that the applications had been taken up in the wrong district prior to sending to Mr. Licensed Surveyor Macharg for survey, on the 5th June and 2nd July, 1877, respectively.

The surveys of the above conditional purchases were made in July, 1877, and transmitted under Mr. Macharg's letters 77-47 and 77-48, registered Nos. 77-35,306 and 77-35,307 conditional sales, and received in Charting Branch on 19th October, 1877, and issued to Mr. Temporary Draftsman Middlecoat for charting, 11th April, 1878, and who charted them in April and June, 1878, and were finally examined and dealt with in June and October, and plans by Mr. Armstrong accepted at these dates. Mr. Middlecoat can give no reason for the oversight in not observing that the conditional purchases were not taken up in the correct district, viz., "Warialda," subsequently to the acceptance of the plans by Mr. Armstrong. The plans were issued for tracings for Conditional Purchase Inspector, and, under minute dated 4th December, 1878, the papers, with tracings enclosed, were sent by Mr. Armstrong to Conditional Sales Branch for Conditional Purchase Inspector's report, as the applicant was not resident at time of survey, but no attention was called in that minute to the error of the police district, although the plans at the time would appear to have been noted "Warialda District." It appears that the Inspector was asked to report, 6th February, 1879, and, on 77-3,506 and 77-3,507, it is shown that attention was called by Mr. Armstrong, on the 21st February, 1879, to the fact of the portions or selections having been taken up in the wrong district, but subsequently to the date of the trial at the Supreme Court.

With regard to Charting Draftsman's statement, that "I can give no reason for the oversight in not noticing that the conditional purchase had been taken up in the wrong district," I think it is quite possible that the conditional purchase application, having been accepted by the Land Agent and passed by the Conditional Purchase Branch, Survey, in which branch a clearly-defined guide map of the county, showing the district boundary and the site of the reserve referred to in the application, existed; he accepted the correctness of the district without question, and the county map of Arrawatta in office use at the time being much defaced, the name of the police districts Inverell and Warialda not readily discerned, although the land district boundary could be deciphered on that map in parts readily, and in parts with difficulty (a lithograph in office use since 1871), may be partly the cause of that omission, as well as at the time a press of work in the branch, and a minute of mine to Mr. Willis, in February, 1878, on the subject of the importance of speedily putting into office use a new compilation of the county and parish maps of the county, on that minute being put into the compiler's hands on the following month, 23rd March, confirms me in this view.

A pre-lease, in virtue of the conditional purchase 77-58 and 77-80, was applied for on 29th September, 1877, for 1,920 acres, and gazetted 27th November, 1877, and charted, and finally dealt with by a tracing defining the lease being forwarded to the Inverell Land Agent for general information, which tracing was sent to Land Agent, 8th February, 1879, and applicant also informed at that date. If the Land Agent had compared this tracing with the county map of Arrawatta at his office, which so clearly shows the land district boundary, the error of police district would have been at once by him discerned, and of the conditional purchases, in virtue of which the pre-lease was taken up, that neither conditional purchases nor pre-lease were within his district. Applicant's agent, under letter, Leases 79-1,079, states that the pre-lease was not occupied until the final approval and tracing showing lengths were obtained by him, but papers show that applicant was provisionally informed as over 23rd January, 1878.

Between the date of application for pre-lease, 29th September, 1877, and finally dealing with it, and informing applicant and Land Agent, on 8th February, 1879, a period of 2½ years elapses. On inquiry, I find that the lease was gazetted, 27th November, 1877; reached Survey, 31st January, 1878; and charted by Mr. Draftsman J. J. Callachor, 4th February, 1879, and forwarded by Mr. A. Johnston to Lease Branch, under minute 4th February, 1879, also without it being observed that the pre-lease and conditional purchases in which the lease was taken up in virtue of were each made in the wrong district—Inverell, instead of Warialda. The cause of delay in Survey in dealing with the lease was owing to the press of work in the branch and small staff employed at the time, as will be seen by my report, dated 17th April, 1879, in which it is shown that not less than 2,133 cases, with a staff consisting only of Mr. A. Johnston, head of the branch (in absence of Mr. Sangster), Messrs. Hall, Callachor, Frappell, and Doubleday, cadet; and Mr. Callachor at the time had not less than 807 cases on hand, and the other draftsmen equally heavily charged with work at the time. No other reason can be given for the delay, as the plans, showing conditional purchases of J. J. Thompson, were on the county map, 28th June and 10th April, 1878, but the claim of lease came into existence when it was gazetted, viz., 27th November, 1877. If land was available, and applicant was informed to that effect, 23rd January, 1878, and I find by the papers that an application to pre-lease, in virtue of auction purchase, portions 79 and 80, "Warialda District," for 429 acres, was made by F. W. Wright, dated 19th June, 1877, gazetted 27th November, 1877, and provisionally notified to applicant, 23rd January, 1878, and by Mr. Gall, Pre-lease Branch, reported objectionable, under minute 6th May, 1879, as being land under pre-lease to J. J. Thompson, without

without it being observed that J. J. Thompson's pre-lease had been taken up in the wrong district, and refund accordingly to F. W. Wright on cancellation made, 22nd August, 1879, but that cancellation was revoked, 17th November, leases 79-3,629; J. J. Thompson and F. W. Wright's pre-lease applications being for land in the same locality, and, therefore, before reporting on Wright's pre-lease application, I should have thought it possible that J. J. Thompson's claims would have been examined, but I find the practice of the Branch to be that, unless some subsequent communication is received in the office, referring to any lease once charted, no further reference is made to such application. Mr. Gall's action was therefore taken as consequent on Thompson's pre-lease, &c., being shown charted on pre-lease map.

On letter dated 19th February, a day or two after the trial, conditional sales 79-7,279, J. J. Thompson, through his agent, applies for refund on his conditional purchase, 77-58 and 77-80, with the view of selecting in the correct district, viz., "Warialda," and the conditional purchases were voided and refund order issued, and agent and Treasury informed; and under minute on 77-3,083 leases, dated 17th November, 1879, the lease of J. J. Thompson is shown to be cancelled, and the noting in Conditional Purchase Register Book shows that the conditional purchases have been transferred to the Warialda District, under Nos. 77-193 and 77-194, and declared void, and reselected at Warialda, under conditional purchase 79-28, on 6th March, 1879.

Referring to 79-1,079 lease, applicant, J. J. Thompson, through his agent, applying for compensation, referred for report of Mr. A. Johnston, I find that Mr. Johnston states, "It has always been the practice of the Department to grant pre-leases in the district in which the conditional purchase application was made, and to furnish tracings accordingly, which was, as usual, done in this case. In this instance the conditional purchase appears to have been applied for in the wrong district, and being therefore invalid, the pre-lease is of course void."—A.J., 10th April, 1879. And I find in a minute, dated 6th June, 1881, Mr. Armstrong points out that, "Error in a district is generally pointed out by the draftsmen when the case is finally examined, and the attention of the Conditional Sales Branch is called to it when this case is dealt with." The published map of the county and the returned maps from the Land Agents, with Mr. Long, clearly show the portions to be in the Warialda District, but the map is missing that was in use at the Land Agent's Office in 1877. This map has since been found, and is the map referred to in previous part of this report.

It will be seen by the foregoing that error of Police District, Inverell, instead of Warialda, originated with the Land Agent and conditional purchase selector in not observing the boundary dividing the Police Districts of Inverell and Warialda.

The error should have been observed by Mr. Temporary Draftsman Hamilton, who dealt with the conditional purchase prior to sending the application for survey, but it was not observed by him, and the surveys of the conditional purchases were received into Charting Branch, 19th October, 1877, and issued to the charting draftsman, Mr. Middlecoat, 11th April, 1878, for charting, who should have observed the error, as directed in paragraph 2 of instructions to draftsmen, and pointed it out to the head of the Branch directly he commenced the preliminary examination of the plan, to charting on the county map, which was not done, nor at the final examination of the plan by the examiner, Mr. Armstrong; so the error passed until the matter was called attention to after the trial.

Mr. J. J. Callachor, draftsman in the Pre-lease Branch, observing the selections by J. J. Thompson charted on the county map of Arrawatta, when charting the lease in February, 1879, should have observed, on examining the lease application with the map in the Branch and the county map in office use, that the application was taken up in the wrong district, and gazetted also in the wrong district, owing to Lease Branch, Lands, having been misled by the Land Agent, Inverell, and have referred to the conditional purchase application in virtue of which it was taken up, and have pointed out that both conditional purchase and pre-lease had been taken up in the wrong district, but the error of district was not observed by Mr. J. J. Callachor, and therefore lease application, with tracing showing boundaries, was sent forward to Lease Branch, Lands, by Mr. Alexander Johnson, on the 4th of February, 1879, for information of the Land Agent, Inverell, and applicant, as before stated, and the Land Agent was accordingly informed, under letter dated 8th February, 1879. The action throughout in these cases should have been taken as in the Warialda District, and not as in the Inverell District, the conditional purchases and pre-leases being so clearly situated within the Warialda District; and I consider that there are no grounds for excuse either by the Land Agent or conditional purchaser that such was not done, the map so clearly showing the boundary dividing the Inverell and Warialda District. In reference to the portion of the Ministerial minute respecting the officers to blame and their salaries:—

1st. I consider, as I have before said, that the Land Agent at Inverell is much to blame, for the reason that he had a good map in his office for public inspection, showing the boundary of his district, and also showing the site of the reserve referred to in the conditional purchase application, situate about 4 miles down the river, below the crossing of the land district boundary over the Macintyre.

2nd. I consider the conditional purchase selector to blame, for if he had carefully inspected the map at the Inverell office he could have seen that the land he desired was in the Warialda District, and, if in doubt, appealed to the Land Agent.

3rd. I consider Mr. Temporary Draftsman Hamilton is to blame, who dealt with the applications before sending to Mr. Licensed Surveyor Macharg, in June and July, 1877. (Mr. Hamilton is not now employed in this office, having resigned his appointment as a temporary draftsman in August, 1878, and his appointment in Deeds Diagram Branch, 1st July, 1879.)

4th. Mr. Licensed Surveyor Macharg I consider also to blame, to whom the instructions issued to survey, in not returning the application to this office, as directed by paragraph 50 of surveyors' instructions, which states, "That if the application is in the wrong police district it should be returned for cancellation with a statement of the objection." (Mr. Licensed Surveyor Macharg resigned his district in December, 1878, and to whom no instructions to survey have issued from this office since that date.)

5th. Mr. Temporary Draftsman Middlecoat is also to blame, to whom the plans of the conditional purchases were issued for charting, in not discerning the error in police district, and pointing it out to the head of his Branch. Mr. Middlecoat's daily rate of pay is 17s.;—and also

6th. Mr. Armstrong, head of the Branch, who examined the charting, in not observing the error of police district while finally examining the charting. Mr. Armstrong's salary is £400.

7th. Mr. J. J. Callachor is to blame, who charted the pre-lease without observing the error of police district and pointing it out to the head of his Branch, viz., Mr. Alexander Johnson, with the view of having it rectified. Mr. Callachor's salary is £250 per annum.

8th.

8th, and lastly. Mr. Alexander Johnson I consider also to blame, who should have observed the error when examining the charting of the lease, or at least have asked the question if the district was correct. Mr. Johnson's salary is £400 per annum.

It will be observed that every officer dealing with the referred-to cases is to blame, but I think that the error should have been avoided by ordinary care at the Land Office, Inverell.

J. W. ELLIS,

15th September, 1881.

Minute on above.

Land district boundary between Inverell and Warialda amended under notice, 28th January, 1881, to take effect 17th proximo, and since that date J. J. Thompson's conditional purchases have been within Inverell.—J.W.E., 16/9/81.

No. 76.

Memorandum by Surveyor-General.

Surveyor-General's Office, Sydney, 19 September, 1881.

BEYOND stating that the Land Agent had an excellent map in his office at the date of selection, showing in the clearest manner the boundary of the district, and that the map is here for inspection, I have nothing to say as to the fault of that officer.

The first action on the part of this office was by Mr. Hamilton, then in the Conditional Purchase Branch, whose direct duty it was to have looked for and detected such an error; he, however, sent the application to the surveyor to measure, if unobjectionable.

The surveyor, Mr. Macharg, neglected to comply with Instructions to Surveyors, paragraph No. 50, bearing directly on the case; therefore he ought to have returned the instruction.

The third officer who is to blame is Mr. Middlecoat, who neglected Instruction to Draftsmen No. 2.

Then Mr. Armstrong, who examined the charting.

The officers of the Lease Branch appear to have followed the Land Agent, who accepted the application for pre-lease in virtue of a conditional purchase made in the same district.

The two first officers, Messrs. Hamilton and Macharg, are, I consider, guilty in the first degree, but they have both left the Department.

In the second degree, I consider Mr. Middlecoat to blame, who neglected a direct office instruction. He had before him three officers directly charged with the responsibility of finding out the error, and consequently I am prepared to admit that his attention was but little called in that direction, having his own direct duties to perform in connection with charting. The same may be said of Mr. Armstrong, who examined the charting; also the officers of the Lease Branch, who have followed in the track of the others.

This occurred three years since, at a time when the pressure of work was enormous, and higher duties entrusted to officers of shorter experience than would otherwise have been the case. I must therefore leave the matter to be considered by Mr. Secretary Hoskins in as favourable a light as circumstances will permit.

The names, grades, and salaries of the officers implicated will be found in Appendix to this report.

P. F. ADAMS.

[Enclosure to No. 76.]

APPENDIX to the Surveyor-General's minute of 19th September, 1881, showing names, grades, and salaries of officers in the order in which they are mentioned in the Chief Draftsman's report herewith.

Name.	Grade.	Salary.
A. P. D. Hamilton	(Resigned position of draftsman; now Crown Lands Agent.)	
J. Macharg	Licensed surveyor (has not been employed since December, 1878.)	
W. T. Middlecoat	Special first-class temporary draftsman	17s. per diem.
W. D. Armstrong	First-class draftsman, permanent staff	£400 per annum.
J. J. C. Callachor	Second-class draftsman, permanent staff	£250 per annum.
A. Johnson	First-class draftsman, permanent staff	£400 per annum.

No. 77.

Telegram from Land Agent, Inverell, to Under Secretary for Lands.

19 September, 1881.

SINCE writing my report of twelfth instant *re* Thompson's conditional purchase, have carefully examined boundaries, with assistance District Surveyor Finley. We find that Thompson's purchase, parish Bukkalla, is undoubtedly within old Inverell Land District. The western boundary New England Pastoral District was there clearly the boundary between Inverell and Warialda. Please compare description boundaries of these Police Districts and that of Pastoral District New England. I submit approximate boundary marked county map is greatly out

W. C. CARDEW,
Land Agent.

Minutes on No. 77.

Mr. Ellis,—The report in Thompson's case should be recalled at once, and the old map sent with it to Under Secretary; also check the gazetted boundary of the district, which may not agree with the old map.—P.F.A., 19/9/81. Urgent.

Reply submitted under separate cover.—J. W. ELLIS, 20/9/81.

No. 78.

Telegram from Under Secretary for Lands to Lands Agent, Inverell.

19 September, 1881.

It is desirable that you should make a statutory declaration as to Mr. Thompson having insisted on making the application, notwithstanding that he was informed by you that the land was not in the Inverell District, but in the district of Warialda.

CHARLES OLIVER,
Under Secretary.

No. 79.

Memorandum.

J. J. Thompson's Conditional Purchases 77-58 and 77-80, taken up at Inverell.

THE Surveyor-General, in reply to the enclosed telegram from Inverell to the Under Secretary.—The boundary defining the Land District of Inverell previously to 28th January, 1881, is described "as the fall of the western extreme of the table-land of New England," and which boundary was sketched many years ago by the late Mr. McLean, in consultation with Mr. Moriarty, Chief Commissioner Crown Lands, myself being present; and the boundary as sketched has been so shown on the maps sent to the Land Agents at Warialda, Glen Innes (prior to subdivision of Police District of Wellingrove into Glen Innes and Inverell), and Inverell since that subdivision and identical with the boundary shown on county map of Arrawatta, published by the Government in 1871, and I enclose the map of Arrawatta that was with the Land Agent, Inverell, at the date when Thompson's conditional purchases were taken up in 1877, a tracing of that county returned from the Inverell Land Agent in December, 1876, a tracing prepared for the Land Agent at Warialda, 19 October, 1875, and sent, and a tracing of much earlier date. On all the above maps the boundaries are identical, and show the site of the cancelled reserve referred to in Thompson's conditional purchase application, and the Land Agent should have been solely guided by the boundary shown on the maps sent from this office for the use of the public.

J. W. ELLIS,
20 September, 1881.

Minutes on above.

Report submitted.—P.F.A., 21/9/81. Under Secretary for Lands. Submitted.—O.R., 22/9/81.
C.O., 24/9/81.

No. 80.

The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Crown Lands Office, Inverell, 20 September, 1881.

I have the honor to forward the attached statutory declaration, as required by your telegram of yesterday's date. With reference to the same subject (Mr. J. J. Thompson's claim for compensation), I, yesterday, believing the matter to be urgent, sent you the following telegram, viz.:—"Since writing my report of 12th inst., *re* Thompson's conditional purchase, have carefully examined boundaries, with the assistance of District Surveyor Finley. We find that Thompson's purchase, parish of Bukkulla, is undoubtedly within old Inverell Land District. The western boundary of New England Pastoral District is there clearly the boundary between Inverell and Warialda. Please compare the description of the boundaries of these Police Districts and that of the Pastoral District of New England. I beg to submit that the approximate boundaries shown on county map is greatly out."

This would open out a different aspect of the question altogether, quite apart from my dealings with Mr. Thompson at the date of his application. I have only to lay it before you for consideration.

I have, &c.,
W. C. CARDEW,
Land Agent.

Minutes on No. 80.

This explanation and the declaration within fully exonerates the Land Agent in the matter of Thompson's conditional purchase.—C.O., 24/9/81. By Secretary for Lands:—Mr. Murray, M.P. should be informed that the Government cannot undertake to place a sum of money on the Estimates to compensate Mr. J. J. Thompson.—J.H., 29/9/81.

[Enclosure to No. 80.]

I, WILLIAM CLARE CARDEW, of Inverell, Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands, do solemnly and sincerely declare that on the 3rd day of May, 1877, Mr. John Jackson Thompson did, at the Inverell Land Office, make an application to me, under the 13th section, for a conditional purchase of 560 acres, county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla. I informed him that the land appeared to be in the Warialda District, and that he should apply at the Warialda Land Office. After arguing the matter for some time, he insisted upon making his application, notwithstanding I had shown him by the office map that the land was not in Inverell District, but in that of Warialda. He would not accept this statement. He strongly objected taking the extra journey to Warialda. He said he believed the land to be in the Inverell District, and he (Thompson) made his application at his own risk; this he thoroughly understood. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and in virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths and Affirmations taken and made in various Departments of the Government of New South Wales and to substitute Declarations in lieu thereof and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial Oaths and Affidavits."

Made and signed before me, at Inverell, }
this 20th day of September, 1881,— }
H. MUNRO, J.P.

W. C. CARDEW.

No. 81.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 3 October, 1881.

With reference to your letter of the 20th ultimo., on the subject of J. J. Thompson's conditional purchase of 560 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, I have to inform you that your explanation, and the declaration transmitted therewith, are considered sufficient to exonerate you from blame in the matter

I have, &c.,
CHARLES OLIVER,
Under Secretary.

No. 82.

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No. 82.

The Under Secretary for Lands to R. L. Murray, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 3 October, 1881.

With reference to the claim made by Mr. John J. Thompson against the Government for compensation for losses sustained in connection with his conditional purchases and pre-lease in the county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkula, I am directed to inform you that the Government cannot undertake to place a sum of money on the Estimates to compensate Mr. Thompson, it having been clearly demonstrated that he took up the selections at Inverell, though warned by the Land Agent there that he should apply at the Land Office at Warialda.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,

Under Secretary.

No. 83.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. H. J. Withers.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 4 October, 1881.

With reference to the claim made by Mr. John J. Thompson against the Government for compensation for losses sustained in connection with his conditional purchases and pre-lease in the county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkula, I am directed to inform you that the Government cannot undertake to place a sum of money on the Estimates to compensate Mr. Thompson, it having been clearly demonstrated that he took up the selections at Inverell, though warned by the Land Agent there that he should apply at the Land Office at Warialda.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,

Under Secretary.

No. 84.

Declaration by Mr. J. J. Thompson.

In the Colony of New South Wales.

I, John Jackson Thompson, of Eastholm, near Inverell, in the Colony of New South Wales, grazier, do solemnly and sincerely declare:—

1st. That, on the third day of May, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, I conditionally purchased from the Crown, under the thirteenth section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, at the Land Office at Inverell aforesaid, five hundred and sixty acres of land, situated in the county of Arrawatta, and parish of Bukkula, being portion of reserve number sixty-seven, gazetted as revoked on twenty-seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

2nd. That, on the seventeenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, I purchased from the Crown and the Land Office at Inverell aforesaid, an additional conditional purchase, under the eighteenth section of the said Act, eighty acres of land, situated in the county and parish aforesaid, adjoining on the north the aforesaid conditional purchase, and being the residue of the said reserve.

3rd. That notification of my pre-lease of one thousand nine hundred and twenty acres by virtue of the said purchases was published in the Government Gazette bearing date the twenty-seventh day of November, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

4th. That, previous to my making the aforesaid purchases, I observed that the said reserve number sixty-seven was described in the Government Gazette as being situated in the county of Arrawatta, Inverell, and forming part of Bukkula Run; I concluded, therefore, that Inverell would be the proper place at which to apply to purchase the same after the revocation of the said reserve.

5th. I distinctly remember, when I handed my application for the said five hundred and sixty acres of land, together with the amount of deposit in part payment of the same, to the Local Land Agent (Mr. W. C. Cardew), on the said third day of May, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, no conversation whatever took place between us as to either Inverell or Warialda being the proper place to apply for the said land. A person named Ross was present during the time, and would be able to declare the same, as I heard this person say to Mr. Cardew immediately after my application and deposit were received, "I wish to take up portion of reserve number sixty-seven," and Mr. Cardew said to him, "It has just been applied for."

6th. No conversation whatever took place between Mr. Cardew and myself on the occasion of my taking up the additional conditional purchase as aforesaid relative to Inverell or Warialda being the place to make application for the same, and it was not until the month of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, that I became aware the said conditional purchases were forfeited.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the more effectual abolition of oaths and affirmations taken and made in various Departments of the Government of New South Wales and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial oaths and affidavits."

Subscribed and declared at Inverell, this fourth

J. J. THOMPSON.

day of October, 1881,—

H. MUNRO, J.P.

Minute on above.

Presented by R. L. Murray, 8th October, 1881.

[Enclosure to No. 84.]

Description of cancelled reserve.

No. 67. 640 acres, Main Camp, county of Arrawatta, Inverell: Commencing at a gum-tree marked R over 3, on the eastern bank of the Macintyre River, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above the junction of Bannockburn or Waterford's Creek, near the upper end of a long waterhole; thence by a line north 1 mile; thence by a line west about 1 mile to the river; thence by the river upwards to the starting-point.

Forms part of Bukkula Run.

No. 85.

No. 85.

Mr. E. O. Smith to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 5 October, 1881.

On the 8th October, 1879, I addressed you, asking for the reversion of cancellation of F. W. Wright's pre-emptive lease of 1,920 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, being No. 111 of 77, district of Warialda, which request I understood was complied with, but it now appears that some subsequent action has been taken, of which I (as representing Messrs. E. S. Wyndham and F. W. Wright) have had no intimation, and knew nothing until just informed that J. J. Thompson claims the lease.

I shall be much obliged if you will cause me to be informed whether Thompson is authorised by your Department to occupy Mr. Wright's lease, and if so, upon what ground.

Early attention to this matter will very much oblige.

I have, &c.,

ERNEST O. SMITH.

Minutes on above.

Urgent.—C.O., 6/10/81. The papers in this case are now with the Under Secretary.—S.F., 14/10/81.

No. 86.

H. J. Withers & Co. to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

11, Bridge-street, 10 October, 1881.

We are in receipt of your letter dated 4th instant, informing us that the Government cannot undertake to place a sum of money on the Estimates to compensate Mr. Thompson, it having been clearly demonstrated that he took up the selections at Inverell though warned by the Land Agent there that he should apply at the Land Office at Warialda.

We must deny that the Land Agent said one word to our client about the Warialda Lands Office; and supposing, for the sake of argument, that he did, then he must be much to blame in forwarding the application and allowing it to be acted upon, surveyed, and charted without directing attention to the fact of its illegality. It is a very unusual practice, and not another agent in the country would have acted in such a careless manner. In the matter of compensation we have nothing to do with either Land Agent or conditional purchase. Our client asked the Minister for Lands to grant him a pre-emptive lease of 1,920 acres; this application was examined, charted, approved, and gazetted in the usual way, and a tracing showing the boundaries was sent to the Inverell Lands Office, and Thompson was informed by you that he could inspect a tracing of the land granted to him at that office. Our client cannot be held responsible for this mistake, which was the cause of action. It seems to us very singular that your officer at Inverell should receive all these notifications, knowing them to be illegal, without communicating with you. The Land Agent and squatter appear to have been the only persons knowing about the illegality of both conditional purchase and pre-lease. Little consideration has been shown Thompson in accepting a statement made by the Land Agent without giving an opportunity for reply. Our client is quite prepared to furnish a declaration that no such warning was given.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that you will recommend a reconsideration of this case, and that the sum of £600 may be placed on the Estimates to compensate our client for expenses incurred in defending his right to a lease which you had informed him he could hold, and which lease the Minister had the power to grant or refuse; but having granted, we maintain, as an act of right and justice, you should support our client in defending your power to grant such lease when questioned.

We have, &c.,

HENRY J. WITHERS & CO.

Minute on above.

By direction of the Under Secretary these papers are now forwarded to Mr. Curry in order that action may first be taken in a late letter from Mr. E. O. Smith. When this has been done the letter of Withers & Co. may be considered.—S.F., 14/10/81. Urgent.

No. 87.

H. J. Withers & Co. to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

11, Bridge-street, 17 October, 1881.

Upon receipt of your letter *re* compensation to J. J. Thompson, we wrote to him asking for particulars of what took place when he applied for his selection at Inverell. (Copy of our letter and his reply herewith.)

So many years having elapsed the Land Agent may not remember what actually took place. We do not think the agent would intentionally make a statement contrary to what he believed to be the case, but any person situated as he is, receiving applications every week, cannot be expected to remember everything that is said. Our client has always spoken of the agent in very high terms, and ready at all times to give information and assistance in pointing out land.

We again respectfully ask that the compensation may be given as applied for.

We have, &c.,

HENRY J. WITHERS & CO.

Minute on No. 87.

Lease Branch to place this with previous papers.—T.B., 18/11/81. Further correspondence with statutory declaration of J. J. Thompson now submitted, also Gazette of 27 March, 1877.—S.F., 1/11/81.

[Enclosure A to No. 87.]

A. J. Withers & Co. to Mr. J. J. Thompson.

Dear sir,

11, Bridge-street, Sydney, 4 October, 1881.

Will you kindly inform us who it was went to the Land Office, Inverell, and applied for the conditional purchase which should have been taken up at Warialda; also state plainly what took place between you, or the person who went with the application, and the Land Agent.

Did the Land Agent know at the time you applied that it was in the wrong district? Please reply to this by return.

We have, &c.,

HENRY J. WITHERS & CO.

[Enclosure

[Enclosure B to No. 87.]

Mr. J. J. Thompson to Messrs. H. J. Withers & Co.

Gentlemen.

Eastholm, Inverell, 10 October, 1881.

On Wednesday, the day before I selected, I went to the Land Office, Inverell, to get a form, and asked the Land Agent what district reserve No. 67 was in. He said he thought Warialda; and when I referred him to the Gazette he thought other ways, and that is all the information I could get. The Land Agent could not tell me. I made my application next day, Thursday, with written application, and there was nothing said further; no one applied for land as I know of. There was a man of the name of Ross looking over a map, and when I was leaving the office I heard him say he wanted to select part of reserve No. 67. However, I made an affidavit to all that passed, and sent it to R. L. Murray, M.P., which I hope will be sufficient for all. I do not understand these questions; there are some bad designing people who would do or say anything over this selection I believe. Sir, I wish you would take a note of what reports are lodged against me, and from whom; it may be useful. I think these parties will be doing harm to themselves. No doubt the Minister will see the whole. Trusting I have, &c.,

J. J. THOMPSON.

No. 88.

Memorandum.

WRIGHT's application 111 of 1877 is an undefined lease, and was not charted at the time it was dealt with; it, however, was applied for on the east of portions Nos. 79 and 80, and would therefore extend to portion No. 52 if granted entirely on the east. In my memorandum of 30 December, 1879, where I state a modification must be made, I of course was guided by Wright's description, which includes all the land between portions Nos. 79 and 80, and 52.—A. GALL, 19/10/81.

Minutes on above

Mr. Burt.—It appears that if Mr. Wright's description were closely followed his lease would sever that of Mr. Thompson.—H.C., 19/10/81. Wright's description is vague, inasmuch as it does not state how far easterly he wished the pre-lease to extend, but the pre-lease could have been charted to accord with the description, and prevented Thompson from getting more than 550 acres for a pre-lease.—J.B., 20/10/81.

No. 89.

Memorandum.

THE letter received from Mr. E. O. Smith, of the 5th instant, invites attention to the leases in the case, the principal facts of which, so far as they are concerned, it may not be undesirable to relate. J. J. Thompson, in May, 1877, selected, at Inverell, portions Nos. 82 and 83, parish of Bukkulla, and on the 29th September applied for a lease of 1,920 acres in right of them. The lease was approved by Gazette notice of the 27th November, as 77-34, but on account of the conditional purchases having been declared void was cancelled on the 17th November, 1879. Having, on the 6th March, 1879, reselected the portions at Warialda, the proper Land Office, he, on the 7th of that month, preferred a second claim, and lease 79-48 was, on the 23rd of the following May, granted to him. This second lease was also cancelled, on the 15th October, as the conditional purchases were, by the measurement of A. McDonald's selection 76-33, severed from the vacant Crown Land. Upon full discussion of the matter it was, however, decided that a means of access should be afforded by a road; a re-adjustment was accordingly made, and action was commenced to formally reverse the cancellation. This action was, apparently, however, interrupted, or only partly carried out, for although instructions issued to the Treasury for the cancellation of the refund voucher, there is nothing to show that either the lessee or the Land Agent was communicated with. The rent for the years 1880, 1881, and 1882 was paid into Suspense Account on the 29th ultimo (*vide* leases 81-4730).

The lease of Mr. F. W. Wright, to which Mr. E. O. Smith refers, 77-111, and which plays an important part in the case, was applied for on the 19th June, and gazetted on the 27th November, 1877. It was cancelled on the 22nd August, 1879, as it interfered with Thompson's first lease, 77-34, and the cancellation was reversed on the 17th November, 1879, when it was found that Thompson's lease was illegal. The rent upon it has been fully paid up. The lease was applied for on the east of portions Nos. 79 and 80, and if carried out fully in this direction would (what it may be suspected was intended) sever Mr. Thompson's lease, and consequently confine him to a comparatively small area. Being an undefined lease it was not, it seems, charted when approved, but placed in the position shown upon the enclosed tracing, in order (as it appears from a memorandum on 79-4982 and 81-786) to admit of Thompson's lease being granted. It is not apparent, however, that this arrangement received or was submitted for ministerial sanction; and what must be looked upon as an unfortunate circumstance, it does not seem that Mr. Wright was made acquainted with the action taken. He might possibly, therefore, say that he understood, when he received intimation on the 23rd January, 1878, that his lease was provisionally approved, that his description had been closely followed, and that, although informed on the 22nd August, 1879, of its cancellation, and on the 17th November, 1879, of reversal of cancellation, he received no subsequent communication which would lead him to think differently. This plea would, perhaps, receive some support from the fact that his claim was of prior date to the one of Thompson, thus leaving a way open for it to be urged that he should not be asked to give place to a subsequent applicant. As this suggestion has been made merely with a view to admit of the matter being fully considered, it may be, at the same time, pointed out that the second lease of Thompson was approved before the first one was cancelled, and that, having regard to an opinion recently given by the Attorney-General, the junction of the lease with the conditional purchase by what appears to be a road might not now be considered admissible. These facts are, however, apparently of minor importance, and so far as the latter point is concerned the objection could not be insisted upon, when it is remembered that McDonald's conditional purchase was measured without strict reference to his description, and on the understanding that its position would not affect the lease.

It will be now for the Secretary for Lands to decide whether Mr. Wright's lease shall be charted as designed to prevent the division of that of Mr. Thompson, and the rent paid into Suspense Account carried to revenue. And in support of this course, which, by the decision on 81-786, has, perhaps, already been partially approved, it may be mentioned that Mr. Wright does not seem to have been directly informed that the boundaries of his lease had been determined, and therefore any opinion he might say he formed upon the matter would start from mere inference.—H.C., 19/10/81.

Minutes on No. 89.

Forward a tracing to Mr. Wright showing the pre-lease 77-111.—C.O., 19/10/81.

No. 90.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. E. O. Smith.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 20 October, 1881.

With regard to your communication of the 5th instant, I have the honor to forward you here-
with a tracing which shows approximately the position which Mr. F. W. Wright's pre-emptive lease
77-111, in the district of Warialda, occupies.

CHARLES OLIVER.

No. 91.

Mr. R. L. Murray to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 11 November, 1881.

I have the honor to enclose a statutory declaration of William Ross and other documents
relating to the selection of J. J. Thompson, at Bukkulla, and to request that you will be pleased to recon-
sider this case.

If you will do so I have no doubt but you will see that even in case he did select at the wrong
Land Office, that would in no way affect the pre-lease which was granted to him by the Department.

I have, &c.,

R. L. MURRAY.

Minute on above.

The Under Secretary,—These letters should be registered and placed with the papers in this case,
and afterwards returned to me.—J.H., 14/11/81.

[Enclosure A to No. 91.]

In the Colony of New South Wales.

Declaration.

I, WILLIAM ROSS, of Rose Valley, near Inverell, in the Colony of New South Wales, farmer, do solemnly declare as follows:—

1. That, on the third day of May, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, I attended at the Land Office,
Inverell, for the purpose of conditionally purchasing from the Crown 640 acres or thereabouts of land, situate in the county
of Arrawatta, and parish of Bukkulla, and being a portion of reserve number sixty-seven, gazetted as revoked on the twenty-
seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

2. That John Jackson Thompson, of Bukkulla, selector, and myself were both waiting at the said Land Office at the
same time, and at 10 o'clock on the morning of the said third day of May, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, we
both entered the Land Agent's room immediately after the door was opened and tendered the deposit money for the said land
to the Land Agent, who then and there accepted the said John Jackson Thompson's money, and refused mine, for the reason
that the said John Jackson Thompson had the necessary application prepared, whereas I had not.

3. The said Land Agent gave the said John Jackson Thompson a receipt for the deposit money, and I then left the
office with the said John Jackson Thompson.

4. During the whole of the time the said John Jackson Thompson was in the said Land Office the said Land Agent
did not in my hearing say one word about the said John Jackson Thompson's application being made at the wrong office, or
about the land applied for being in another district.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an
Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the more effectual abolition
of oaths and affirmations taken and made in various Departments of the Government of New South Wales and to substitute
declarations in lieu thereof and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial oaths and affidavits."

Subscribed and declared at Inverell, this 1st day of
November, 1881, before me,—

WM. ROSS.

H. MUNRO, J.P.

[Enclosure B to No. 91.]

Mr. J. J. Thompson to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Bukkulla, 5 November, 1881.

Since I made and sent in my affidavit, I am informed that a statement previously made by the Crown Lands Agent
at Inverell contradicts my sworn statement. I protest against any statement (by the Land Agent or any other person) being
entertained as evidence against me unless such statement is sworn to and a copy forwarded to me for a reply.

I want the matter cleared up with a view of proving the truth, and if the Land Agent's statement contradicts mine in
any particular way let him swear to it, and then I will have an opportunity of clearing it up. You know that in getting up my
case I have not power to call for men and papers to prove it.

I have, &c.,

J. J. THOMPSON.

No. 92.

Messrs. H. J. Withers & Co. to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

9, Macquarie-place, 29 November, 1881.

I do myself the honor to forward you declaration made by Mr. William Ross, that no warning
was given to Thompson by the Land Agent at Inverell when my client applied for the land.

I have, &c.,

H. J. WITHERS & CO.

(Per E.W.E.)

[Enclosure to No. 92.]

I, WILLIAM ROSS, of near Inverell, farmer, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—That I was in the Lands Office, Inverell,
during the time that Mr. J. J. Thompson was there, and saw him give an application to the Land Agent, which he (the Agent)
received without warning or protest. I was standing so near both that neither could speak without my hearing what was
said. The date upon which the application I now refer to was made was the 3rd day of May, 1877. And I make this solemn
declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and in virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth
year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths and Affirmations
taken and made in various Departments of the Government of New South Wales and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof
and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial Oaths and Affidavits."

Declared at Inverell, this 25th day of

WILLIAM ROSS.

November, 1881, before me,—

H. MUNRO, J.P.

No. 93.

Messrs. H. J. Withers & Co. to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

9, Macquarie-place, 2 December, 1881.

We do ourselves the honor to request that the Treasury may be authorized to transfer the rent on pre-lease noted in margin, now held in Suspense Account, to Revenue Account.

J. T. Thompson
Warialda, 79-48
area 1,920 acres.

We have, &c.,

H. J. WITHERS & CO.,
(Per E.W.E.)

No. 94.

Mr. E. O. Smith to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 7 December, 1881.

I am in receipt of your communication of the 20th October last (Leases 81-4,967) enclosing a tracing of F. W. Wright's pre-emptive lease 111 of 77, being 429 acres at Warialda.

I have to ask your attention to your letter (79-4,086 Leases) addressed to me on the 15th November, 1879, respecting this lease, and to point out that this lease, without any reference to or communication with the lessee, has been very much altered and interfered with; not only so, but a gazetted pre-lease, 100 of 1879, held by Wyndham and Wright, in virtue of portion No. 27, parish of Arthur's Seat, appears to have been entirely ignored by your Department; and further, an application for a pre-emptive lease, in virtue of portion 81 of 80 acres, formerly Graham's, now Wyndham's, was refused on the ground that no land was available, and yet it is now sought to give Thompson land in the same position, in virtue of his conditional purchase, which is entirely separate from the land in question.

Upon reference you will find that Macdonald's (now Hutchison's) conditional purchase of 150 acres, being portion No. 104, was applied for as joining Wyndham's portion No. 84 of 77 acres, and so at present appears on the ground; but, from the tracing, it appears that the position of that conditional purchase has been shifted so as to leave a road 2 or 3 chains wide between it and portion No. 84, by which, no doubt, access is given to Thompson's conditional purchase, and this is the mode by which your Department seeks to enable Thompson to exercise pre-emptive right over land which in no way adjoins or is connected with his, and part of which had previously been refused to Wyndham, though it adjoined his land, and another portion thereof had been granted to Wright in 1877, or four years ago; and this, as previously stated, has been done without any reference or intimation to Wyndham and Wright, the persons most concerned, and whom you informed in November, 1879, that their holding would not be interfered with, in belief of which they have entered into engagements which Thompson has threatened to interfere with, under cover of your Department having given him possession of a large portion of Wright's lease.

I have to point out that my clients have never sought to exercise any right over land in the locality under notice, excepting the numerous portions purchased and leased by them and described by surveys and Gazette notices, and that they have been in such a position for some years, and are fully aware that there is no precedent for the granting of a pre-emptive lease of the shape, and under the circumstances, of that sought to be given to Thompson; indeed, no surveyor or other officer of the Department would have submitted such a project, as he would know that it could and would not be entertained for a moment.

It is the intention of my clients to continue the occupation of their pre-emptive lease as gazetted in 1877, and confirmed in November, 1879; and they desire to express their surprise and regret that your Department has endeavoured so seriously to interfere with their interests, and trust that Thompson may at once be informed by you in terms of your letter to me of the 15th November, 1879, thus averting the probability of vexatious and expensive litigation which must ensue if your office does not confirm my client in his rights.

I request that you will be good enough to give this matter your earliest attention, so as to relieve Messrs. Wyndham and Wright from the serious inconvenience and annoyance which they now so unjustly suffer.

I have, &c.,

ERNEST O. SMITH.

No. 95.

Memorandum.

Thompson & Wright.

THE settlement of this matter would appear to depend entirely on the form of Wright's pre-lease, No. 111 of 77, and the interpretation of his description, viz.: "Adjoining the eastern boundary of portions Nos. 79 and 80."

Being an undefined lease, it was never delineated on the map till apparently the 24th February, 1881 (Leases 81-786). When Thompson's lease was first charted it erroneously included 111 of 77, and it was apparently only when the whole matter became ventilated that Thompson's was amended, and Wright's charted, in the form shown on tracing A herewith.

Though originally Thompson's lease was applied for three months subsequently to Wright's, both were gazetted on the same date, and would consequently be dealt with concurrently. Such being the case, the leases would no doubt have been charted so as to admit of both claims being satisfied, and would, in all probability, have been approved by the Minister, but, as has been pointed out, Ministerial approval of the form was not obtained.

Thompson had to make a second application, on the 7th March, 1879, and being caused through no fault of his, he may be deserving of some consideration, otherwise Wright has almost two years' precedence in the date of application, and it may be held that he had an undoubted claim to have his lease charted so as to extend easterly to the travelling stock reserve.

In the event of this, I have prepared a tracing (B) showing how the land must be disposed of to the different applicants. The red lines show Wright's lease of 111 of 1877; the blue lines show all the land available for the satisfaction of Thompson's claim (437 acres); and the yellow lines show pre-lease No. 79-100, provisionally gazetted 16th December, 1879, and referred to in Leases 81-6,584. If

If it be decided that the leases are to remain as shown on tracing A, then the action of the Department in refusing Graham's application for pre-lease for portion 81 is correct. Thompson's being of prior date, and the lease No. 79-100 (only provisionally gazetted), referred to by Mr. Smith, will have to be cancelled, as 48 of 1879 severs the portion (No. 27) from contact with Crown Land.—J.B., 21/12/81.

No. 96.

Memorandum.

THE question in regard to the leases in this case are now submitted for decision.

The leases referred to are 77-111, 79-48, 79-20, and 79-100. Of these, the first two have called for special attention, and the leading facts in regard to them have already been set forth in a previous memorandum of the 19th October last. The following schedule shows the dates upon which the four leases were claimed, and the dates upon which they were notified as approved in the Government Gazette:—

Lease.	Area.	Applicant.	Date of Application.	Date of Gazette.
	Acres.			
77-111	429	F. W. Wright.....	19th June, 1877	27th November, 1877.
79-48	1,920	J. J. Thompson	7th March, 1879	23rd May, 1879.
79-20	240	J. Graham	29th May, 1879	15th July, 1879.
79-100	258	Wyndham & Wright.....	19th June, 1879	16th December, 1879.

The case hinges upon the question whether Mr. Wright's description covers land running from the eastern boundaries of portions 79 and 80 to the west boundary of travelling stock reserve 337, and involves the question whether, assuming that it does, the Government have a right to grant the lease strictly in accordance with the description. The history of the case, so far as its practical bearings are concerned, dates from lease 77-111, as this lease was (without regard to any invalid claim) the first applied for. The claimant's description is 429 acres adjoining the eastern boundaries of said portions Nos. 79 and 80.

The question whether the Department has a right to grant a lease without regard to the claimant's description seems to admit of a reply in the affirmative, and indeed it would appear that the advancement of a claim without any description whatever would not render it open to much objection. A description of the land is, however, desirable, as in a case where the land in several directions is available the Department might have no objection to grant it to suit the requirements of the applicant, and it may be presumed that this consideration led to provision being made for a description in the form of application. If it be conceded that a description is not imperative, it seems to follow that when one has been furnished it need not necessarily be followed even when the land is available; and this appears to have been arranged for by the 36th clause of the Act of 1875, which "provides that a lease shall be taken, occupied, and held subject to the several conditions prescribed in the Occupation Act, and to the boundaries thereof, being defined as provided therein, or by any regulations." The regulation which bears on the subject is No. 1 of part 11, and it sets forth that the land "shall be taken where practicable in a block of rectangular form, of which the external lines shall be directed to the cardinal points by compass, except in such cases as it is found that existing lease boundaries, alienated or reserved land, or other obstacles, render such a course inadvisable or impracticable."

The question, however, has first to be determined—whether Mr. Wright's lease would, if charted in accordance with his description, extend to the travelling stock reserve, and this question is by no means free from doubt. Had the matter of charting come forward without reference to Thompson's lease 79-48, it would be safe to say that the lease would have been located in this manner, but the description is sufficiently vague to admit of a modification such as has already been made being carried out. It might not, however, be desirable to refine too much in a case of this nature; but, at the same time, it is pointed out that although the lessee has described the land to the east, he has not stated how far in that direction he wished to go. In any circumstances, after having extended in that direction, it would have to extend to the north or the south to make up the area, and as in the position shown on tracing A it extends to the east and north, the question seems to be whether it should extend fully in the direction described before diverging in any other. This point is, of course, a somewhat nice one. The circumstances most strongly in favour of Wright is that his is the first claim; but, on the other hand, his lease has only recently been charted, no tracing has been forwarded to the Land Agent, and he cannot therefore say (whatever he may urge in reference to his description) that the position of it has been departed from. In view of these considerations, and having regard to the fact that if lease 77-111 be charted fully up to the reserve Thompson will be confined to a comparatively small area, there appears sufficient reason, it is submitted, to take advantage of any ambiguity of description, and allow Thompson's lease to stand. The question as to lease 79-48 being connected with the land in right of which it was granted by only a road, and being separated by McDonald's conditional purchase, does not call for special comment, as that purchase was measured without reference to the description, and Thompson has (what has already been conceded) no right to suffer through it. The other leases in question are 79-20 and 79-100, and both being of subsequent date to 77-111 and 79-48, are dependent upon them. Lease 79-20, claimed in virtue of portion 81, has been cancelled, and this action was correct, as the vacant land was absorbed by Thompson's prior lease 79-48; and, as pointed out by Mr. Burt, 79-100 will have to be cancelled if Thompson's lease should remain intact, as that lease will cover any adjoining land; but should lease 77-111 be extended to the reserve the land to the north of portion 27, in right of which 79-100 has been claimed, will of course become available.

H.C., 22/12/81.

Minutes on above.

By the Under Secretary for Lands:—A glance at tracings A and B should, I think, be sufficient to decide this case. I am satisfied that had Wright's lease 77-111 been charted when granted it would have been defined as shown on tracing B, and having been so defined would have prevented J. J. Thompson's lease 79-48 being granted, as shown on tracing A. The explanation of the present position of the two leases

leases is apparently this: Mr. Thompson's application having been received, it was thought desirable to comply with it, and with this view the first attempt was made to locate Mr. Wright's lease. It then became evident that there was only one way of charting it if Mr. Thompson's lease was to be complied with, and that was as shown on tracing A. It will scarcely be asserted that the form of lease shown on tracing A is a very reasonable interpretation of Mr. Wright's description, and certainly not as reasonable as that indicated by tracing B. In addition to facts just stated, it is pointed out that Mr. Wright applied for the land when there were no conflicting interests, and can fairly claim that the lease granted should embrace the land which I think it may be maintained he applied for.

It is to be regretted that this case should have remained undetermined for so long, but I see no other course to pursue than to recommend that Mr. Thompson's lease be confined to the area south of lease 77-111, as shown on tracing B.—C.O., 23/12/81.

By the Secretary for Lands:—Wright, I understand, to have been the first applicant for a pre-lease. He therefore should have the land applied for, which is east of his eastern boundary. There does not appear to be 429 acres available where he applied for it; therefore I think he should have what is available, and lying east of his land.—JOHN R.

Pre-lease No. 77-111, F. Wright, regazetted as 320 acres, 10th March, 1882, in accordance with the above decision. Pre-lease No. 79-48, J. J. Thompson, has also been regazetted, same date, as 460 acres. Amended tracing of both leases herewith, for transmission to Land Agent.—J.P.P., 17/3/82.

No. 97.

Mr. Henry J. Withers to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

9, Macquarie-place, 27 December, 1881.

The case of J. J. Thompson is again to be submitted to you, to decide whether the lessee of the run, Mr. Wright, shall be permitted to have his pre-lease granted in such a way that it will prevent my client getting the full area of his lease.

It appears to us objectionable to allow either squatter or selector to take a pre-lease in a way that prevents another receiving the full area when there is plenty of available land to satisfy both applications. In this case I applied some time ago to have Wright's application so amended that both could get the full area, and a tracing was submitted by the Survey Branch to you, showing how it was proposed to grant them. You approved of the design upon a letter in which I protested against Hutchinson's conditional purchase being allowed to bar Thompson's right to a pre-emptive lease.

The lessee's agent has now urged that because Mr. Wright applied for his land in a certain form that it must be so granted. In reply to that, I respectfully submit that it is optional with you, sir, to either allow it as applied for, or to so amend it that all the available land can be leased. Had the law or practice of the Department supported Mr. Wright I would not protest, but in all cases where it was evident that the application had been described with the purpose of preventing a selector having a lease the Department has recommended, and invariably the Minister has approved, that as land was available both should be allowed. By reference to the papers you will have evidence of the trouble Thompson has been put to. Messrs. Wyndham and Wright did their best to ruin him, and now they are trying to reduce his lease to the smallest possible area.

I may mention that in this case the only approval given to either of these leases was when the tracing was submitted to you, showing how it was proposed to grant them; therefore the attempt now made by Mr. Wright is to alter that approval, and allow him to block Thompson from getting his. A tracing was sent to the Land Agent, I believe, and, according to the register, Thompson was informed of the approval, and the cancellation of lease reversed, rent for which is in Suspense Account. We submit that interests of the country will be best served by the Minister retaining to himself the right of amending any description given for a pre-lease.

The action now urged by Mr. Wright, and if acted upon, will form a bad precedent, and enable others to extend leases from freeholds in long strips, thereby preventing the settler obtaining what is of more value to him than his selection for grazing.

In conclusion, I must ask you to take into consideration what my client has gone through since 1877. He has complied with the Act in every way, so far as he knew; also, that the design for these leases will not matter to Mr. Wright, except that by allowing him to retain it as described he keeps himself what Thompson would get if an amendment was allowed, viz., about 1,400 acres of land.

I have, &c.,

HENRY J. WITHERS.

Minute on above.

Submitted in connection with previous papers.—H.C., 31/12/81.

No. 98.

Mr. J. J. Thompson to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Bukkulla, 9 January, 1882.

Last March I sent £12 5s. to be paid into the Department as rent on my pre-lease to my conditional purchase of 640 acres, county of Arrawatta, near the boundary of parishes Bukkulla and Arthur's Seat. The money was to have been paid in by Mr. Withers, Land Agent, and I have got no notice or receipt from Withers or the Department whether the rent has been paid in. Sir, please to let me know if the rent has been paid into the Department, as it would endanger my claim to the pre-lease if the rent has not been paid in.

I have, &c.,

J. J. THOMPSON.

Minutes on above.

Lease 79-48, cancellation revoked, *vide* 81-1, 149 leases; attach papers quoted and connect.—C.H., 28/1/82. Carry on papers and forward to Mr. Burt.—H.C., 3/2/82. Urgent.

No. 98a.

No. 98a.

Mr. J. J. Thompson to The Minister for Mines.

Sir,

Bukkulla, 9 January, 1882.

Last March I sent £12 5s. to be paid into the Department as rent on my pre-lease to my 640 acres, county of Arrawatta, near the boundary of parishes Bukkulla and Arthur's Seat. The money was to have been paid in by Mr. Withers, land agent, and I have got no notice or receipt from Withers or the Department as to whether the rent has been paid in. Sir, please to let me know if the rent has been paid into the Department, as it would endanger my claim to the pre-lease if the rent has not been paid in.

I have, &c.,

J. J. THOMPSON.

Minute on above.

The Under Secretary for Lands.—H.W., B.C., 13/1/82.

No. 99.

Messrs. Henry J. Withers & Co. to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

9, Macquarie-place, 1 February, 1882.

On behalf of J. J. Thompson, we do ourselves the honor to request that the sum of £600 may be placed on the next Estimates as compensation for law expenses applied for some time ago.

Our client has been nearly ruined in this matter, and only asks now for money actually expended in defending the action brought against him.

We have, &c.,

HENRY J. WITHERS & CO.

No. 100.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 2 February, 1882.

Has the Minister for Lands finally approved of the description of Angus M'Donald's conditional purchase as now measured and shown on the map, and has he notified the approval of the conditional purchase (clause 14, Act of 1875)? Please to give a written answer to the above.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD,
(*Pro J. J. THOMPSON*).*Minutes on above.*

The writer should be requested to give further particulars of the purchase (area, district, and date of selection).—J.W., 8/2/82. Mr. Thompson should be requested to state whether his letter refers to the conditional purchase of Angus M'Donald's conditional purchase 76/33, Warialda, 13th April, 1876, 150 acres, in parish of Bukkulla, and if so, informed that the purchase has not been finally approved.—C.N., 22/9/82. By the Chief Commissioner:—There is no necessity for writing again.—A.O.M., 30/9/82.

No. 101.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. E. O. Smith.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 17 February, 1882.

Having reference to your communication respecting Mr. F. Wright's pre-emptive lease, 77/111, in the district of Inverell, I have the honor to inform you that your client's claim has, in conjunction with the claim of Mr. J. J. Thompson, been taken into consideration by the Secretary for Lands, who has decided that, as Mr. Wright applied for land to the east of portions 79 and 80, parish of Bukkulla, his lease shall be charted in that direction, without deviating in any other way. It will therefore occupy a position extending from the eastern boundary of the portions mentioned to travelling stock reserve 337, and, as the boundaries have been limited, will comprise only 320 acres, and not 429 acres, as applied for. At an early date the lease will be regazetted, together with the lease held of Mr. Thompson, who, on account of the intervention of your client's lease, will be confined to an area of about 460 acres.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,
Under Secretary.

No. 102.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Breeza, 24 February, 1882.

I am going to Sydney to act as Thompson's agent. Thompson's case has been under notice in the Department for the last three years, and is undecided. Thompson knows little or nothing of the documents, letters, or evidence that is opposed to his claims, and my object is to see these, and, if necessary, to get them; and I would respectfully request that the papers be got ready so that they can be found when I am there. If possible, I start on Monday next. The cases have no doubt been a great deal of trouble to the Department, as well as Thompson. Hoping you will see that the papers are in these places, as I have to go to Sydney specially to see them,—

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

[Enclosure]

[Enclosure to No. 102.]

Sir, I hereby authorize Colin Macdonald to act as my agent in my claim against the Government for compensation, and my claim to a pre-lease to my 640 acres, the latter claim being disputed by Messrs. Wyndham and Wright, of Karoola.

Bukkulla, February, 1882.

I have, &c.,

J. J. THOMPSON.

No. 103.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 8 March, 1882.

As agent for J. J. Thompson, I respectfully request that Frederick W. Wright's pre-lease should be cancelled. It is a dummy pre-lease. Percy Wright applied for the pre-lease in favour of F. Wright; and I know for a fact that Percy Wright and E. S. Wyndham used the pre-lease the same as the rest of the run, their sheep, in care of a shepherd, occupying the land. Percy Wright applied for another dummy pre-lease in favour of John Graham; and I know for a fact Wyndham and Wright's sheep, in charge of a shepherd, occupied part of Graham's selection, and Graham did not require a pre-lease. I believe he had only a horse, and no other stock. I also submit that pre-leases must be applied for by the person who holds the land; and the pre-lease must also be occupied by the same party.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

P.S.—Pre-leases are only available when applied for by the person who holds the conditional purchase, or auction purchase (*vide* clause 36 (Act of 1875)).

Minutes on No. 103.

Mr. Macdonald may be informed that the law does not enjoin that an application must be made in person; and that it calls upon the Department to inquire whether the lease is occupied by the registered lessee or another person.—H.C., 9/3/82.

By the Under Secretary for Lands:—Inform.—C.O., 13/3/82. Mr. Burt, 14/3/82.

Mr. Curry,—Leases 77-111 and 79-48 have both been re-gazetted, 10th March, 1882. Amended tracings herewith for Land Agent. By the decision on leases 82-1,011, lease No. 79-100 can be charted. Tracing is therefore enclosed, which might be forwarded to Land Agent.—J.B., 17/3/82.

Mr. Curry,—Leases 77-111 and 79-48 both stand in Warialda in the books, and should, perhaps, be transferred to Inverell prior to sending the tracings. Lease 79-100 is paid up for 1882, and has been transferred to Inverell already; the tracing may, perhaps, be forwarded. The rent in arrear on 79-48 may also, perhaps, be credited for 80 and 81 on original area, and for 1882 on reduced area; fines for 1880 and 1881 to be deducted, and the balance refunded.—C.H., 27/3/82.

Mr. Burt,—Leases 79-48, and 77-111, and 79-100 were in the district of Warialda when applied for it appears. Are they all now in the district of Inverell?—H.C., 20/4/82. Yes.—J.B., 20/4/82.

The action suggested in the memorandum of the 27th May, it is submitted, be carried out. But it may be thought desirable to refund the rent paid in excess, not from the date of re-gazette, but the original notification, and accept the rent for 80 and 81 without fine, seeing that the cancellation of lease 79-48 was not formally reversed, and the rent was paid into Suspense in September, 1881.—H.C., 21/4/82.

By the Under Secretary for Lands:—The course suggested may be pursued.—C.O., 22/4/82.

No. 104.

Gazette Notice.

Defined Pre-leases.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 10 March, 1882.

It is hereby notified, for the information of all persons concerned, that the pre-leases enumerated in the subjoined list, which have been approved under the Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875, and Further Amendment Act of 1880, subject to modifications or amendments, have been, on further examination, modified or amended.

2. The amounts mentioned are the rents for one year, and date from the original notification. All subsequent payments, as renewals of rent, must be made in the month of September of the year preceding.

3. Tracings may be seen at the different local Land Offices.

Abstract No. of lease, 111-77; date of original notification, 27 November, 1877; lessee's name, Frederick Wright; address, Bukkulla; area of purchase in virtue of which lease is granted, 143; area, 320 acres; rent, £1; county Arrawatta, parish Bukkulla, district Inverell; office No. of application and papers, L.A. 77-2,040.

Abstract No. of lease, 48-79; date of original notification, 23 May, 1879; lessee's name, J. J. Thompson; address, Bukkulla; area of purchase in virtue of which lease is granted, 640 acres; area, 460 acres; rent, £1 8s. 9d.; county Arrawatta, parish Bukkulla, district Inverell; office No. of application and papers, L.A. 79-603.

No. 105.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. C. Macdonald.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 14 March, 1882.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, requesting that Mr. F. W. Wright's pre-emptive lease 77-111, in the district of Warialda, might be cancelled; and, in reply, to state that the reasons you have urged in support of your request would not warrant such a course, as the law does not enjoin that an application for a pre-emptive lease must be signed alone by the applicant or tendered in person; nor does it require this Department to inquire whether the land comprised in the lease is occupied by the registered lessee or another person.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,

Under Secretary.

No. 106.

No. 106.

Mr. J. J. Thompson to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Bukkulla, March, 1882.

I respectfully submit Frederick W. Wright cannot hold a pre-lease to portions 79 and 80, parish of Bukkulla, because Frederick Wright has not applied for one; *vide* Act of 1875, 36th clause, and clause 16 of the Crown Lands Alienation Act 1861, and ditto, clause 10, part 5. The Act does not enable Percy Wright to apply for a pre-lease in favour of Frederick W. Wright, to be occupied by Percy Wright and E. S. Wyndham, as has been done in this instance. To enable Frederick Wright to get a pre-lease, he would have to apply personally for it, and then he himself could hold and occupy it, but no one else.

2. I also submit that my claim should be submitted to arbitration, as Wright's description is vague, and does not specify how far east it extends, and if it extends far enough to interfere with my claim (even if Wright's application was a *bona fide* one, and not a dummy claim, as I maintain it is); *vide* Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, and 6th clause, ditto, clause 12, part 6. All pre-leases being held under Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, clause 12, part 5, and clauses 16 and 18 (*vide* clause 36 of Act 1875). My claim should be submitted to arbitration, because it is not stated in Lands Act whether selections must be taken in the police or pastoral district. I believe my selection is on the Inverell side of the pastoral district, and the question arises, do I not hold the pre-lease back to the date of my first application, and then Wright's pre-lease would be subject to an existing claim which I previously had upon it (*vide* clause 36, Act 1875). My first pre-lease was not forfeited, but cancelled, and the one granted to Wright was also cancelled. I hope you will see that the Act never intended pre-leases to be dummied and applied for, held, or occupied by any other person but the purchasers, as I can prove has been done in this case. Please to put this with the papers connected with my case; it may be called for in Parliament.

I have, &c.,

J. J. THOMPSON.

No. 107.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Brecza, 21 March, 1882.

I beg to draw your attention to the fact that the signatures to the application for a pre-lease (alleged to have been made by John Graham, on the 29th May, 1879, parish Bukkulla) has the signatures pasted on. I had a genuine signature of John Graham's, and compared it with the one on the application, and I am satisfied they were not written by the same person; the one on the application is written in a tolerably clear and steady hand, very much like the signature of Percy Wright (underneath it). The signature which I have (and which I can prove to be genuine) is written in a very bad, cramped, and irregular hand, very much worse than the writing of Percy Wright. It can be proved that Percy Wright had possession of documents connected with John Graham's conditional purchase. Percy Wright paid John Asimus the price of the selection, and John Asimus signed the transfer and handed it to Percy Wright. John Graham (the alleged purchaser) was not present, and made a bargain with John Asimus about the conditional purchase. R. L. Murray, M.L.A., has instructions to ask if this letter has been received, and get a reply either officially or through Parliament. I may add that Wyndham and Wright used a portion of John Graham's selection as part of their run, and that I believe John Graham had no stock except one horse. With regard to the pre-lease alleged to have been applied for by F. W. Wright, it is an application for three times the area (not part) of his purchased land on the east from the said purchased land. I respectfully submit that there is plenty available land to give him the full area by granting him a pre-lease on the east a little wider than the purchased land, and, if he is a *bona fide* applicant, he will not want a smaller pre-lease than applied for; and by granting the pre-lease in this form it would not interfere with J. J. Thompson, as a small space could be left to adjoin it to the rest of his pre-lease. I may suggest that the Department should write to Frederick W. Wright to know if he has any reasons for wanting a smaller pre-lease than he applied for before granting him a part only. F. Wright's application does not state that the pre-lease is to be no wider than the purchased land; no particular width is stated, nor is the depth it is to have (easterly) stated; and there is plenty of available land to give a pre-lease as large as the applied for, and the pre-lease would be to the east of the purchased land, and his application complied with to the very letter, without interfering with Thompson's claim. Wright's application cannot be complied with to the letter without granting him the area applied for when the land is available, and as he did not specify any particular width or depth. I do not know if there are any letters from Wright or Mr. Smith, Wyndham and Wright's agent, requesting to reduce the size of the pre-lease alleged to have been applied for by F. Wright. If there is such a letter, I did not see it; and such letter, if it existed, would form an interesting public document, well worth printing by the Government in the interest of the public. I know Thompson or his agent did not write to have it reduced. Whatever flaws there are in Thompson's claim to the pre-lease were caused by Wyndham and Wright taking advantage of mistakes of the Department. I respectfully submit that, as F. Wright's claim to a pre-lease (that would interfere with Thompson's) is not clearly established, that both should be allowed the full area of their claims submitted to arbitration (*vide* 6th clause, Crown Lands Office Act 1861), as all pre-leases are held under this Act. The course I have suggested above would do justice to Thompson and no injustice to F. Wright.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

P.S.—Supposing that F. Wright's claim to a pre-lease is a good one, there are no obstacles to its being granted in rectangular form (as shown on the tracings the western end is not rectangular); and even if his description was clear, it is still left to the Minister's discretion whether it is advisable to grant it in the form applied for (first pre-lease regulations, and I believe pre-lease regulations are law—Crown Lands Alienation Act, 36th clause); and even if F. Wright's alleged pre-lease did adjoin the travelling stock road as proposed, I submit for your decision whether the part of the road which would intervene between one part of Thompson's pre-lease and the remainder should be a bar to his getting the whole area applied for (clause 36, Act 75). I hope you will excuse my mentioning classes, &c.; but, as every point has been used against my client, I wish to do the same to protect him. Please to put this letter with the papers connected with Thompson's case.

I have no objection to this being read or copied by Wyndham and Wright, or their agent.

COLIN MACDONALD,

(Pro J. J. THOMPSON).

No. 108.

No. 108.

Mr. Colin Macdonald to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Breeza, 17 April, 1882.

When I was in Sydney, as Thompson's agent in the compensation case, you stated that you were my opponent*, and I have long ago concluded it was useless for my client to appeal for justice to his opponents when they were virtually his judges as well. I advised him to appeal to Parliament, and to draw up a statement of his case for that purpose. Although we are opponents, it is useless for either party to raise points which cannot materially affect the case in the end. One point raised against my client (the evidence of the Inverell Land Agent) will, if persisted in, only have the effect of giving trouble to the Department and myself, and no benefit to either. I consider his statement too absurd to require refuting, and if it did, Ross's last declaration does so effectually.

In the first place, Cardew declares "he told Thompson Warialdi was the place," implying that Cardew referred to the point, and this in the face of the fact that Cardew has been accepting applications wholesale which were out of his district before and after this application. The Land Agent states that "Thompson persisted, and that he (Cardew) could not reject the application in the face of the description in the Gazette," implying that if the Gazette had been right he would have rejected it; and yet this was the only one of the numerous selections taken wrongly in which he had that excuse, and he did not reject them. Cardew does not state whether it was Wednesday or Thursday on which the discussion as to district took place, and by suppressing that tries to make it appear that Thompson was careless, and incurred the responsibility himself by neglecting the warning Cardew was so careful to give. Cardew omits to state whether the point had been previously raised in Inverell, and whether by himself or selectors. The real truth is, the point was raised by selectors before either Cardew or Wyndham and Wright raised it, and Cardew's practice of accepting applications in that locality had the effect of causing not only Thompson, but also the first party in Inverell who drew attention to the district boundary to go to the wrong office to select. The party who raised the doubt in Thompson's mind as to the proper district went to Inverell the same day to select the same land; and Thompson went to Cardew the day before selecting to clear a doubt which, if Cardew could clear up, would have saved Thompson from great loss and the Department some trouble. Among the large number of selections taken in that locality some two or three were taken in the right district previously, but they have to thank their own carefulness, not Cardew. Look on the map (county Arrawatta, on the Warialdi side, on the Karoola, Arthur's Seat, Bannockburn, Denton Vale, Graman, and Elsmore Runs) and see if Cardew has not made a practice of accepting applications in the wrong district, in an enormous number of cases, between 1861 and 1878, and if you look to the descriptions you will see the absurdity of Cardew trying to put the responsibility on the only selector who lost a Supreme Court action by it.

There are other runs on which the selections are taken in wrong district, such as the Bukkulla, Egerton Runs, &c., &c. The Land Agent is suppressing the fact that Thompson was almost (if not) the only person who went to inquire as to the proper district at the Inverell office, and that he would not have gone to Inverell to select only for the erroneous practice of Cardew in taking applications without referring to the map and the mistake in the Gazette. I intend drawing up a statement of Thompson's case to be submitted to Parliament, and inviting Thompson's opponent (the Minister) to refute any part of it. You have ample evidence in the descriptions of conditional purchases, &c., &c., that Cardew's evidence is absurd. If you let me know that you do not intend to challenge Thompson's statement on this point, I can then avoid raking up mistakes in other cases on this point, otherwise I cannot. Please let me know one month before Parliament meets.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

Minutes on above.

This is an extraordinary letter throughout, but the portion marked * is untrue.—C.O., 19/4/82.
Submitted.—C.H.G., 28/4/82. Mr. Freeman,—The other papers in the case were recently forwarded to you.—H.C., 3/5/82—10/5/82.

No. 109.

Declaration by John Jackson Thompson.

I, JOHN JACKSON THOMPSON, of Bukkulla, in the Colony of New South Wales, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—That I requested Surveyor Blunt to leave a vacant space and a road between my 640 acres and Hutchinson's land, and the said surveyor surveyed Hutchinson's land and joined it to mine without leaving any road to my land; that I know it to be true, and can declare to it. That by joining Hutchinson's land to mine the surveyor excluded some good black soil from Hutchinson's selection and included some bad land. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the more effectual abolition of oaths and affirmations taken and made in various departments of the Government of New South Wales and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial oaths and affidavits."

Subscribed and declared before me, at Edger-

JOHN JACKSON THOMPSON.

ton, this 20th day of April, 1882,—

W. F. FITZGERALD, J.P.

No. 110.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. F. W. Wright.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

I am directed to state, for your information, that the pre-emptive lease particularized in the margin, which was formerly in the district of Warialdi, is now in the district of Inverell, and that any payments in regard to it should in future be tendered to the Crown Lands Agent at the latter place, to whom the tracing of the lease has been transmitted.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For the Under Secretary).

Lease No. 77-111,
area 429 acres,
notified 27 No-
vember, 1877,
Co. Arrawatta,

No. 111.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Warialda.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

Lease No. 77-111,
area 429 acres,
notified 27 No-
vember, 1877,
Co. Arrawatta.

I am directed to state, for your information, that the pre-emptive lease particularized in the margin, which was formerly in the district of Warialda, is now in the district of Inverell, and that all future payments should be received by you. The Land Agent at the former district has been instructed to forward you the tracing of the lease.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 112.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

Lease No. 77-111,
area 429 acres,
notified 27 No-
vember, 1877,
Co. Arrawatta.

I am directed to state, for your information, that the pre-emptive lease particularized in the margin, which was formerly in the district of Warialda, is now in the district of Inverell, and that all future payments should be received by you. The Land Agent at the former district has been instructed to forward you the tracing of the lease.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 113.

Memorandum to Auditor-General.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

Lease No. 77-111,
area 429 acres,
notified 27 No-
vember, 1877,
Co. Arrawatta.

I am directed to state, for your information, that the pre-emptive lease particularized in the margin, which was formerly in the district of Warialda, is now in the district of Inverell, and that any payments in regard to it should in future be tendered to the Crown Lands Agent at the latter place, to whom the tracing of the lease has been transmitted.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 114.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. J. J. Thompson.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

Lease No. 79-48,
area 1,920 acres,
notified 23 May,
1879,
Co. Arrawatta.

I am directed to state, for your information, that the pre-emptive lease particularized in the margin, which was formerly in the district of Warialda, is now in the district of Inverell, and that any payments in regard to it should in future be tendered to the Crown Lands Agent at the latter place, to whom the tracing of the lease has been transmitted.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 115.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Warialda.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

Lease No. 79-48,
area 1,920 acres,
notified 23 May,
1879, county of
Arrawatta.

I am directed to state, for your information, that the pre-emptive lease particularized in the margin, which was formerly in the district of Warialda, is now in the district of Inverell, and that any payments in regard to it should in future be tendered to the Crown Lands Agent at the latter place, to whom the tracing of the lease now in your keeping should be transmitted by you.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 116.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

Lease No. 79-48,
area 1,920 acres,
notified 23 May,
1879, county of
Arrawatta.

I am directed to state, for your information, that the pre-emptive lease particularized in the margin, which was formerly in the district of Warialda, is now in the district of Inverell, and that any payments in regard to it should in future be tendered to the Crown Lands Agent at the latter place, to whom the tracing of the lease now in your keeping should be transmitted by you.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 117.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Auditor-General.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

Lease No. 79-48,
area 1,920 acres,
notified 23 May,
1879, county of
Arrawatta.

I am directed to state, for your information, that the pre-emptive lease particularized in the margin, which was formerly in the district of Warialda, is now in the district of Inverell, and that any payments in regard to it should in future be tendered to the Crown Lands Agent at the latter place, to whom the tracing of the lease has been transmitted.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 118.

No. 118.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. F. W. Wright.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

I am directed to inform you that the area of your pre-emptive lease, No. 77-111, in the district of Warialda, approved on the 27th November, 1877, was, by notice in the Government Gazette of the 10th March, 1882, reduced from 429 to 320 acres; that a tracing showing approximately the present boundaries of the lease has been forwarded, for public inspection, to the local Crown Lands Agent; and that the Under Secretary for Finance and Trade (to whom any communication respecting the money should be addressed) has been requested to refund to you the sum of 7s. 7d., being the amount of rent and fine in excess consequent upon the reduction in area that has now been made since 10th March last.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 119.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

I am directed to invite your attention to a notice in the Government Gazette of the 10th March, 1882, from which you will see that the area of Mr. Frederick Wentworth Wright's pre-emptive lease, No. 77-111, in the county of Arrawatta, approved on the 27th November, 1877, has been reduced from 429 to 320 acres; and I am, at the same time, to forward you, for public inspection, a tracing which shows approximately the position which the lease at present occupies.

The rent in excess and fine consequent upon the reduction now made (calculated from 10 March, last) has been authorized for refund; and, in order that you may enter full particulars in your register, the several amounts which form the sum to be returned have been clearly shown in the marginal schedule.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 120.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Revenue refunded.

Sir,

Lands Department, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to refund to Mr. F. W. Wright, of Inverell, the sum of 7s. 7d., credited at the Treasury on the 7th November, 1881, being the rent and fine over-paid on the pre-emptive lease particularized in the margin, for 1882, as the area of the lease has been reduced to 320 acres since 10th March, 1882.

Inverell, C.P.
77-111, 320 acres,
8rd May, 1877.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For Under Secretary).

No. 121.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. J. J. Thompson.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

I am directed to inform you that the area of your pre-emptive lease No. 79-48, in the district of Inverell, approved on the 23rd May, 1879, was, by notice in the Government Gazette of the 10th March, 1882, reduced from 1,920 to 460 acres; that a tracing showing approximately the present boundaries of the lease has been forwarded, for public inspection, to the local Crown Lands Agent; and that the Under Secretary for Finance and Trade (to whom any communication respecting the money should be addressed) has been requested to refund to you the sum of £4 11s. 3d., being the amount of rent in excess consequent upon the reduction in area that has now been made.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For Under Secretary).

No. 122.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

I am directed to invite your attention to a notice in the Government Gazette of the 10th March, 1882, from which you will see that the area of Mr. John Jackson Thompson's pre-emptive lease No. 79-48, in the county of Arrawatta, approved on the 23rd May, 1879, has been reduced from 1,920 to 460 acres; and I am, at the same time, to forward you, for public inspection, a tracing which shows approximately the position which the lease at present occupies.

The rent in excess consequent upon the reduction now made (for 1879) has been authorized for refund; and, in order that you may enter full particulars in your register, the several amounts which form the sum to be returned have been clearly shown in the marginal schedule.

Amounts re-
funded, £4 11s.
3d.; rent out of
which taken,
1879; date when
credited at the
Treasury, 3rd
April, 1879.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For Under Secretary).

No. 123.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.
Revenue refunded.

Sir,

Lands Department, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

Inverell, C.P.
79-48, 460 acres
23 May, 1879.

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to refund to Mr. J. J. Thompson, of Inverell, the sum of £4 11s. 3d., credited at the Treasury on the 3rd April, 1879, being the rent over-paid on the pre-emptive lease particularized in the margin, for 1879. The lease has been reduced from 1,920 to 460 acres.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(Pro Under Secretary.)

No. 124.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Messrs. E. S. Wyndham and P. P. Wright.

Gentlemen,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

With reference to pre-emptive lease No. 79-100 of 258 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, in the name of E. S. Wyndham and P. P. Wright, I am directed to inform you that a tracing showing the approximate position of the lease has this day been forwarded to the Crown Lands Agent.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For Under Secretary.)

No. 125.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

With reference to pre-emptive lease No. 79-100 of 258 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, standing in the name of E. S. Wyndham and P. P. Wright, I am directed to transmit to you a tracing showing the approximate position of the lease.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

(For Under Secretary.)

No. 126.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. F. W. Wright.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

I am directed to inform you that the area of your pre-emptive lease, specified in the margin, was, by notice in the Government Gazette of the 10th March last, reduced from 429 to 320 acres; that a tracing showing approximately the present boundaries of the lease has been forwarded for public inspection to the Local Crown Lands Agents; and that the Under Secretary for Finance and Trade (to whom any communication respecting the money should be addressed) has been requested to refund you the sum of 7s. 7d., being the amount of rent and fine in excess (consequent upon the reduction in area that has been made) for the year 1882.

I am to explain that the action has been taken as the Secretary for Lands has decided that, having regard to the description in your application, you are entitled to only so much land as is included in lines running east of the portions in virtue of which the lease was granted to travelling stock reserve No. 337, notified 31st July, 1874. The effect of this decision has been to reduce the area of Mr. J. J. Thompson's lease 79-48 from 1,920 to 460 acres. As your lease, as now charted, severs a large part of the land which Mr. Thompson desired to hold from that to which he has been limited, I have to add that, owing to the boundaries of the Warialda District having been altered since the date of your application, your lease is now situated in the district of Inverell, and that any future payments should be made to the Crown Lands Agent at that place.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,

Under Secretary.

No. 127.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. J. Thompson.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 27 April, 1882.

I have the honor to inform you that the cancellation of your pre-emptive lease, specified in the margin, has been reversed, and the area represented by it reduced from 1,920 to 460 acres. This latter action has been taken in view of a claim made by Mr. F. W. Wright, on the 19th June, 1877 (prior to the advancement of any recognised claim of yours), to a pre-lease which was granted on the 27th November, 1877, as 77-111, and which the Secretary for Lands has decided shall occupy an area of 320 acres, starting from the eastern boundaries of portions Nos. 79 and 80, in the parish of Bukkulla, county of Arrawatta, and extending east to travelling stock reserve 337, notified 31st July, 1874. The lease has been located in this position as it was described to adjoin the eastern boundaries of the portions mentioned, and the effect of it has been to sever a large part of the land you desire to lease from that to which you have been limited. The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade has been requested to refund you the sum of £18 5s., being the amount of rent paid in excess consequent upon the reduction in area which has now been made.

I have to add that, owing to boundaries of the Warialda District having been altered since the date of your application, your lease is now situated in the district of Inverell, and that all future payments should be made to the Land Agent at that place.

A tracing showing, approximately, the boundaries of your lease has been forwarded to the Land Agent at Inverell.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,

Under Secretary.

No. 128.

77-111, notified
27 November,
1877, district of
Warialda, now
Inverell.

79-48, notified
23 May, 1879,
district
Warialda, now
Inverell.

No. 128.

Mr. J. J. Thompson to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Eastholm, Bukkulla, 5 May, 1882.

I am informed that my late agent, Mr. H. J. Withers, states in his letter that I ask for £600 compensation. I beg to correct this statement. I simply requested Withers to try and get compensation for my loss, and I could not estimate my loss, as I never got any copy of the law costs; and Mr. Withers asked for £600 under the impression that it was hopeless to try to get compensation for the sheep I lost, and decrease of wool, &c., &c. I intend to appeal to Parliament for full compensation.

I have, &c.,

J. J. THOMPSON.

Sir,—I beg to ask you to have my letters put with the papers concerning my case.—J.T.

No. 129.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Breeza, 7 May, 1882.

I received yours of the 28th April, and forwarded it to Thompson. You state that Thompson's pre-lease has been reduced "in view of claim made by Frederick Wentworth Wright." You are aware that Percy Wright tendered the application, but perhaps you have not noticed who Mr. Ernest Smith claimed it for. If you look I think you will find he has been urging the claims of his "Clients," and that these clients were the lessees, Messrs. Wyndham and Wright. As I have no notes, I trust to memory for this quotation. I have a letter in my possession from Mr. Ernest Smith in which he states, "I am acting for and representing Messrs. Wynaham and Wright especially in connection with the pre-emptive lease right with which Thompson endeavoured to interfere; the matter, however, has now been definitely settled by the present Minister giving my clients a large portion, though not all, of the land to which they are entitled. You know Thompson did not object to them getting it, as there was plenty of land to satisfy both claims."

How could F. W. Wright claim a pre-lease by an agent who "acted for and represented Wyndham & Wright," the lessees of the run. If you have any doubt that I have the letter alluded to, just let me know, and I will satisfy you that I have the letter alluded to; just let me know, and I will satisfy you that I have the letter, and that it is genuine.

A part of Thompson's pre-lease was granted by John Graham, on the 15th July, 1879, and the application for it (with two signatures pasted on it) was tendered on the 29th May, 1879. This was an illegal document, and should not have been received by the Land Agent.

I submit that by recognizing applications not personally made you have no guarantee that the parties ever saw them. I hope you will look over the papers to see if anyone else, besides Thompson or F. W. Wright, claimed 77-111, or if anyone else urged to have it reduced to 320 acres when the whole was there and the description did not require it.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

No. 130.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Breeza, 16 June, 1882.

The lessees of Karoola Run have served Mr. J. J. Thompson with a notice of an action to be brought against him in the Supreme Court. The following is copied verbatim:—

"Sir,

Karoola, 31 May, 1882.

We hereby give you notice, that unless you at once give up making a roadway through our fence, and abandon all claim to any land within the same, we intend to bring an action against you in the Supreme Court, for trespass, with a view to recover possession of the 640 acres on our run of which you are in occupation illegally by virtue of your conditional purchase made in 1879."

This is part of the letter, and they state they can prove there was £40 improvements on the conditional purchase when taken. The land Thompson is asked to abandon all claim to is the 460-acre pre-lease lately gazetted to him. The roadway he is asked to give up is his own road, passing through his own pre-lease. The fence is one that includes the land pre-leased to Thompson and his road. It is impossible for Thompson to get on the main road without cutting the fence or trespassing. Thompson does not intend to give up his 460-acre pre-lease to the lessees of the run unless it is taken from him, the same as his 1,920-acre pre-lease was. Thompson's 640 acres now contain over £320 worth improvements. I respectfully beg to say that, under clause 5, Crown Lands Alienation Act, you have power to prevent a pastoral tenant from getting possession of land that contains improvements which belong to another person, and that by going through the form of cancelling the lease of the said land, in the Gazette, before the action is entered, you could probably stop the action, if you wish to do so. The letter before mentioned, from lessees, states that the land pre-leased to F. W. Wright is "our land." I have already pointed out that no one but the lessees made a claim to a pre-lease that would interfere with Thompson's. Herewith I send a rough but tolerably correct sketch of the pre-leases and the fence; the fence is marked blue. You will see that Thompson is surrounded by the river in front, and completely fenced in and no opening left at the back.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

P.S.—Thompson will make no reply whatever to the letter from the lessees. If you decide to cancel the lease of Thompson's 640-acre selection before the action is commenced, the lessees will have no lease by which they could rob Thompson of his land and improvements. The Attorney-General can advise you whether the cancellation after proceedings were commenced would be good in law. I need not enter into any details to show that the lessees have selected land in their names which contained much more than £1 per acre improvements at the date of selection, or that they had land selected in the Inverell Office and deprived Thompson of his selection and pre-lease for selecting there. Some light will be thrown upon this at an early date. Thompson will not send the original letter for your perusal, as it may be required as documentary evidence in the Supreme Court, if the action is commenced. The particulars of this case have been brought under the notice of the Department so often that I need not repeat them.—C. McD.

Minutes

Minutes on No. 130.

Mr. Burt,—Has not Thompson access to the main road by a road running along the south boundary of portion No. 45 and the eastern boundary of that portion and portion No. 105?—H.C., 30/6/82. Yes.—J.B., 30/6/82.

Will the Under Secretary for Mines be good enough to state who are the lessees of the Karoola Run.—H.C., *pro* Under Secretary, Lands Department, B.C., 30/6/82. Will the Chief Officer please supply the information required at his earliest convenience?—H.W., Under Secretary, B.C., 30/6/82.

Karoola North and Karoola South Runs, New England District, Edward Sandford Wyndham and Percy Philip Wright, lessees.—T.D., for the Chief Officer, 30/6/82.

Both parties may be communicated with, and the existence of the road pointed out. The case may be referred to the Conditional Sales Branch as to the C.P., and returned to Ministerial Branch for action.—H.C., 30/6/82.

Inform, and add that the request to have the land embraced in the conditional purchase withdrawn from lease is receiving consideration.—C.O., 3/7/82. The withdrawal from lease of land embraced in Thompson's conditional purchase would perhaps be advisable.—C.O., 10/7/82. Let it be done.—JOHN R.

No. 131.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. C. Macdonald.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 3 July, 1882.

Having reference to your letter of the 16th ultimo, in which you, on behalf of Mr. J. J. Thompson, complain that he has been threatened with legal proceedings by Messrs. Wyndham and Wright, on account of his having made a roadway through a fence erected by them with a view to gaining access to the road apparently situated within travelling stock reserve 337, in the county of Arrawatta, and complaining that the boundaries of his pre-emptive lease 79/48, in the district of Warialda, are so situated as to compel him to take such a course, I have the honor to state that, in the absence of full and authentic information in regard to the matter, the position of your client in relation to Messrs. Wyndham and Wright cannot be understood; but I may point out that Mr. Thompson can, it seems, have access to the road referred to by the road which skirts the south boundary of portion 45, and extends along the east boundary of that portion and portion 105, in the parish of Bukkulla, towards the travelling stock reserve previously mentioned. I may mention that existence of this road has been pointed out to Messrs. Wyndham and Wright.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,

Under Secretary.

P.S.—Your request to have Mr. Thompson's conditional purchase withdrawn from lease is receiving consideration.

No. 132.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Messrs. Wyndham and Wright.

Gentlemen.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 3 July, 1882.

I have the honor to inform you that a communication has been made to this Department, on behalf of Mr. J. J. Thompson, the holder of pre-emptive lease 79/48 of 460 acres, in the district of Warialda, to the effect that you have threatened him with legal proceedings on account of his having, according to your representation, made a roadway through your fence with the object of gaining access to the road situated apparently in travelling stock reserve 337, in the county of Arrawatta, and to point out that while this Department is perhaps not aware of the state of the case, so far as your position in relation to Mr. Thompson is concerned, a road exists which skirts the south boundary of portion 45 and the eastern boundary of that portion and portion 105, in the parish of Bukkulla, and which affords Mr. Thompson access from his lease to the travelling stock reserve in question.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,

Under Secretary.

No. 133.

Minute-paper for Executive Council.

Recommending reserve from lease.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 10 July, 1882.

It is recommended to His Excellency the Governor and the Executive that the within-defined area of 640 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, be withdrawn from lease, under the 5th section of the Crown Lands Occupation Act of 1861.

JOHN ROBERTSON.

The Executive Council advise the land herein described be withdrawn from lease, in terms of the 57th section of the Crown Lands Occupation Act of 1861.—ALEX. C. BUDGE, Clerk of the Council.

Ministerial, 87/33, 18/7/82. Confirmed, 25/7/82. Approved.—A.L., 18/7/82.

Minutes on No. 133.

Charted plans noted, &c.—A.B., 20th August, /82. Noted.—J.B., 17th August, /82. Mr. Curry.

Examined.—G.B., 10th August, /82.

No. 134.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Warialda.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 31 July, 1882.

I am directed to invite your attention to a notice published in this day's Government Gazette of the reservation from lease of 640 acres, in the county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, and to impress upon you the necessity of taking every precaution to prevent the land, or any portion of it, being conditionally purchased.

Should

Should an applicant insist on his application being received, you must caution him in terms of paragraph 39 of the Instructions to Crown Lands Agents.

A tracing showing the reserve will be forwarded with as little delay as possible, and on receipt it must be charted, as directed by paragraph 148 of the Instructions before referred to.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON,
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 135.
Memorandum.

Surveyor-General's Office, Reserves Branch.
The attention of the Lease Branch, Survey Office, is directed to reserve from lease No. 186, New England District, county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, gazetted on the 31st July, 1882, a description of which is enclosed for their information.

G. LEWIS, *pro* G.B.,
10 August, 1882.

Mr. Burt, Lease Branch.

[Enclosure to No. 135.]

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 31 July, 1882.

Reserve from Lease.

It is hereby notified, for general information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to withdraw from lease the portion of land hereinafter described.

JOHN ROBERTSON.

New England District.

No. 186. County of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, portions Nos. 83 and 82, area about 640 acres. The Crown Lands within the following boundaries: Commencing on the eastern side of the McIntyre River, at the north-west corner of portion No. 83; and bounded thence on the north by the north boundary of that portion east to its north-east corner; thence by the east boundary of that portion and of portion No. 32 bearing south to the aforesaid river; and thence by that river westerly and northerly, to the point of commencement.

No. 136.

Memorandum by Surveyor-General.

A LITHOGRAPH is enclosed showing reserve No. 186 from lease, notified 31st July, 1882, county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla, for the information of the Crown Lands Agent at Inverell.

G. LEWIS,
(For the Surveyor-General).

Minute on above.

The Under Secretary for Lands, B.C., 10 August, 1882. Dealt with in Reserve Branch. After informing the Land Agent, the papers should be forwarded to Mr. Burt, Lease Branch.

No. 137.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Lands Agent, Inverell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 12 August, 1882.

I am directed to transmit herewith, for your information, a description, with tracing, showing certain land in the county of Arrawatta which, by notice in the Government Gazette of the 31st ultimo, has been reserved from lease, under the 5th section of the Crown Lands Occupation Act.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON,
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 138.

Mr. Colin Macdonald to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

Breeza, 31 August, 1882.

I may point out that no reply has been received from the Department to my request that a copy of Thompson's costs should be sent to me. I respectfully beg to inform you that this document was placed in the Lands Department without Thompson's sanction and unknown to him, and I consider this document to be Thompson's property. It is intended to submit his case to Parliament, and the costs are essential in preparing an estimate of his loss. After the action, Thompson applied to his lawyer, Mr. Hindmarsh (who was agent for Leader and Forster, who conducted the case), for the copy of taxed costs, and it appears the copy of taxed costs was placed in the Lands Department instead of sending them to Thompson, as he requested. I have written to you for a copy and got no reply.

I went to Sydney, and spent nearly a fortnight, to see and copy the papers connected with this case, and was prevented from completing this.

All that is asked for is the total amount of the plaintiff's costs, also the total of defendant's costs, and the total amount of each witness's costs separately, and the total amount of the plaintiff, defendant, and witnesses' costs added together.

The witnesses' costs are required separately, as Thompson and his son are unpaid witnesses.

Under the circumstances, I respectfully submit that you should send the costs at once. Parliament is now in session, and you have been written to for costs long ago. If this is not attended to promptly I will probably have to take another trip to Sydney to see about it. You must admit that this would be an injustice, especially when you are informed that this document was placed in the Department contrary to Thompson's instructions, and also without his knowledge, sanction, or authority.

By withholding this copy you are delaying the final decision of the case, and after more than three years it should be delayed no longer.

Five minutes would be ample time to write the copy asked for.

Yours, &c.,
COLIN MACDONALD.

No. 139.

No. 139.

Mr. Colin Macdonald to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

Breeza, 31 August, 1882.

The declaration I sent in was made under clause 30, chapter 2, of Crown Lands Regulations. This clause provides for inquiry into any breach of the conditions. Under clause 25, Lands Amendment Act, the inquiries are confined to breaches of the conditions as to residence and improvements. Of course you are aware that both these clauses are "valid law." Any inquiry about my declaration under clause 25 would be useless. The declaration I allude to is the one concerning the conditional purchase originally selected by John Asimus, parish of Bukkulla. As E. S. Wyndham has now selected a part of Thompson's pre-lease by virtue of this conditional purchase, Wyndham's title to the original and additional will probably have to be tested in the Supreme Court. In the meantime the £10 I paid in may lie in the Department for an indefinite period, owing to the difficulty before mentioned.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

No. 140.

Messrs. Hindmarsh & Mayne to The Colonial Treasurer.

Dear Sir,

Inverell, 20 September, 1882.

At the request of Mr. John Jackson Thompson, we enclose herein Bank-draft for the sum of £6, in payment of rent for 1883 of his pre-lease of 1,920 acres, county of Arrawatta, parish of Bukkulla. Please forward receipt to us.

I have, &c.,

HINDMARSH & MAYNE,

Solicitors.

Minutes on No. 140.

Mr. Curry,—Particulars of the lease should perhaps be asked.—C.H.G., 4/10/82.

Yes.—H.C.,

4/10/82.

No. 141.

Mr. Colin Macdonald to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Breeza, October, 1882.

There is a statement in the papers in Thompson's case that he asks £600 as compensation. This statement is unfounded: Thompson never asked for any particular sum. He simply asks compensation for his loss, and that is all he ever did ask. The statement was made by Withers, as he thought it useless to try and get full compensation. As the statement made by the Inverell Land Agent is distinctly contradicted by Ross, I need not say more about it, except that there is, or ought to be, unquestionable evidence in the Lands Office to prove that the agent did not adhere to the boundary of "Inverell District."

Yours, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

Minute on above.

By the Under Secretary for Lands:—Register.—C.O., 3/10/82.

[Enclosure to No. 141.]

Mr. Thompson's claim for compensation.

This case is printed for the following reasons:—1st. Because the Minister for Lands opposes or tries to reduce these claims, not because they are unjust, but because he considers himself duty bound to defend his Department, and protect the Treasury. 2nd. By putting the case (which is a very long one) in this form, honorable members will have an opportunity of forming an opinion on the merits of the case, and the Minister will have an opportunity of refuting the statement that that Department caused this loss, and of opposing any item in the claim which he may deem unjust. It must be distinctly understood that the above does not refer to any particular Minister for Lands.

In 1877 Mr. J. J. Thompson selected 640 acres in the parish of Bukkulla, and applied for and was granted a pre-lease of 1,920 acres by virtue of this selection. In 1879 a Supreme Court action for trespass was brought against Thompson (by the lessees of the run) for using this selection and pre-lease. Thompson lost the action through mistakes of the Lands Department, and had to pay £2 damages and costs. In 1877 this land was gazetted as being in the county of Arrawatta, Inverell, and shown on some of the Government maps as being in the "Warialda District," and on others as being in the "Inverell District"; and in 1882 this land was gazetted as being "New England District." Thompson's selection and pre-lease were cancelled on the ground that it was not applied for in the Warialda office, and only available for conditional purchase when applied for there. In 1879 Thompson selected the same land in the Warialda office, and applied for and was granted a pre-lease of 1,920 acres, and this pre-lease was afterwards cancelled. From 1877 up to the present about half a dozen different decisions (affecting the whole or part of Thompson's pre-lease) have been arrived at by the Department, and then reversed. There are, or were, official documents in the Lands Department in which it was officially admitted that Thompson's loss was caused by the Department, and there should be ample and unquestionable evidence in the Department now to prove that his loss was so caused. When Thompson selected at Inverell in 1877 he was guided by the Government Gazette and the previous practice of the Department. Although the Department have refused, and still refuse, to recognise Thompson's claim to the selection he took at Inverell, yet they have recognised, and do recognise, selections held by the lessees of the run, which are taken in the wrong district if Thompson's was. The lessees of the run took possession of Thompson's pre-lease a few weeks after it was granted to him in 1877, and they have kept possession of it ever since. Thompson was deprived of the use of his pre-lease, and this was owing to the mistakes of the Department. Thompson's loss for want of the use of the pre-lease, as shown by his books and accounts, is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
In March, 1878, Thompson had about 2,036 sheep, net proceeds of wool	324 11 11
March, 1879, about 3,424 sheep, net proceeds of wool	239 6 9
Loss through starving the sheep on half their run	65 5 2
March, 1880, about 1,840 sheep, net proceeds of wool	206 5 9
Loss in decrease of wool as compared with proceeds for 1878	28 6 2
March, 1881, about 1,500 sheep, net proceeds of wool	153 18 11
Loss in decrease of wool as compared with proceeds for 1878	165 13 0
March, 1882, about 1,450 sheep, net proceeds of wool	207 15 8
Loss in decrease of wool as compared with proceeds for 1878	116 16 3

If Thompson had had the use of his pre-lease between the years 1877 and 1882 the increased returns for wool would have amounted to more than £200. In 1877 Thompson's average increase of lambs was more than 800 annually, and he killed about 150 annually for home use, and he only sold 300 between 1877 and 1882, so that in those years he should have had an increase of more than 2,700, and the actual decrease added to this makes a total loss of ——— an increase of 3,186 sheep, which, at 5s. per head, amounts to £821 10s.

The

The Lands Department has been changing its decisions about Thompson's pre-lease from time to time, and he kept his sheep in hopes that justice would be done to him, and that he would get his pre-lease, and lost a great many sheep in consequence. In 1880 he had to kill more than 600 lambs to save the ewes. In consequence of the mistakes of the Department, Thompson had to employ a land agent (Mr. H. J. Withers) in 1877, and paid him about £25. Mr. Withers attended to the case until 1882, and if any compensation is obtained Mr. Withers is to get a further sum of £55. The loss which Thompson incurred in legal damages and witnesses' expenses (including his own and his son's) amounts to £466 1s. 11d. This case caused a great deal of trouble and some expense to Thompson and a private unpaid agent for the last three years, and for this they ask nil.

For loss through having to use an enormous number of postage stamps (about £5). For loss of the pre-lease in future if Thompson fails to establish his claim to it, nil. Mr. Thompson's son gave up his selection to be sold in order to help his father to bear the loss incurred by the Supreme Court action, and he also contributed money for the same purpose. In May, 1882, the lessees of the run threatened to bring a Supreme Court action against Thompson with a view of taking his selection from him, on the ground that it was improved when he last selected it. Thompson then sold all his other selections and all his sheep in order to be prepared to defend his rights. Thompson has a large family (15), and supported them by agriculture and sheep-farming combined, and his 640-acre selection is too small to support his family without the pre-lease. His pre-lease consists of medium and inferior land, and therefore valuable to him, as he is not likely to be deprived of it by *bona fide* or other selectors.

As Thompson's sheep were attended to by his own family, the use of his pre-lease would involve little or no extra expense. Mr. Thompson appealed to the Lands Department for justice, and was officially informed that they were his opponents; and he now appeals to Parliament, and hopes to get justice, as Honorable Members are disinterested, and can therefore deal impartially with the case. Will bring the case before the House, and move that it be placed on the Estimates to compensate Mr. Thompson for his loss.

No. 142.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. J. J. Thompson.

Memorandum.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 4 October, 1882.

WITH reference to the sum of £6 forwarded by you to the Treasury on the 20th September last for lease rent, I am directed to inform you that it is absolutely necessary that you should forward to this Department, without delay, full particulars of your lease, namely,—abstract numbers, area, name of Local Land Office, and date of approval, which, if not in your possession, can be obtained from the Land Agent of the district.

H. CURRY,

(For Under Secretary for Lands).

Name of lessee, J. J. Thompson; area, 1,920 acres; abstract number, 179-49; date of approval, 25 May, 1879, and in 1877; district, try the Land Agent.

COLIN MACDONALD,
(Pro J. J. THOMPSON).

No. 143.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Breeza, October, 1882.

On the papers in this case it is said that "Thompson asks for £600." This is not correct. Mr. Withers asked for that sum, believing that compensation for the whole loss would not be allowed. Thompson has not yet asked for any particular sum.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

No. 144.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 6 October, 1882.

I respectfully submit that Thompson's selection never has been cancelled. A conditional purchase can only be cancelled for a breach of the conditions. There has been no breach. The selection was taken in the right office. I intended to have inserted *nil* for loss of the pre-lease if Thompson failed to establish his claim to it. But although I insert nothing for my own time, I will not omit the other item. If there is any doubt about Thompson having a case against the lessees that would secure the future issue of the pre-lease to him, please to consider this, and see me on Monday or Tuesday.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

No. 145.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 9 October, 1882.

Will you please to let me know what grounds there were for gazetting the selection of Mr. J. J. Thompson as being cancelled?

This selection was taken in 1877, and situated in the parish of Bukkulla.

If this selection is illegal, please to point out why it is so.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

Minutes on No. 145.

By Under Secretary for Lands:—Urgent.—C.O., 9/10/82. Mr. Macdonald may perhaps be informed that Thompson's conditional purchase was declared void as being in the Warialda District, whereas Thompson's application was made to the Inverell Crown Lands Agent.—S.F., 16/10/82. By Under Secretary for Lands:—Inform.—C.O., 17/10/82.

No. 146.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, October, 1882.

The Government have power to put the conditional purchases and pre-lease of J. J. Thompson beyond dispute. The point about the proper district probably applies to more than a thousand selectors. A validation Bill would decide this.

If Thompson's pre-lease is given to Wyndham and Wright, Mr. Proctor is instructed to insert the item for future loss. The pre-lease is worth quite as much to Thompson as the conditional purchase.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

Minutes on above.

Mr. Burt,—Please quote the number of the lease referred to, also name of the district.—J.R.S., 19/10/82. 48-79 district of Inverell.—J.B., 23/10/82. Mr. Curry.

No. 147.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. C. Macdonald.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 20 October, 1882.

In reply to your letter of the 9th instant, asking on what grounds the selection of J. J. Thompson, taken up in 1877, and situated in the parish of Bukkulla, was cancelled. I have the honor to inform you that the conditional purchase in question was declared void as being in the Warialda Land District, whereas Thompson's application was made to the Inverell Crown Lands Agent.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,

Under Secretary.

No. 148.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Breeza, 26 October, 1882.

You stopped Wyndham and Wright from taking Thompson's conditional purchase in Bukkulla, by reserving it under clause 5, Crown Lands Alienation Act; you can also stop them from taking his 1,920-acre pre-lease in the same way, by withdrawing the 1,920 acres, not from lease, but from the Karoola Run. There is a sheep-yard on the 1,920 acres belonging to Thompson (*vide* words, "improvements belonging to," &c., Crown Lands Alienation Act, clause 5), and clause 5 provides for withdrawing land from a run; as well as for reserving land from lease. By doing this you will save the country from having to pay Thompson for the future use of his pre-lease, that is if he is to be paid for loss which the Department caused. This would enable him to use his pre-lease safely, except F. W. Wright's 320-acre pre-lease, and I have no doubt that Thompson will not think it worth while to trouble about that part of his pre-lease if he is not robbed of the rest of it in a legal way. See the words "withdrawn from any old run or run any lands," clause 5, Crown Lands Alienation Act. Withdraw this land from the run only, and it will be still open to lease as a pre-lease already granted to J. J. Thompson.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

No. 149.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Breeza, 31 October, 1882.

There are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of selections that are illegal, and in danger from Supreme Court actions, owing to being taken in the wrong district, and this is because the Department did not and could not adhere to the districts. A special Bill of one clause is required to enact that no conditional purchase which has been or may be taken shall be held to be invalid on the ground that it was not applied for in the right office; but any Crown Lands Agent may reject any application for a conditional purchase if the land applied for is not within his district. It would not be necessary to gazette the conditional purchases (as proposed in clause 23 of the new Bill), except in cases where two parties claim the land—one taken in the right office, and the other taken before in the wrong one; if there are any such claims there is no occasion to delay this by making clause 23 a part of the new Bill. I asked one party to bring in a Bill of one clause to settle it, and he was willing, but could not do it without permission to bring it in. You do not require this, and there is no reason to defer it until the new Bill passes, or to prevent it from passing if the new Bill does not.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

P.S.—If you look over the papers about these pre-leases and the Karoola Run you will find that the widow's pre-lease (Mrs. Walsh) and Thompson's are offered for sale as secured land. You will also find that F. W. Wright's is a dummy pre-lease, and now offered for sale with run. If Mrs. Walsh is instructed to put improvements on the pre-lease (5s. worth would do) it can be withdrawn from the run, under clause 5, Crown Lands Alienation Act, without withdrawing it from lease, and then could use it safely. Thompson's is improved,

COLIN MACDONALD.

Minutes on above.

The writer of the enclosed letter suggests that a special Bill be introduced by the Government to legalize all conditional purchases that have been applied for at the wrong Land Office, or that may be hereafter so applied for. The remainder of the communication is not intelligible, and appears to refer principally to the case of J. J. Thompson's application for compensation for losses incurred by him through his having been ejected from a conditional purchase taken up by him in the wrong district. The lessees of the run sued him for trespass, and won the case on that point.—E.H.S.

By the Under Secretary for Lands:—What are these papers submitted for?—C.O., 7/11/82. Mr. Curry.—S.F., 13/11/82.

[Enclosure]

[Enclosure A to No. 149.]

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8.

Valuable Grazing Property in the noted Inverell District.

GRIFFITHS & WEAVER are instructed by Messrs. Wyndham & Wright to sell by auction, at the Exchange, Sydney, at noon on above date, this very choice grazing property, Karoola, situated in the Gwydir District, about 23 miles from Inverell. The area is about 23,000 acres, including a large extent of valuable river-flats, which are secured by reserves and by about 3,000 acres of freehold and conditional purchase lands.

The property is fenced and divided into eight cultivation and grazing paddocks, and is otherwise highly improved with good head-station and outbuildings, stockyard, &c.

The run has a long frontage to the permanent water on both the Macintyre River and Waterford Creek. To be sold with about 1,200 cattle—a highly bred Hereford herd; about 2,000 sheep, including 950 lambing ewes, fifty horses, stores, plant, &c.

This desirable run being for absolute sale to close accounts, inspection is particularly invited. For further particulars, apply to Griffiths & Weaver, Sydney.

[Enclosure B to No. 149.]

Selectors threatened with Supreme Court actions if they do not give up their pre-leases.

In 1879 a Supreme Court action for trespass was brought by Messrs. Wyndham and Wright to evict a selector named Thompson from his selection and pre-lease. Thompson lost the action, and his selection and pre-lease were cancelled, because his land was taken up in the same office as selected land, which the plaintiffs and many others now hold without being cancelled. No selector could bring an action to evict the plaintiffs. Thompson reselected the land in the so-called right office, and improved the land to the extent of £320 (10s. per acre). The plaintiffs now want the land, and write as follows:—

“Mr. J. J. Thompson,

“Sir,

Karoola, 31 May, 1882.

“We hereby give you notice that unless you at once give up making a roadway through our fence, and abandon all claim to any land within the same, we intend to bring an action against you in the Supreme Court for trespass, with a view to recover possession of the 640 acres on our run, of which you are in occupation illegally, by virtue of your conditional purchase made in 1879.”

Thompson's road passes through his own 460-acre pre-lease, which was recently gazetted. The plaintiffs had fenced in a considerable part of this pre-lease and stopped the road completely. Thompson's first pre-lease was 1,920 acres, and he was deprived of the rest of it thus:—Percy Phillip Wright tendered what purported to be an application for a pre-lease by Frederick Wentworth Wright, and it was signed thus: “Frederick Wentworth Wright, per Percy P. Wright.”

The plaintiffs, P. P. Wright and E. S. Wyndham, occupied and held possession of the land, and P. W. Wright was relieved of the trouble of applying for or occupying it. He might have been within 300 miles of the office when the application was made, but I don't think so. Percy P. Wright tendered what purported to be an application for a pre-lease (of the land Thompson is asked to “abandon all claim to”) by John Graham, and signed thus:—“John Graham per Percy P. Wright.”

These signatures were pasted on the application. The pre-lease was granted, and then cancelled, as Thompson's second application was made prior to it. Graham owned one dilapidated old horse, and brought no sheep or cattle on the run. The reason Wyndham and Wright give for not bringing the action before is that they had not “any desire to do so.” They avoided the risk and publicity of trying it in the Court of Inquiry or the Supreme Court; and urged the Minister for Lands to cancel Thompson's conditional purchase a second time. They state they can prove Thompson's conditional purchase contained “over £40 worth of improvements” when reselected. These improvements were his own. A selection held by the overseer of Karoola was forfeited, and contained a slab house, with an iron roof, and some fencing and ringbarking. The selection was unimproved by removing the house to Karoola head-station. This was done by one of Wyndham and Wright's servants, and the same person afterwards selected the land, and it is now transferred to Wyndham and Wright. The action they are going to bring is to protect themselves from further encroachments. Pre-leases which are applied for and used by Wyndham and Wright do not encroach on the run, even if they are in other people's names. A widow had just lost her husband, and nearly lost her selection for want of means to improve it, and she then had a visit from Wyndham, and an offer to forbear from evicting her, “like Thompson,” if she would give up her pre-lease. She has not urged her claim to it since. Her selection was taken in the wrong office, if Thompson's and Wyndham and Wright's were. Her selection is about 400 acres, and the pre-lease would “encroach” about 1,200 acres. A short time ago I saw the widow's deposit receipt for the pre-lease, but she dare not urge any claim to it.

COLIN MACDONALD,

Brcza.

No. 150.

Declaration by Mr. J. Graham.

I, JOHN GRAHAM, of Bukkulla, in the Colony of New South Wales, do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—I am informed that a document has been sent in to the Lands Department which purports to be an application for a pre-lease, and that a signature which purports to be mine is pasted on to it. I am also informed that Percy Phillip Wright tendered this document. I did not apply for a pre-lease, nor did I authorize Percy Phillip Wright, of Karoola, or anyone else, to attach my signature to an application for a pre-lease. I am informed that the alleged application was made on the 29th of May, 1879; and I was not aware that any such application was sent until I heard of it in 1882. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and in virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled, “An Act for the more effectual abolition of oaths and affirmations taken and made in various departments of the Government of New South Wales and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial oaths and affidavits.”

JOHN GRAHAM.

Made and signed before me, at Inverell, this 13th }
day of November, 1882,— }

H. MUNRO, J.P.

Minute on No. 150.

The Under Secretary, Department for Lands.—W.W.S., B.C., 2/1/83.

No. 151.

Declaration by John Graham.

I, JOHN GRAHAM, of Bukkulla, in the Colony of New South Wales, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—That I am informed that a document has been sent to the Lands Department (dated the 15th of July, 1880) which purports to be a transfer of my selection to Edward Sandford Wyndham, of Karoola.

I did not sell or transfer my selection to Mr. Wyndham, nor was I aware that any such transfer was sent in until I heard of it in 1882. I sold and transferred my selection to Mr. J. J. Thompson in 1882, but I never sold or transferred it to anyone else. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the more effectual abolition of oaths and affirmations taken and made in various departments of the Government of New South Wales and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial oaths and affidavits."

Made and signed before me, at Inverell, this }
13th day of November, 1882,— }
H. MUNRO, J.P.

JOHN GRAHAM.

No. 152.

Declaration by Colin Macdonald.

I, COLIN MACDONALD, of Breeza, in the Colony of New South Wales, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—That I examined a document in the Lands Office dated the 29th of May, 1879, which purports to be an application for a pre-lease (in the parish of Bukkulla) by Percy Philip Wright, of Karoola, as agent for John Graham, also of Karoola. John Graham's name was pasted on the document. I procured an authentic signature of Graham's to compare with the pasted one, and I also compared several other genuine signatures of Graham's, and I am satisfied that John Graham never did or could write his name as clearly or in such a steady and regular hand as the pasted signature. It also appeared to me that John Graham's name and Percy Philip Wright's (on that document) were both written alike. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and in virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the more effectual abolition of oaths and affirmations taken and made in various departments of the Government of New South Wales and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial oaths and affidavits."

Made and signed before me, at Sydney, this }
18th day of November, 1882,— }
W. FRASER MARTIN, J.P.

COLIN MACDONALD.

Minutes on No. 152.

As the lease (79-20) to which reference is made in statutory declaration has been cancelled the matter, so far as that lease is concerned, scarcely deserves comment, but the Attorney-General may perhaps be desirous of again seeing the declaration and communicating with Mr. Macdonald. Mr. Macdonald may be asked whether the £6 paid into Suspense on the 25th September last is not intended for lease 79-48. There is no doubt of this, but as he is solicitous to criticise any action taken, he may as well be asked the question. Before reference to the Attorney-General the declaration referring to a conditional purchase transfer will require some action apparently. After action in this Branch the papers (which have been separated from a Gunnedah case in which Macdonald is interested) may be forwarded to the Conditional Sales Branch for necessary action in the various conditional purchase matters involved and papers carried on.—H.C., 30/3/83.

By the Under Secretary :—Yes.—C.O., 31/3/83.

No. 153.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Chief Commissioner for Conditional Sales.

Sir,

Breeza, 22 December, 1882.

I respectfully submit that the Government should appeal to the Privy Council, and submit the following points:—

1st. That all selections taken up under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 are taken on condition that the conditions of the Act are to be complied with to the satisfaction of the Minister, and therefore the Supreme Court has no jurisdiction, and cannot decide whether the conditions are or are not complied with (*vide* the 18th section of the Act).

2nd. That all selectors who took up land under the amended Acts of 1875 and 1880 did so on conditions that any dispute or question concerning their claim to a 'grant' shall be referred to a Commissioner who has been appointed, and therefore their claim to a grant cannot be referred to the Supreme Court, and therefore the Supreme Court has no jurisdiction in these cases (*vide* the 25th clause of the Act of 1875).

I have submitted the second point to a lawyer, and he holds that the point is a sound one, assuming that it is Thompson who was entitled under the Act to have his claim submitted to the Commissioner. Thompson maintained (and does so still) that he was conditional purchaser, and Wyndham and Wright affirmed that he was not. The "*onus probandi*" lays with the party who affirms, and Thompson was, and entitled to be, considered a "conditional purchaser" until Wyndham and Wright prove that he is not; and they must do that in the Court provided by the Act for the purpose, viz., the Court of Inquiry, therefore the Supreme Court had no jurisdiction.

If you think I am right, and think advisable to defend and appeal to the Privy Council and make a test case of it, as in the case *Pearson v. Stevens*, I will be very glad; and if the case is reversed, then Thompson's claim against the Government will be reduced in the item of costs. I will try and bring the case before the House as soon as possible. The case was suppressed for the last two years. The petition never was presented.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

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No. 154.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. C. Macdonald.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 31 March, 1883.

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to state whether the sum of £6, paid by Messrs. Hindmarsh & Mayne into the Treasury on the 20th September, on behalf of Mr. J. J. Thompson, is intended to cover the current year's rent on his pre-emptive lease, 79-48, of 460 acres, in the district of Inverell. In your reply to the letter addressed to Mr. Thompson, on the 4th October, 1882, you referred to the lease upon which the amount was paid as 79-49.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES OLIVER,
Under Secretary.

No. 155.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Breeza, 24 September, 1883.

Herewith I enclose £6 (gone on to Treasury), being the amount of rent due on Mr. J. J. Thompson's pre-lease of 192 acres, parish Bukkulla, gazetted 23rd May, 1879. I am aware that the Department states that a pre-lease, said to have been claimed by F. W. Wright, cuts off most of Thompson's lease, but I will not insult your common-sense (or Farnell's) by supposing that you believe Percy Wright acted as agent for a man who applied for a lease out of the Karoola Run.

You have Mr. Ernest Smith's letters to prove that he (Smith) tried to get the pre-lease for lessees of run, and his letters prove that Percy Wright was a principal, not an agent; I have one of Smith's which does so, but then, of course, you did not suppose Percy Wright was so foolish as to do this. Although, for political reasons, Ministers claimed the power to grant pre-leases when applied for in other people's names (nominally as agents), still the Act gives them no such power. The reason given for cancelling Thompson's conditional purchase, after the Supreme Court action, was, that it was taken in the wrong office. You have not established this, or proved it, and until this is done you have no power to cancel the conditional purchase. A conditional purchase can only be cancelled for a breach of the conditions—*vide* ruling of the Supreme Court. You have not shown that the conditional purchase was taken in the wrong office, nor is it possible for you to do so. Until you show a breach of the conditions you cannot cancel the conditional purchase.

The Supreme Court simply gave a verdict for trespass, without deciding that the conditional purchase was taken in the wrong office or not. You know, as well as I do, that it is impossible to show that the pastoral district is the wrong one, or that the police district did not include the conditional purchase.

By sending the rent Thompson is simply complying with his part of the bargain, although he is completely deprived of the use of his pre-lease.

I am, &c.,
COLIN MACDONALD,
Unpaid Agent for J. J. THOMPSON.

When searching records in the Supreme Court I was unable to find that the Court decided that J. J. Thompson was not a conditional purchaser.

A map which purported to show "Karoola North" was handed in, and a verdict returned that a trespass was committed on "Karoola North." I could not find that the Court decided the conditional purchase and pre-lease were part of the run, but that a trespass was committed on some part.

The Court did not decide that Thompson's conditional purchase and the conditional purchase of John Asimus also (included in map of the run) were part of the run.

If you can show that the Court did so, you must get access to records not shown to me. The records shown to me showed that verdict for trespass was given without deciding whether such trespass was on the land claimed by Thompson or some other part of the run.—C.M'D.

No. 156.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir,

Breeza, 27 September, 1883.

Herewith I enclose Post Office Order for £6, being the amount of rent due on Mr. J. J. Thompson's pre-lease of 1,920 acres, parish Bukkulla, county Arrawatta, gazetted 23rd May, 1879.

I have, &c.,
COLIN MACDONALD,
Agent for Mr. J. J. THOMPSON.

P.S.—The Post Office Order is payable to you.—C.M.

Minutes on above.

Lease 79-48, county Arrawatta, parish Bukkulla. Can it be stated in the absence of the papers whether there are any conflicting interests, and whether the case is such a one as would now be granted. Please quote the numbers of conditional purchases forming the leases.—C.H.G., 20/3/84. Mr. Muller.

250 acres within the lease have been selected, and the only access from the conditional purchase to the lease is by a reserved road through one of the selections, otherwise there are no objections to the renewal of the lease.—M.M., 26/3/84. Mr. Curry.

Can it be stated in virtue of what conditional purchase or conditional purchases the lease was granted, please? It seems desirable that a reference should be made to the Conditional Sales Branch to find out their state.—C.H.G., 9/4/84. Mr. Muller.

Granted in virtue of conditional purchase 79-28.—M.M., 16/4/84. Mr. Curry. Please report as to conditional purchase 79-28, as to present holder and state.—H.S.F., 18/4/84. Conditional Sale Branch.

Conditional purchase 79-28, Warialda, now Inverell, stands in name of J. J. Thompson. Declaration accepted 7th April, 1884.—C.O., 28/4/84. Lease

Lease 79-48, now Inverell, formerly Warialda, stands paid to 1882 only, in name of J. J. Thompson, but forfeited 17th August, 1883. £6 has been paid to Suspense Account, 1st October, 1883. As Thompson is the holder of the conditional purchase 79-28, in right of which the lease was granted, and as the conditional purchase appears (from Conditional Sales Branch) to stand good, perhaps forfeiture may be reversed, and the balance of money over and above that held in suspense may be credited.—H.S.F., 26/4/84. Mr. Curry.

[Enclosure to No. 156.]

Memorandum.

Account of moneys paid and to be paid on pre-lease No. 79-48, in the county of Arrawatta, district of Inverell, formerly Warialda, held by J. J. Thompson, gazetted on 23rd May, 1879, 1,920 acres, rent £6. Regazetted on the 10th March, 1882, 460 acres, rent £1 8s. 9d. Notified as forfeited on the 17th August, 1883.

Schedule to above.

Lease fully paid up to the year 1882 inclusive.

Amounts paid according to Register.	Year for which paid.	Date of credit.	Amount suspended.	Date of suspense.	
£ s. d.			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1 8 9	1881.	2 May, 1882.	.....	.....	4 11 3 excess for 1879, refunded 24th April, 1882.
1 8 9	1882.	2 May, 1882.	.....	.....

No. 157.

Mr. C. Macdonald to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Breca, November, 1883.

You wrote to say that J. J. Thompson's conditional purchase (parish Bukkulla) was declared void, as it was taken up in Inverell instead of Warialda. Be good enough to prove that the Warialda office was the right one, and that the Inverell office was the wrong one. It is utterly useless to say that the office is wrong or right without establishing the statement. As you have declared the conditional purchase void for a breach of or want of compliance with the 7th section of the Act of 1875, it is to be assumed that you can do this. Please reply in writing before noon on Friday next.

I have, &c.,

COLIN MACDONALD.

No. 158.

Questions by Dr. Ross, M.P.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, WEDNESDAY, 30 APRIL, 1884.

Question:—

(3.) Selections on Karoola Run:—Dr. Ross asked the Secretary for Lands,—

(1.) Was reserve No. 67, in the parish of Bukkulla, gazetted as containing 640 acres; and was it surveyed by Surveyor Macharg, so as to contain about 1,200 acres, and thereby include the conditional purchase of one John Asimus?

(2.) Did Surveyor Macharg afterwards begin the survey of John Asimus's conditional purchase from portion No. 80, parish of Bukkulla, and not from the starting-point, and thus leave about £20 worth of improvements on reserve No. 515; and was that reserve made two years after Asimus's conditional purchase was taken up?

(3.) Did Percy Philip Wright, one of the lessees of the run, apply for a conditional purchase between the conditional purchase of John Asimus and reserve No. 67, and did he afterwards obtain a refund of his deposit on the ground that the selection was on reserve No. 67?

(4.) If such selection was taken up by Mr. Wright, was it taken up in an office which Messrs. Wyndham and Wright afterwards maintained (in the Supreme Court) was the wrong one?

(5.) Did Wyndham and Wright, of Karoola, succeed in getting the Lands Department to declare Mr. J. J. Thompson's selection void for being taken in the wrong district, without having their own conditional purchase, taken and situated in the same district, declared void for the same reason; and if so, why?

(6.) Has the Lands Department ever proved that Mr. Thompson's selection was not situated in the Inverell District, or given any reasonable grounds for supposing that it was not in that district?

(7.) Has the Department ever given any reasons of any kind for supposing that Mr. Thompson's selection was not taken in the right district; and if so, when, and what were the reasons given?

(8.) Has it ever been shown that Mr. Thompson failed to comply with any or all of the conditions of the Act; and if so, by whom has it been proved; or has it ever been decided that Mr. Thompson failed to comply with the conditions of the Act, and if so, by whom has it been so decided, and when?

(9.) Is there a single one of the selections taken up by Percy Philip Wright on the Karoola Run on which the conditions have been complied with and completed, or declared to have been completed?

(10.) Is there a single one of the selections taken up by Percy Philip Wright on the Karoola Run for which he did not get a refund of his deposit; and if so, which one was it; and how many times has he applied for or taken up selections on that run?

(11.) Is there a single one of the selections taken up by Percy Philip Wright on the Karoola Run that was never reported on by Surveyor Macharg for being unimproved or non-resident?

(12.)

(12.) Did Surveyor Macharg resign, and did the Surveyor-General afterwards pronounce him guilty in the first degree, and state that he could not be punished because he had resigned?

(13.) Did Surveyor Macharg afterwards come to Sydney and get employment in the Lands Department as a Temporary Draftsman; and has he recently got an appointment as a Surveyor and Inspector of Church and School Lands?

(14.) When will the papers moved for by Dr. Ross on 6th December last, in the case of J. J. Thompson, on Karoola Run, be laid upon the Table of the House; and why is the production of the papers being so long delayed?

Answer:—

Mr. Farnell answered,—

(1.) Yes, as 640 acres. Its actual area was, by survey, found to be about 860 acres, the excess arising from two sides of the reserve being river frontages. The surveyor had no option in the case, being bound by the lines given in the Gazette notice. The reserve included the selection of Asimus.

(2.) Yes. There is no record as to the starting-point mentioned in the description. Mr. Macharg made the survey to include the improvements, without leaving a narrow strip of land between portion No. 80 and the land selected by Asimus. In his subsequent conditional purchase, Asimus applied for the selection as measured. The date of notification of reserve No. 515 is 29th December, 1876, twenty months after the first selection of Asimus, and nine months prior to the second selection.

(3.) Yes; conditional purchase 75-152, Inverell. Yes.

(4.) Apparently so.

(5.) No. The selection of J. J. Thompson was declared void, on the request of his own agent, to admit of his applying afresh at the proper Land Office.

(6.) There is no reasonable doubt that the land applied for is not in the Inverell District.

(7.) Yes; the applicant was so warned by the Land Agent on reference to his maps at the time of application.

(8.) The question of how far the conditions of Thompson's selection were fulfilled has not been decided, the selection having been declared void at his own instance, as already stated.

(9.) Yes. A selection taken up in January, 1880, has been transferred, with its additional, to E. T. Wyndham, who has made due declaration, and was reported resident and fulfilling conditions.

(10.) Yes. The selections mentioned in the reply to the last question, and a selection made on the 31st January, 1876, which was declared lapsed—four selections in all, but one in the parish of Karoola.

(11.) Yes. Mr. Macharg reported the applicant non-resident upon the conditional purchase taken up in 1876.

(12.) Yes. The Surveyor-General, in reply to a question as to who were the officers to blame for not reporting the fact of a conditional purchase having been received in the wrong district, stated that Mr. Macharg was guilty in the first degree, and had left the Department. The question of punishment did not arise, for prior to this case the legality of a conditional purchase made in a wrong district had never been challenged.

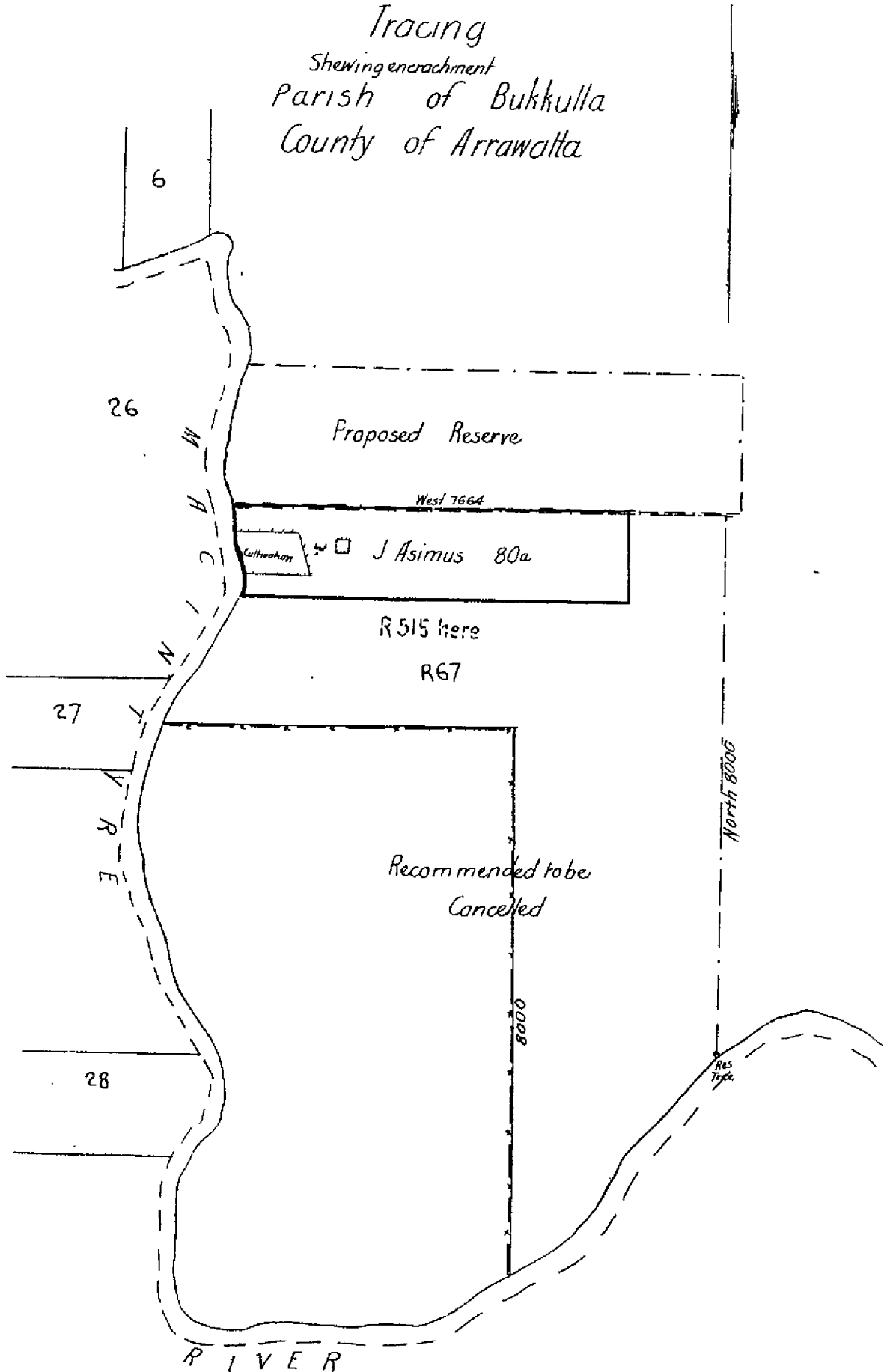
(13.) Mr. Macharg was not employed as a Temporary Draftsman in the Department of Lands, but is now understood to be employed in the Department of Public Instruction.

(14.) The papers are in course of preparation, and will be ready for presentation in a week. They are exceedingly voluminous.

[Twelve diagrams.]

A

Copy of
Tracing
Shewing encroachment
Parish of Bukkulla
County of Arrawatta



Part tinted Red on Original is on this Diagram edged thus _____
 Part edged Red " " edged thus -x-x-
 Reserves edged Green " " shown thus - - - -

Sig 730.

PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Catⁿ N° 1800¹⁸⁴⁷
Con^t Sale N° 779374

B.

Inverell

Copy of

PLAN

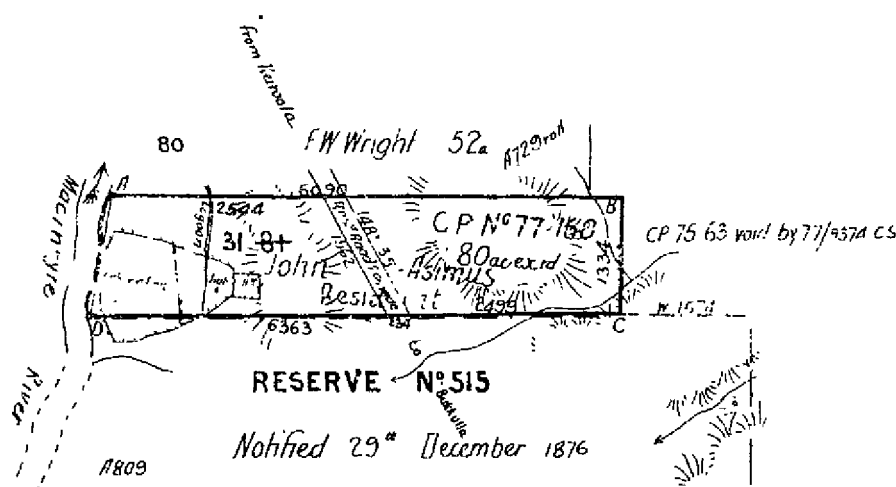
of Portion N° 31

Parish of Bukkulla

County of Arrawatta

Applied for under the 13th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 by
John Asimus

CP 77.160 20th Sep^r 1875



Charted and area
examined signed E.H.J.M.
9th Oct 77

The number has been altered to 31 on
the ground vide 81.23742 C.S.

Information in pencil on original is on this Diagram shewn in the following
character Exst 2: Charted
Portion 31 tinted Red & edged Red on original is on this Diagram edged thus ———
Reserve edged Green on original is on this Diagram shewn thus ———

Reference to Corners				
Corner	Bearing	From	Links	N° on face
A	237° 30'	Apple	46	80 31
B	324° 50'	Gum	25	31
C	314° 20'	Box	51	31
D	201° 10'	Apple	10d	31 R

Reference to Traverse

Line	Bearing	Distance
1	191° 35'	1361

Marked in accordance with regulations
Instrument used in Survey Theodolite
Date of Survey January 1877
Value of Improvements £43
situated in the Koroola run.

Acc 77/15
con 9802 016
Sigs E.H.J.M.

Acc 81.22 passed 10th Jan^y 83

Transmitted to the Surveyor General with my letter of the 26th Feb^r N° 77/5

(Signed) John Macharg
Licensed Surveyor

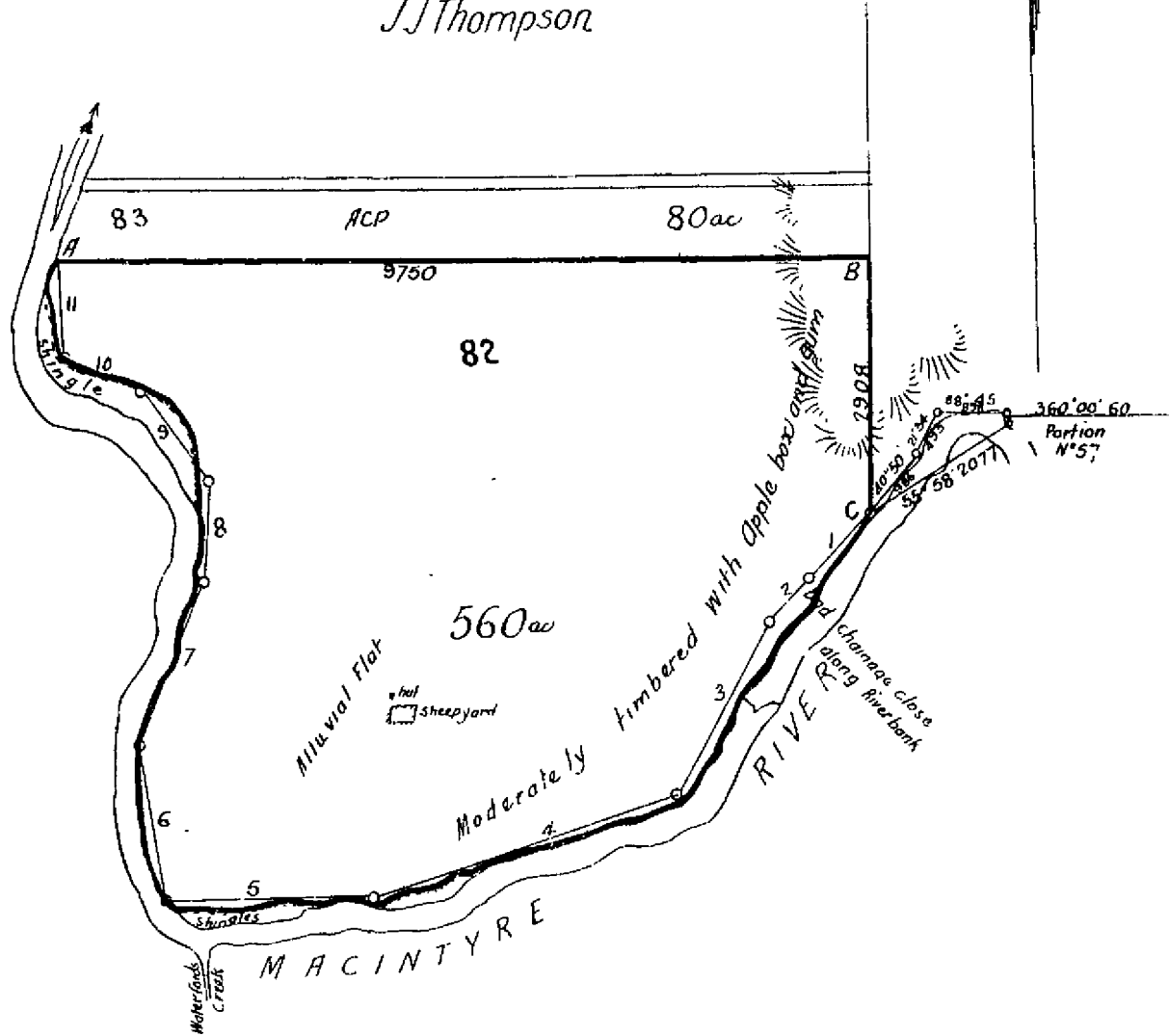
PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

(Sig 730)

Plan accepted
6th April 78 signed W.D.A.

Enclosure A to N^o 7.

Copy of
Tracing
of one portion N^o 82
Parish of Bukkulla
County of Arrawatta
Applied for under the 13th clause of the C. L. A. Act of 1875 by
J. J. Thompson



For N^o 82 tinted Red on original is on this Diagram edged thus ——— Date of Survey July 1877
Value of improvements Hut Yard £ 12

Reference to Corners				
Cor	Bearing	From	Links	N ^o on tree
A	205° 20'	Apple	137	82. 83
B	125°	Gum	13	82. 83
C	Cum d ^l corner			82

Reference to Traverse		
Line	Bearing	Distance
1	222° 31'	1042
2	223° 55'	708
3	209° 15'	2282
4	252° 36'	3800
5	269° 18'	2528
6	349° 59'	1780
7	21° 57'	2015
8	5° 10'	1425
9	323° 46'	1200
10	290° 5'	1040
11	353° 59'	1260

Letter 77/47

John Mucharg
licensed Surveyor

(Sig 730)

Conditional Sales
77/35307
Department of Lands
N.S.W.

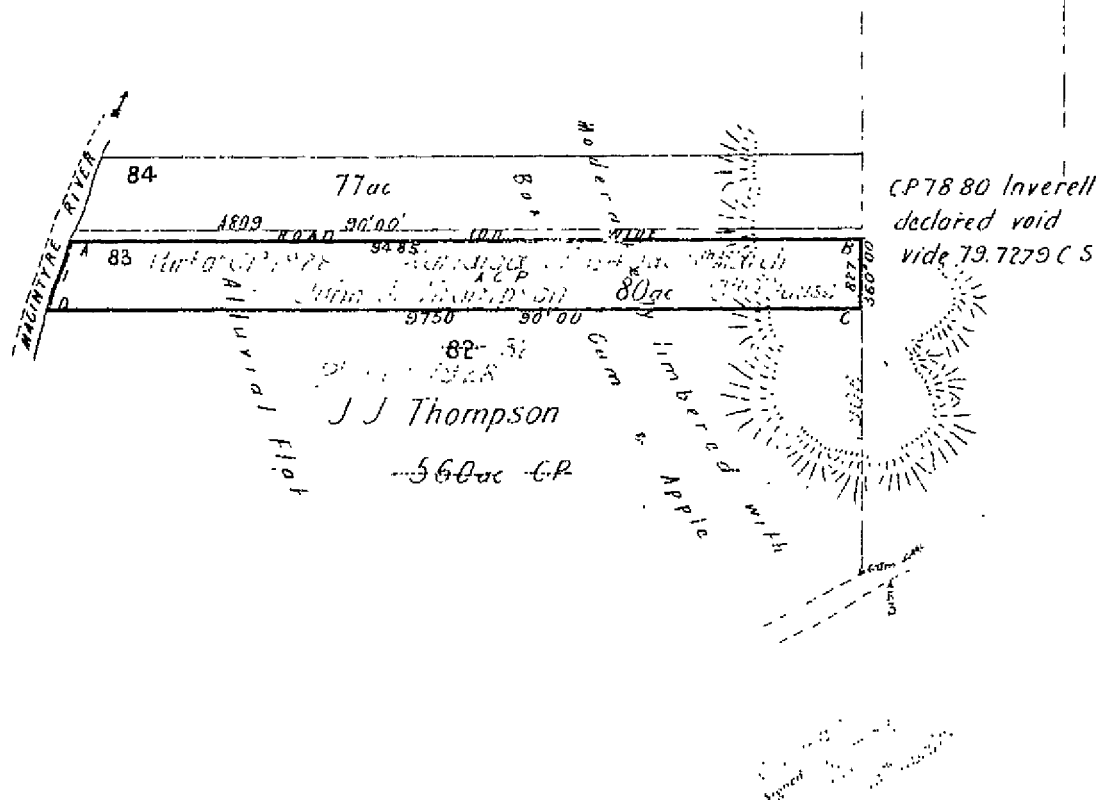
Copy from
Plan

Parish of Bukkulla
County of Arrawatta

J. J. Thompson

CP N.º 77.80 17th May

Within Reserve 186 from Lease No 1^d 31st July 82



Information in pencil on original is shown on this Diagram in the following Character List.

Reference to Corners				
Corners	Bearing	From	Links	N' or S'
A	242°	Yell Jack	136	83
B	124° 50'	Box	24	83
C	123° 00'	Gum	13	82.83
D	205° 70'	Apple	137	82.83

Reference to Traverse		
Line	Bearing	Distance
1	17° 41'	8.68

Instrument used in Survey Theodolite

Date of Survey July 1877

Value of Improvements Nil

Situated in the Karoola Run

* Transmitted to the Surveyor General with my letter of the 10th Sep^r N^o 7748

Signed *J^{no} Mächler*

PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

(Sig 730.)

Col^o N^o A 809¹⁸⁴⁷
 Cln N^o 77, 7396
 Enclosure A to N^o 9

Now LD Inverell
~~Warialda~~

Copy of
 PLAN

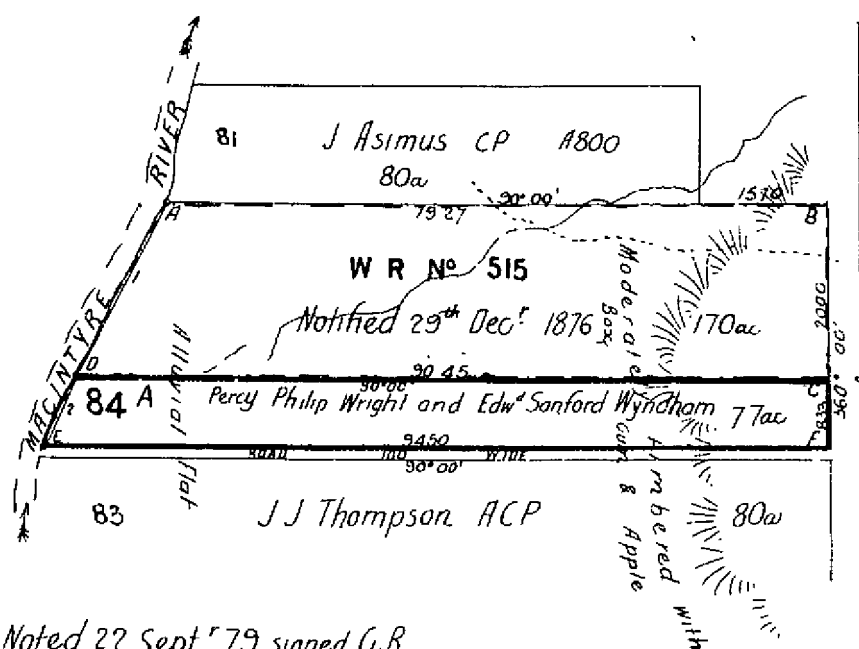
of 2 portions N^o 84 & WR N^o 515

Parish of Bukkulla
 County of Arrawatta

Applied for under the 30th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1875 by

P P Wright

Sale at Warialda 17th July 1878
 Country lot A. Portion 84
 Vide A/n^o 78/8649 above lot sold



Nos 84 Noted 22 Sept^r 79 signed G.R.
 Description prepared 9th Oct^r 79 signed *W.M.*
 Diagram prepared 21st Oct^r 79 Signed W.W.

Charted by
 signed W.T.M.
 28th March 78

Information in pencil on original is on this Diagram shown in the following Character Ex^o 8. 25th

Portion 84 tinted Red & edged Red on original is on this Diagram edged thus ———

Reserve edged Green on original is on this Diagram edged thus ———

Reference to Corners

Corner	Bearing	From	Links	N ^o on tree
A	201° 10'	Apple	104	81 WR
B	83° 30'	Box	60	WR
C	116° 00'	"	60	WR 84
D	104° 00'	Oak	43	WR 84
E	308° 20'	Yell Jack	101	83 84
F	235° 30'	Box	31	84

Reference to Tra^o

Line	Bearing	Distance
1	29° 11'	2291
2	25° 54'	926

77 15
 2 Con
 signed W.T.M.

Marked in accordance with Regulations
 Instrument used in Survey Theodolite
 Date of Survey July 1877
 Value of Improvements Nil
 Situated in the Karoola Run

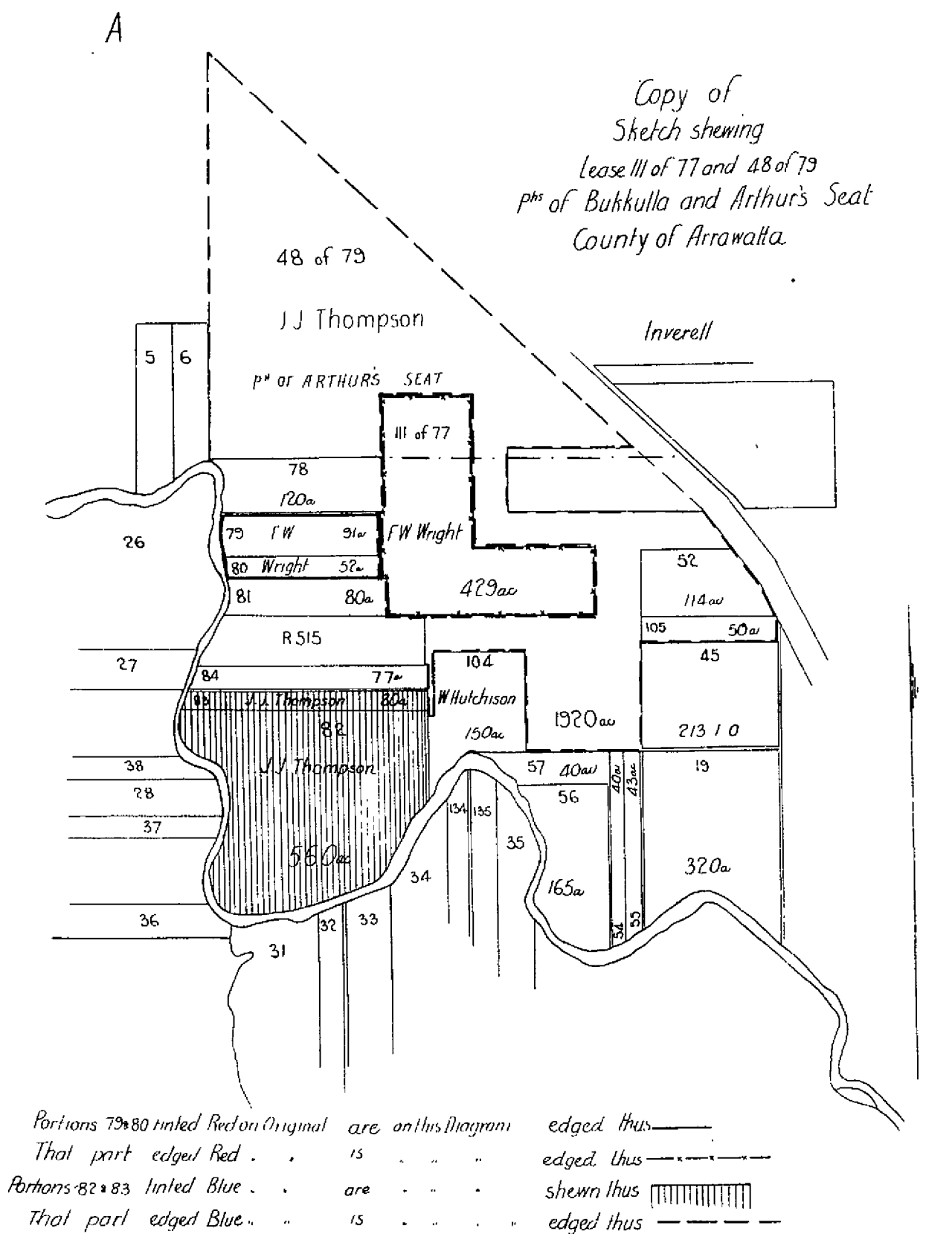
Transmitted to the Surveyor General with my letter of 10th Sep^r 1877

Signed John Marchant

(Siz 730)

Plan accepted
 6th April 78
 signed W.D.A.

Enclosure A to N^o 95.

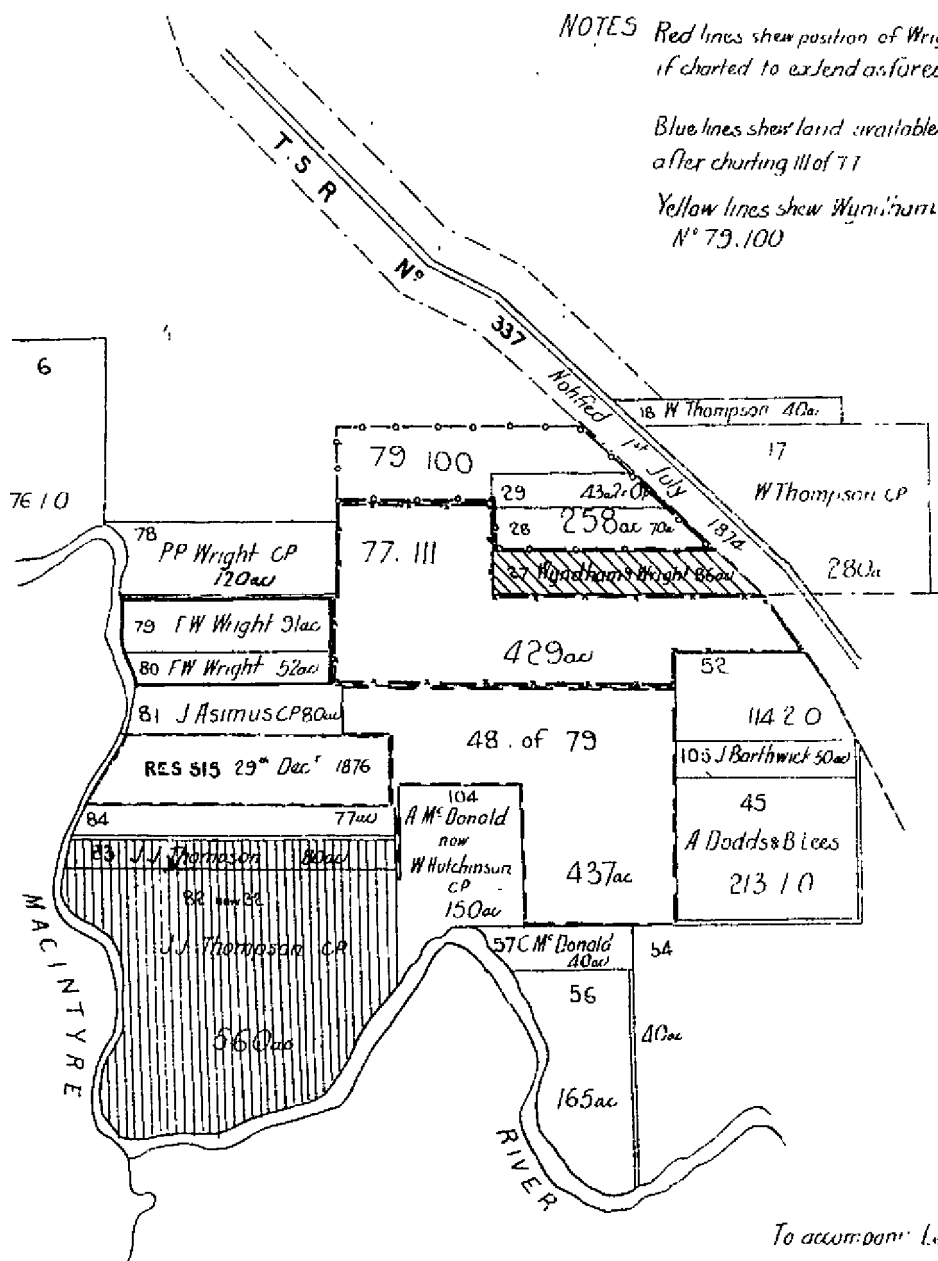


Enclosure B to N° 95.

Copy

B

NOTES Red lines show position of Wrights lease N° 111 of 77 if charted to extend as far east as possible.
Blue lines show land available for Thompson after charting 111 of 77
Yellow lines show Wynneham & W. Pitts pre-lease N° 79.100



To accompany Lease N° 81 of 77

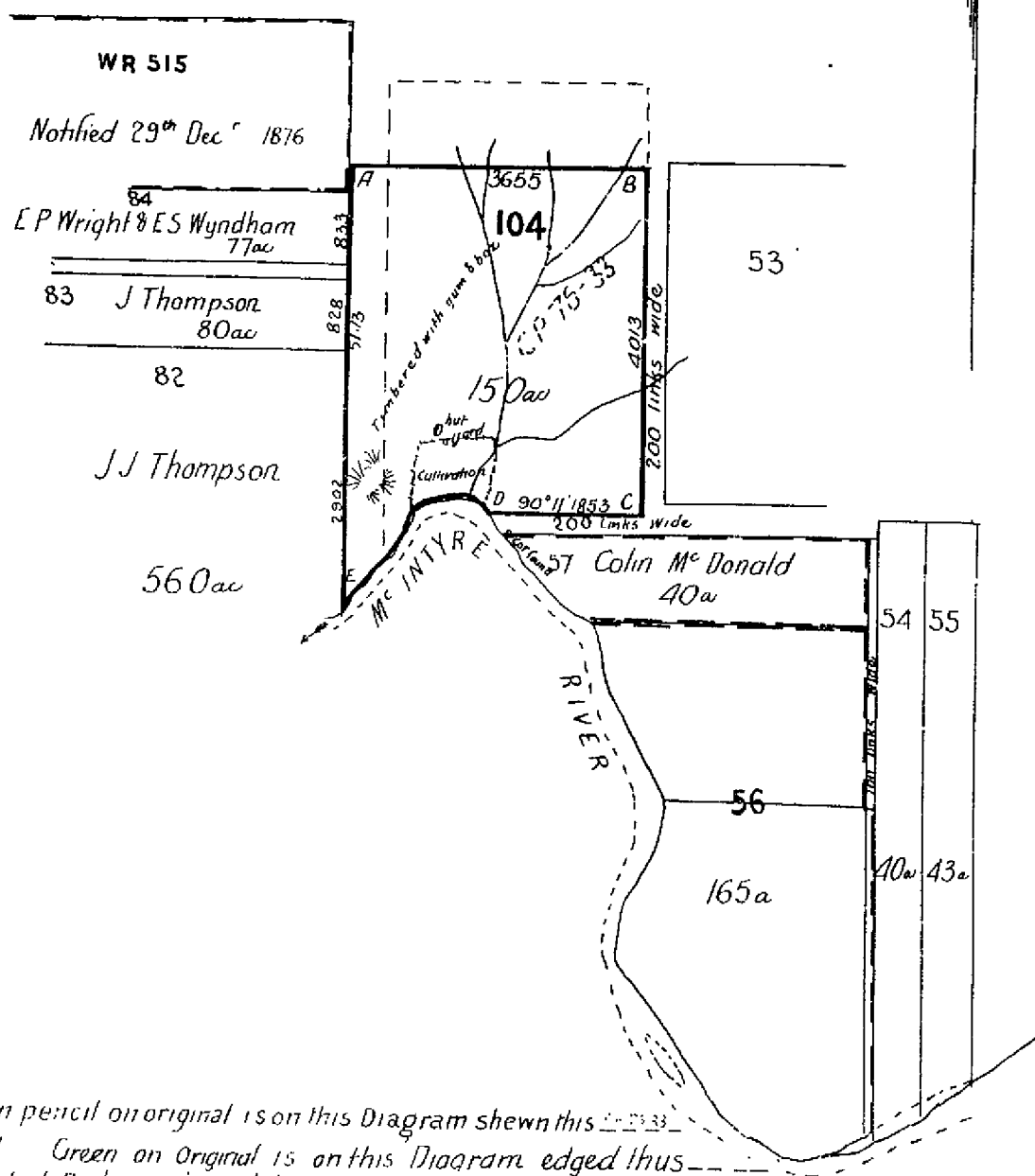
Portions 79 & 80 tinted Red on Original	are on this Diagram	edged thus	_____
That part edged Red.	is	edged thus	—x—x—x—
Port 82 & 83 tinted Blue	are	shewn thus	|||||
That part edged Blue	is	edged thus	— — — — —
Portion 27 tinted Yellow	is	shewn thus	|||||
That part edged Yellow	is	edged thus	—o—o—o—
Reserves edged Green	are	shewn thus	— — — — —

(Sig 730)

C

Copy of Tracing

Shewing portion 104
Parish of Bukkulla
County of Arrawalla
Applied for under 13th clause by AM^c Donald



Information in pencil on original is on this Diagram shewn this way
WR 515 edged Green on Original is on this Diagram edged thus
Portion 104 tinted Red on Original is " " " thus
That part edged Blue on Original is " " " thus

Reference to Corners

Cor	Bearing	Front	Links	Ac on trees
A	165° 30'	Box	68	104
B	105° 15'	"	89	104
C	180° 0'	Yellow Jar	80	104
D	290° 20'	Apple	104	104
E	Gum tree on corner		82	104

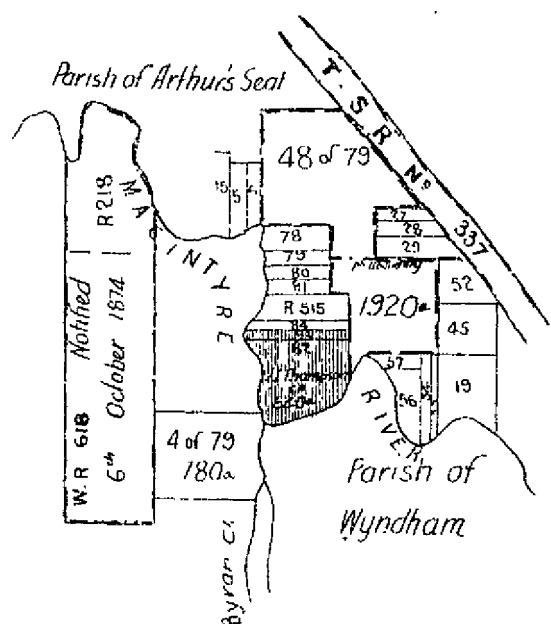
Date of Survey 8th April 1879
Value of Improvements £79
(Signed) W^m John Blunt
Licensed Surveyor

Enclosure to N^o 39. (Copy)


J.J. Thompson
County of Arrowatla

Pre-emptive Lease N^o 48 of 79

Gazetted 23rd May 1879 "WARIALDA"
Which is identical with N^o 34 of 77 Gazetted 27th Nov '77 INVERELL



Portions 82 & 83 tinted Blue on Original are on this Diagram shewn thus

That part edged is edged thus 
Reserves edged Green on are edged thus

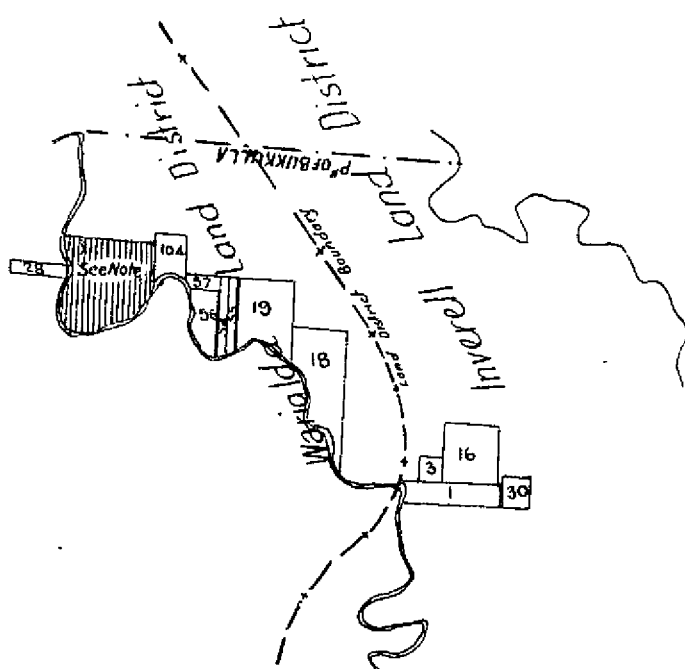
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SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

Enclosure to N^o 66.

C 58/ 8884

Copy of
Tracing
County of Arrawatta



NOTE The position of the land applied for by
J.J. Thompson is shewn by blue tint

That part tinted Blue on Original is on this Diagram shewn thus



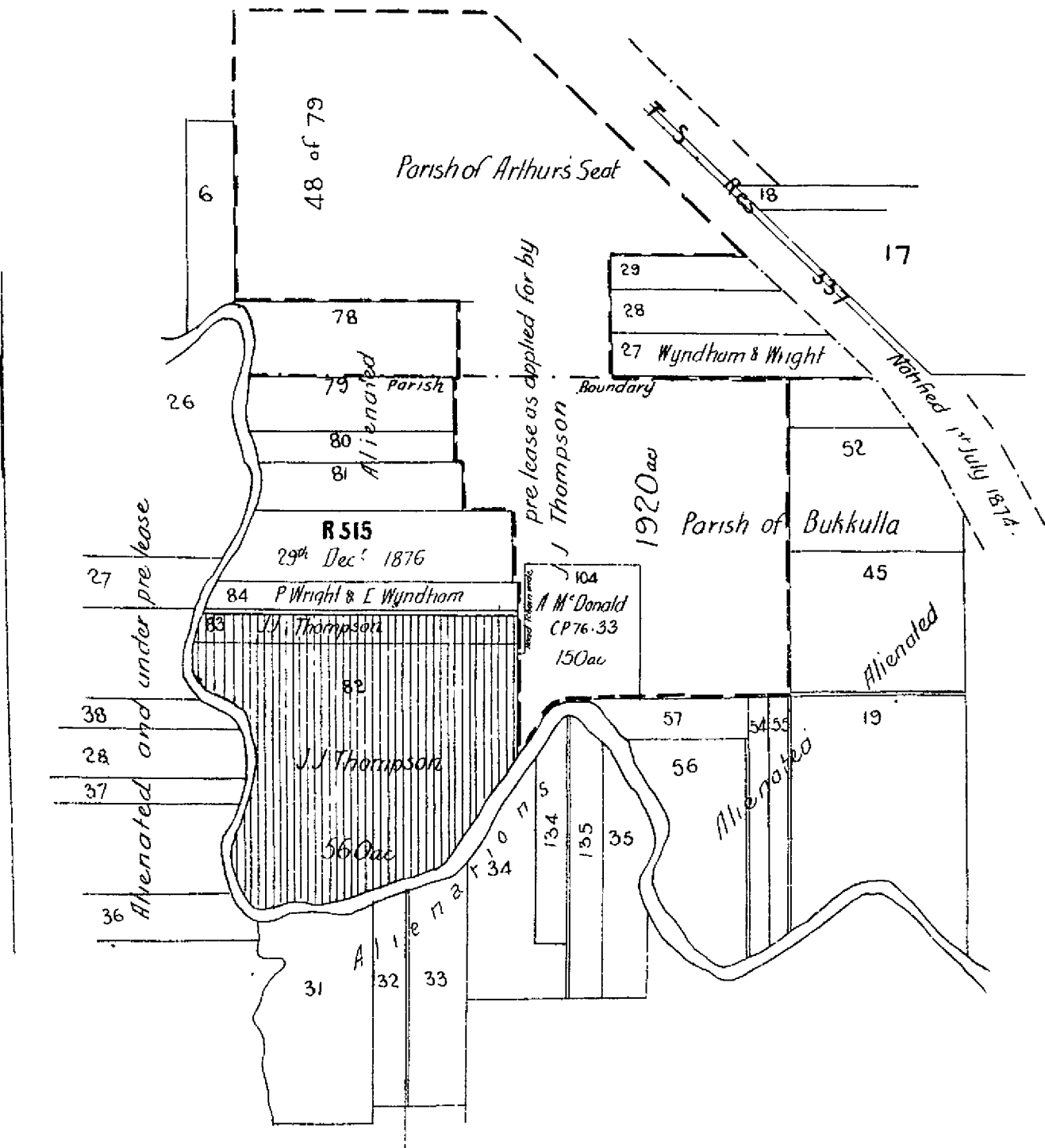
PHOTO LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE
SYDNEY NEW SOUTH WALES


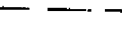
(Sig 730)

Enclosure to N^o 67.

81 10174 C.S.

Copy from tracing

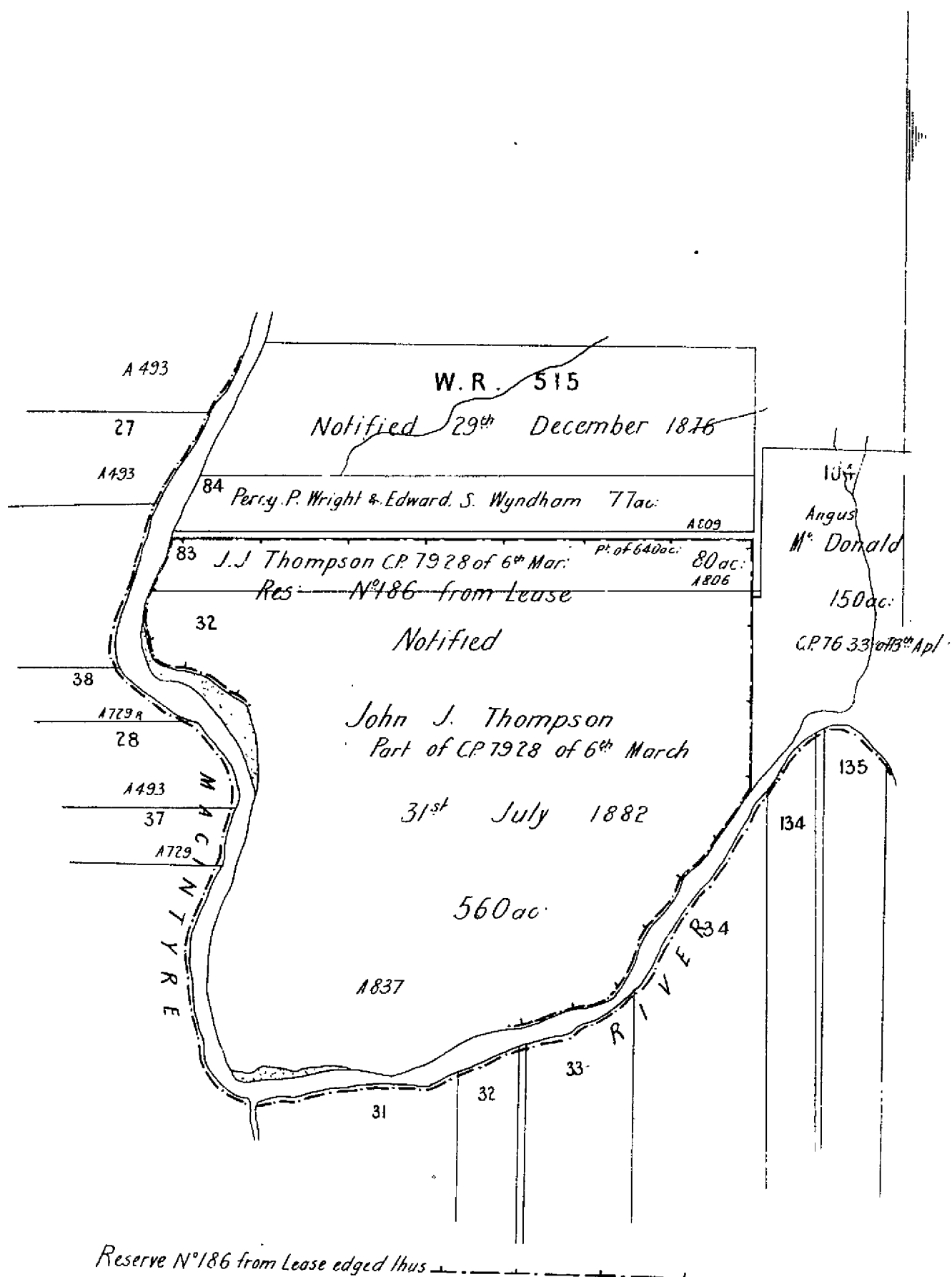


Por^s 82 & 83 tinted Blue on Original are on this Diagram shewn thus 
Part edged Blue " " " " edged thus 

Enclosure to N^o 137.

Copy from
Parish Map of Bukkulla
County of Arrawatta

Shewing Reserve N^o 186 from lease Notified 31st July 1882



1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.
(CONDITIONAL PURCHASES ON PERICOOTA RUN.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 10 September, 1886, a.m.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 23rd June, 1886, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“All papers and other correspondence relating to the selection of lands on the Pericoota Run, in the district of Moama, in the month of January, 1882.”

(*Mr. Chanter.*)

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-10.)

REPORT of an inquiry held at Moama on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of Ley Row, made at Moama on the 12th January 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the “Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875,” held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz.:—

His agent admits abandonment by the selector, as stated in the letter of 7th March last (signed L. C. Row). Licensed surveyor values improvements, £557 15s., on 550½ acres in March, 1879.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 550.—Letter from claimant intimating abandonment of conditional purchase is with proceedings, also one from his agent waiving claim to usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 21/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. Ley Row informed, 9/5/83.

[*Enclosures.*]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Ley Row, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last at Moama, conditional purchase No. 82-10, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will dispense with any formal notice being served on him.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

Ley

885—A

[805 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £27 13s. 6d.]

Ley Row.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states: I am agent for Ley Row, who selected on 12 January, 1882, 550½ acres, county of Cadell, parish of Benarca, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in his letter of 7th March last.

Taken and sworn at Moama this 4th November, }
1882, before me, H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

G. H. HOLMES.

Mr. L. C. Row to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

Moama, 7 March, 1882.

I have the honor to inform the Department of which you are the head, that I have abandoned the selection applied for by me at Moama on the 12th January last, viz., 550½ acres, being surveyed portion 87, parish of Benarca and county of Cadell.

I have, &c.,

L. C. ROW.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—W.B., 30/10/82.

Mr. Ley Row to the Crown Lands Agent, Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

LEY ROW.

Minutes on Application.

Portion 87, parish of Benarca, county of Cadell, of 550½ acres, formed part of reserve 93A, which was notified the 22nd December, 1865, and cancelled the 1st August, 1881. Portion 87 also formed part of reserve 2,846, notified the 24th August, 1881, part of which including the above portion was cancelled on the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of reserve 93A, the following improvements were effected by the lessees on this portion:—Fencing worth £167 15s., erected in October 1877, and in February and March, 1878; and tank, £390, excavated in September 1877: total, £557 15s. The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has been applied for (by this application) as a conditional purchase under the 12th section Lands Acts Further Amendment Act.

It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action with regard to the appraisalment of the improvements be at once taken; also, for report of conditional purchase inspector.—CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor General, 15/8/82. Approved.—JOHN R.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. 10 of 1882.

Application by Ley Row for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 550 acres 2 roods, unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £137 12s. 6d., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock; also, £55 1s. on account of improvements under section 12, Act of 1880.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 550 acres 2 roods; and I herewith tender the sum of £192 13s. 6d., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum of the value of improvements. I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

I am, &c.,

LEY ROW,

Moama.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarca, 550 acres 2 roods, being measured portion No. 87.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-11.)

REPORT of an inquiry held at Moama on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of James Foley, made at Moama on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz.: His agent admits the selector has abandoned these 210½ acres, as stated in the letter of 30th October last.

Improvements in March, 1879, were worth £332, as appears by surveyor's tracing.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 12.

Sec. 13, Ac. 210½.—Letter intimating abandonment of conditional purchase from agent of claimant, also one waiving claim to usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry, with proceedings. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 21/4/83.

For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. Jas. Foley infd., 9th May, 1883.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. James Foley, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last at Moama, conditional purchase No. 82-11, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & Co.

James Foley.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states: I am agent for James Foley, who selected on the 12th January, 1882, 210½ acres, county of Cadell, parish of Benarca, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in the letter of his agents, H. H. Brown and Co., of 30th October last.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this 4th }

G. H. HOLMES.

November, 1882, before me,— }

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Messrs. H. H. Brown and Co. to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 30 October, 1882.

We are requested by our client, Mr. James Foley, to advise you that he has abandoned the selection made by him at Moama on the 12th January last for 210½ acres, parish of , county of Cadell.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & Co.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—31/10/82.

Mr. J. Foley to the Crown Lands Agent at Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

JAMES FOLEY.

Minutes on Application.

Portion 84, parish of Benarca, county of Cadell, 210½ acres, formed part of reserve 93a, which was notified the 22nd December, 1855, and cancelled the 1st August, 1881. Portion 84 also formed part of reserve No. 2,846, notified the 24th August, 1881, part of which including the above portion was cancelled on the 12th December, 1881.

During the currency of reserve 93a the following improvements were effected by the lessees on this portion:—Fencing, £48; ringing and clearing, &c., £84; sheep yards, £200: total, £332. These improvements were effected in March, 1878, and since March, 1879. The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has been applied for as a conditional purchase (by this application) under the 12th section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act. It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action with regard to the appraisalment of the improvements be at once taken; also, for report of Inspector.—CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor-General, 15/8/82.

Approved.—JOHN R.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. 11 of 1882.

Application by James Foley for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 210 acres 2 roods, unimproved land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £52 12s. 6d., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock; also, £31 2s., one tenth of improvements under Section 12, Act of 1880.

L. S. DONALDSON,
Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

January 12, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 210 acres 2 roods; and I herewith tender the sum of £83 14s. 6d., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum of the value of improvements.

I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

I am, &c.,

JAMES FOLEY,

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarca, 210½ acres, being measured portion No. 84.

Mr.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-12.)

REPORT of an Inquiry held at Moama, on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of James Boaden, made at Moama, on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz.:—

His agent admits that the selector has abandoned these 395 acres, as stated in the letter of 30th October last.

Licensed surveyor's tracing shows improvements on this land worth £400 in March, 1879.

I have, therefore, to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 395.—Letter of abandonment from agent of claimant is with proceedings, as also one waiving claim to the usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 21/4/83.

For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Jas. Boaden informed.—9/5/83.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. James Boaden, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last, at Moama, as C.P. 82-12, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have &c.,

H. H. BROWN & Co.

James Boaden.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states: I am agent for James Boaden, who selected 395 acres, county Cadell, parish Benarea, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in the letter of his agents, H. H. Brown & Co., of 30th October last.

Taken and Sworn at Moama, this 4th

G. H. HOLMES.

November, before me,

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to the Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

21 Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 30 October, 1882.

We are requested by our client, Mr. James Boaden, to advise you that he has abandoned the selection made by him at Moama, on the 12th January last, for 395 acres, parish of , county of Cadell.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—31/10/82.

Mr. J. Boaden to the Crown Lands Agent at Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

J. BOADEN.

Minutes on Application.

Portion 86, parish of Benarea, county of Cadell, of 395 acres, formed part of reserve 93A, which was notified the 22nd December, 1865, and cancelled the 1st August, 1881. Portion 86 also formed part of reserve 2846, notified the 24th August, 1881, part of which, including the above portion, was cancelled on the 12th December, 1881.

During the currency of reserve 93A, portion 86 was improved by the lessees as follows:—Fencing, £108, erected in October, 1877, and in February and March, 1878; sheep yards, £250, erected in February 1878; house not completed, £42 (ultimate probable valuation £65), erected in March, 1879: total, £400. These improvements are reported to be of a permanent and fixed character, and of benefit to the occupation of the land. The above portion is, therefore, fully improved, and has been applied for (by this application) as a conditional purchase under the 12th section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act.

It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action with regard to the improvements be at once taken; also, for report of Conditional Purchase Inspector.—CHAS. ED. FITCH, for Surveyor-General, 15/8/82.

Approved.—JOHN R.

C.

District of Moama.

No. 12 of 1882.

Application by James Boaden, for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 395 acres unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £98 15s., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock; also, £40, being one tenth of supposed value of improvements under Act of 1880.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Lands hereunder described, containing 395 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £138 15s., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum of value of improvements. I am willing to purchase the improvements and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

I am, &c.,

JAMES BOADEN,

Moama.

To the Agent for the sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarea, 395 acres, being measured portion 86.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-13.)

Report of an inquiry held at Moama, on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of Annie Wedgwood, spinster, made at Moama, on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875, held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazeite of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts, bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase, were elicited in evidence, viz.:—

Her agent admits abandonment, as stated in her letter of 7th March last.

Licensed surveyor values improvements, £480 10s., on 480½ acres.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 480½.—Letter from claimant intimating abandonment of conditional purchase is with proceedings; also one from her agent waiving claim to usual seven days' notice. Presuming such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 22/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. Annie Wedgwood informed, 9th May, 1883.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Miss Annie Wedgwood, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last at Moama, as conditional purchase 82-13, to advise you that she is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of her residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & Co.

Annie Wedgwood.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states: I am agent for Annie Wedgwood, who selected on 12th January, 1882, 480½ acres, county Cadell, parish Tataila, which I am now authorized to state she has abandoned, as notified in her letter of 7th March last.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this 4th }
November, 1882, before me,— }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Miss A. Wedgwood to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

Moama, 7 March, 1882.

I beg most respectfully to state that I have abandoned my claim to the selection or conditional purchase which I made at Moama on the 12th January; the area I applied for was 480½ acres, being surveyed lot No. 115, parish Tataila, county Cadell.

I remain, &c.,

ANNIE WEDGWOOD.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—W.B., 30/10/82.

Miss

Miss A. Wedgwood to the Crown Lands Agent, Moama.

Sir,

Moama, 12 January, 1882.

I respectfully request that you will allow me to withdraw the application made by me this day, on the grounds that, as I did not succeed in obtaining the whole of the area applied for, viz., portions Nos. 115 and 116, the former portion is not sufficient to meet my requirements. Parish Tataila, county Cadell, portions Nos. 115 and 116, 620 acres.

I am, &c.,

ANNIE WEDGWOOD.

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

Portion 115, parish Tataila, county Cadell, of 480½ acres, formed part of the Murray River forest reserve No. 1,794, notified the 18th August, 1871, part of which including the above portion was cancelled on the 12th December, 1881.

During the currency of this reserve, portion 115 was improved as follows by the lessees of the Run:—Tank, £267, excavated November, 1877; fencing, £103 10s., erected in February, 1878; clearing, £110, effected in July, 1877: total, £480 10s.

The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has been applied for (by this application) as a conditional purchase under the 12th section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act.

Applicant having paid 10 per cent. on the supposed value of improvements, further steps should now perhaps be taken in regard to the appraisement, unless it be considered that she is entitled to the refund asked for, and for the reason stated in the accompanying letter; also, for report of Conditional Purchase Inspector.—CHAS. ED. FISCH, for Surveyor-General, 15th August, 1882.

As the full area conditionally purchased is not available, the request of the applicant for the refund of the deposit is in accordance with law, and is submitted for approval.—A.O.M., 25/9/82. Approved.—JOHN R.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13]

District of Moama.

No. 13 of 1882.

Application by Annie Wedgwood for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 480½ acres unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £120 2s. 6d., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock; also, £48 1s., being one tenth of supposed value of improvements under Act of 1880.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 480 acres 2 roods; and I herewith tender the sum of £203 1s., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum of the value of improvements.

I am willing to purchase the improvements and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisement.

I am, &c.,

ANNIE WEDGWOOD,

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Tataila, 480½ acres, being measured portion No. 115.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-14.)

REPORT of an inquiry held at Moama, on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of John Slocombe, jun., made at Moama, on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz.:—His agent admits abandonment of this land by the selector, as stated in his letter of 15 February last.

Licensed surveyor values improvements, £306 10s. on 306½ acres.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 306.—Letter intimating abandonment of conditional purchase from claimant is with proceedings; also, one from claimant's agent, waiving claim to usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 22/4/83.

For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. J. Slocombe, jun., informed, 9th May, 1883.

[Enclosures]

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. John Slocombe, jun., who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last, at Moama, as conditional purchase 82-14, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

John Slocombe, jun.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states: I am agent for John Slocombe, jun., who selected on 12th January, 1882, 306½ acres, county Cadell, parish Tataila, which he has now abandoned, as notified in his letter of 15th February, 1882, and as I am now authorized to state.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this 4th }
November, 1882, before me, }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. HOLMES, Commissioner.

Mr. J. Slocombe, jun., to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

Moama, 15 February, 1882.

On the 12th January, 1882, I applied at Moama for a conditional purchase of 306½ acres, parish of Tataila, county Cadell, surveyed, and measured portion No. 118. I have abandoned my claim to this land, and beg to inform you officially of same.

Yours, &c.,

JOHN SLOCOMBE, JUN.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—W.B., 30/10/82.

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

Portion No. 118, parish of Tataila, county Cadell, of 306½ acres, formed part of Reserve No. 95, notified the 18th February, 1863, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. Portion No. 118 also formed part of the Murray River Forest Reserve No. 1794, notified the 18th August, 1871, part of which, including the above portion, was cancelled the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of those reserves the following improvements were effected on the above portion by the lessees of the run:—Tank, and indifferently constructed dam, and protecting fence, £202, excavated in February, 1878; fencing, £40, erected February, 1878; clearing, £64: total improvements, £306 10s.

The above portion is therefore fully improved and has been applied for by this application as a conditional purchase (82-14), under the 12th section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act.

Applicant having paid 10 per cent. on the supposed value of the improvements, further steps should now perhaps be taken in regard to the appraisalment of same; also, for report of Conditional Purchase Inspector.—F.W.W., 26 July, 1882.

Approved.—JOHN R.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]
No. 14 of 1882.

District of Moama.

Application by John Slocombe, jun., for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 306 acres 3 roods, unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me with a deposit of £76 13s. 9d. this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock; also, £30 13s. 6d., one tenth of supposed value of improvements under Act of 1880.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 306 acres 3 roods; and I herewith tender the sum of £107 7s. 3d. being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum of the value of improvements. I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

I am, &c.,

JOHN SLOCOMBE, JUN.,

Moama.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Tataila, 306 acres 3 roods, being measured portion No. 118.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-15.)

REPORT of an inquiry held at Moama on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of Duncan Leitch, made at Moama, on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz.:—

His agent admits the selector has abandoned this selection. Improvements, valued at £542 5s., on tracing in August, 1879.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited. I have, &c.,
H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 542½.—Letter intimating abandonment of C.P. from claimant is with proceedings. Also, letter from agent of claimant waiving claim to usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 21/4/83.

For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Appd.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. D. Leitch informed, 9/5/83.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Duncan Leitch, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last, at Moama, as C.P. 82-15, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

Duncan Leitch.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states:—I am agent for Duncan Leitch, who selected, on 12th January, 1882, 542½ acres, county of Cadell, parish of Tataila, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in his letter of 7th March last.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this 4th day of {

November, 1882, before me,—

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

G. H. HOLMES.

Mr. D. Leitch to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

Moama, 7 March, 1882.

With reference to the selection of land containing 542 acres 2 roods, and which I entered an application for at the Crown Lands Office, Moama, on the 12th January ultimo, I have the honor to state I have abandoned the same. Measured portion 120, parish of Tataila, county of Cadell.

I am, &c.,

DUNCAN LEITCH.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—W.B., 30/10/82.

Mr. D. Leitch to the Crown Lands Agent, Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application, lodged this day.

D. LEITCH.

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

Portion 120, parish Tataila, county Cadell, of 542½ acres, formed part of reserve No. 95, notified 18th February, 1863; it also formed part of the Murray River forest reserve No. 1,794, notified 18th August, 1871. The parts of the above reserves included within portion 120 were cancelled on the 12th December, 1881.

During the currency of these reserves the following improvements were effected on portion 120:—Tank, worth £363, excavated in January, 1878; clearing, £126, effected in November, 1877; fencing, £53, 5s., erected in February, 1878. Total, £512 5s.

The above portion is fully improved, and has been applied for (by this application) as a conditional purchase, under the 12th section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act.

It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action with regard to the appraisalment of the improvements be at once taken; also, for report of C.P. Inspector.—CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor-General, 15th August, 1882. Approved—JOHN R.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

No. 15, of 1882.

District of Moama.

Application by Duncan Leitch for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 542 acres 2 roods unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £135 12s. 6d., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock; also, £54 5s., being one tenth of supposed value of improvements under Act of 1882.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

12 January, 1882.

Sir,

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 542 acres 2 roods; and I herewith tender the sum of £135 12s. 6d., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, 10 per centum of proportion of value of improvements. I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

I am, &c.,

DUNCAN LEITCH,

Moama.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Tataila, 542½ acres, being portion No. 120.

Mr.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-16.)

REPORT of an Inquiry held at Moama on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of Frederick St. George, made at Moama on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts, bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase, were elicited in evidence, viz.:—His agent admits abandonment of this land as stated in selector's letter of 16th March last.

Licensed Surveyor valued improvements, £526 on 526 acres in January, 1879.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 526.—Letter intimating abandonment of conditional purchase from claimant is with proceedings. Also one from his agent, waiving claim to usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry. Presuming that case is properly before Court, and that notice can be dispensed with, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 22/4/83.

For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83.

Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83.

F. St. George infd., 9/5/83.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Frederick St. George, who applied for a conditional purchase at Moama on the 12th January last, as conditional purchase 82-16, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

F. St. George.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states:—I am agent for Frederick St. George, who selected, on 12th January, 1882, 526 acres, county Cadell, parish Wamboota, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as he states in his letter of 16th March last.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this 4th }
November, 1882, before me,— }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Mr. F. St. George to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

Moama, 16 March, 1882.

I beg most respectfully to notify to you, as Chief Commissioner of Conditional Purchases, that I have abandoned the selection of land composed of measured portion 50 (526 acres), parish Wamboota, county Cadell, and which I applied for at Moama Land Office on the 12th January last.

I have, &c.,

FREDERICK ST. GEORGE.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—W.B., 30/10/82.

Mr. F. St. George to The Crown Lands Agent at Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

FREDERICK ST. GEORGE.

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

Portion 50, parish Wamboota, county Cadell, of 526 acres, formed part of reserve 92A, notified the 22nd December, 1865, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of reserve 92A, the following improvements were effected on this portion by the lessees of the run:—Fencing, £150, erected in February, 1878; tank and fence, £376 (tank excavated in December, 1877); total improvements, £526.

The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has been applied for by this application as a conditional purchase (82-16), under the 12th Section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act.

It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action with regard to the appraisal of the improvements be now proceeded with; also, for report of Conditional Purchase Inspector.—CHAS. ED. FISCH, for Surveyor-General, 15th August, 1882.

Approved.—JOHN R.

SS5—B

C.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. 16 of 1882.

Application by Frederick St. George for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 526 acres unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £131 10s., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 11.30 o'clock; also, £52 12s., being one tenth of supposed value of improvements under Act of 1880.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 526 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £184 2s., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum of value of improvements. I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisement.

I am, &c.,

FREDERICK ST. GEORGE,

Moama.

To the Agents for the sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Wamboota, 526 acres, being measured portion No. 50.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P., No. 82-17.)

REPORT of an inquiry held at Moama, on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of Thomas Norman, made at Moama, on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz.:—His agent admits the selector has abandoned this land, as stated in the letter of 31st October last.

No tracing or surveyor's report.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 320.—Letter of abandonment bearing same signature as application, viz. Thomas Norman is with proceedings. Letter herewith from Norman's agent waiving claim to the usual seven days' notice. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before court, agent of claimant gives evidence of abandonment, and it is submitted conditional purchase be brought forward for forfeiture.—W.B., 21/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved J.S.F., 3/5/83. Thos. Norman informed, 9th May, 1883.

Mr. T. Norman to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

13 March, 1882.

I desire to acquaint you that I have abandoned the selection of 320 acres applied for by me at Moama on January the 12th, 1882.

The land referred to is measured portion 20, parish Tamar, county Cadell, Moama district.

I am, &c.,

THOMAS NORMAN.

Minutes on above.

Portion 20, parish Tamar, county Cadell, of 320 acres, formed part of reserve 92A extension, notified 10th January, 1873, and which reserve was cancelled on the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of this reserve, and since July 1876, fencing to the value of £120 was placed on the above portion.

In view of the above it is submitted whether conditional purchase application 82-17 for portion 20, taken up at Moama, on 12th January 1882, be declared void in accordance with recent decision (Supreme Court) in Bernholt's case, the only circumstance to distinguish the present case from that mentioned being that the improvements were effected during the currency of the reserve.

Clause 12 Act of 1880 does not apply to this case, the improvements being less than £1 per acre.

The improvements mentioned cannot be embraced in a measurement of 40 acres or upwards, according to Regulations to contain a pound's worth to the acre.

By memo. attached to the application, applicant requested to be allowed to withdraw his conditional purchase.—CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor General, 24/3/82.

Conditional Sales Branch, Lands.—The applicant having given notice of abandonment, the above question does not, it is submitted, arise.—For Commissioner.—A.O.M., 9/10/82. Approved.—JOHN R.

[Enclosures.]

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Thomas Norman, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last at Moama, as conditional purchase No. 82-17, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

Thomas Norman.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states: I am agent for Thomas Norman, who selected on 12th January, 1882, 320 acres, county Cadell, parish Tamar, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in the letter of his agents, H. H. Brown & Co., of 31st October last.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this 4th }
November, 1882, before me,— }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

Sydney, 31 October, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Thomas Norman, to advise you that he has abandoned the selection applied for by him on 12th January, 1882, at Moama, No. 82-17, being 320 acres, county Cadell, parish Tamar.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner, 31/10/82.

Mr. T. Norman to The Crown Land Agent, Moama.

Sir,

Moama, 12 January, 1882.

I request that you will be pleased to allow me to withdraw the application for conditional purchase lodged by me with you this day.

Witness:—G. H. HOLMES.

THOMAS NORMAN.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. 17 of 1882.

Application by Thomas Norman, for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 320 acres, unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £80, this 12th day of January, 1882, at 11:30 o'clock. Also, £12 on account of improvements made under section 12, Act of 1880.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 320 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £92, being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum value of improvements.

I am, &c.,

THOMAS NORMAN,

Moama.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Tamar, 320 acres, being measured portion No. 20. I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

D.

[Alienation Act.]

(C. P. No. 82-18, Moama.)

Declaration of Conditional Purchaser under the 18th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

I, JAMES MCKINDLAY, JUN., of Wamboona, do solemnly and sincerely declare, that I am the lawful owner, by conditional purchase, under the 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, of the land hereunder described, and that improvements consisting of fencing, house, tank, clearing, and to the value of £200, have been made on such land; and I declare further, that the said land has been the *bona fide* residence, continuously, of myself from the period of selection and first occupation to the present date. And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the more effectual abolition of oaths and affirmations taken and made in various departments of the Government of New South Wales and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial oaths and affidavits."

Taken and declared at Moama, this 18th }
day of March, 1885, before me,— }

JAMES MCKINDLAY, JUN.

LESTER S. DONALDSON, J.P.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarca, 280 acres, at Benarca, being conditional purchase No. 18, of 1882, in the district of Moama, now Deniliquin, made on the 12th January, 1882.

Mr.

Mr. C.-P. Inspector Carne to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. 82-18, section 83, portion 83.)

REPORT by T. B. Carne, Inspector of Conditional Purchases, respecting the Selection of James McKindlay, made at Deniliquin, on 12th January, 1882.

Sir,

Deniliquin, 1 February, 1885.

I have the honor to report that I visited and inspected the above-described conditional purchase, on the 3rd January, 1885, and that I found the selector then resident upon his selection.

The land, which consists of forest, and comprises 280 acres, is occupied and used by the selector as grazing land; and the selector, who follows the avocation of grazier, had at the time of my visit made the improvements hereunder particularly described, the value of which I estimate at the sums respectively stated, viz. :—

Half small hut	...	...	...	...	...	£4 0 0
100 chains fence, part wire and part chock and log	...	...	...	...	...	68 15 0
						£72 15 0

From the appearance of the land, and the circumstances stated in the following remarks, I am of opinion that the selector has been continuously resident upon the selection.

Resident. The improvements enumerated were erected by applicant since selection; no part of them were on the land previously.

I have, &c.,

T. B. CARNE.

Copy of Memos. attached to Conditional Purchase Application.

Mr. J. McKindlay to the Crown Lands Agent at Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

JAMES M'KINDLAY.

19 January, 1882.

Wish to hold the land, withdrawn through intimidation.

JAMES M'KINDLAY.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 12.]

District of Moama.

No. 18 of 1882.

Application by James McKindlay for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 280 acres, improved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £70, this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock; also, £33 6s. on account of improvements under section 12, Act of 1880.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1880, the portion of improved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 280 acres. And I herewith tender the sum of £70, being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply; also, the sum of £31 13s. 4d., being a deposit of 10 per cent. upon the supposed value of improvements. And I hereby agree to pay the balance in accordance with the 12th section of the Lands Act of 1880.

I am, &c.,

JAMES M'KINDLAY,

20 years of age,

Wamboota.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarea, 280 acres—measured portion No. 83, containing 280 acres.

D.

[Alienation Act.]

(C.P. No. 82-19, Moama.)

Declaration of Conditional Purchaser under the 18th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

I, Neil McKindlay, of Wamboota, do solemnly and sincerely declare, that I am the lawful owner, by conditional purchase, under the 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, of the land hereunder described, and that improvements consisting of fencing, house, tanks, clearing, and to the value of £400, have been made on such land; and I declare further, that the said land has been the *bona fide* residence, continuously, of myself, from the period of selection and first occupation to the present date. And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the more effectual abolition of oaths and affirmations taken and made in various departments of the Government of New South Wales and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial oaths and affidavits."

Taken and declared, at Moama, this 20th }
day of March, 1885, before me.— }

NEIL M'KINDLAY.

LESTER S. DONALDSON, J.P.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Mars, 480 acres, being conditional purchase No. 19 of 1882, in the district of Moama (now Deniliquin), made on the 12th January, 1882.

Mr.

Mr. C.-P. Inspector Carne to the Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. 82/19, section 13, portion 101.)

REPORT by T. B. Carne, Inspector of Conditional Purchases, respecting the Selection of Neil M'Kindlay, made at Deniliquin, on 12th January, 1882.

Sir,

Deniliquin, 1 February, 1885.

I have the honor to report that I visited and inspected the above-described conditional purchase on the 3rd January, 1885, and that I found the selector then resident upon his selection.

The land, which consists of plain and forest, and comprises 480 acres, is occupied and used by the selector as grazing land; and the selector, who follows the avocation of grazier, had at the time of my visit made the improvements hereunder particularly described, the value of which I estimate at the sums respectively stated, viz. :—

Half small hut	...	...	...	...	...	£4	0	0
110 chains fence. part wire and part chock and log	...	...	...	...	...	68	15	0
Sheep yards	...	...	...	...	...	12	0	0
							<hr/>	
							£84	
							15	
							0	

From the appearance of the land and the circumstances stated in the following remarks, I am of opinion that the selector has been continuously resident upon the selection.

Resident. The improvements enumerated were erected by applicant.

I have, &c.,
T. B. CARNE.

D.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. 19 of 1882.

Application by Neil M'Kindlay for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 480 acres, unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £120, this 12th day of January, 1882, at 12:30 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1862, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 480 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £120, being a deposit at the rate of
per acre on the area for which I apply.

I am, &c.,
NEIL M'KINDLAY,

Moama.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Mars, measured portion No. 101.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-20.)

REPORT of an inquiry held at Moama, on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of John Quilliam, made at Moama on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875" held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry was by agent present thereat.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz.:—His agent admits the selector has abandoned this land as stated in his letter of 15th June last. Licensed surveyor values improvements £573 in March last.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,
H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 573.—Letter intimating abandonment of conditional purchase from claimant is with proceedings; also, one from his agent, waiving claim to usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 21/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. J. Quilliam informed 9th May, 1883.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been requested by our client, Mr. John Quilliam, who applied on the 12th January last, at Moama, for a conditional purchase, as conditional purchase No. 82-20, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,
H. H. BROWN & Co.
J.

J. Quilliam.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states: I am agent for John Quilliam, who selected on 12th January, 1882, 573 acres, county of Cadell, Parish of Benarea, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in his letter of 15th June last.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this 4th }
November, 1882, before me,— }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Mr. J. Quilliam to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

I have the honor to state that I have abandoned the conditional purchase of 573 acres, made by me at Moama on 12th January last, and known as surveyed portion 94, parish of Benarea.

Moama, 15 June, 1882.

I remain, &c.,

JOHN QUILLIAM.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—W.B., 30/10/82.

Mr. J. Quilliam to the Crown Lands Agent at Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application made this day.

JOHN QUILLIAM.

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

Portion 94, parish of Benarea, county of Cadell, of 573 acres, formed part of reserve 94A, notified the 22nd December, 1865, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of reserve 94A portion 94 was improved by the lessees as follows:—Fencing, £183, erected in 1877; tank, £390, excavated in September, 1877: total, £573. The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has been applied for by this application, as a conditional purchase under the 12th section of the Lands Acts further Amendment Act.

It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action with regard to the appraisal of the improvements be at once taken; also, for report of Conditional Purchase Inspector.—CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor-General, 15th August, 1882.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. 20 of 1882.

Application by John Quilliam, a minor, 19 years of age, for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 573 acres, unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £143 5s., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock; also, £57 6s. on account of improvements under section 12, Act of 1880.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 573 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £143 5s. being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply; also, 10 per cent. of improvements making a total of £200 11s.

I am, &c.,

JOHN QUILLIAM,

Altcar, near Moama.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama,

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarea, 573 acres, block 94 (ninety four).

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P., No. 82-21.)

REPORT of an inquiry held at Moama, on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of Albert Quilliam, made at Moama, on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry was by agent present thereat.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz:—

The agent admits the selector has abandoned this land, as stated in his letter of 15th March last.

Licensed surveyor values improvements, £602 on 600 acres in March last.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 600.—Letter from claimant intimating abandonment of conditional purchase is with proceedings; also, one from his agent waiving claim to usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court; claimants' agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture. W.B.—21/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved, J.S.P., 3/5/83. A. Quilliam informed, 9 May, 1883.

[Enclosures.]

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown, & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been requested by our client, Mr. Albert Quilliam, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last, at Moama, as conditional purchase 82-21, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. Brown, & Co.

Albert Quilliam.

GEORGE Henry Holmes, sworn, states : I am agent for Albert Quilliam, who selected on 12th January, 1882, 600 acres, county Cadell, parish Benarca, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in his letter of 15th June last.

Taken and sworn at Moama this 4th }
November, 1882, before me,— }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Mr. Albert Quilliam to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

15 June, 1882.

I beg respectfully to inform you that I have abandoned the selection made by me at Moama on the 12th January last, comprising 600 acres, in the parish of Benarca (surveyed portion 89), county Cadell.

Yours, &c.,

ALBERT QUILLIAM.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—W.B., 30/10/82.

Mr. Albert Quilliam to the Crown Lands Agent, Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application made this day.

I have, &c.,

ALBERT QUILLIAM.

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

Portion 89, parish of Benarca, county Cadell, of 600 acres, formed part of reserve 94A, notified the 22nd December, 1865, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of reserve 94A, portion 89 was improved by the lessees as follows :—Fencing, £190, erected in January, 1879; tank, £192, excavated in February, 1879; ringing and clearing, £220, effected in January, 1879; total, £602. The above portion is therefore fully improved and has been applied for (by this application) as a conditional purchase under the 12th section of the Lands Acts further Amendment Act. It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action with regard to the appraisal of the improvements be now taken; also, for report of Conditional Purchase Inspector.—CHAS. ED. FRISCH, for Surveyor-General, 15 August, 1882. Approved, JOHN R.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. of 18 .

Application by Albert Quilliam, a minor, sixteen years of age, for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 600 acres, unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £150, this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock; also, £60 on account of improvements, under section 12, Act of 1880.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

12 January, 1882.

Sir,

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 600 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £150, being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply; also, 10 per cent. of improvements, making a total of £210.

I am, &c.,

ALBERT QUILLIAM,

Altcar, near Moama.

To the Agent for the sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarca, 600 acres, marked 89.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-27).

Report of an inquiry held at Moama, on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of Stephen Mappin, made at Moama on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was, by agent, present thereat.

The following facts, bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase, were elicited in evidence, viz. :—

His agent admits this land has been abandoned, as stated in selector's letter of 22 March last.

Licensed surveyor states, improvements are worth £505 in January, 1879.

I

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,
H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 505.—Letter intimating abandonment of conditional purchase from claimant is with proceedings; also one from his agent waiving claim to usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 21/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. Stephen Mappin informed, 9 May, 1883.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Stephen Mappin, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last, at Moama, as conditional purchase 82-27, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,
H. H. BROWN & CO.

S. Mappin.

GEORGE Henry Holmes, sworn, states:—I am agent for Stephen Mappin, who selected on 12 January, 1882, 505 acres, county Cadell, parish Tamar, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in his letter of 22 March last.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this 4th)
November, 1882, before me,— }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Mr. Stephen Mappin to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you of my having abandoned the conditional selection made by me at Moama, on the 12th January, viz.:—surveyed block 19, parish Tamar, Pericoota Run, county Cadell, as shown on Government plan 505 acres.

Moama, 22 March, 1882.

Yours, &c.,
STEPHEN MAPPIN.

Notice of abandonment for Commissioner.—W.B., 50/10/82.

Mr. Stephen Mappin to The Crown Lands Agent, Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

STEPHEN MAPPIN.

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

Portion 19, parish of Tamar, county Cadell, of 505 acres, formed part of reserve 92A extension, notified the 10th January, 1873, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of reserve 92A extension, the following improvements were effected on this portion by the lessees of the run:—Fencing, £148, erected in February, 1878; tank excavated in 1878, £332; ringed timber, £25, effected in February, 1878: total, £505. The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has been applied for (by this application) as a conditional purchase, under the 12th section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act.

It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action with regard to the appraisalment of the improvements be now proceeded with; also, for report of Conditional Purchase Inspector.—CHAS. ED. FINCH for Surveyor-General, 15 August, 1882. Approved.—JOHN R.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. 27 of 1882.

Application by Stephen Mappin, for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 505 acres unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £126 5s., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 11:30 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON.

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 505 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £176 15s., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum on value of improvements.

I am, &c.,

STEPHEN MAPPIN,
Moama.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Tamar. 505 acres, being measured portion No. 19. I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the value fixed by appraisalment.

Mr.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P., No. 82-28.)

Report of an inquiry held at Moama, on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of John Malone, made at Moama, on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present therent.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz.:—His agent admits the selector has abandoned this land. Licensed surveyor values improvements, £427 in January, 1879.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 426½.—Letter intimating abandonment of conditional purchase from claimant; also, letter from his agent waiving claim to usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry with proceedings. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 21/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Appd.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. Jno. Malone, informed, 9th May, 1883.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. John Malone, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last, at Moama, as conditional purchase No. 82-28, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any claim or right to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

J. Malone.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states: I am agent for John Malone, who selected on 12th January, 1882, 426½ acres, county Cadell, parish Tamar, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in his letter of 13th March last.

Taken and sworn, at Moama, this 4th }
November, 1882, before me,— }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Mr. John Malone to the Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

Moama, 13 March, 1882.

Having abandoned my selection of 426½ acres, in the parish of Tamar, and County Cadell, I beg to inform you of same (portion 21).

I applied for the land at Moama, on the 12th of January last.

I remain, &c.,

JOHN MALONE.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner, W.B.,—30/10/82.

Mr. John Malone to the Crown Lands Agent, Moama.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

12 January, 1882.

JOHN MALONE.

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

Portion 21, parish of Tamar, county Cadell, of 426½ acres, formed part of reserve 92A extension, notified the 10th January, 1873, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of reserve 92A extension, the following improvements were effected on this portion by the lessees of the run:—Fencing, £148, erected in February, 1873; tank, excavated December, 1877, and protecting fence, £279; total, £427. The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has been applied for (by this application) as a conditional purchase under the 12th section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act.

It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action with regard to the appraisal of the improvements be now proceeded with; also, for report of Conditional Purchase Inspector.—CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor-General, 15 August, 1882. Approved.—JOHN R.

C. [Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. 28, of 1882.

Application by John Malone, for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 426 acres 2 roods, unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £106 12s. 6d., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 11:30 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 426 acres 2 roods; and I herewith tender the sum of £149 6s. 6d., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum value of improvements.

I am, &c.,

JOHN MALONE,

Moama.

To the Agent for the sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Tamar, 426½ acres, being measured portion No. 21. I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to the Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-29.)

Report of an inquiry held at Moama on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of Bailey Ward, made at Moama on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz.:—

His agent admits abandonment, as stated in selector's letter of 10th March last. No report of improvements.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 443½.—Letter intimating abandonment of conditional purchase from claimant is with proceedings; also, one from claimant's agent waiving claim to usual seven days' notice, presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence of abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 22/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. B. Ward informed, 9/5/83.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Bailey Ward, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last, at Moama, as conditional purchase 82-29, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

I have, &c.

H. H. BROWN & CO.

Bailey Ward.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES sworn, states:—I am agent for Bailey Ward, who selected on 12th January, 1882, 443½ acres, county Cadell, parish Tamar, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in his letter of 10th March last,

Taken and sworn at Moama, this }
4th November, 1882, before me,— }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Mr. Bailey Ward to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

10 March, 1882.

I beg to state that I have abandoned portion 25, parish Tamar, county Cadell, containing 443½ acres, and which I applied for at Moama on the 12th January of the present year.

I am, &c.,

BAILEY WARD.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—31/10/82.

Mr. Bailey Ward to the Crown Lands Agent, Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

BAILEY WARD.

Copy

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

Portion 25, parish of Tamar, county Cadell, of 443 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, formed part of reserve 92A extension, notified the 10th January, 1873, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of reserve 92A extension, the following improvements were effected on this portion by the leasees of the run:—Fencing, £133, erected in February, 1878; tank and protecting fence, £223 (tank excavated in December, 1877); ringing timber, &c., £88, effected in the beginning of 1879: total, £444. The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has been applied for (by this application) as a conditional purchase, under the 12th section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act.

It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that action should probably be taken on the accompanying notice of abandonment.—F.W.W., 26th July, 1882.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. 29, of 1882.

Application by Bailey Ward for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 443 acres 3 roods, unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me with a deposit of £110 18s. 9d., this 12th day of January, 1882., at 11:30 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 443 acres 3 roods; and I herewith tender the sum of £155 6s. 9d., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and ten per centum of the value of improvements—£44 8s.

I am, &c.,

BAILEY WARD,
Moama.

To the Agent for the sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Tamar, 443 acres 3 roods, being measured portion No. 25. I am willing to purchase the improvements and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to the Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-30.)

REPORT of an inquiry held at Moama on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of William James Dalzell, made at Moama on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz.:—

His agent admits that the selector has abandoned these 462 acres, as stated in the letter of 26th October last.

Improvements by surveyor's tracing, valued at £462 in January, 1879.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 462.—Letter intimating abandonment of conditional purchase from agent of claimant is with proceedings, as also one waiving claim to the usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 21/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. W. J. Dalzell informed, 9th May, 1883.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Wm. J. Dalzell, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12 January last, at Moama, as conditional purchase 82-31, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & Co.

W. J. Dalzell.

W. J. Dalzell.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states: I am agent for William James Dalzell, who selected on 12th January, 1882, 462 acres, county Cadell, parish Wamboota, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in the letter of his agents, H. B. Brown & Co., of 26 October last.

Taken and sworn at Moama this 4th }
November, 1882, before me,— }
H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

G. H. HOLMES.

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to the Chief Commissioner.

Sir, 21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 26 October, 1882.
We are requested by our client, Mr. W. J. Dalzell, to advise you that he has abandoned the selection made by him at Moama on the 12th January last, for 462 acres, being portion 41, parish Wamboota, county Cadell.
We have, &c.,
H. H. BROWN & Co.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—W.B., 30/10/82.

Mr. W. J. Dalzell to the Crown Lands Agent.

January 12, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

W. J. DALZELL.

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

PORTION 41, parish of Wamboota, county Cadell, of 462 acres, formed part of reserve 92A, notified the 22nd December, 1865, and cancelled 12th December, 1881. During the currency of reserve 92A, the following improvements were effected on this portion by the lessees of the run:—Fencing, £184, erected in February 1878; tank and protecting fence, £258, (tank excavated in October 1877); ringed timber, £20, effected in November, 1878: total improvements, £462. The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has been applied for, by this application, as a conditional purchase (82-30) under the 12th section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act.

It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action with regard to the appraisalment of the improvements be now proceeded with; also, for report of Conditional Purchase Inspector.—CHAS. E. FINCH (for Surveyor General), 15/8/82. Approved JOHN R.

C

[Alienation Act, section 13.]
No. 30 of 1882.

District of Moama.

Application by William James Dalzell, for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 462 acres unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £115 10s., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 11:30 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,
Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.
I am desirous of purchasing without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 462 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £161 14s., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum value of improvements.
I have &c.,
W. J. DALZELL,

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Wamboota, 462 acres, being measured portion No. 41. I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay the amount fixed by appraisalment.

Mr Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Inspector.

(C.P. No. 82-31).

REPORT of an inquiry held at Moama, on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of William James Martin, made at Moama on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz.:—

His agent admits the selector has abandoned this land, as stated in the letter of 26th October last. Licensed surveyor reports improvements, £489, on 489 acres in January, 1879.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.
I have, &c.,
H. J. BOLDING.

Section 13, Ac 489.—Letter intimating abandonment of conditional purchase from agent of claimant, and also one waiving claim to usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry, with proceedings. Presuming

Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 21/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. W. J. Martin informed, 9th May, 1883.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21 Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Wm. Jas. Martin, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 20th January last, at Moama, as conditional purchase 82-31, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days. We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

W. J. Martin.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states: I am agent for William James Martin, who selected on 12th January, 1882, 489 acres, county Cadell, parish Wamboota, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in the letter of his agents, H. H. Brown & Co., 26th October last.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this }
4th November, 1882, before me,— }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

21 Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 26 October, 1882.

We are requested by our client, Mr. W. J. Martin, to advise you that he has abandoned the selection, made by him on the 12th January last, for 489 acres, being portion 42, parish Wamboota, county Cadell.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—W.B., 30/10/82.

Mr. W. J. Martin to the Crown Lands Agent, Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

W. J. MARTIN.

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

Portion 42, parish Wamboota, county Cadell, of 489 acres, formed part of reserve 92A, notified the 22nd December, 1865, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of reserve 92A the following improvements were effected on this portion by the lessees of the run:—Fencing, £156, erected in February, 1878; tank, dam, and protecting fence, £333 (tank excavated in November, 1877): total, £489. The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has been applied for, by this application, as a conditional purchase under the 12th section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act.

It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action with regard to the appraisalment of the improvements be now proceeded with; also, for report of Conditional Purchase Inspector.—CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor-General, 15 Aug., 1882. Approved.—JOHN R.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. 31, of 1882.

Application by William James Martin for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 489 acres unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £122 5s., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 11:30 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 489 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £171 3s., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum of the value of improvements, £48 18s.

I am, &c.,

W. J. MARTIN,

Moama.

To the Agent for the sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Wamboota, 489 acres, being measured portion No. 42. I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to the Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-33.)

REPORT of an inquiry held at Moama on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of Freeman Armitage, made at Moama, on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The

The claimant, having been only served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz:—

His agent, Holmes, admits in evidence that the selector has abandoned this land, as acknowledged in his letter of 18th March last.

The Licensed surveyor, on tracing, reports improvements worth £435 in January last—date of selection.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 434 $\frac{3}{4}$.—Letter of abandonment bearing signature of applicant is with proceedings; letter herewith from claimant's agent waiving claim to the usual seven days notice. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before the Court, claimant's agent gives evidence of abandonment. It is submitted conditional purchase is for forfeiture.—W.B., 21/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. F. Armitage informed, 9th May, 1883.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

Sir,

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Freeman Armitage, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last at Moama, as conditional purchase 82-33, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

Freeman Armitage.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states: I am agent of Freeman Armitage, who selected on 12th January, 1882, 434 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres, county Cadell, parish Wamboota, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in his letter of 18th March last.

Taken and sworn at Moama this 4th }
November, 1882, before me,— }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Mr. F. Armitage to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

18 March, 1882.

Please receive notice of my abandonment of the selection applied for by me at Moama on January the 12th, 1882, viz:—Surveyed portion No. 44, of 434 acres 3 roods, in the parish of Wambootah, and forming part of cancelled reserve 92, county Cadell.

I have, &c.,

F. ARMITAGE.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—W.B., 3/10/82.

Mr. F. Armitage to the Crown Lands Agent at Moama.

January 12, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

F. ARMITAGE.

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

Portion 44, parish of Wamboota, county of Cadell, 434 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres, formed part of reserves 92A and 92A extension, notified the 22nd December, 1865, and 10th January, 1873 respectively, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of these reserves the following improvements were effected on this portion by the lessees of the run:—Fencing £155, erected in February, 1878; tank and protecting fence, £280 (tank excavated in December, 1877): total, £435. The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has been applied for, by this application, under the 12th section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act. It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action with regard to the appraisalment of the improvements be now proceeded with; also, for report of Conditional Purchase Inspector.—CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor-General, 15 Aug., 1882. Approved.—JOHN R.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. 33 of 1882.

Application by Freeman Armitage for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 434 acres 3 roods, unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £108 13s. 9d., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 11:30 o'clock.

L. S. DONADSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 434 acres 3 roods; and I herewith tender the sum of £152 3s. 9d., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum value of improvements—£43 10s.

I am, &c.,

FREEMAN ARMITAGE,

41 High-street, West Prahran, Victoria.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Wamboota, 434 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres; being measured portion No. 44. I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

Mr.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82.-36.)

REPORT of an inquiry held at Moama on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of Denis Shanahan, made at Moama, on the 12th January, 1882. 13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts, bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase, were elicited in evidence viz.:—His agent admits abandonment by the selector, as stated in the letter of 26th October last.

Licensed surveyor values improvements, £567, on 498 acres.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 498.—Letter intimating abandonment of conditional purchase from agent of claimant, and also one waiving claim to usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry, with proceedings. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitttd for forfeiture.—W.B., 22/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., —1/5/83. Approved. J.S.F., 3/5/83. D. Shanahan informed, 9 May, 1883.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21 Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Denis Shanahan, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last, at Moama, as conditional purchase No. 82-36, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. Brown & Co.

Denis Shanahan.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states: I am agent for Denis Shanahan who selected on 12th January, 1882, 498 acres, county of Cadell, parish Benarca, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in the letter of his agents, H. H. Brown & Co., of 26th October last.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this }

G. H. HOLMES.

4th November, 1882, before me,— }

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to the Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 26 October, 1882.

We are requested by our client, Mr. D. Shanahan, to advise you that he has abandoned the selection made by him at Moama on the 12th January last, for 498 acres, being situate in the parish of Benarca, county Cadell.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & Co.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—W.B., 30/10/82.

Denis Shanahan to the Crown Lands Agent, Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

DENIS SHANAHAN.

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

Portions 57 and 59, parish of Benarca, county Cadell, of 401½ acres and 96½ acres respectively, formed part of reserve 94, notified the 18th February, 1863, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. Portions 57 and 59 also formed part of the Murray River Forest Reserve, No. 1,794, notified the 18th August, 1871, part of which including the above portions was cancelled on the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of these reserves the following improvements were effected on these portions by the lessees of the run:—On portion 57, tank and embankment, £270, constructed in November, 1877; another tank, £198, constructed in August, 1877; fence, £35, erected in 1877; clearing, £80, effected about the same time: total, £583. On portion 59, clearing, £19; portion 57 is fully improved, and portion 59 is improved to the value of £19. These portions have been applied for (by this application) as a conditional purchase under the 12th Section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act.

It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action with regard to the appraisalment of the improvements be now proceeded with; also, for report of Conditional Purchase Inspector.—CHAS. ED. FLNCH, for Surveyor-General, 15 Aug., 1882. Approved, JOHN R.

C.

District of Moama. [Alienation Act, section 13.]
 Application by Denis Shanahan for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 498 acres unimproved Crown Land. No. 36 of 1882.

Received by me, with a deposit of £124 10s., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,
 Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir, 12 January, 1882.
 I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 498 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £164 13s. 6d., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum of the value of improvements, £40 3s. 6d. I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

D. SHANAHAN,
 To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama. Moama.

Description.
 County of Cadell, parish of Benarca, 498 acres, being measured portions No. 57 and 59.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to the Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-37.)

REPORT of an inquiry held at Moama, on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of Reuben Jenner, made at Moama, on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,
 I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts, bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase, were elicited in evidence, viz. :—

His agent admits the selector has abandoned these 451 acres, as stated in his letter of 10th March last. Improvements reported on licensed surveyor's tracing, worth £451 in August, 1879.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited. I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 451.—Letter intimating abandonment of conditional purchase from claimant is with proceedings; also, letter from claimant's agent waiving claim to usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B. 21/4/83. For forfeiture. A.O.M. 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F. 3/5/83. R. Jenner informed, 9 May, 1883.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir, 21 Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.
 We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Reuben Jenner, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last, at Moama, as conditional purchase No. 82-37, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

Reuben Jenner.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states :—I am agent of Reuben Jenner, who selected on 12th January, 1882, 451 acres, county of Cadell, parish of Benarca, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in his letter of 10th March last.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this 4th }
 November, 1882, before me,— }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Mr. Reuben Jenner to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir, Moama, 10 March, 1882.
 I have the honor to advise you of my having abandoned the selection I applied for at Moama, on the 12th January last, and which contained 451 acres, in the parish of Benarca, block 58, county Cadell. I am, &c.,

REUBEN JENNER.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—W.B., 30/10/82.

Mr. Reuben Jenner to the Crown Lands Agent, Moama.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

12 January, 1882.

REUBEN JENNER.

Copy

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

Portion 58, parish of Benarca, county Cadell, of 451 acres, formed part of reserve No. 94, notified the 18th February, 1863, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. Portion 58 also formed part of the Murray River Forest Reserve, notified the 18th August, 1871, part of which including the above portions was cancelled on the 12th December, 1881.

During the currency of these reserves the following improvements were effected on this portion:—Tank, £256, constructed in August, 1877; fencing, £139, erected in 1877; clearing, £56, effected July, 1877: total, £451. The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has been applied for (by this application) as a conditional purchase under the 12th section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act. It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action with regard to the appraisalment of the improvements be now proceeded with; also, for Conditional Purchase Inspector's report; tracing herewith.—CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor-General, 15th August, 1882. Approved.—JOHN R.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. 37, of 1882.

Application by Reuben Jenner, for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 451 acres, unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £112 15s. this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Lands hereunder described, containing 451 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £157 17s., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum value of the improvements.

I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

I am, &c.,

REUBEN JENNER,

Moama.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarca, 451 acres, being measured portion No. 58.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-38.)

REPORT of an inquiry held at Moama on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the conditional purchase of John Mitchell, made at Moama on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts, bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase, were elicited in evidence, viz.:—His agent admits this land is abandoned, as stated in the selector's letter of 23rd February last.

Licensed surveyor values improvements, £639 on 639 acres in March, 1879.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 639.—Letter intimating abandonment of conditional purchase from claimant is with proceedings; also, one from his agent waiving claim to usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before the Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 21/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. Jno. Mitchell informed, 9th May, 1883.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. John Mitchell, who applied for a conditional purchase on 12th January last, at Moama, as conditional purchase 82-38, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

J. Mitchell.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states:—I am agent for John Mitchell, who selected on 12th January, 1882, 639 acres, county Cadell, parish Benarca, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in his letter of 23rd February last.

Taken and sworn, at Moama, this 4th }
November, 1882, before me,— }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

885—D

Mr.

Mr. John Mitchell to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

Moama, 23 February, 1882.

On the 12th January, 1882, I applied for 639 acres of Crown Land at the Moama office, in the county of Cadell, parish of Benarca, surveyed allotment 85, Pericoota run. I take this opportunity of writing to say that I have decided to give up and abandon any interest I have in the same.

I remain, &c.,

JOHN MITCHELL.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—W.B., 31/10/82.

Mr. John Mitchell to the Crown Lands Agent at Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

JOHN MITCHELL.

Copy of Minutes on Conditional Purchase Application.

Portion 85, parish of Benarca, county Cadell, of 639 acres, formed part of reserve No. 93A, notified the 22nd December, 1865, and cancelled the 1st August, 1881. Portion 85 also formed part of reserve 2,846, notified the 24th August, 1881, part of which, including the above portion, was cancelled on the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of reserve 93A, portion 85 was improved by the lessees as follows:—Fencing, £102, erected in 1874 and 1878; tank, £358, excavated in December, 1877; ring-barking and clearing, £179, effected in March, 1878: total, £639.

The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has been applied for (by this application) as a conditional purchase under the 12th section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act.

It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that the remaining necessary action in regard to the appraisalment of the improvements be now taken; also, for report of Conditional Purchase Inspector.—CHAS. ED. FISCH, for Surveyor-General, 15 August, 1882. Approved.—JOHN R.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

No. 38, of 1882.

District of Moama.

Application by John Mitchell for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 639 acres unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £159 15s., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 639 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £223 13s., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum of value of improvements.

I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

I have, &c.,

JOHN MITCHELL,

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarca, 639 acres, being measured portion No. 85.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to The Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-89.)

REPORT of an inquiry held at Moama on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of Isaac Harris, made at Moama, on the 12th January, 1882. 13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister of Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz.:—

His agent admits the selector has abandoned this selection. No surveyor's tracing or report.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 507½.—Letter intimating abandonment of the C.P., bearing the same signature as application, is with the proceedings; also, letter from claimant's agent waiving claim to usual seven days' notice to attend inquiry. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 21/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Appd.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. Isaac Harris infd., 9th May, 1883.

[Enclosures.]

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Isaac Harris, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last, at Moama, as C.P. No. 82-39, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

Isaac Harris.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states: I am agent for Isaac Harris, who selected, on 12th January, 1882, 507½ acres, county of Cadell, parish of Benarca, which, I am now authorized to state, he has abandoned, as notified in his letter of 12th March last.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this 4th }
November, 1882, before me,—

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Mr. Isaac Harris to The Chief Commissioner.

Dear Sir,

12 March, 1882.

I beg to inform your Department that I have abandoned my claim to the conditional purchase I took up at Moama on 12th January last, which conditional purchase contains 507 acres 3 roods, situated on cancelled reserve 93, and may otherwise be described as surveyed block No. 88, in the parish of Benarca, and county of Cadell.

I remain, &c.,

ISAAC HARRIS.

Minutes on above.

Portion 88, parish of Benarca, County Cadell, of 507½ acres, formed part of reserve 93A, notified 22nd December, 1865, and cancelled the 1st August, 1881. Portion 88 also formed part of reserve 2,846, notified the 24th August, 1881, part of which, including the above portion, was cancelled on the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of reserve 93A the following improvements were effected by the lessees on this portion:—Fencing, £160, erected in November, 1877, and March, 1878; tank, £200, excavated in September, 1877; ringing and clearing, £151, effected in March, 1878; total, £511. The above portion is therefore, fully improved, and has been applied for, by C.P. application 82-39, under the 12th sec. of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act.

It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that action should probably be taken on this notice of abandonment.—F.W.W., 26/7/82. CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor-General, 8/9/82. Notice of abandonment for Commissioner, 31/10/82.

Mr. Isaac Harris to the Crown Lands Agent at Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application, lodged with you this day.

ISAAC HARRIS.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.

No. 39, of 1882.

District of Moama.

Application by Isaac Harris for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 507 acres 3 roods unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £126 18s. 9d., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 507 acres 3 roods; and I herewith tender the sum of £177 14s. 3d., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum of value of improvements, £50 15s. 6d. I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

ISAAC HARRIS,

Moama.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarca, 507½ acres, being measured portion No. 88.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to the Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-41.)

REPORT of an Inquiry held at Moama, on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the conditional purchase of William Wilson, made at Moama, on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz.:—

His agent admits abandonment, as stated in selector's letter of 12th March last.

No report of improvements.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 455½.—Letter intimating abandonment of conditional purchase from claimant is with proceedings; also, one from his agent waiving claim to usual seven days notice to attend inquiry. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives testimony as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 22/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. William Wilson informed, 9th May, /83.

[Enclosures.]

William Wilson.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES sworn, states:—I am agent for William Wilson, who selected on 12th January, 1882, 453½ acres, county Cadell, parish Benarca, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned as notified in his letter of 12th March last.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this 4th }
November, 1882, before me,— }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21 Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Wm. Wilson, who applied for a conditional purchase on 12th January last at Moama, as C.P. No. 82-41, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

Mr. William Wilson to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

12 March, 1882.

I have the honor to state that I have finally abandoned the conditional purchase of 455½ acres, selected by me at the Crown Lands Office, Moama, on the 12th January ult.

The above land is the north and east part of block No. 93, and 34½ acres adjacent on the west, county of Cadell, parish of Benarca.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM WILSON.

Minutes on above.

Portion 93, parish of Benarca, county Cadell, of 420½ acres, formed part of reserve 94A, notified the 22nd December, 1865, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of reserve 94A, the following improvements were effected on this portion:—Two tanks, one excavated in November, 1877, value £182, the other commenced in 1877 and finished in 1879, value £239; fencing worth about £113: total, £543. Previous to the notification of the reserve 94A, sheep yards of the value of £34 were erected on this portion. The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has along with portion 75, parish of Benarca, of 32½ acres been applied for, by conditional purchase application 82-41, under the 12th section of the Lands Act Further Amendment Act. It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that action should probably be taken on this notice of abandonment.—F.W.W., 26/7/82. CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor-General, 8/9/82. Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner, 31/10/82.

Mr. William Wilson to the Crown Lands Agent at Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application lodged this day.

WILLIAM WILSON.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. 41 of 1882.

Application by William Wilson, for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 455 acres 2 roods, of unimproved Crown Lands.

Received by me, with a deposit of £113 17s. 6d., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 455 acres 2 roods; and I herewith tender the sum of £177 17s. 6d., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum value of the improvements, £64.

I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

I am, &c.,

WILLIAM WILSON,

Moama.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarca, 455 acres 2 roods, being that portion of measured portion No. 93 not reserved from lease, and 34½ acres to the west, and known as portion No. 78.

Mr.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to the Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-42.)

REPORT of an Inquiry held at Moama, on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the South-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of Patrick Condon, made at Moama, on the 12th January, 1882. 13 Dec.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase were elicited in evidence, viz.:—His agent admits these 409 acres have been abandoned, as stated in the letter of 12th March last.

No report from licensed surveyor.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13, Ac. 409.—Letter of abandonment from claimant is with proceedings, as also one from claimant's agent, waiving claim to the usual 7 days' notice to attend inquiry. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before court, claimant's agent gives evidence of abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 21/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. Patk. Condon infd., 9 May, 1883.

[Enclosures.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,

21 Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.

We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Patrick Condon, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last, at Moama, as conditional purchase No. 82-42, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

Mr. Patrick Condon to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

12 March, 1882.

Having selected the following Crown Lands, I have elected to abandon the area included in my application dated at Moama, the 12th January last, county of Cadell, parish Benarca, being measured portion 96 of 409 acres in cancelled reserve 94, Pericoota Run.

I have, &c.,

his
PATRICK × CONDON.
mark.

Minutes on above.

Portion 96, parish of Benarca, county Cadell, of 409 acres, formed part of reserve 94A, notified the 22nd December, 1865, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of reserve 94A the following improvements were effected by the lessees of the run on this portion:—Fencing, £84, erected in January, 1878; tank and dam, £225, excavated in August, 1877; sheep yards, £100, erected in January, 1878: total, 409. The above portion is therefore fully improved, and has been applied for as a conditional purchase (82-42) under the 12th section of the Lands Act Further Amendment Act. It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that action should probably be taken on this notice of abandonment.—F.W.W., 26 July, 1882. CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor-General, 8 Sep., 1882. Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner, 31/10/82.

[Enclosures.]

Patrick Condon.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states: I am agent for Patrick Condon, who selected on 12th January, 1882, 409 acres, co. Cadell, parish Benarca, which I am now authorised to state he has abandoned, as notified in his letter of 12th March last.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this 4th }
November, 1882, before me,— }

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Mr. Patrick Condon to the Crown Lands Agent, Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I request that you will be pleased to allow me to withdraw the application for conditional purchase lodged by me with you this day.

his
PATRICK × CONDON.
mark.

Witness—G. H. HOLMES.

C.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]
No. 42 of 1882.

District of Moama.

Application by Patrick Condon for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 409 acres unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £102 5s., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,
Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

I am desirous of purchasing without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 409 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £143 3s., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum value of the improvements, £40 18s.

I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisement.

I am, &c.,
PATRICK X CONDON.
his mark.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarca, 409 acres, being measured portion No. 96.

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

21 Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 30 October, 1882.

We have the honor, on behalf of our client Mr. William Dean, to apply for a refund of deposit on the conditional purchase taken up by him at Moama, on the 12th January last, for 287½ acres, as conditional purchase 82-40, and we would also respectfully request that you will grant a refund at the same time of £20 12s., being the amount paid by our client as 10 per cent. deposit on supposed value of improvements.

This refund is applied for on the grounds that, as the land was not improved to 20s. per acre, it did not come within the meaning of the 12th clause of the Act of 1880.

We have, &c.,
H. H. BROWN & CO.

Copy of Minutes on back of Application.

By attached memo. applicant desires to withdraw this application.

Portion No. 90, parish Benarca, county Cadell, of 287½ acres, formed part of reserve No. 94A, notified 22nd December, 1865, and cancelled 12th December, 1881.

During the currency of reserve No. 94A, the following improvements were effected on this portion by the lessees of the run:—Fencing, £113, erected in 1878; ringing and clearing, £93, effected in March, 1879: total improvements, £206.

In view of the above, it is submitted whether this application (C.P. 82-40) be declared void in accordance with recent Supreme Court decision in Bernholt's case, the only circumstance to distinguish the present case from that mentioned, being that the improvements were effected during the currency of a reserve. Clause 12, Act of 1880, does not apply to this case, the improvements being worth less than £1 per acre.

The above-mentioned improvements cannot be embraced in a measurement of 40 acres or upwards according to Regulations, to contain a pound's worth to the acre.—CHAS. ED. FRICH, for the Surveyor-General, 24 August, 1882.

Void; the land not being open to conditional purchase as applied for.—A.O.M., 25/9/82.

Applicant (ps.), refund order; agent and Treasury informed, and 10 per cent. deposit refunded, 30th October, 1882.

Mr. W. Dean to the Crown Lands Agent, Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application, lodged this day.

W. DEAN.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]
No. 40, 1882.

District of Moama.

Application by William Dean, for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 287 acres 2 roods, unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £71 17s. 6d., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,
Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 287 acres 2 roods; and I herewith tender the sum of £92 9s. 6d., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum value of the improvements, £20 12s.

I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisement.

I am, &c.,
WILLIAM DEAN,
Moama.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarca, 287 acres 2 roods, being measured portion No. 90.

Messrs.

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

21 Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 30 October, 1882.

We have the honor, on behalf of our clients Messrs. Robertson & Wagner, the lessees of Pericoota Run, to respectfully request that you will cause the portion of land noted in the margin being refused conditional purchase of E. C. J. Franklyn, gazetted for auction sale at as early a date as possible.

County Cadell,
parish Wom-
boota. Portion
No. 43, 245½
acres.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

The portion was advertised for sale on 18th January last, at £1 8s. 8d. per acre, but withdrawn previous to sale.—R.M., 20/11/82. Mr. Rotton,—For auction at the previous upset price.—F.W.W., 28 November, 1882.

Mr. E. C. J. Franklyn to the Crown Lands Agent at Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application, lodged this day.

E. C. J. FRANKLYN.

Copy of Minutes on back of Conditional Purchase Application.

By attached Memo. applicant desires to withdraw this application.

Portion No. 43, parish of Wamboota, county, Cadell, of 245½ acres, formed part of Reserve No. 92A, notified the 22nd December, 1865, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of this reserve, and since July, 1876, fencing to the value of £45 was placed upon the above portion by the lessees.

In view of the above, it is submitted whether this application (C.P. 82-32) be declared void in accordance with recent Supreme Court decision in Bernholt's case, the only circumstance to distinguish the present case from that mentioned being that the improvements were effected during the currency of a reserve.

Clause 12, Act of 1880, does not apply to this case, the improvements being worth less than £1 per acre.

The above improvements cannot be embraced in a measurement of 40 acres or upwards according to Regulations, to contain a pound's worth to the acre.—CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor-General, 24th August, 1882. Void; the land not being open to conditional purchase as applied for.—A.O.M., 25/9/82. Applicant with refund order; agent and Treasury informed, 16 October, 1882.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

District of Moama.

No. 32 of 1882.

Application by Edmund Charles Jones Franklyn for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 245 acres 2 roods, unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £61 7s. 6d., this 12th day of January, 1882, at 11-30 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 245 acres 2 roods; and I herewith tender the sum of £65 17s. 6d., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum of the value of improvements, £4 10s.

I am, &c.,

EDMUND CHARLES JONES FRANKLYN,
Avoca Cottage, Bosisto-street, Richmond,
Victoria.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Wamboota, 245 acres 2 roods, being measured portion No. 43.

I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

Mr. Commissioner Bolding to the Chief Commissioner.

(C.P. No. 82-35.)

REPORT of an Inquiry held at Moama, on the 4th November, 1882, by H. J. Bolding, Commissioner for the south-western Division, respecting the Conditional Purchase of William Townsend, made at Moama on the 12th January, 1882.—13 Sec.

Sir,

4 November, 1882.

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Lands, minutes of evidence taken at an inquiry under the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875," held by me in pursuance of the reference notified in the Gazette of the 7th December, 1882, in the matter of the above-described conditional purchase.

The claimant, having been duly served with notice of the time and place of holding the inquiry, was by agent present thereat.

The following facts, bearing upon the fulfilment by the selector of the conditions of purchase, were elicited in evidence, viz:—His agent admits abandonment, as stated in the selector's letter of 12th March last.

No report of improvements.

I have therefore to report that I find such conditions not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.

I have, &c.,

H. J. BOLDING.

Sec. 13.

Sec. 13, Ac. 364.—Letter intimating abandonment of conditional purchase from claimant ; also, one from his agent, waiving claim to usual seven days' notice, with proceedings. Presuming that such notice can be dispensed with, and that case is properly before Court, claimant's agent gives evidence as to abandonment. Submitted for forfeiture.—W.B., 22/4/83. For forfeiture.—A.O.M., 1/5/83. Approved.—J.S.F., 3/5/83. Wm. Townsend informed 9th May, 1883.

Volunteer Order Selection.

Application by Alexander William Robertson, and John Wagner (Robertson & Wagner), of Pericoota Station, N. S. Wales, for a grant of 50 acres of land, under clauses 44 and 45 of the Volunteer Regulation Act of 1867.

Received with certificate, this tenth day of August, 1883, at 10 o'clock.
EDWD. G. MARKHAM,
Land Agent, Deniliquin.
8 August, 1883.

In virtue of the enclosed certificate, we hereby apply for a grant of 50 acres of unimproved Crown Land, hereunder described.
ROBERTSON & WAGNER,
Pericoota, Moama,
(Per A. M. O'Dwyer, Agent).

The Land Agent, Deniliquin.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarca, being the western portion of block 53, of 79 acres. Commencing at the south-west corner of portion No. 53 of 79 acres, parish Benarca; thence due north 19 chains 50 links; thence due east along the north boundary of portion No. 53, about 25 chains 50 links; thence due south about 21 chains 9 links to the south boundary of portion No. 53; thence due west about 25 chains 50 links to starting point, to include the area applied for—50 acres.

Being part of forfeited conditional purchase, William Townsend, 364 acres, 12/1/82, forfeited in Government Gazette, 10th July, 1883.

Application made in virtue of certificate No. 2,527, issued to gunner Robert M'Pherson; £2 15s. subdivision fee, paid; applicant warned that 40 acres must be left after subdivision.—EDWD. G. MARKHAM, 10/8/83.

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to the Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,
21 Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 16 July, 1883.
We have the honor on behalf of our clients, Messrs. Robertson & Wagner, the lessees of Pericoota Run, to respectfully request that you will have brought forward for auction sale at as early a date as possible the forfeited selections as per Schedule on other side hereof.

We would point out to you that these selections are all measured portions, and are all very valuably improved to the extent of 20s. per acre and over that sum, and are therefore not open to conditional purchase.

Trusting that our request may be complied with at an early date.
We have, &c.,
H. H. BROWN & CO.

Moama—now Deniliquin.

C.S.	83-1,417	Dep.	C.P.	82-33	Freeman Armitage.....	12-1-82	434 $\frac{1}{2}$	acres.
"	"	1,418	"	"	12 James Boaden.....	"	395	"
"	"	1,419	"	"	42 Patrick Condon	"	409	"
"	"	1,420	"	"	30 Wm. Jas. Dulzell	"	462	"
"	"	1,421	"	"	11 Jas. Foley	"	210 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
"	"	1,422	"	"	39 Isaac Harris	"	507 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
"	"	1,423	"	"	37 Reuben Jenner	"	451	"
"	"	1,424	"	"	15 Duncan Leitch.....	"	542 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
"	"	1,425	"	"	28 John Malone	"	426 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
"	"	1,426	"	"	27 Stephen Mappin	"	505	"
"	"	1,427	"	"	31 Wm. Jas. Martin.....	"	489	"
"	"	1,428	"	"	38 Jno. Mitchell	"	639	"
"	"	1,429	"	"	17 Thos. Norman	"	320	"
"	"	1,430	"	"	20 John Quilliam	"	573	"
"	"	1,431	"	"	21 Albert Quilliam	"	600	"
"	"	1,432	"	"	10 Ley Row	"	550 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
"	"	1,433	"	"	36 Denis Shanahan	"	498	"
"	"	1,434	"	"	14 John Slcombe, jun.	"	306 $\frac{3}{4}$	"
"	"	1,435	"	"	16 Fredk. St. George	"	526	"
"	"	1,436	"	"	35 Wm. Townsend	"	364	"
"	"	1,437	"	"	29 Bailey Ward	"	444 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
"	"	1,438	"	"	13 Annie Wedgwood	"	480 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
"	"	1,439	"	"	41 William Wilson	"	455 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Total							10,591	acres.

[Enclosure.]

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to Mr. Commissioner Bolding.

Sir,
21 Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 1 November, 1882.
We have the honor to advise you that we have been instructed by our client, Mr. Wm. Townsend, who applied for a conditional purchase on the 12th January last, at Moama, as conditional purchase No. 82-35, to advise you that he is desirous of your holding an inquiry into the conditions of his residence, and will waive any right or claim to a formal notice of fourteen days.

We have, &c.,
H. H. BROWN & CO.
Wm.

Wm. Townsend.

GEORGE HENRY HOLMES, sworn, states:—I am agent of William Townsend, who selected on 12th January, 1882, 364 acres, county Cadell, parish Benarca, which I am now authorized to state he has abandoned, as notified in his letter of 12th March last.

Taken and sworn at Moama, this 4th day of }
November, 1882, before me,—

G. H. HOLMES.

H. J. BOLDING, Commissioner.

Mr. W. Townsend to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

12 March, 1882.

I have the honor to advise you that I have abandoned the selection applied for by me at Moama on the 12th January, 1882, viz., being measured portions Nos. 52 and 53, parish Benarca, county Cadell, containing 364 acres.

I have, &c.,

W. TOWNSEND.

Minutes on the above.

Portions 52 and 53, parish Benarca, county Cadell, of 285 acres and 79 acres respectively, formed part of reserve 93, notified the 18th February, 1863. These portions also formed part of the Murray River Forest Reserve No. 1,794, notified the 18th August, 1871, part of which including the above portions was cancelled on the 12th December, 1881. Reserve No. 93 was cancelled the 1st August, 1881. The above portions were also within reserve No. 2,846, notified the 24th August, 1881, part of which including those portions was cancelled the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of reserve No. 93 and the Murray River forest reserve No. 1,794, the following improvements were effected on portions 52 and 53 by the lessees:—On portion 52, tank and well-constructed dam, £190, excavated September, 1877; fence, £38, erected in October, 1877; clearing, £57, effected in December, 1877: total, £285. On portion 53; clearing, £15; fence, £15: total, £30.

Portion 52 is therefore fully improved, and portion 53 improved to the value of £30.

It is submitted that applicant's request to withdraw his application cannot be complied with, and that action should probably be taken on this notice of abandonment.—CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor-General, 8 Sept., 1882.

Notice of abandonment, for Commissioner.—31/10/82.

Mr. W. Townsend to the Crown Lands Agent at Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application, lodged this day.

W. TOWNSEND.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]
No. 35 of 1882.

District of Moama.

Application by William Townsend for the Conditional Purchase, without competition, of 364 acres unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £91, this 12th day of January, 1882, at 10 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Lands hereunder described, containing 364 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £122 12s., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum value of improvements.

I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

I am, &c.,

WILLIAM TOWNSEND,

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Benarca, 364 acres, being measured portions 52 and 53.

The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Subdivision Fee—Volunteer Land Order.

Sir,

The Treasury, N. S. Wales, 25 August, 1883.

I have the honor to inform you that the sum of £2 15s., being estimated cost of subdivision of a measured portion, mentioned below, was credited on the 15th August, 1883.

District, Deniliquin; names, A. W. Robertson and J. Wagner; area, 50 acres; selected in virtue of V.L.O. No. 78-73; portion 53, 79 acres.

I have, &c.,

W. NEWCOMBE,

(For the Under Secretary).

The Surveyor-General to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Minutes on Alienation, 83-3,716.

The V.L.O. application enclosed (78-73) is for part of portion No. 53, parish of Benarca, county of Cadell, being forfeited conditional purchase of Wm. Townsend, containing 79 acres. As the area applied for (50 acres) if measured, would leave a balance of less than 40 acres, the application is therefore recommended for refusal.—ROB. D. FITZGERALD, for Surveyor-General, 21 April, 1884.

Submitted that subdivision of the portion be refused.—R.H.D., 24/4/84. C.O., 29/4/84. Approved.—J.S.F., 29/4/84. Cancelled. Applicant, with certificate and refund voucher. Land Agent and Treasury informed.—1/5/84.

885—E

H.

Messrs. H. H. Brown, & Co. to The Under Secretary for Lands.

County Cadell,
parish Benarca,
portion 90,
227 acres
2 roods.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, October, 31, 1882.

We have the honor, on behalf of our clients, Messrs. Robertson & Wagner, the lessees of Pericoota Run, to respectfully request that you will cause the portion of land noted in the margin, being refused conditional purchase of William Dean, to be gazetted for auction sale at as early a date as possible.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN, & Co.

Minutes on above.

The portion was advertised for sale on 18th January last, at £1 19s. 3d. per acre, but withdrawn previous to that date.—R.M., 20 Nov., 1882. Mr. Rotton,—For auction at the previous upset price.—F.W.W., 28/11/82.

Mr. R. Barbour to The Hon. The Minister for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 8 August, 1883.

Of the many petitions I have had the honor of presenting to yourself and the Parliament, I never had the pleasure of handling such a thoroughly honest and earnest petition, nor from so thoroughly loyal and patriotic a people, as the one I now present from the people of the Murray electorate in the Moama district.

I commend every line of the petition to your most earnest consideration, and I have to ask, for the sake of the permanent settlement of a most important portion of New South Wales, to withdraw the whole of the forfeited selections from lease for fear that the improvements should be tampered with, and also to reserve the whole from sale for water-supply or other public purposes.

In this way the land will be preserved from passing into the hands of monopolists, and an opportunity will be given for making provision for such cases in the new Land Bill. It may also give a chance for placing thereon a large addition to our population of hardy yeomen.

Truly yours,

ROB. BARBOUR.

(Petition presented by Mr. Robert Barbour)

The Hon. Minister of Lands, Sydney,—

The Petition of the Residents and Farmers of Pericoota and district humbly sheweth:—

That Crown Lands to the amount of 16,000 acres on the Pericoota Run, so far back as 1863 and 1865, was reserved from sale upon the representation of the lessee for the purpose of water reserves: that the said lands commencing on the right bank of the Murray and extending back a distance of from 7 to 10 miles from the river by 1 mile wide, and in some cases only 1 mile apart.

That the public received no benefit from these reserves but the object in obtaining them was to bar settlement by *bona fide* selection contiguously in the district.

That under the different Land Acts of the Colony the lessees have acquired in various ways land to the extent of 80,000 acres in direct antagonism to the settlement of the district. Selection has only obtained 20,000 acres, or one quarter of what has been handed over to the lessees in fee simple, and where selection has taken place it is of a very scattered nature on account of these reserves intersecting the settlement. Children may be seen going to school a distance of 16 miles to and fro.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable report of Messrs. Rankin and Morris, of the Deniliquin settlement, not 2 per cent. of *bona fide* selectors on the Pericoota Run have parted with their holdings.

That, during the years 1877 and 1878, while these lands were reserved from sale, the lessees effected improvements, in defiance of a Government Gazette notice to the contrary, for the purpose of compelling the Government to sell to the said lessees, by virtue of these improvements, thus claiming to buy the land when it was not for sale.

That, during the month of January, 1882, these reserves were revoked and advertised for sale, and that, upon the public attempting to secure a portion of the said reserves, the lands were fraudulently selected by employees, &c., and when inquiry was called for by the public, the only redress we got was the removal of the Lands Office from Moama to Deniliquin, compelling the *bona fide* selectors to travel a distance of 50 and in some cases 70 miles; and, further, we view with alarm the fraudulently selected portions being now revoked, fearing they will fall into the hands of the lessees, and further swell their already overgrown estates.

That these lands are suitable for settlement, and would be taken up by *bona fide* selectors, and improvements paid for if opportunity were granted, and would thereby enhance the prosperity of the district.

That the families of the present selectors and others require the land for settlement, we therefore would humbly ask the Hon. Minister for Lands to reserve these lands from lease and sale until after the passing of the New Land Act.

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

August 3rd, 1883.

[Here follow 100 signatures.]

Minutes on Misc. 83-15,015.

THE questions for consideration in this case are,—

- (1.) Whether the land is to be offered for auction, as being fully improved it is not open to conditional purchase.
- (2.) It being decided not to do so, whether it shall be reserved from sale and lease as desired by the within petition.
- (3.) If neither of the foregoing courses is taken, whether the run within which the area is situated should not be reappraised, in order that a rental may be obtained for it.
- (4.) Whether, if this be decided upon, the lessees should be cautioned, that while having the use of the improvements, which are the property of the Crown, against removing them, or otherwise interfering with them in such a manner as to depreciate their value—reasonable wear and tear excepted—and informed that no improvements made upon the land, either before or after the forfeiture of conditional purchases will under any circumstances be deemed to confer any privilege of purchase.—C.O., 21/8/83.

For the present the land in question should neither be offered at auction nor reserved from sale.

The

The area may be re-appraised as suggested and the suggestions in the fourth (4) paragraph should be acted upon.—J.S.F., 25/8/83.

R. Barbour, M.P., and Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co., informed 29th August, 1883.

Memo.

THE lands mentioned in the enclosed papers were with one exception, of portion 75, Bernaca, of 32½ acres, advertised for auction at Moama on the 18th January, 1882, but were withdrawn on account of the conditional purchase mentioned.

They formed part of revoked reserves in the neighbourhood of the River Murray; and were improved during the currency of the reserves, in most cases up to and above, one pound per acre.

The selections were taken up on the 12th January, 1882, under clause 12 of the Act of 1880, and have been forfeited for abandonment.

The upset prices in January, 1882, varied from £1 8s. 11d. to £2 11s. 6d. per acre.

It is presumable that even now these lands are improved to the extent of £1 per acre, and if so, it may be a question whether they are now open to conditional purchase under clause 12 of the Act of 1880, or whether that clause having once operated after the cancellation of the reserves, it is not now inoperative, and the lands consequently barred from conditional purchase under any clause by reason of being improved to the extent of £40.—R.H.D., 20/7/83.

Minutes on the above.

Perhaps the upset price for these lands may be fixed at £2 per acre. Total area, 10,591 acres.—J.G.B., 24/7/83.

The lands referred to are forfeited conditional purchases, and being improved, I doubt whether they are open to conditional purchase. The lands were such as came within the operation of the 12th clause of the Act of 1880, and that clause having operated they are now forfeited conditional purchases, and should, I think, be dealt with as such, unless it is thought desirable to allow action to remain in abeyance pending legislation.

The land is of an exceptionally valuable character, and should, I think, not be offered at less than £2 10s. per acre. If offered at this price, the value of the improvements need not be considered.—C.O., 1/8/83.

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

21 Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 16 July, 1883.

We have the honor on behalf of our clients Messrs. Robertson and Wagner, the lessees of Pericoota Run to respectfully request that you will have brought forward for auction sale at as early a date as possible the three voided selections mentioned on the other side.

We would point out to you that these three conditional purchases were voided as, according to law the land being part of an improved cancelled reserve and not improved to 20s. per acre was not open to selection.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & Co.

C.P. 82-82. Moama, now Deniliquin.—E. C. J. Franklyn, 12/1/82, 245½ acres, voided 16th October, 1882, as not being open to conditional purchase.

C.P. 82-40. Wm. Dean, 21/1/82, 287½ acres voided 30th October, 1882, as not being open to conditional purchase.

C.P. 82-34. John Hunter, 12/1/82, 236 acres, voided 30th October, 1882, as not being open to conditional purchase.

Minutes on Aln. 83-3,162.

THE lands herein mentioned, viz., portions 43 and 49, Wamboota, and 90 Benarca, county of Cadell, were advertised for auction sale at Moama on the 18th January, 1882, but withdrawn on account of the conditional purchases mentioned.

They formed part of revoked reserves in the neighbourhood of the river Murray; and with many others were presumed to have come within the scope of Clause 12 of the Act of 1880.

They were advertised for auction at £1 8s. 8d., £1 11s. 6d., and £1 19s. 3d. per acre, i.e., they each contained improvements (put on during the currency of the reserve) over and above £40, but not to the extent of £1 per acre.

The conditional purchases have been declared void for two reasons:—1st, Because the measured portions contained improvements to the value of £40; and 2nd, Because they did not contain improvements to the value of £1 per acre, to bring them within the scope of clause 12 of Act of 1880, i.e., to enable them to be conditionally purchased under that clause.

Submitted, whether the portions are to go to auction; and if so, at what upset price.—R.H.D., 20/7/83.

Suggested portion 43 of	245½ acres at	...	...	...	£2 per acre.
" 49	236	"	...	...	£2 "
" 90	287½	"	...	...	£2 "

769

J.G.B., 23/7/83.

The only difference between this case and 83-3,163 is that the conditional purchases within referred to have been voided, and those mentioned in the paper quoted have been forfeited. If offered at auction, the lands should be sold in like manner, and offered at a similar upset price to those referred to in paper 83-3,163.—C.O., 1/8/83.

The Minister having decided by minute of 25/8/83 on Misc. 83-15,015 that "For the present the land in question (that referred to in Aln. 83-3,163) should neither be offered at auction nor reserved from sale," but that "the area may be re-appraised." These lands may be treated in a similar manner—they form part of the block.—R.H.D., 1/9/83. F.H.W., 1/9/83. Yes.—C.O., 3/9/83.

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 31 October, 1882.

We have the honor, on behalf of our clients, Messrs. Robertson and Wagner, the lessees of Pericoota Run, to respectfully request that you will cause the portion of land noted in the margin, being refused

County Cadell,
parish Wamboota, portions
43, 236 acres.

refused conditional purchase of John Hunter, No. 82-34, Moama, to be gazetted for auction sale at as early a date as possible.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

Mr. Rotton,—For auction at the previous upset price.—F.W.W., 28/11/82.

Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co. to The Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

21, Exchange Buildings, Pitt-street, 30 October, 1882.

We have the honor, on behalf of our client, Mr. John Hunter, to apply for a refund of deposit on the conditional purchase taken up by him at Moama on the 12th January last, for 236 acres, on the grounds that, as the land was not improved to 20s. per acre, it did not come within the meaning of the 12th clause of the Act of 1880. We would also respectfully request that you will grant a refund at the same time of £7 14s., being 10 per centum deposit paid on supposed value of improvements.

We have, &c.,

H. H. BROWN & CO.

Mr. John Hunter to The Crown Lands Agent at Moama.

12 January, 1882.

I wish to withdraw my conditional purchase application, lodged, this day.

JOHN HUNTER.

Copy of Minutes on Application.

By attached memo. applicant desires to withdraw this application. Portion 49, parish of Wamboota, county Cadell, of 236 acres, formed part of reserve 92A, notified 22nd December, 1865, and cancelled the 12th December, 1881. During the currency of this reserve, and since July, 1876, fencing to the value of £65, and ringing to the value of £12, were effected on the above portion by the lessees of the run. Total improvements, £77.

In view of the above, it is submitted whether this application (conditional purchase 82-34) be declared void, in accordance with recent Supreme Court decision in Bernholt's case; the only circumstance to distinguish the present case from that mentioned being that the improvements were effected during the currency of a reserve. Clause 12, Lands Acts Further Amendment Act of 1880 does not apply to this case. The above-mentioned improvements cannot be embraced in a measurement of 40 acres or upwards, according to Regulations to contain a pound's worth to the acre.—CHAS. ED. FINCH, for Surveyor-General, 24th August, 1882.

Void.—The land not being open to conditional purchase as applied for.—A.O.M., 25/9/82.

Applicant (p.) refund order. Agent and Treasury informed, and 10 per centum refunded.—30th October, 1882.

C.

[Alienation Act, section 13.]

No. 34 of 1882.

District of Moama.

Application by John Hunter, for the conditional purchase, without competition, of 236 acres unimproved Crown Land.

Received by me, with a deposit of £59, this 12th day of January, 1882, at 11:30 o'clock.

L. S. DONALDSON,

Agent for the sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Sir,

12 January, 1882.

I am desirous of purchasing, without competition, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the portion of unimproved Crown Land hereunder described, containing 236 acres; and I herewith tender the sum of £66 14s., being a deposit at the rate of 5s. per acre on the area for which I apply, and 10 per centum value of improvements £7 14s. I am willing to purchase the improvements, and pay for them the amount fixed by appraisalment.

I am, &c.,

JOHN HUNTER,

Moama.

To the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands at Moama.

Description.

County of Cadell, parish of Wamboota, 236 acres, being measured portion No. 49.

Pericoota Holding.

AFTER hearing the statement made by the agent, I am of opinion that the lessee's original proposal may be adopted, as I consider the state will profit more by these highly improved lands being let at a proper rental for which the law provides; as an unsuccessful attempt has been made to settle a population on the land by selection.—F.A.W.

Pericoota Reserves.

THESE papers are now forwarded for action in accordance with the decision of the Secretary for Lands on 83-15,015 Misc., enclosed.—C.O., Under Secretary, Dept. Lands, B.C., 20/12/83. The Under Secretary for Mines.

Minutes hereon.

The land referred to being neither sold nor reserved from lease at time of last appraisalment (1880) was, no doubt, included in that appraisalment.

The area upon which rent is now being paid is twenty-eight sections, and, as several reserves from lease have been made out of the original water reserves, there cannot be even that area now available for lease.

FRANCIS GERARD, 4 January, 1884.

The suggestion of the Under Secretary for Lands concerning a fresh appraisalment of this run seems to have been made under a misapprehension of circumstances.

The

The reserves from sale referred to constituted the area of twenty-eight sections which were appraised in 1880, and for which the yearly rent of £100 is now paid. Any appraisement now made would be upon a reduced area, as portions of the reserves from sale appear to have been withdrawn from lease since the appraisement now in force was made.

It is recommended that fresh consideration should be given to the request preferred under the light of the information now supplied.—T.W.H., Occ. Lands, 10 January, 1884.

Submitted.—H.W., 14/1/84.

Approved.—J. P. ABBOTT, 16/1/84. Submitted, that at present there would seem to be no need to proceed further with this case.—R.H.D., 5/2/84. F.H.W., 6/2/84. In view of the further information there is not. It was previously assumed that the land having been conditionally purchased, a rebate of rent had been allowed.—C.O., 7/2/84. For approval. Approved.—J.S.F., 8/2/84. Mr. Houston,—Are these lands within a "leaschold" or a "resumed area"? If the latter, it might be worthy of consideration whether they should be declared a special area under section 24.—R.H.D., 14/8/85.

Within the leaschold area of Perricoota Holding, Central Division, No. 343, Gazetted 11 July, 1885. Attention is invited to the decision of the Acting Secretary for Lands (copy enclosed) on the question submitted as to whether these lands should be placed in the leaschold or resumed area.—W.H., 18/8/85. Mr. De Low. Put away.—R.H.D., 19/8/85.

Sydney : Thomas Richards, Government Printer.—1890.

[1s. 6d.]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT LAND, CAREENING COVE. (TO EXECUTORS OF THE LATE EDWARD LORD.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 29 June, 1886.

RETURN to an *Address* adopted by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, on 28th January, 1886,—That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Copies of all papers and plans relating to the sale by the Government of
“land at Careening Cove to the Executors of the late Edward Lord.”

(*Mr. Abbott.*)

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SALE OF GOVERNMENT LAND, CAREENING COVE.

No. 1.

E. M. Lord, Esq., to The Secretary for Lands.

[Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861—sections 9, 10, 11, and 12.]

Application to purchase under section 12.

Sir,

Town Hall, Sydney, 25 March, 1876.

I have the honor to apply, pursuant to the 12th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, for the rescission of the reservation of water frontage of the land hereunder described.

Appended hereto is a plan illustrative of this application, together with a receipt showing that the sum of £5 has been deposited in the Treasury on account thereof.

I have, &c.,
E. M. LORD.

Description of land applied for.

IN the grant of land situated on Careening Cove, of 1 acre 1 rood to John Lamb, as per plan accompanying this application.

RECEIVED the above-mentioned sum of £5, on account of the foregoing application.

Colonial Treasury, Sydney, 25 March, 1876.

VICTOR COHEN,
(For the Colonial Treasurer).

[Enclosure.]

SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

No. 4,784.

RECEIVED from Edward Lord, the sum of £5 sterling, for deposit on application for the rescission of reservation of water frontage, under 12th clause, Land Act 1861.—Careening Cove, county Cumberland.

£5

New South Wales, The Treasury, 25 March, 1876.
VICTOR COHEN,
(Pro Treasurer).

No. 2.

E. M. Lord, Esq., to The Secretary for Lands.

[Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861—sections 9, 10, 11, and 12.]

Application for special purchase under section 9.

Sir,

Town Hall, Sydney, 25 March, 1876.

I have the honor to apply, pursuant to the 9th clause of the Lands Alienation Act of 1861, for the reclamation and purchase of lands below high-water mark of the land hereunder described.

Appended hereto is a plan illustrative of this application, together with a receipt showing that the sum of £5 has been deposited in the Treasury on account thereof.

I have, &c.,
E. M. LORD.

Description of land applied for.

ALL that portion of land on Careening Cove, in part of the grant of 1 acre 1 rood to John Lamb, more particularly described in plan accompanying this application.

RECEIVED the above-mentioned sum of £5, on account of the foregoing application.

Colonial Treasury, Sydney, 25 March, 1876.

VICTOR COHEN,
(For the Colonial Treasurer).

[Enclosure.]

SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

RECEIVED from Edward Lord, the sum of £5 sterling, for deposit on application to reclaim and purchase land below high-water mark, under 9th clause, Land Act 1861.—Careening Cove, county Cumberland.

£5.

New South Wales, The Treasury, 25 March, 1876.
VICTOR COHEN,

No. 3.

The Under Secretary for Mines to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 30 September, 1881.

With reference to the matter of the extension of High-street, St. Leonards, through the properties of E. Lord and P. Hayes to the waters of Port Jackson, at the point between Careening Cove and Neutral Bay, the usual reservation of 100 feet from high-water mark is contained in the deeds of grants of the land that would be affected should such street be carried out; and as it appears that applications have been made for the purchase of the rescission of that reserve, I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to ask that such applications be not granted until the question of compensation for the land required for such extension has been settled.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD.

Minutes

Minutes on No. 3.

Mr. Peyton.—H.P., 10/10/81.

Mr. McGuinn,—A list of the applications by Mr. Lord is enclosed. They should probably be referred to Engineer-in-Chief, &c., and Surveyor-General, for further report in connection with this letter, before submitting for the approval of the Secretary for Lands.—S.L.P., 12/10/81. For approval.—J. McG., 14/10/81. F.H.W., 15/10/81. The Engineer-in-Chief and Surveyor-General.—C.O., B.C., 19/10/81.

Mr. Stopps,—For any necessary remarks you will probably remember that I proposed to do what is herein requested, but you directed me to deal with the enclosed applications independently of the road question.—S. L. PEYTON, 12/11/81.

When I stated that the applications referred to might be advanced a stage or two it was not then proposed to open High-street to the water's edge, but to deal with the Whaling Road under a special bill, but when the Mining Department undertook to extend High-street and to compensate Mr. Lord for loss of land, attention was drawn by this branch to the fact that applications from Mr. Lord were in the office to purchase the rescission of the water frontage reserve, and also the right to reclaim, and the Mines have taken action by requesting that such applications may not be granted at present.—A.J.S., 12/11/81.

Mr. Peyton,—In view of this letter I caused the action on the applications to be stayed, but Mr. Stopps' directions to deal with them independently of the road was without qualification, and it might, perhaps, be pointed out that it was proposed to recommend a compliance with applications S.P. 76-46, for the rescission of the 100 feet reservation, and S.P. 76-47, for permission to reclaim (the only ones which could have affected the road), in such a way as not to interfere with it.—S.L.P.

No. 4.

Memo. by Surveyor-General and Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers

EDWARD LORD, applying for the rescission of 100 feet reservation, fronting his property at Careening Cove, parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland.

There does not appear to be any objection to applicant being permitted to purchase that portion of the reserve of 100 feet in the original part which fronts his property at Careening Cove, and which is included within the following boundaries, viz. :—

Commencing on the original high-water mark of Careening Cove, at the south-west corner of applicant's property; and bounded thence on the south-west by the south-western boundary of the said property bearing north-westerly about 134 feet; thence on the north by a line parallel to and distant 100 feet from high-water mark, bearing in a direct line easterly about 213 feet to its intersection with the south-western boundary of High-street; thence on the north-east by a line parallel to the south-western boundary of applicant's property, bearing south-easterly about 101 feet to the high-water mark aforesaid; and thence on the south by that high-water mark bearing westerly, to the point of commencement.

Tracings herewith marked A and B, one of which marked A should probably be forwarded to applicant.
5/10/81. P. F. ADAMS.
E. O. MORIARTY.

Minutes on No. 4.

Forward to Lands.—J.L. Under Secretary for Lands, B.C., 13/10/81.—J.R.

No. 5.

Memo. by Surveyor-General and Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers.

EDWARD LORD applying for permission to reclaim and purchase land below high-water mark, fronting his property at Careening Cove, parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland.

There does not appear to be any objection to applicant being permitted to reclaim and purchase land below high-water mark at Careening Cove, which fronts his property, and is inclosed within the following boundaries :—

Commencing on the original high-water mark of Careening Cove, at the south-west corner of applicant's property; and bounded thence on the west by a line bearing about (true) south about 40 links to the limit line for reclamations, as laid down on plan in the Surveyor-General's Office, catalogued P. 100-574; thence on the south by that limit line (amended) bearing about south 85° west (true) about 298 links; thence on the east by a line bearing about north 6° east (true) about 90 links to the intersection of the aforesaid high-water mark with the south-east corner of applicant's proposed purchase of 100 feet reservation; and thence on the north by the aforesaid high-water mark westerly, to the point of commencement.

Tracings herewith marked A and B, one of which marked A should probably be forwarded to applicant.

5/10/81.

P. F. ADAMS.
E. O. MORIARTY.

Minutes on No. 5.

Forward to Lands.—J.L., 7/10/81. Under Secretary for Lands, B.C., 13/10/81.—J.R. Records as to objections then to Mr. Peyton.—J.B.T., 21/3/83.

Mr. McGuinn,—As it appears that the question of rescinding the reservation of the land which is fronted by this proposed reclamation is under submission, I do not see how further action can be taken by Survey Office on these papers meantime.—S.L.P., 26/4/83. Mr. Peyton,—Can you now act.—J. McG., 5/12/83.

No. 6.

5

No. 6.

Memorandum from Surveyor-General and Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers to Under Secretary for Public Works.

Letter of the Under Secretary for Mines, *re* extension of High-street, St. Leonards, through the properties of Messrs. Lord and Hayes, parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland.

No application by Mr. Hayes has been referred to us for report.

Special purchase applications Nos. 48 and 49 of 1876 by Mr. Lord have been withdrawn, and our recommendation on Mr. Lord's applications S.P. 76/46 and 76/47 have been so framed as not to interfere with the extension of High-street, St. Leonards, as will be seen on reference to enclosed tracing marked C, which might be forwarded to Under Secretary for Mines, who should probably be asked, if in view of these facts, there is any objection to a compliance with the two applications last referred to, *vide* Ms. 81-19,052, and Ms. 81-19,053.

P. F. ADAMS.

E. O. MORIARTY.

Minutes on No. 6.

Forward to Lands.—J.L., 1/3/82. Under Secretary for Lands, B.C., 2/3/82.—J.R. Joint report submitted for approval.—J. McG., 4/3/82. F.H.W., 4/3/82. C.O., 7/3/82. Approved.—JOHN R.

No. 7.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 16 March, 1882.

With reference to your letter of the 30th September last, *re* the extension of High-street, St. Leonards, through the properties of Messrs. Lord and Hayes, parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland, I am directed to inform you that a report in connection with this matter has been obtained from the Surveyor-General and the Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers, and approved by the Secretary for Lands, to the effect that two applications made by Mr. Lord to purchase land under the 9th and 12th sections of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, have been withdrawn, and the recommendations on his applications to purchase the land shown by red edging on the enclosed tracing have been so framed as not to interfere with the extension of High-street, St. Leonards. And I am therefore to ask if in view of these facts, there is any objection to a compliance with the two applications referred to.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER.

No. 8.

The Under Secretary for Mines to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 12 April, 1882.

With reference to your letter of the 16th ultimo (with tracing), asking whether this department has any objection to Mr. Lord's application to purchase certain land at Careening Cove, I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you, that there would be no objection on the part of this department to the rescission of the reserve and sale of the land to Mr. Lord to the extent shown on the tracing, upon the condition that, in the event of its being decided at any time to open the Whaling Road, so much of the said land as shall be required for such road may be resumed, on payment to Mr. Lord of the amount paid by him for the portion so required.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD.

Minutes on No. 8.

Submitted.—In view of this letter that the applications be proceeded with on the conditions named.—J. M. G., 21/4/82. Should be referred back to Engineer-in-Chief and Surveyor-General.—F.H.W., 21/4/82. Yes.—C.O., 21/4/82. The Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers and the Surveyor-General.—C.O., 4/4/82. We recommend that the applications be proceeded with on the condition named and to which applicant has given his verbal assent.—P. F. ADAMS, E. O. MORIARTY. The Under Secretary Public Works, 27/29/82. The Under Secretary for Lands, 29/9/82.—J.R. Subject to Mr. Lord's giving his assent in writing, the above recommendation is submitted for approval.—J. M. G., 30/9/82. F.H.W., 2/10/82. C.O., 16/11/82. Approved.—JOHN R., 16/12/82.

No. 9.

The Under Secretary for Lands to E. Lord, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 22 December, 1882.

I have the honor to inform you that the Secretary for Lands has approved of your application of the 25th March, 1876, for the reclamation and rescission of reservation of certain land at Careening Cove, under the 9th and 12th clauses of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, being proceeded with, provided you give your assent in writing to the condition that, in the event of its being decided at any time to open the Whaling Road, so much of the said land as shall be required for such road may be resumed, on payment to you of the amount that shall have been paid by you for the portion so required.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER.

No. 10.

E. Lord, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

East St. Leonards, 27 December, 1882.

Referring to your letter of the 22nd instant, on the subject of my application for the reclamation and rescission of land at Careening Cove, I have the honor to inform you that I assent to the provision expressed

expressed therein,—“that, in the event of its being decided at any time to open the Whaling Road, so much of the said land as shall be required for such road may be resumed, on payment to me of the amount that shall have been paid by me for the portion so required.”

I have, &c.,
EDWD. LORD.

Minutes on No. 10.

Submitted whether further action should not be stayed, in view of the instruction on Ms. 83-3,466 herewith.—F.H.W., 27/3/83. In a month.—C.O., 30/3/83. This case has no connection with the reclamation of Careening Cove, therefore the case may be proceeded with on terms arranged with Mr. Lord as to the leaving of a road.—J.S.F., 26/4/83.

As pointed out by the Minister in his minute of 26 April, 1883, hereon, compliance with Mr. Lord's application will not in any way interfere with the proposed Government reclamation at the head of Careening Cove. These papers should therefore be disconnected from 83-3,466 Ms. respecting proposed Government reclamations Careening Cove and Neutral Harbour, in order that action on Mr. Lord's application may be expedited. Please return 83-3,466 Ms. to me as soon as practicable.—W. FREEMAN, 14/6/83.

Ms. records.—Mr. PEYTON, 14/6/83. The written answer having been furnished as requested, it is submitted that the case be proceeded with.—J.McG., 4/1/83. F.H.W., 5/1/83. Yes.—C.O., 15/1/83. Mr. Peyton,—Records as to objections then to Mr. Peyton.—J.B.T., 21/3/83. Transferred to Mr. Sur. Perdriau.—F. B. W. WOOLRYCH, 30/6/83. Transferred to Mr. Sur. J. B. Mackenzie, as requested by the District Surveyor.—STEPHEN PERDRIAU, Surveyor, 25/8/83.

[Enclosure.]

Memorandum to accompany instructions (to be returned).

Rescission of reservation fronting property of Edward Lord, at Careening Cove, parish Willoughby, county Cumberland.

Surveyor-General's Office, 26 June, 1883.

Mr. District-Surveyor Woolrych is requested, when carrying out the instructions for this survey, to connect the traverse by which he defines the boundaries with trigonometrical station 235, description of which and reference bearings (true) therefrom are attached for his information. One or more of the traverse stations of the survey of Neutral Bay and Careening Cove by Sur. Bullock (plan cat. p. 59-574) should also be connected with.

T. F. FURBER,

(For Surveyor-General).

Drilled hole and triangle on top of irregular rubble boundary-wall on Mr. A. Lord's property, 30 links from end of wall, and 20 links from high-water mark, north side of Careening Cove, shown on p. 59-574:—

Bearing to E3 89° 43'
,, E3 186° 48'

E3. Broad-arrow and triangle on rock bearing 69° 10' (mag.) 21 links from easternmost of three small gum-trees, on point between Careening Cove and Neutral Bay. Shewn on plan cat. S. 10-2,019.

F3. Broad-arrow on rock 240° 1' 71½ links from northernmost corner of Jas. Wilson's stone-wharf on south side of Careening Cove. Shewn on plan cat. P. 61-574.

No. 11.

Gazette Notice.

Application to reclaim land.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 13 February, 1883.

NOTICE is hereby given, that application has been made by the party hereunder mentioned, to reclaim and purchase, under the 9th clause Crown Lands Alienation Act, 1861, certain land in front of his property particularized in the annexed description; and all persons interested are invited to state, within one month from this date, their objections (if any) to the proposed reclamation.

JAMES S. FARNELL.

Registration No.	Applicant.	Description.
Ms. 81-19,053	Edward Lord	Parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland, at Careening Cove: Commencing on the original high-water mark of Careening Cove, at the south-west corner of applicant's property; and bounded thence on the west by a line bearing about true south about 40 links to the limit line for reclamations, as laid down on plan in the Surveyor-General's Office, catalogued P. 100-574; thence on the south by that limit line (amended) bearing about south 85 degrees west (true) about 298 links; thence on the east by a line bearing about north 6 degrees east (true) about 90 links to the intersection of the aforesaid high-water mark with the south-east corner of applicant's proposed purchase of 100 feet reservation; and thence on the north by the aforesaid high-water mark westerly, to the point of commencement.

No. 12.

Gazette Notice.

Application to purchase rescission of reservation.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 13 February, 1883.

NOTICE is hereby given, that application has been made by the party hereunder mentioned, under the 12th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, for the rescission of the reservation of the land within

within 100 feet of high-water mark in front of his property, as particularized in the annexed description; and all persons interested are invited to state, within one month from this date, their objections (if any) to the proposed rescissions.

JAMES S. FARNELL.

Registration No.	Applicant.	Description.
Ms. S2-20,574	Edward Lord	Parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland, at Careening Cove. Commencing on the original high-water mark of Careening Cove, at the south-west corner of applicant's property; and bounded thence on the south-west by the south-western boundary of the said property, bearing north-westerly about 134 feet; thence on the north by a line parallel to and distant 100 feet from high-water mark, bearing in a direct line easterly about 213 feet to its intersection with the south-western boundary of High-street; thence on the north-east by a line parallel to the south-western boundary of applicant's property, bearing south-easterly about 101 feet to the high-water mark aforesaid; and thence on the south by that high-water mark bearing westerly, to the point of commencement.

No. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Memorandum to accompany instructions (to be returned).

Rescission of reservation fronting property of Edward Lord, at Careening Cove, parish Willoughby, county Cumberland

Mr. District-Surveyor Woolrych is requested when carrying out the instructions for this survey, to connect the traverse by which he defines the boundaries with trigonometrical station 235, description of which, and reference bearings (true) therefrom, are attached for his information.

One or more of the traverse stations of the survey of Neutral Bay and Careening Cove by Surveyor Bullock (plan cat. P. 59-574) should also be connected with.

T. F. FURBER,
(For Surveyor-General).

[Enclosure.]

235. Drilled hole and triangle on top of irregular rubble boundary wall, on Mr. A. Lord's property, 30 links from end of wall and 20 links from high-water mark.

North-side of Careening Cove. Shewn on page 59-574.

Bearing to E3 89° 43'
F3 186° 48'

E3. Broad-arrow and triangle on rock 69° 10' (mag.) 21 links from easternmost of three small gum trees, on point between Careening Cove and Neutral Bay. Shewn on plan cat. S. 10-2,019.

F3. Broad-arrow on rock 240° 1' 71½ links from northernmost corner of Jas. Wilson's stone wharf, on south-side of Careening Cove. Shewn on plan cat. P. 61-574.

No. 13.

Memorandum from Secretary for Lands to Surveyor-General.

E. Lord's rescission of reservation at North Shore.

LET this matter be attended to at once.—J.S.F., 30/8/83.

Minutes on above.

The Surveyor-General.—C.O., 30/8/83.

Mr. District-Surveyor Woolrych accordingly.—ROBERT D. FITZGERALD (for Surveyor-General), B.C., 5/9/83.

I would respectfully inform the Surveyor-General that this and other instructions cannot be carried out at once as requested without a large temporary increase of the staff at my disposal. The cost of the surveys would also be greatly enhanced. The instructions now in hand are being systematically, and thoroughly carried out by the present trained staff, which will however bear no further strain upon it.

F. B. W. WOOLRYCH, D.S., 6/9/83.

Dear Sir,

102 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 11 September, 1883.

What has been done since I saw you about Mr. Edward Lord's matter *re* water frontage? I write as I think you will lose less time in writing a line than in seeing me, to say nothing of the saving to me.

Yours, &c.,

C. W. J. OLIVER, Esq., Department of Lands.

R. P. ABBOTT.

Bearer will wait for reply.

Mr. Abbott may perhaps be informed to the effect of Mr. Woolrych's Minute.—J.E., 11/9/83. Yes.—J.G.B., 11/9/83.

My memo. of the 30th ultimo was, that the survey should be performed at once. If Mr. Woolrych requires assistance, he should have it, in order to expediate the work in hand.—J.S.F., 17/9/83. The Surveyor-General.—J.G.B.

Mr. Woolrych.—As to what survey can be delayed with least probability of complaint, in order that this matter may have attention.—P.F.A., 18 Sept., B.C., No. 83-387. Urgent.

Herewith are attached for the information of the Surveyor-General.—

1. A list of Surveyors in the Metropolitan District, with a statement of the work on which they are engaged.
2. An account of instructions in the hands of Surveyors employed on surveys within the Municipalities of St. Leonards and Victoria.
3. A letter, urging the measurement of Court-house site at St. Leonards.

It will be seen that Mr. Mackenzie is the Surveyor whose work can be interrupted with the least injury to the public interest. He has not, however, that I am aware of, had any experience in reclamation surveys.—F. B. W. WOOLRYCH, D.S., 19/8/83.

Mr.

Mr. D. S. Woolrych will be good enough to direct a competent Surveyor to carry out the service in accordance with the Minister's direction.—ROBERT D. FITZGERALD (for Surveyor-General), B.C., 21/9/83.

Mr. Surveyor Pedriau, who at present holds the instructions, is requested to transfer them to Mr. Surveyor J. B. Mackenzie without delay, giving him such information as he may have respecting surveys in the locality that should be connected with, and giving him also co-ordinates to Time-ball staff, as origin of the nearest convenient traverse station or land-mark.—F. B. W. WOOLRYCH, D.S., 24/9/83. Urgent.

Mr. Surveyor J. B. Mackenzie.—With these papers I forward instructions for survey of Mr. Lord's property for rescission of 100 feet reserve. There is a detail survey of the locality, plan cat. 59-574, sheet 3, drawn to scale of one chain to an inch, and could therefore be traced and transferred. Co-ordinates as above will be forwarded in a day or two, when they are worked out.—S. PERDRIAU, 25/9/83.

No. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.

R. P. Abbott, Esq., M.P., to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Dear Sir, 102, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 11 September, 1883.

What has been done since I saw you about Mr. Edward Lord's matter *re* water frontage? I write as I think you will lose less time in writing a line than in seeing me, to say nothing of the saving
Yours, &c.

R. P. ABBOTT.

Bearer will wait for a reply.

Minutes on No. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Mr. Abbott may perhaps be informed to the effect of Mr. Woolrych's minute.—J.E., 11/9/83.
Yes.—J.G.B., 11/9/83. By the Secretary for Lands.—My memorandum of the 30th ultimo was that the survey should be performed at once. If Mr. Woolrych requires assistance he should have it, in order to expedite the work in hand.—J.S.F., 17/9/83. Surveyor-General.—J.G.B. By the Surveyor-General.—Mr. Woolrych, as to what survey can be delayed with least probability of complaint, in order that this matter may have attention.—P.F.A., 18 September, 1883, B.C.

Herewith are attached, for the information of the Surveyor-General,—

*See enclosure A

1. *A list of Surveyors in the Metropolitan District, with a statement of the work on which they are engaged.

†See enclosure B

2. †The account of instructions in the hands of the surveyor employed on surveys within the Municipalities of St. Leonards and Victoria.

‡Not with papers.

3. ‡A letter urging the measurement of Court-house site at St. Leonards.

It will be seen that Mr. Mackenzie is the surveyor whose work can be interrupted with the least injury to the public interest. He has not, however, that I am aware of, had any experience in reclamation surveys.—F. B. W. WOOLRYCH, D.S., 19 September, 1883.

By the Surveyor-General.—Mr. District-Surveyor Woolrych will be good enough to direct a competent surveyor to carry out the service in accordance with Minister's direction.—ROBERT D. FITZGERALD (for Surveyor-General), B.C., 21/9/83.

Mr. Surveyor Perdriau, who at present holds the instructions, is requested to transfer them to Mr. Surveyor J. B. Mackenzie (address Bondi), without delay, giving him such information as he may have respecting surveys in the locality that should be connected with, and giving him also co-ordinates to Time-ball staff as origin of the nearest convenient traverse station or landmark.—F. B. W. WOOLRYCH, D.S., 24 Sept.,/83. Urgent.

Mr. Surveyor J. B. Mackenzie.—With these papers I forward instructions for survey of Mr. E. Lord's property for rescission of 100 feet reserve. There is a detail survey of the locality, plan catalogued P. 59-574, sheet 3, drawn to scale of 1 chain to an inch, and could therefore be traced and transferred. Co-ordinates as above will be forwarded in a day or two when they are worked out.—S. PERDRIAU, 25 Sept.,/83.

[Enclosure A to No. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.]

NAMES of Surveyors employed in Metropolitan District, and how employed at present.

[Name of Surveyor]	Where camped at present.	Nature of work employed upon.	Remarks.
Adams, W. E.....	Woniara	Engaged in surveys at George's River ...	Services not available for immediate work at North Shore.
Burdett, F. L. .	Manly	Measurement of numerous conditional purchases in the parish of Narrabeen	Must be carried out as soon as practicable. Applicants pressing Government.
Chamier, A. F.....	Ashfield	Surveys for the alignment of streets in Ashfield.	Municipal Council, urgent.
Deering, J. W.	Five Dock... ..	Reclamation surveys, parish of Hunter's Hill.	Not under my supervision.
Ebsworth, E.	Pennant Hills	Engaged on urgent instructions.	Has about fifteen instructions in hand. Must appear as witness in road case at Court of Quarter Sessions, and is obtaining necessary information, and survey required.
Fariola, Ode R. .	Gordon	Has been taken off very urgent work, for more urgent work at Cowan.	Holds instructions two years old, partly finished; about fourteen instructions in all.
Hedgeland, G. C. .	Bondi	Engaged on urgent alignment surveys at Waverley.	Work of too urgent a character to be interrupted at a moment's notice.

SURVEYORS employed in Metropolitan District—*continued*.

Name of Surveyor.	Where camped at present	Nature of work employed upon.	Remarks.	
Knibbs, G. H. . . .	Liverpool	Urgent conditional purchase measurements in parish of Holsworthy, and marking of old grant boundaries adjoining National Park, prior to fencing the latter.	.....
Lucas, J. H.	Five Dock	Engaged on survey of Balmain Road for alignment and to determine high-water-mark of Harris' grant, 1,500 acres, Five Dock Farm, and Haymarket Permanent Building and Investment Society.	Urgent. Very Urgent. Encroachment in sub-division.	
McCallum, G.	Blayney.....	Left the district, to make alignment surveys at Blayney.	Instructions marked very urgent.	
Mackenzie, R. B. . . .	Waterloo	Finishing detail survey at Waterloo, prior to taking work proposed for him at Richmond.	.....
Madsen, H. F.	Newtown	Engaged on very urgent alignment surveys at Darlington and Newtown.	Has just returned instructions to District-Survey Office, stating that he has six months' work in hand.	
Nash, W. H.	Petersham	Engaged on alignment surveys at Petersham.	This work should not be interrupted, as there are urgent alignment surveys at St. Leonards which might wait for Mr. Surveyor Nash if no other alignment surveyor can be found in the meantime.	
Park, A. J.	Peat's Ferry.....	Has been taken off very urgent work between Long and Sailor's Bay, for more urgent work in connection with railway at the Hawkesbury.	.....
Perdriau, W. E.	Military Road, St. Leonards . . .	Engaged in completing road survey on east boundary of Thrupp's grant.	Will be free on the 1st October to survey Post Office site at St. Leonard's or E. Lord's reclamation.	
Pike, H. M. L. . . . .	.....	Alignment surveys at Hunter's Hill and re-marking Asylum Reserve at Huntley's Point.	.....
Richmond, J.	Bulli	Investigation of grant boundaries in the parish of Southend.	Requires assistance to enable him to push on the work.	
Robb, A. ....	.....	Marking Sydney population boundary, parishes of Narrabeen, Gordon, and North Colah.	Until this is done, position of conditional purchases cannot be determined or measured.
Scrivener, C. R.	Ryde	Investigation of old grant boundaries adjoining Field of Mars Common.	Urgently required at the Land Titles Office.	
Smyth, P. F.	Minto	Numerous important and urgent instructions, relating chiefly to roads applied for and disputed boundaries.	.....
Wansbrough, C. H.	South Kingston	Twenty-four reclamation surveys in hand	Has asked for assistance.	
Wilson, T. G.	Lane Cove River	Holds twenty-one instructions in the parish of Willoughby, and is now engaged on a most complicated case, through a careless survey of portions sold by Government, north of Sailor's Bay.	.....
Ponte, F.	Summerhill.....	Engaged on City Detail Survey	The Chief Engineer, Sewerage Surveys, having made application for surveys for extension of George-street sewer, &c., about six sheets of the City Survey will have to be executed as speedily as is consistent with accuracy.	
Mills, S.	Surveyors engaged on City Detail Survey under the supervision of Mr. Surveyor Ponte.			
Roberts, R. J. A. . . .				
Sim, W.				
Thomas, W.				
Thompson, W. M.				
Stafford, G. M.				
Steuwe, A. J.				
Tuxon, T.				
Thornhill, W.				
Maitland, D. M.	Stammore	Engaged on several important and urgent instructions.	.....
Pring, T.	Alexandria	Under the supervision of Mr. Surveyor Maitland.	These three surveyors are constantly employed under the supervision of Mr. Maitland, in making necessary surveys for new parish maps of Botany and Alexandria, and other surveys within these parishes that are being urged.	
Mills, W.	Botany			
Chesterman, A. H.	Botany			

Minute on above.

Forwarded to the Surveyor General with my B.C. memorandum in reply to his.—F. B. W. WOOLRYCH, District Surveyor, 19 September, 1883.

[Enclosure B to No. 13½.]

Instructions at present in the hands of Mr. Surveyor Perdriau.

No.	No.	Date.	Applicant.	Remarks.
Mis. 82-737 ...	82-131	8 May	Stuart & Harnett, rescission.....	{ Awaiting marking of roads by Mr. Bullock, partly carried out. Completion will occupy about three weeks.
Mis. 82-1,008 ...	82-170	5 January ...	Do. reclamation	
S.G.O. 81-122½	83-6	4 "	Redefine A. Thrupp's 700 acres	{ Partly finished; plan of boundary road on eastern side will be forwarded about the end of the month of September. Very urgent. About two weeks would be required to complete plan of the whole of Thrupp's grant.
Mis. 82-19,551	82-29	9 February...	Do. do.	
Rds. 83-241 ...	83-174	12 May	Alignment surveys, Borough of Victoria	{ Uncertain; say two weeks.
Mis. 83-3,680 ...	83-223	6 June	Bligh & Grant, reclamation. Date of application, 4th August, 1882	
Mis. 83-4,313...	83-236	19 "	Borough, county of Victoria, reclamation. Date of application, 10th July, 1882....	{ These instructions, including connections with former surveys and triangulation, will occupy about two months.
Mis. 83-5,383...	83-258	27 "	Arthur Walker, reclamation. Date of application, 4th December, 1882.....	
Mis. 82-20,574	83-260	27 "	E. Lord, rescission. 30th September, 1881.	{ This instruction will be carried out after that of survey of site for Post and Telegraph Office, and will be commenced about the middle of next month. Could be commenced about the 16th October, and would probably occupy two weeks.
		(Received at District Office on 30th June.)		
Mis. 83-4,312...	83-259	27 June.....	J. Halstead, reclamation	{ About two weeks.
Rds. 83-342.....	83-334	17 August ..	Alignment of streets, St. Leonards	
Mis. 83-16,558	83-363	7 September..	Site for Post and Telegraph Office, St. Leonards	{ Will proceed with this immediately after completion of plan of boundary road on eastern side of A. Thrupp's 700 acres. These instructions are marked "very urgent" by the Surveyor-General, as Mr. John Rae states that Mr. Wright is anxious to proceed to a close with the matter. Will probably be commenced on the 1st October, and completed by the 15th.
		(Received at District Office on 11th Sept.)		

NOTE.—It will be seen that the three instructions that are being urged by Ministers, or the Municipal Council, would be completed by Mr. Surveyor Perdriau by the end of October, and the work would be reliable. The employment of two new surveyors would hasten the work to completion, but I would not guarantee its correctness, unless they are men of known experience and accustomed to work in connection with the Trigonometrical Survey.

F. B. W. W., D.S.,
19th September, 1883.

No. 14.

The Under Secretary for Lands to R. P. Abbott, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 12 September, 1883.

Referring to your letter of the 11th instant, on the subject of Mr. Edward Lord's application to purchase the rescission of reservation of certain land at Careening Cove, I have the honor to inform you that Mr. District-Surveyor Woolrych, to whom this matter was referred on the 29th June last, has reported that he is at present unable to carry out this survey at once, as he has so many previous instructions in hand, and only a limited staff to act on them.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES OLIVER.

No. 15.

Memorandum from Mr. District-Surveyor Woolrych to Mr. Surveyor R. B. Mackenzie.

24 September, 1883.

Mr. Surveyor Mackenzie is requested to communicate with Mr. Surveyor Perdriau ("Mimosa," Ben Boyd Road, St. Leonards), respecting measurements which are required in connection with Mr. E. Lord's application for the rescission of water frontage at North Shore, the instructions for which Mr. Perdriau has been directed to transfer to Mr. Mackenzie. This matter is being urged by the Minister, who would have it attended to at once; therefore the surveys at Waterloo, on which Mr. Mackenzie is now employed, must be temporarily set aside.

If Mr. Mackenzie has not had experience in the kind of survey required, he is cautioned against hurrying over the work on account of its urgency, as no allowance is made by the Department for errors committed or imperfect work done by a surveyor, on the plea that it was being urged, and therefore done in haste.

F.B.W.W., D.S., 24 Sept., 1883.

To be returned when instructions are fulfilled.

Minute on above.

Returned accordingly herewith.—R. BAYLIS MACKENZIE, 10 Oct., 1883.

No. 16.

Mr. R. B. Mackenzie to The Surveyor-General.

Sir,

Bondi, 10 October, 1883.

In compliance with your instructions, No. 260, of 27th June, 1883 (issued to Mr. District-Surveyor), I have the honor to transmit herewith the plan and field-notes of a portion of land in the parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland, applied for under the 12th Clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, by Edward Lord.

Mr. Surveyor Perdriau gave me Mr. Bullock's values to Δ Trig., Stn. No. 235, from Timeball (he not having yet computed down to this point), and from this station my own are carried.

The mean high-watermark is the same now in this particular locality as it originally was at the time of the grant, and has been determined accurately by data supplied by Mr. H. C. Russell, Government Astronomer.

Date of Survey, 2 October, 1883.

I have, &c.,

R. B. MACKENZIE.

P.S.—In an adjoining rescission survey by Mr. Surveyor Knapp, I note there is a difference existing of about 26 links, which may be accounted for through the tide mark not being so accurately determined then as now.—R.B.M.

No. 17.

Mr. E. M. Clark to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

North Shore, 15 October, 1883.

We, the undersigned residents of East St. Leonards and its neighbourhood, have heard with feelings of surprise that the Government contemplate selling to Mr. Edward Lord the reserve at the eastern side of his property, situated at Careening Cove; and bounded on the south by Careening Cove, and on the north by Whaling Road, and on the west by a stonewall, the present dividing boundary of Lord's property. And knowing that the alienation of such a valuable public reserve will be detrimental to the privilege of recreation we at present enjoy from the same, we respectfully urge it upon your consideration that for the Government to sell this reserve (upon any terms) that will place it in the hands of a private individual, deprives us as residents, and the public generally, of a recreation spot, the advantage of which is felt and appreciated by all, and will close to us a valuable water frontage, and the public advantages we derive from such approach to and use of the same.

Actuated only for the public good, and by no selfish motives, we thus petition you, feeling assured that the urgency of our petition must receive due consideration at your hands, favourable to the wish of same; and your petitioners will remain and ever pray.

E. M. CLARK, and 78 others.

No. 18.

Question by H. Levien, Esq., M.P., with answer by The Secretary for Lands.

THURSDAY, 25 OCTOBER, 1883.

Question:—

(18.) Reserve fronting Whaling Road, North Shore:—*Mr. Merriman*, for Mr. Levien, asked the Secretary for Lands,—

(1.) Has the Minister received a petition asking him not to sell a reserve fronting Whaling Road and Careening Cove, adjoining Mr. E. Lord's property?

(2.) Has Mr. E. Lord made application to the Minister for the purchase of this land, and is it the intention of the Minister to entertain same?

Answer:—

Mr. Farnell answered,—

(1.) Yes.

(2.) Yes, with a special right to resumption, if the land or any portion of it is hereafter required for road purposes.

No. 19.

Question by H. Levien, Esq., M.P., with answer by The Secretary for Lands.

WEDNESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER, 1883.

Question:—

(3.) Reserve at Whaling Point, North Shore:—*Mr. Melville*, for Mr. Levien, asked the Secretary for Lands,—

(1.) Did he receive a petition from the residents of St. Leonards, requesting him not to dispose of the reserve at the end of the Whaling Road and Careening Cove?

(2.) Is it his intention to sell this land to Mr. Lord, and what is the price offered, and the amount required?

(3.) Has he any objection to lay a plan of the land upon the Table of the House, and all correspondence in connection with Mr. Lord's request to purchase?

Answer:—

Mr. Farnell answered,—

(1.) Yes.

(2.) These questions have not yet been finally determined.

(3.) No; I will do so at an early date.

No. 20.

Question by J. McElhone, Esq., M.P., with answer by The Secretary for Lands.

TUESDAY, 4 DECEMBER, 1883.

Question :—

(5.) Reserve fronting the Harbour at North Shore :—Mr. McElhone asked the Secretary for Lands,—Has he decided to let Mr. Lord purchase the reserve fronting Sydney Harbour at North Shore; if not, is it his intention to allow Mr. Lord to purchase the said reserve?

Answer :—

Mr. Farnell answered,—

I have not yet finally dealt with the question.

No. 21.

B. O. Holterman, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Sydney, 4 December, 1883.

By request of some thirty responsible inhabitants of St. Leonards Electorate, and with reference to a petition handed to you opposing the sale of a small reserve on North Shore by the Crown, to Mr. E. Lord, I hereby beg to bring under your notice that the North Shore has hardly any water frontage for public use. On Blue's Point, we may say there is a pretty fair landing place, but all round Lavender Bay is not accessible by carts, &c. On Milson's Point, only one very steep street, 66 feet wide, and one or two more, but in no way sufficient. In a few years time when all North Shore I hope will be transferred into wharfs, and the busy North, when all and every single foot will be wanted for access to the water. I hope for the benefit of our new electorate you will not comply with Mr. Lord's request, and preserve this reserve for the St. Leonard's Electorate.

I have, &c.,

B. O. HOLTERMAN.

Minutes on above.

Re-submitted.—The papers in this case have been copied and laid before Parliament.—J.M.G., 26/2/84. C.O., 1/3/84. The matter of the reclamation of Careening Cove, having this day been determined, and ample provisions proposed to be made for public requirements, Mr. E. Lord's rescission may now proceed.—J.S.F., 12/3/84. The area approved to be alienated under the 12th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 (which is 2 roods 6½ perches), having been surveyed, a tracing showing same (marked C) is now enclosed for the appraiser.—T. ELLIS (for Surveyor-General), 10 June, 1884.—Under Secretary for Lands.

No. 22.

The Under Secretary for Lands to B. O. Holterman, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 19 March, 1884.

In reference to your letter of the 4th December last, respecting petition of certain residents of St. Leonards, protesting against the rescission of reservation fronting his property at Careening Cove, applied for by Mr. Edward Lord, I am directed by the Secretary for Lands to inform you, that as the matter of the reclamation of Careening Cove has been determined, and ample provision proposed to be made for public requirements, the rescission of reservation referred to will now be proceeded with.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,

Under Secretary.

No. 23.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Solicitor.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 20 June, 1884

Portion of land containing 2 roods 6½ perches, parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland.

I have the honor to forward herewith the papers relating to Edward Lord's application to purchase, under the 12th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the land particularized in the margin; and I am to request that you will have the goodness to take the necessary action in the matter with a view to the issue of the customary certificate as to his claim to purchase, in order that the preparation of the deed of grant for the land in question may be proceeded with.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 24.

The Under Secretary for Lands to E. Lord, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 20 June, 1884.

2 roods and 6½ perches, parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland.

With reference to your application for permission to purchase, under the 12th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the land specified in the margin hereof, I am directed to request that you will furnish this Department with a certificate from the Crown Solicitor, showing that your title to the adjoining land is sufficient to warrant the sale to you of the portion referred to.

2. No further action will be taken by this Department in the matter until the required certificate is received.

I have, &c.

CHARLES OLIVER,

Under Secretary.

No. 25.

13

No. 25.

Memorandum.

Lord's rescission of reservation.

THE Minister wishes Mr. Bayley to be instructed not to proceed with the appraisal, pending further inquiry.

F.H.W.

27/6/84.

No. 26.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 30 June, 1884.

In compliance with the request contained in your memo. of the 27th June, I have the honor to return all the papers connected with Mr. Edward Lord's application to purchase, under the 12th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

I have, &c.,

JOHN WILLIAMS,

Crown Solicitor.

2 roods 6½
perches, parish
Willoughby,
county Cumber-
land.

No. 27.

Memorandum by Secretary for Lands.

It has been represented that Mr. Lord applied for the whole of the rescission fronting his property, including the triangular portion, or part, which has been excluded. Has it been excluded accidentally, or how has it been excluded?

For Surveyor-General.—C.O., 30/6/84.

J.S.F.,

30/6/84.

Urgent.

It has been excluded advisedly, the minute of recommendation having been framed by the Engineer-in-Chief of Harbours and Rivers and myself (as explained in report Ms. 82-3,596), so as not to interfere with the extension of High-street, St. Leonards; and as bearing on this question attention is invited to the inclosed communications from the Mines Department, B. O. Holterman, Esq., M.L.A., and residents of North Shore.

P. F. ADAMS,

4 July, 1884.

[Enclosure.]

Amended Description.

COMMENCING at a point where the south-western boundary of applicant's property meets the high-water mark of Careening Cove; and bounded thence on the south-west by part of that boundary line bearing north-westerly to a line parallel to and distant 100 feet from high water-mark; thence on the north by that line bearing easterly to the south-west side of High-street; thence on the north-east by that street bearing south-easterly to the aforesaid high-water-mark; and thence on the south by that high-water mark westerly, to the point of commencement.—P. F. ADAMS.

Minutes on No. 27.

I concur in the Surveyor-General's report.—E.O.M., 18/7/84. It would be advantageous if the reason for the recommendation were stated.—C.O., 19/7/84. Let the alienation of the whole proceed.—J.S.F., 28/8/84. Amended description of the reserve applied for now herewith.—L. S. PEYTON (for Surveyor-General), 29/8/84. The Under Secretary for Lands, Ms. 12,882.

No. 28.

Memorandum.

THE previous papers in the case would appear to be with Mr. District-Surveyor Woolrych. Will you please see whether these papers are required to be sent to him also.

J.M.G.

2 Oct., 1884.

[Enclosure.]

EDWARD LORD, applying for permission to reclaim and purchase land below high-water mark, fronting his property at Careening Cove, parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland.

Description.

Commencing at a point where the south-western boundary of applicant's property meets the high-water mark of Careening Cove; and bounded thence on the south-west by the north-eastern boundary of applicant's purchased reclamation of 2 roods 12 perches, bearing south 30° 15' east (mag.) 53 links; thence on the south-east by a line bearing about north 85° east to the prolongation of the south-western side of High-street; thence on the north-east by that prolongation bearing north-westerly, to the aforesaid high-water mark; and thence on the north by that high-water mark westerly, to the point of commencement.

Tracings herewith, marked A and B, one of which, marked A, should probably be forwarded to applicant.

Minutes on above.

Mr. M. Guinn,—Please see my minute inside, dated 26 April, /83. Joint report on protest (Ms. 84-21,081) was forwarded to the Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers for signature 24th ult.—S.L.P., 4/12/84. Submitted. May await receipt of joint report.—J.G.B., 11/12/84. The Minister, on Ms. 84-21,081, decided that the rescission of the reservation of the whole of the frontage to the north-west side of High-street should be allowed. Papers may now be returned.—F.H.W. (for the Under Secretary), 12/12/84. M. Beyton,—As it has now been decided to allow of the rescission of the reservation of the whole of the frontage, it is submitted whether the reclamation should not be allowed for the whole of the frontage too, instead of that previously recommended, which referred to the frontage only of the part of the reservation then proposed to be rescinded.—F.H.W. (for the Under Secretary), 18/12/84. Reclamation for the whole of the frontage may be allowed.—J.S.F., 18/12/84. Tracings and description for Gazette notice herewith.—S.L.P., 19/1/85.

No. 29.

No. 29.

The Under Secretary for Lands to R. P. Abbott, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 3 October, 1884.

With reference to your personal inquiry respecting Mr. E. Lord's application to purchase the rescission of reservation of 100 feet fronting his property at Careening Cove, I have the honor to inform you that the application to purchase was gazetted for objections on the 19th ultimo, and that when the time prescribed by law within which objections may be received has expired, further steps will be taken in the matter.

I have, &c.,

F. H. WILSON,

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 30.

The Council Clerk, East St. Leonards, to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Council Chambers, East St. Leonards, 8 October, 1884.

I am directed by the Council to give you notice that they desire to state objections against the application of Mr. Edward Lord to purchase rescission of reservation at Careening Cove, county of Cumberland, parish of Willoughby; registration Ms. 84-12,882, *Gazette* No. 491, September 26th, 1884.

The Council are of opinion that such purchase would interfere with the public right of access to the waters of Port Jackson.

I have, &c.,

P. A. TEMPLE,

Council Clerk.

Minutes on above.

The Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers and Surveyor-General.—J.G.B. (for the Under Secretary), 21/10/84.

We are of opinion that the protest of the Borough Council of East St. Leonards is well grounded so far as it agrees with our previous recommendation in this case, when our recommendation was similar to that made by us in the case of Mr. P. Hayes.

P. F. ADAMS.

E. O. MORIARTY.

B.C. (for The Under Secretary for Lands). The Under Secretary for Public Works, 1/12/84.

I decided that the alienation of the whole area applied for should proceed. Can a description of the whole area be furnished without further survey? If not, let a survey proceed forthwith. This case has been in this office nearly eight years, and it is time that it should be completed.—J.S.F., 2/12/84. The Surveyor-General.

Mr. Peyton for description.—P.F.A., 2/12/84.

Surveyor-General.—The amended description marked D, was prepared and forwarded to Lands in August, and is still with the papers.—S. L. PEYTON, 3/12/84. Under Secretary for Lands.—P.F.A., 3/12/84. Submitted.—C.O., 4/12/84.

The appraisement may proceed at once.—J.S.F., 5/12/84.

No. 31.

Appointment of Appraiser by The Minister for Lands.

WHEREAS the late Edward Lord (per R. P. Abbott), of 102 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales, applied to purchase, under the 12th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the crown land specified in the Schedule hereinafter written. Now I, the Minister for Lands, in pursuance of the powers vested in me under and by virtue of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, do hereby appoint Marshall Bayley, of Pitt-street, Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales, to be the Appraiser on behalf of the Crown, to appraise the present value of the said land, and to determine the price to be paid for the purchase thereof by the representatives of the late Edward Lord.

In witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand, this 9th day of December, 1884.

JAMES S. FARNELL.

Schedule referred to.

S.P. No. 46. Area 2 roods 6½ perches, parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland.

I, the within-named Marshall Bayley, do solemnly and sincerely declare, that I am not directly or indirectly interested in the matter referred to me, and that I will faithfully and honestly, and to the best of my skill and ability, hear and determine the matter referred to me under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

Subscribed and declared, this 13th day of

December, A.D., 1884, before me,—

M. BAYLEY.

ALF. HILDER, J.P.

No. 32.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Solicitor.

Sir,

Department of Lands, 9 December, 1884.

I have the honor to forward herewith the papers relating to Edward Lord's application to purchase, under the 12th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the land particularized in the margin; and I am to request that you will have the goodness to take the necessary action in the matter, with

A portion of land containing 2 roods 6½ perches, parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland.

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with a view to the issue of the customary certificate as to his claim to purchase, in order that the preparation of the deed of grant for the land in question may be proceeded with.

I have, &c.,
F. H. WILSON,
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 32 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The Under Secretary for Lands to the Representatives of the late Edward Lord.

Gentlemen,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 9 December, 1884.

With reference to Edward Lord's application for permission to purchase, under the 12th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, the land specified in the margin hereof, I am directed to request that you will furnish this department with a certificate from the Crown Solicitor, showing that your title to the adjoining land is sufficient to warrant the sale to you of the portion referred to.

No further action will be taken by this department in the matter until the required certificate is received.

I have, &c.,
F. H. WILSON,
(*pro* J. G. BLAXLAND).

No. 33.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Crown Solicitor.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 11 December, 1884.

I am directed by the Secretary for Lands, to request that you will have the goodness to return the papers, Ms. 84-21,081, *re* Edward Lord's 12th clause application, forwarded to your department on the 9th instant.

I have, &c.,
F. H. WILSON,
(For the Under Secretary).

No. 34.

Memorandum by Secretary for Lands.

THE origin of these whaling grants arose out of letters of occupation upon certain conditions. The claims of the parties were referred to the Court of Claims, which Court decided that the conditions had been fulfilled, and that they were entitled to their respective grants. This land being a portion of a grant promised as a special reserve for the formation of a whaling or other mercantile establishment, as stated in the deed of grant—to reserve the water-frontage would be to defeat the object mentioned; but as the printed form of grant makes the usual reservation (used by mistake in these whaling grants), the matter has been proceeded with under the 12th section of the Act of 1861.

In my opinion, the price of the land should not, under the circumstances be more than nominal, or more than that fixed as a minimum by the Act. And I think that this principle should be applied in all cases of the whaling grants.

J.S.F., 12/12/84.

Minutes on above.

Crown Solicitor, B.C., J.McG., 12/12/84.

No. 35.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 12 December, 1884.

In compliance with the request contained in your letter of yesterday's date, without number, I have the honor to return herewith, all the papers in connection with Mr. Edward Lord's application, under the 12th clause Crown Lands Alienation Act, 1861, to purchase the land as in margin.

I have, &c.,
JOHN WILLIAMS,
Crown Solicitor (*per* C.E.P.).

No. 36.

Mr. Appraiser Bayley to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Appraisement of Land.

Portion containing 2 roods 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ perches, in the parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland.—
Appraised at £5.

Sir,

Sydney, 15 December, 1884.

In transmitting the attached award I have the honor to state that the appraisement was conducted on the 13th December, 1884, strictly in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations under the Lands Act further Amendment Act, 1880, and that fourteen day's notice in writing of the date I had fixed to inspect and determine the price of the land was given to R. P. Abbott, representative of late E. Lord, who was not present on the occasion.

The prescribed declaration was made before the appraisement was entered upon, and my letter of appointment is herewith returned.

I have, &c.,
M. BAYLEY,
Appraiser.

[*Enclosure.*]
Award.

To all to whom these presents shall come,—

I, Marshall Bayley, of 19 Bridge-street, Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales, send greeting:—

Whereas on the ninth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, I was duly appointed by the Minister for Lands, in the Colony of New South Wales, as the appraiser to affix and determine the price

price or value to be paid by representatives of the late Edward Lord, for the purchase of portion containing 2 roods 6½ perches, in the parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland. And, whereas I have entered upon the consideration of the value of the said land, and have heard and considered the evidence produced before me; Now, I, the said Marshall Bayley, do hereby declare the sum of five pounds to be the value of the said land, and do appraise and fix that sum as the amount to be paid for the purchase thereof from the Crown.

In witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand, this 16th day of December, 1884.

M. BAYLEY,
Appraiser.

No. 37.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 6 May, 1885.

I have the honor to return herewith, the papers relating to an application made by the late Edward Lord, to purchase a portion of land at Careening Cove, under the 12th section of the Land Act of 1861, and to state that Messrs. Abbott and Dodds, solicitors, have forwarded to me an abstract of Mr. Lord's title, from which I find that by indenture of date 31 March, 1873, registered No. 509, book 137, Frederica Feez, widow, conveyed to Edward Lord, *inter alia*, 1 acre 1 rood of land at Careening Cove, parish of Willoughby, originally granted to John Lamb by Crown grant, dated 1 June, 1841.

Mr. Lord, by his will dated 22nd day of August, 1882, devised all his real estate to the trustees, and upon the trust mentioned in his said will.

I think, therefore, it would be advisable, provided the reservation sought to be purchased adjoins the 1 acre 1 rood granted to Lamb, to issue the grant in Mr. Lord's name under section 26 of 26 Vic., No. 9, and section 3 of 36 Vic., No. 7.

I have, &c.,
JOHN WILLIAMS,
Crown Solicitor.

[Minutes on No. 37.]

From Mr. Surveyor Mackenzie's plan (Cat. C. 496-2,030) it would appear that the reservation sought to be purchased adjoins the 1 acre 1 rood granted to John Lamb, as referred to by the Crown Solicitor. It is however pointed out that the appraiser was directed to appraise only the 2 roods 6½ perches measured and first proposed to be sold, thus omitting the additional area of about 21½ perches, afterwards approved. It is therefore submitted, whether in view of the appraisement made being only £5, and the additional 21½ perches appearing comparatively unimportant, the alienation now approved may proceed without further appraisement.—J. W. ELLIS (for Surveyor-General), 9 July, 1885. The Under Secretary for Lands. Submitted.—J.E., 10/7/85. F.H.W. (for the Under Secretary), 15/7/85. Let the nominal sum cover both lots.—J.S.F., 16/7/85.

No. 38.

Gazette Notice.

Application to reclaim and purchase land.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 24 June, 1885.

NOTICE is hereby given, that application has been made by the party hereunder mentioned, to reclaim and purchase, under the 9th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act, 1861, certain land in front of his property, particularized in the annexed description; and all persons interested are invited to state, within one month from this date, their objections (if any) to the proposed reclamation.

F. A. WRIGHT.

Registration No.	Applicant.	Description.
Ms. 84-27,394	Edward Lord	County of Cumberland, parish of Willoughby: Commencing at a point where the south-western boundary of applicant's property meets the high-water mark of Careening Cove; and bounded thence on the south-west by the north-eastern boundary of applicant's purchased reclamation of 2 roods 12 perches, bearing south 30 degrees 15 minutes east (magnetic) 53 links; thence on the south-east by a line bearing about north 85 minutes east to the prolongation of the south-western side of High-street; thence on the north-east by that prolongation bearing north-westerly to the aforesaid high-water mark; and thence on the north by that high-water mark westerly, to the point of commencement.

No. 39.

Council Clerk, East St. Leonards, to The Secretary Lands.

Sir,

Council Chambers, East St. Leonards, 11 July, 1885.

I have the honor to forward you the following resolutions passed at a special meeting of the Council on the 10th instant, concerning the application to reclaim and purchase land in Careening Cove, adjoining High-street in this Borough.

1. That in the opinion of this Council, the sale of the right of reclamation of land in Careening Cove (Gazette No. 256, June 24, registration number 84-27,394) to the representatives of the late Edward Lord, will be opposed to the interests of the ratepayers of East St. Leonards, and to the public interests generally, being at present the only available water frontage suitable for the erection of a public wharf free from the interference of private owners—a difficulty this Council has to contend with in all its available water frontages in other portions of the Municipality.

2. That this Council take steps to acquire the reclamation sought to be purchased by the representatives of the late Edward Lord, and fully described in *Gazette* notice, date 24 June, as a special reserve for Municipal purposes.

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I am directed to point out the serious inconvenience already resulting through the adjoining frontages of our present public wharf (Eastern Wharf Road), blocking it completely in, there not being room to berth any but a very small vessel without overlapping their adjoining frontages.

Also, to bring before your notice the fact that a wharf at the end of High-street would be the most easy of access on the North Shore, the gradients therefrom being very slight.

The reclamation in question could be utilized for wharfage purposes at a small expense, owing to the great depth of water and its natural formation; and in consequence of it adjoining the foot of High-street, its usefulness to the public would be incalculable.

I have, &c.,

P. A. TEMPLE,
Council Clerk.

No. 40.

The Council Clerk, East St. Leonards, to The Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

Council Chambers, East St. Leonards, 11 July, 1885.

I have the honor, by direction of the Council, to bring under your notice the objection lodged by it against the proposed sale of the right of reclamation of land in Careening Cove (*Gazette* No. 256, June 24th, registration No. 84-27,394) to the representatives of the late Edward Lord. (See copy of letter herewith to the Hon. the Minister for Lands in explanation).

Any assistance you will be pleased to render to the Council in this matter will be taken as an esteemed favour.

I have, &c.,

P. A. TEMPLE,
Council Clerk.

The Secretary for Lands.—A.S., 16 July, /85. The Under Secretary for Lands, B.C., 16 July, /85.—J.B. (for Principal Under Secretary). Have any other objections been lodged.—J.E., 24/7/85. Records. No.—C.L., 24/7/85. Mr. District-Surveyor Deering.—J.E. (for the U.S.), B.C., 24 July, 1885. Report to the Under Secretary, No. 879 of this date.—JOHN W. DEERING, Metropolitan District Surveyor, 17 Sept., 1885. For enclosure see No. 39.

No. 41.

The Council Clerk, East St. Leonards, to The Colonial Treasurer.

Sir,

Council Chambers, East St. Leonards, 11 July, 1885.

I have the honor, by direction of the Council, to bring under your notice the objection lodged by it against the proposed sale of the right of reclamation of land in Careening Cove (*Gazette* No. 256 June 24, registration No. 84-27,394) to the representatives of the late Edward Lord. (See copy of letter herewith to the Hon. the Minister for Lands in explanation).

Any assistance you will be pleased to render to the Council in this matter will be taken as an esteemed favour.

I have, &c.,

P. A. TEMPLE,
Council Clerk.

Minutes on above.

Lands.—G.R.D., 16/7/85. The Under Secretary for Lands, B.C., 16/7/85.—G.E. For enclosure see No. 39.

No. 42.

The Council Clerk, East St. Leonards, to The Secretary for Public Works.

Sir,

Council Chambers, East St. Leonards, 11 July, 1885.

I have the honor, by direction of the Council, to bring under your notice the objection lodged by it against the proposed sale of the right of reclamation of land in Careening Cove (*Gazette* No. 256, June 24, registration No. 84-27,394) to the representatives of the late Edward Lord. (See copy of letter herewith to the Hon. the Minister for Lands in explanation).

Any assistance you will be pleased to render to the Council in this matter will be taken as an esteemed favour.

I have, &c.,

P. A. TEMPLE,
Council Clerk.

Minutes on above.

Cabinet.—F.A.W., 20/7/85. I would like to see the papers in this case.—A.S., 22/7/85. The Under Secretary for Lands, B.C., 30/7/85.—J.B. (for Principal Under Secretary). Papers Ms. 85-13,634 connected herewith.—JOHN W. DEERING, 7/8/85.

The papers in connection with the resumption are now before the Executive Council.—J.E., 7/8/85. The Principal Under Secretary.—F.H.W., B.C., Lands Dept., 7/8/85.

It appears that the papers, having been dealt with in Executive Council, have been returned to the Lands Department. The Under Secretary for Lands, B.C., 1/9/85.—C.W. For enclosure see No. 39.

No. 43.

The Council Clerk, East St. Leonards, to The Attorney-General.

Sir,

Council Chambers, East St. Leonards, 11 July, 1885.

I have the honor, by direction of the Council, to bring under your notice the objection lodged by it against the proposed sale of the right of reclamation of land in Careening Cove (*Gazette* No. 256, June 24, registration No. 84-27,394) to the representatives of the late Edward Lord. (See copy of letter herewith to the Hon. the Minister for Lands in explanation).

Any assistance you will be pleased to render to the Council in this matter will be taken as an esteemed favour.

I have, &c.,

P. A. TEMPLE,
Council Clerk.
Minutes.

18,

Minutes on No. 43.

Forwarded by direction of the Attorney-General for submission to the Colonial Secretary.—W.W.S., B.C., 29/7/85. The Principal Under Secretary. The Secretary for Lands.—A.S., Aug., 1885. The Under Secretary for Lands, B.C., 5/7/85.—C.W. For enclosure see No. 39.

No. 44.

The Council Clerk, East St. Leonards, to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Council Chambers, East St. Leonards, 11 July, 1885.

I have the honor, by direction of the Council, to bring under your notice the objection lodged by it against the proposed sale of the right of reclamation of land in Careening Cove (*Gazette* No. 256, 24th June, registration No. 81-27,394) to the representatives of the late Edward Lord. (See copy of letter herewith to the Hon. the Minister for Lands in explanation).

Any assistance you will be pleased to render to the Council in this matter will be taken as an esteemed favour.

I have, &c.,

P. A. TEMPLE,

Council Clerk.

Minutes on No. 44.

The Surveyor of Public Parks.—J.H.D.W., 20/7/85. Department of Mines.

Careening Cove.—It would appear from the terms of the *Gazette* notice alluded to in Mr. Temple's letter of 11/7/85 that the matter objected to by the Council of East St. Leonards is the right of reclamation adjoining a right already purchased.

2. I do not know that this Department has any *locus standi* in the matter as it is not proposed so far as I know to devote the land in any case to purposes of recreation; but I have ascertained that the question is to be brought before the Executive Council to-day, and that the papers are with Mr. Budge accordingly.—W. M. COOPER, Surveyor of Public Parks, 27/7/85.

No. 45.

Minute Paper for Executive Council.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 25 July, 1885.

THE application specified in the Schedule annexed, for the purchase, under the 12th clause of the Crown Lands Act of 1881, of certain land, the value of which has been appraised as by law required, is recommended for the approval of His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council, the claim being regular and in accordance with the provisions of the Act referred to.

JAMES S. FARNELL.

SCHEDULE REFERRED TO.

S.P. No.	Name of Applicant.	Area.			Parish.	County.	Price, inclusive of deed fee.		
		a	r.	p.			£	s.	d.
76-46	The representatives of the late Edward Lord.....	0	2	27½	Willoughby.....	Cumberland....	6	0	0

Minutes on No. 45.

The Executive Council advise as herein recommended that the application set forth in Schedule, to purchase the portions of land at Careening Cove, herein described, be approved.—ALEX. C. BUDGE, Clerk of the Council. Approved.—A.L., 28/7/85. Min. 85/25, 18/7/85. Confirmed.—25/8/85.

No. 46.

Memorandum from The Metropolitan and Coast District Surveyor to Under Secretary for Lands.

Edward Lord, reclamation Careening Cove, 9th Section Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

No. 879, 17th September, 1885.

In view of recent correspondence from the Borough Council of St. Leonards, and the circumstance that the applicant has been permitted to purchase the whole of the rescission fronting his property, I am of opinion that he should be permitted to reclaim the area marked ABDE; and that the Borough Council, upon application, should be permitted to reclaim the area marked ABC, as shown upon tracing herewith marked B. The latter reclamation will be a valuable means of access to High-street, and will probably meet the wishes of the Council.

JOHN W. DEERING,
Metropolitan District Surveyor.*Minutes on No. 46.*

For reference to the Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers.—F.H.W. (for the Under Secretary), B.C., 22 September, 1885. B.C., Mr. Williams for report (for E.O.M.).—W.V., 23/9/85.

Reclamation not commenced.—I can see no possible objection to this reclamation being carried out.—A.W., 10/10/85.

I concur.—E.O.M., 27/10/85. B.C., Under Secretary for Public Works. Forward to Lands. The Under Secretary for Lands, B.C., 30/10/85.—J.R.

No. 47.

No. 47.

Mr. Forest Ranger McKeown to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Petersham, 28 October, 1885.

I have the honor to report that Mr. Robert Scott of Nicholson-street, Balmain, contractor, is now engaged with several of his men driving piles upon Crown Lands, below high-water mark, fronting Mr. Lord's property at Neutral Bay, near foot of High-street, for purpose of erecting a jetty.

Mr. Scott informed me that he is erecting the jetty by direction of the North Shore Steam Ferry Company.

I am not aware of any authority having been granted for the occupation of the Crown Lands above referred to, either by the erection of a jetty or otherwise.

Awaiting instructions,

I have, &c.,

JAS. McKEOWN,
Cumberland Ranger.

Minutes on No. 47.

Application for special lease has been made to the Local Land Board for permission to erect a jetty in the locality named. Evidently from this report the erection of the jetty is being proceeded with without any authority from the Crown, and thereby rendering themselves liable to the penalties under the 133 Section of Crown Lands Act of 1884. The paper is submitted that in view of an application to lease having been made, no proceeding in trespass be taken.—E.L., 30/10/85.

Submitted.—C.O., 31/10/85. Persons ought not to be allowed to act as if it was imperative on the Department to grant a lease. When they do so they often make it afterwards an excuse for pressing the claim for lease.—J.P.A., 2/11/85.

No. 48.

The Chairman of the Neutral Bay Steam Ferry Company (Limited), to
The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Commercial Chambers, Bond-street, Sydney, 3 November, 1885.

As representing a large portion of the travelling public of Neutral Bay, North Shore, we respectfully draw your attention to the construction of an extensive jetty now being rapidly proceeded with at the extremity of High-street, by the North Shore Ferry Company (Limited)

We would also urge that as statutory notice of application has appeared in the *Gazette*, no opportunity has been offered for stating objections to the above-mentioned works.

I have, &c.,

P. HAYES,
Chairman.

On behalf of the Directors of Neutral Bay Steam Ferry Company (Limited).

Minutes on No. 48.

Papers.—C.O., 4/11/85. I have already given instructions that this work is not to proceed until the lease is granted, and steps are to be taken to stop it.—J. P. ABBOTT, 4/11/85.

No. 49.

Mr. T. Summerbell to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

North Shore Steam Ferry Company (Limited), Sydney, 6 November, 1885.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, *re* instructions from the Minister that the work (*i.e.*, erecting jetty at the south boundary of High-street, Neutral Bay) is not to be proceeded with.

I most respectfully ask the Minister to revoke this order, inasmuch as a contract with Mr. Scott has been entered into for the sum of £140—such contract is nearly completed. That a stoppage of the work will demand compensation by the contractor, and consequently entail serious loss to the Company.

Believing that the jetty was urgently needed—as per Council report of East St. Leonards, which set forth that 183 residents had petitioned the Council for such a convenience (they, the Council having refused to comply with the petition)—this Company thus obtained the consent of the occupant of Mr. Lord's land to erect a jetty extending a few feet outside the rocks, made an application to the Lands Department for permission.

Please lay this statement before the Minister at your earliest convenience and pray that my request may be granted.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS SUMMERBELL,
Manager.

Minutes on above.

Submitted.—C.O., 6/11/85.

Approved.—J. P. ABBOTT, 6/11/85.

No. 50.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. P. Hayes.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 10 November, 1885.

Referring to your letter of the 3rd instant, respecting the jetty now in course of construction at the south boundary of High-street, Neutral Bay, I am directed to inform you, that Mr. Secretary Abbott has rescinded his former order for the stoppage of the work, and has issued instructions that the erection of the jetty referred to is to be allowed to proceed.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,
Under Secretary.

No. 51.

No. 51.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. T. Summerbell.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 10 November, 1885.

Referring to your letter of the 6th instant, respecting the jetty now in course of construction at the south boundary of High-street, Neutral Bay, and requesting the Minister to revoke his previous order for the stoppage of the work, I am directed to inform you, that Mr. Secretary Abbott has decided to grant your request, and has given instructions that proceedings instituted in the matter by Mr. Ranger McKeown be stayed.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,
Under Secretary.

No. 52.

The Under Secretary for Lands to R. P. Abbott, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 10 November, 1885.

I am directed to call your attention to the notice in the *Government Gazette* of the 11th instant, from which you will perceive that the representatives of the late E. Lord will be allowed to purchase, under the 12th clause of the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861," portion containing 2 roods and 27½ perches, in the parish of Willoughby, county of Cumberland; and I am to request that you will be good enough to pay into the Colonial Treasury the sum of £6, being the price at which the land has been appraised, inclusive of the deed fee.

Under the 8th clause of the Regulations of the "Land Acts further Amendment Act of 1880," the amount stated must be paid in the manner pointed out within three months from the notice in the *Government Gazette*, under a penalty of an addition of 10 per cent. to the price; and should the price, together with such penalty, not be paid within a further period of three months, the claim to purchase will lapse.

The deposit of £5, paid on the application, will be credited as part payment of the purchase money.

I have, &c.,

R. H. DE LOW,
(For the Under Secretary.)

No. 53.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mr. Forest-Ranger McKeown.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 10 November, 1885.

Referring to your report of the 28th ultimo and my letter of the 4th instant, respecting the jetty now in course of erection at the south boundary of High-street, Neutral Bay, I am to request that you will be good enough to stay any proceedings which you may have instituted in the case, as the Minister for Lands has rescinded his previous order for the stoppage of the work in question.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES OLIVER,
Under Secretary.

No. 54.

Gazette Notice.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 11 November, 1885.

It is hereby notified that the persons hereunder referred to will be permitted to purchase, under the 12th clause of the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861" the portion of land mentioned in the following Schedule.

2. The purchase money must be paid into the Colonial Treasury, Sydney, within three months from the date of the publication of this notice, under a penalty of an addition to the appraised value of 10 per cent.; and should that increased price not be paid within a further period of three months, the claims to purchase will lapse.

JOSEPH P. ABBOTT.

Registration No.	S. P. No.	Name of Applicant.	Area.	Situation of Land.		Appraised value, inclusive of deed fee.
				Parish.	County.	
Ms. 85-8,709	76-46	The Representatives of the late Edward Lord.	a. r. p. 0 2 27½	Willoughby	Cumberland	£ s. d. 6 0 0

No. 55.

Mr. T. Summerbell to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

North Shore Steam Ferry Company (Limited), Sydney, 11 November, 1886.

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 10th instant, received even date, re jetty at south boundary of High-street, Neutral Bay, with many thanks.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS SUMMERBELL,
Manager.

21

No. 56.

The Council Clerk, East St. Leonards, to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir, Council Chambers, East St Leonards, 11 November, 1885.

I accordance with a resolution of the Council passed at a general meeting held on the 22nd October last, I have this day made an application for a lease of the water frontage to High-street, in this Borough, for the purpose of erecting a public wharf thereon.

I am directed to state, that the Mayor is surprised to find that a jetty has been erected on the said frontage to High-street, by the North Shore Ferry Co., without permission, no notification having appeared in the *Gazette* or other newspapers. The North Shore Ferry Co., recently asked permission of the Council to erect a jetty at this street, which was refused, it being pointed out at the time that the Council intended erecting a public wharf there.

The jetty now erected will spoil the scheme the Council intended carrying out, that of a large wharf for the use of the public.

I have, &c.,
P. A. TEMPLE,
Council Clerk.

Minutes on No. 46.

Submitted.—E.L., 12/11/85.

It is understood that the wharf does not front High-street, but adjoins it. No interference with the project of the Council need be permitted, as the lease to be granted to the North Shore Ferry Co., would be made to terminate on the completion of the public wharf by the Council.—C.O., 11/11/85.

Approved.—J. P. ABBOTT, 14/11/85.

No. 57.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Council Clerk, East St. Leonards.

Sir, Department of Lands, Sydney, 14 November, 1885.

Referring to your letter of the 11th instant, respecting your application on behalf of the St. Leonard's Municipal Council, for a lease of the water frontage to High-street, for the purpose of erecting a public wharf thereon, I am directed by the Secretary for Lands to inform you, that as it is understood that the wharf does not front High-street, but adjoins it, no interference with the project of the Council will be permitted, as the lease to the North Shore Ferry Company could be made to terminate on the completion of the public wharf by the Council.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES OLIVER,
Under Secretary.

No. 58.

The Council Clerk, East St. Leonards, to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir, Council Chambers, East St. Leonards, 17 November, 1885.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your Under Secretary's letter of the 14th instant, re application for a lease of the frontage at the foot of High-street, for a public wharf, in accordance with the plan submitted with the application.

I am directed by the Council to protest against the wharf at the foot of High-street, recently erected by the North Shore Ferry Company, unlawfully, this Council having had no opportunity to object to its erection.

I am directed to refer you to a letter forwarded to the Minister for Lands on 11th July, 1885, copies of which were forwarded to yourself, the Hon. The Colonial Secretary, the Hon. The Colonial Treasurer, the Hon. W. B. Dalley, and I. E. Ives, Esq., M.L.A., protesting against the sale of the right of reclamation of the land whereon this recently erected wharf is situated, adjoining High-street, to the representatives of the late Edward Lord, pointing out particularly that if the public were restricted to the base frontage of High-street for a wharf, such would be almost useless.

Upon these facts, the portion alluded to, adjoining High-street, was actually reserved from sale, thereby making a proper approach to High-street.

Your Under Secretary's letter states that the lease to the North Shore Ferry Company could be made to terminate on the completion of the public wharf by the Council, but I am directed to point out (as in my last letter) that the wharf erected by the North Shore Ferry Company (if allowed to remain) entirely prevents the erection of the proposed large public wharf over the frontage to High-street, with the piece of land adjoining, resumed for that purpose. See sketch with the application.

Therefore if a lease is granted to the North Shore Company, this Municipality cannot proceed with their proposed improvements for the public benefit.

I have, &c.,
P. A. TEMPLE,
Council Clerk.

No. 59.

Memo. from Metropolitan and Coast District Surveyor to Under Secretary for Lands.

Borough Council of East St. Leonards, complaining of jetty at foot of High-street, erected by the North Shore Steam Ferry Company.

(No. 1,462)

20 November, 1885.

I HAVE personally inspected this jetty and seen the alignment of High-street.

2. The jetty has been erected alongside the extension of the building line of High-street, and is upon land, which in my report No. S79, of 17th September last, upon Edward Lord's proposed reclamation (Misc. 85-13,634) I recommended to be reserved as a means of access to High-street. I am not aware of the decision in that case.

3. It appears to me that the only encroachment upon the frontage waters of High-street, and which is the only area the Council can claim, is the small portion of jetty marked A B C D upon Council's tracing herewith.

J.

4 A special lease No 85-77, for a public wharf and general wharfage is now with me for report. The area applied for is as colored brown upon enclosed tracing, and it embraces nearly the entire jetty of the Steam Company.

JOHN W. DEERING,
Metropolitan District Surveyor.

No. 60.

Mr. T. Summerbell to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir, North Shore Steam Ferry Company (Limited), Sydney, 21 November, 1885.

However desirable it may have been for a deputation from this Company to wait upon the Minister, it is now rendered unnecessary at this stage, on account of the equitable decision he has given (as per *Herald's* report in this day's issue).

I ask sir, that in the event of the Minister permitting any of the East St. Leonard's deputation being present when the surveyor is sent to report (or what would be infinitely better, the Minister's own inspection), that I may have the same privilege accorded me.

I have attended the Council's discussions *re* jetty, and can say a few things, and at their last meeting held on the jetty at 7 a.m. on the 18th instant, I said as follows (exact words from my pocket book):—"That the end planks are over the alignment in the same way that a house built with a chasm before it, put planks out for ingress to road for its inmates. That when they commence their wharf we will remove any encroachments when proved to be wrong by the judge."

I have, &c.,

THOMAS SUMMERBELL,
Manager.

No. 61.

The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir, The Treasury, New South Wales, 25 November, 1885.

I am directed to inform you that the representatives of the late Edward Lord paid into this office on the 24th instant, the sum of £5, being the amount of purchase money for land at parish Willoughby, county Cumberland, containing 2 roods 27 $\frac{1}{4}$ perches, under the 12th clause of the Land Act of 1861.

2. The fee on deed £1, has also been paid.

I have, &c.,

W. NEWCOMBE,
(*Pro* Under Secretary).

Minute on above.

Deeds Branch, for preparation of deed.—R.H.D., 8 December, 1885.

No. 62.

The Council Clerk, East St. Leonards, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir, Council Chamber's, East St. Leonards, 18 December, 1885.

Referring to the jetty recently erected at the foot of High-street, illegally by the North Shore Ferry Company, I am directed to inform you, that the Council will protect its rights against spoliation, and will move for an injunction to restrain the granting of a lease of said wharf to the Company.

I have, &c.,

P. A. TEMPLE,
Council Clerk.

No. 63.

Memorandum.

Lord's reclamation at Careening Cove, and North Shore Steam Ferry Company's Jetty at the foot of High-street, St. Leonard's East.

[Memo. specially submitted]

THE reports of Mr. District-Surveyor Deering are submitted, from which it may be advanced as follows, in conjunction with the previous instructions in these cases, in view of protest of Borough Council of East St. Leonards:—

1. That Lord's reclamation (S.P. 76-47, Misc. 84-27,394) be restricted to lines marked A B D E on tracing, with Mr. Deering's report of 17 September, 1885.—18,488, Ma.

2. The North Shore Ferry Company's lease or permission to erect a jetty or to occupy the water frontage at foot of High-street, be restricted to the term mentioned in the Under Secretary's minute of 13/11/85, on Occ. 85-2,725, viz., that the lease or permission to the North Shore Ferry Company, could be made to terminate on the completion of the public wharf by the Borough Council.

This would leave clear for separate action, the application 85-77, special lease of the Borough Council, to lease for public wharf and general wharfage, see Occ. 86-2, the area shown by brown tint on tracing, with Mr. District-Surveyor Deering's report 1,462 of 20 November, 1885.—R.H.D., 4/1/86.

No. 64.

F. Abigail, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir, Sydney, 13 January, 1886.

I have the honor to draw your attention to the enclosed paragraph cut from the *Sydney Daily Telegraph* of the 12th instant. It is a statement of a transaction said to have been sanctioned by Mr. Abbott just before he left office, but it is of so monstrous a character that I have declined to accept it unless it be confirmed by the reply to this. Should it be true, I strongly urge upon you not to give effect to

to what will be a scandalous act of spoliation, more especially when you consider that a Select Committee appointed to inquire and report upon the Whaling Road, brought up a request that the road which includes this very land should be resumed for the people, and but for the death of Mr. Holtermann, the chairman, the report would have been adopted.

Awaiting the favour of a reply.

I have, &c.,
F. ABIGAIL.

[Enclosure.]

A case for inquiry.

Just before Mr. Abbott retired from the Lands Office, he gave his sanction to the sale of a piece of land situate in the Borough of East St. Leonards, and known as the Whaling Reserve, being a water frontage with an area of three-quarters of an acre, and valued at £1,800 to £2,000. We are informed that the hon. gentleman sanctioned the sale of the land to the executors of the late Mr. Edward Lord for the sum of £6, including a deed fee, although it had been previously promised to the Borough of East St. Leonards by Mr. Farnell, as a permanent reserve. The Council concerned, entered a strong protest against the transaction, and communicated with Mr. Ives, by asking him to investigate the matter. Mr. Ives replied to the Council that he thought there must have been some oversight on the part of the Government appraiser, as in many other cases of this sort which had come under his notice, as he never heard of such an absurdly low price for so large an area. He also promised to inquire into the details of the land case at the Lands Office when Ministers were available. The following was the letter received by the Council from Mr. Ives:—"I am in receipt of yours of the 19th instant, drawing my attention by direction of your Council to the circumstances in connection with the sale by the Government to the executors of the late Edward Lord, of a portion of land between his property and low-water mark, which your Council alleges contains an area of nearly three-quarters of an acre, and is worth £1,800 to £2,000, but was sold to Lord's representatives for the sum of £6, including survey fee. If the facts are as stated by you, I should think there must have been an oversight on the part of the Government appraiser, as in many other cases of this sort which have come under my notice."

No. 65.

The Mayor of East St. Leonards to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir, Council Chambers, East St. Leonards, 14 January, 1886.

As representing the Municipal Council and the inhabitants of this Borough, I do myself the honor to submit the following remarks for your serious consideration.

In the *Government Gazette*, dated 24 June last, the announcement appears, signed by the Secretary for Lands, that the executors of the late Mr. Edward Lord had applied for a right of reclamation over a certain portion of foreshore within this Borough in Careening Cove.

It has recently come to our knowledge, that the department over which you preside has made arrangements to make the concession applied for, subject to a trivial modification professedly made in favour of our municipal requirements.

On behalf of the Council and the resident ratepayers, I am authorized to give you distinctly to understand that we emphatically protest against such a violation of public and municipal rights as will be perpetrated if this claim is conceded.

In spite of a protest repeatedly urged by this Council, a large portion of harbour reserve, public property set apart for the public welfare, situated behind the proposed reclamation, measuring 2 roods 27½ perches, was sold to the same applicants, namely, the executors of the late Mr. Edward Lord, as appears by a *Gazette* notice published on the 11 November last.

Previous sales and concessions of a like nature granted to private individuals by various governments, have made away with almost every inch of water frontage and other public land within the built and occupied portion of the Borough, until at present the inhabitants can neither leave the streets, nor land on their shores from a boat, without incurring the risk of being prosecuted for trespass.

If the Circular Quay and the Botanical Gardens were sold secretly by the Minister for Lands to private persons through the influence of politicians and land agents, then Sydney would be in the position to which East St. Leonards has been brought.

From past records it appears that almost every Ministry has taken part in the spoliation of public property and municipal privilege on the North Shore, and we fear that our position will always be precarious so long as harbour frontages can be dealt with secretly, and while the Minister for Lands retains a right of discretionary action, which, as far as our interests are concerned, has been systematically abused.

In one exceptional instance we succeeded in obtaining temporary protection for a large portion of unoccupied frontage, but we are fully aware of the slight security on which the public rights in this case are based, and that the land in question may any day cease to be national property. As it is, the temporary protection which we secured was due entirely to an exceptional concurrence of circumstances; but for this the Minister for Lands of the day would have sold to Mr. James Milson three-fourths of a mile of harbour frontage reserve, being a large part of Robertson's point, commonly known as Cremorne, a position in the harbour, in intrinsic value and natural advantages second to none.

But while acknowledging our obligations to certain members of the Ministry of July, 1885, for their countenance in this instance, we have to record our regret that in the case of the Careening Cove Reserve, which was duly represented to them, the good will of these honourable gentlemen proved of no avail, as it turned out that the retired Minister had previously pledged the Government to give the land to Mr. Lord's executors.

It is our earnest wish to address the head of the Lands Department in becoming terms, and to grant to each Minister as much respect as he personally may merit, but we would not wish to lead you sir, to suppose for a moment, that as a community, as a municipality, or individually we will scruple to speak our minds plainly as to the infamous jobs and intrigues, through which the frontages and foreshores of East St. Leonards have been despoiled, in order to enrich persons favoured by various Ministers for Lands.

As Mayor, I desire now to hand you, sir, the deliberate determination of the body which I represent.

I am, &c.,
EDWARD M. CLARK,
Mayor.

P.S.—I may mention the case of the Whaling Road in this Borough. The road was aligned and confirmed on the 7th July, 1873, from the western boundary of the Whaling allotments to the waters of Port Jackson in Neutral Bay—40 feet in width. See *Gazette* No. 178, 18 July, 1873, but almost the whole of the road is now closed and claimed by private owners, the public being thus deprived of one of the most important public thoroughfares on the North Shore. E.M.C.

No. 66.

The Mayor of East St. Leonards to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Borough of East St. Leonard's, 25 January, 1886.

As respecting the inhabitants of this municipality, I beg to submit for your perusal the documents herewith:—

They relate to a long standing abuse—the spoliation of the public lands within this Borough, more especially the harbour reserve frontages and foreshores.

An early Government of the Colony decreed that a reserve of public lands fronting the harbour 100 feet in depth, should be maintained for public wants, but for long, one Minister for Lands after another has aided and abetted the transfer of these frontages to private persons in disregard of the policy so professed.

In like manner the foreshores—being the lands situated between the high-water and low-water levels, have in defiance of public necessities been conveyed to private persons and speculators.

In common with other districts, the inhabitants of this Borough expected that the local administration provided by the Land Act of 1884, would protect them for the future against secret jobs and abuses of the kind; but it turned out that the frontage lands of the Metropolitan District were by law specially exempted from administration by the District Board, and were left in the Minister's hands to be dealt with as he might in his discretion determine.

The consequence has been that since the Act of 1884 came into operation, the appropriation of frontage lands, with the aid of Ministerial complicity, has gone on as before.

The papers herewith will disclose the fact that one very gross attempt was for the time thwarted through an unusually fortunate concurrence of circumstances, and that another attempt has been carried out successfully in spite of repeated protests made by this Municipality.

In common with other communities occupying the shores of the harbour, we believe that our interests in these frontage lands will meet with no consideration so long as the same can be dealt with secretly by land agents and politicians infesting the Minister's office.

We trust that the perusal of the documents enclosed will influence your action as a member of the Legislature; first, in giving your aid to prevent the alienation of the reserve on Robertson's point; second, in saving lands in Carcening Cove from confiscation; and last, in bringing the harbour frontages under public local administration, as is successfully done with the other lands of the Colony.—On behalf of the Borough and community of East St. Leonards.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD M. CLARK,
Mayor.

[Enclosure.]

Papers transmitted herewith.

No. 1. Letter from Council of East St. Leonard's to Minister for Lands, referring to proposed sale of Robertson's Point Reserve to Mr. James Milson. May 11, 1885.

See No. 39. No. 2. Letter from Council to the same, respecting the proposed sale of Carcening Cove Reserve to Mr. Edward Lord. October 8, 1884.

See No. 39. No. 3. Letter from same to same, respecting application for right of reclamation by representatives of Mr. Lord. July 11, 1885.

See No. 40. Letter from same to Colonial Secretary. July 11, 1885.

See No. 41. Letter from same to Colonial Treasurer. July 11, 1885.

See No. 42. No. 4. Letter from same to Minister for Works. July 11, 1885.

See No. 43. Letter from same to Hon. W. B. Dalley. July 11, 1885.

See No. 65. Enclosing copies of above letter to Minister for Lands.

No. 7. Letter from Mayor of Council to Minister for Lands respecting sales in Carcening Cove and other water frontages. 14 January, 1886.

* Papers in print.—Covering printed Circular without address. Portions not given herewith are in previous portions of this return.

[Nine plans.]¹

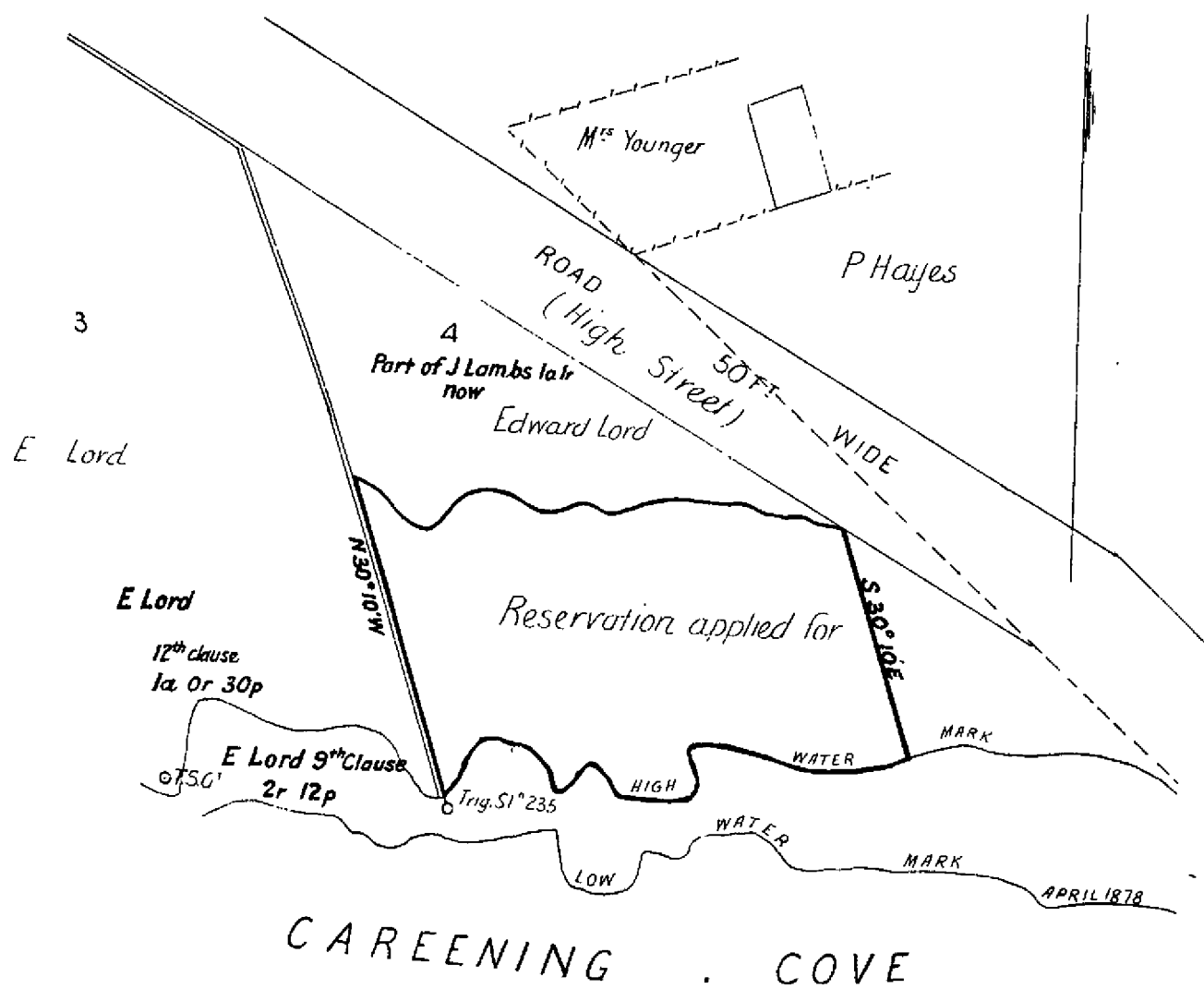
[4s.]

Sydney: Thomas Richards, Government Printer.—1886.

ENCLOSURE A TO N^o 4.

COPY
OF
TRACING

Showing proposed Res^o of 100-ft Res^o
Parish of Willoughby
County of Cumberland
Applied for under the 12th Clause Lands Act 1861. by
Edward Lord



That part edged Red on tracing is on this plan edged with thick black line thus—

Printing shewn on tracing in Red is shewn on this plan thus **ELord**

ENCLOSURE A. to N^o 5.

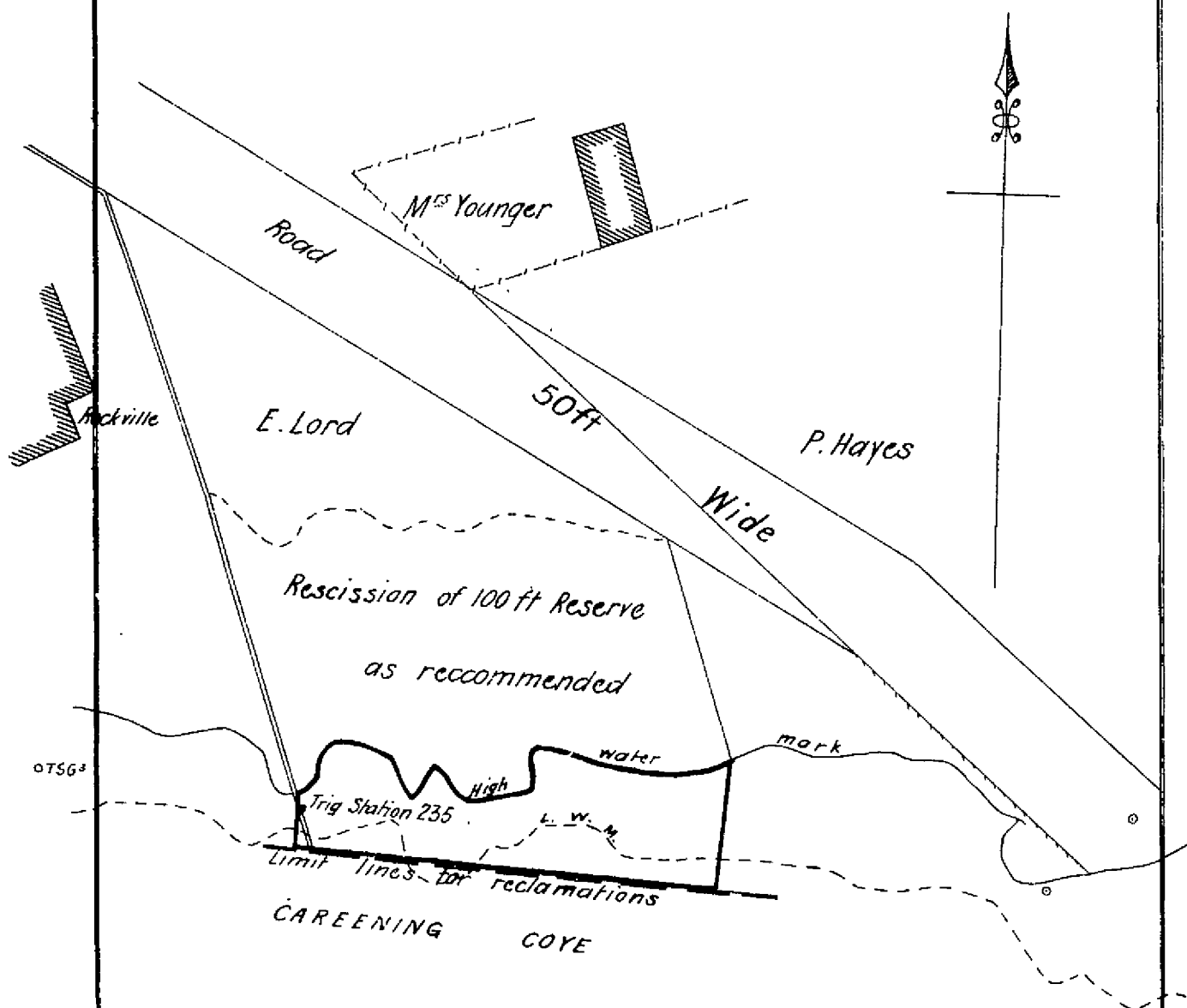
Copy of
Tracing
showing proposed reclamation

Parish of Willoughby

County of Cumberland

Applied for under the 9th Clause of C.L.A 1861 by

Edward Lord



Note. - Proposed reclamation tinted Red on tracing is on this Plan
edged thus ~~~~~

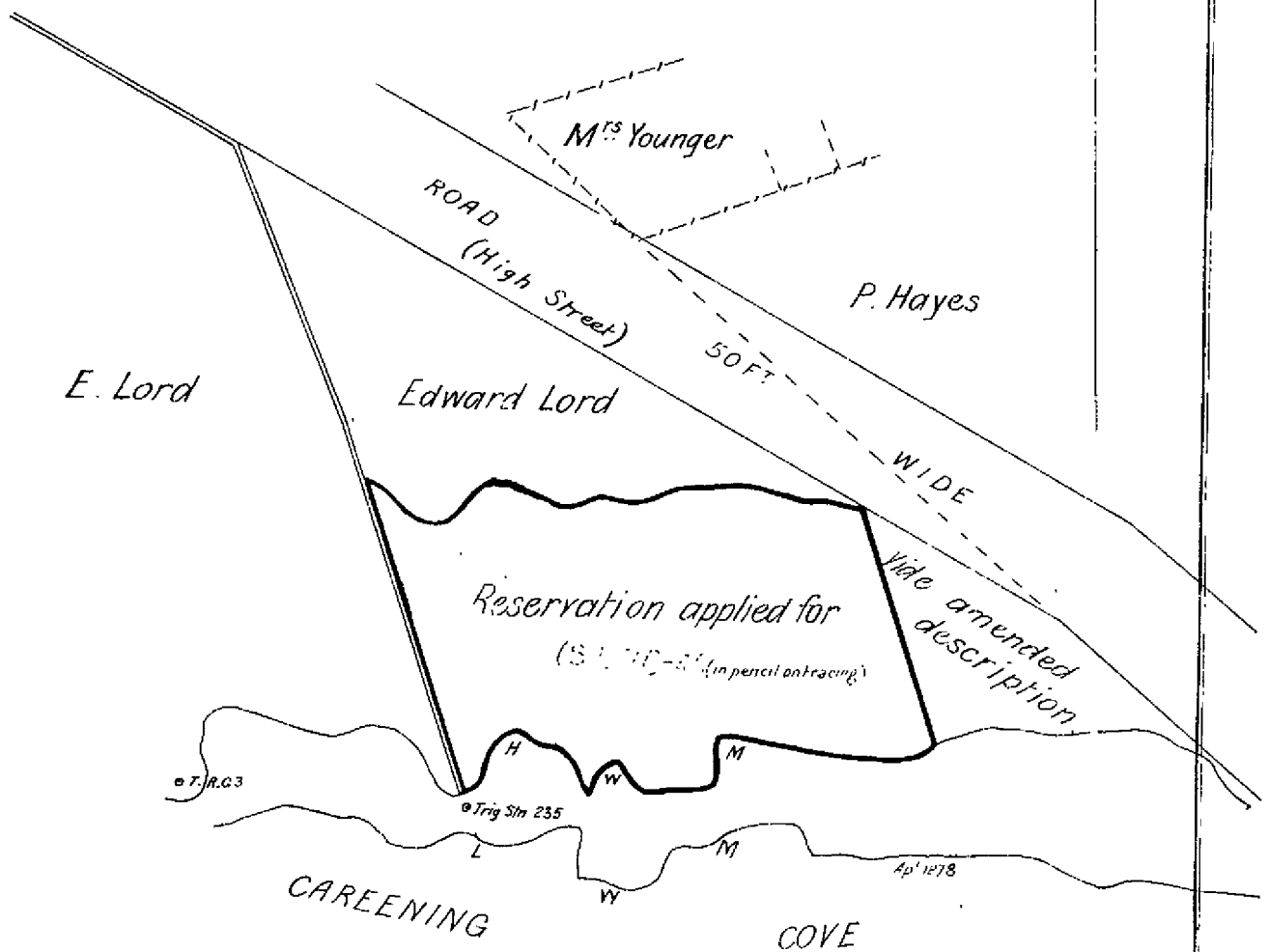
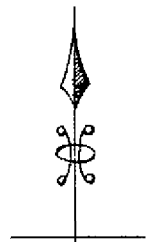
Limit line of reclamations shewn in Red on tracing is on this Plan
shewn thus - - - - -

(Sig 629.)

B

ENCLOSURE B. TO N^o 5.

Copy of
Tracing
showing portion in
Parish of Willoughby
County of Cumberland
applied for under the 12th Clause of C.L.A. Act of 61. by
Edward Lord

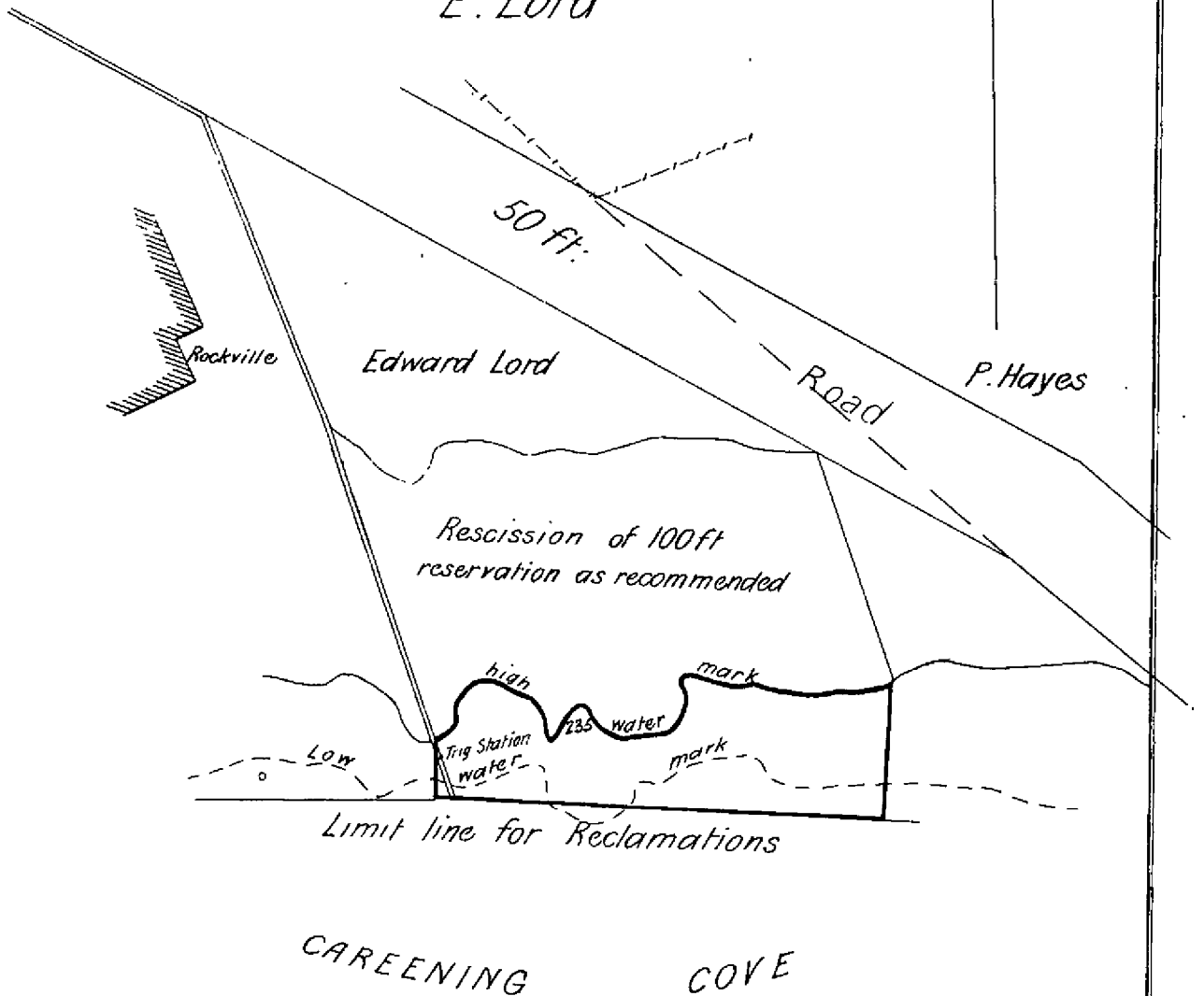


To accompany Joint Report of Engineer-in-Chief, and Sur: Genl.
Note - Reservation applied for edged Red on Tracing is on this Plan
edged thus ———

ENCLOSURE B. TO N^o 4.

Copy of
Tracing
showing portion in
Parish of Willoughby
County of Cumberland
applied for under the 9th Clause of CLA Act of 61
E. Lord

"B"



For joint report of Engineer-in-Chief, and Surveyor General.
Note - Proposed reclamation tinted Red on Tracing is
on this Plan edged thus ~

ENCLOSURE N^o 16

Copy of

PLAN

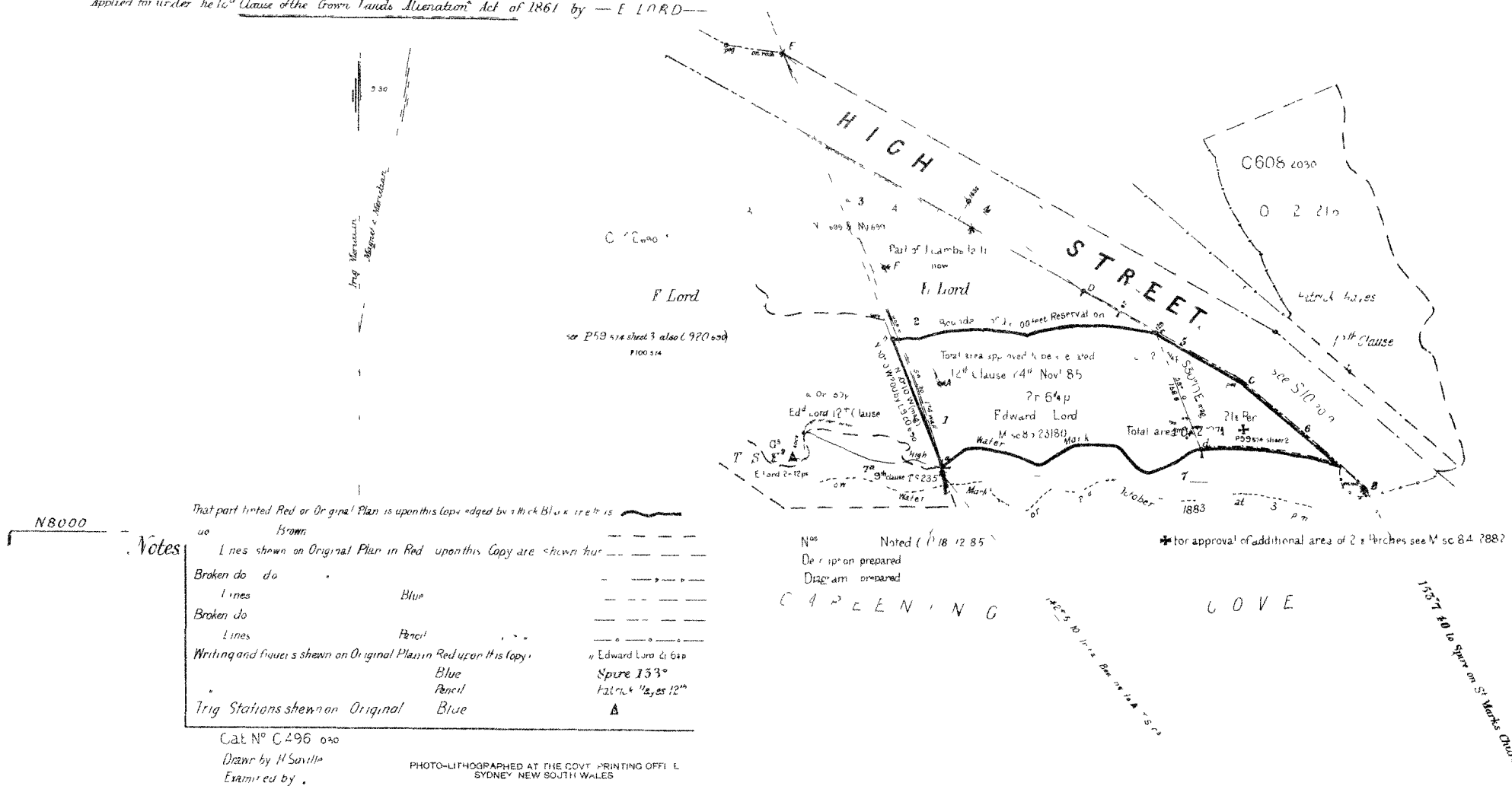
OF PART OF THE 100 FEET RESERVATION

fronting JOHN LAMBS (now LORDS) 1ac 1rd Grant

PARISH OF WILLOUGHBY COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND

Applied for under the 10th Clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 by — E LORD —

E 6000



Traverse Table and Table of Coordinates									
Line	Bearing	Distance	North	East	West	South	North	East	Remarks
Coordinates given by Surveyor Andrew N ^o 135									
1	359° 34'	112.63	112.63				8182.70	5749.6	(Immeball origin)
2	334° 15'	163.15	163.15				8329.0	5678.1	Station A (Sun Pillars on rock)
3	335° 20'	179.89	179.89				8600.6	5552.5	F do do
4	118° 23'	488.05	303.78	384.98			8296.8	5934.5	E (on Vauland do)
5	119° 35'	235.55	116.31	204.33			8180.4	6139.3	D (little mark on rock)
6	130° 58'	205.8	134.94	155.38			8045.5	6294.6	Wooden nail peg (to Station C)
7	127° 35'	543.9	343.9	400.0			8070.1	5751.3	B (Surveyor's Mouldstone)
7 ^a	127° 41'	192.1	122.40				8092.5	5560.4	Closest to Station E

These coordinates are carried on from M^{rs} Surveyor Bullen's values to A 1 & N^o 135 given to me by M^{rs} Surveyor Andrew who has not yet completed his own down to this point

Reference to Corners				N8000
Station	Bearing	Distance	Marks	
a	on Rubble	will 21" above	High Water Mark	
b	345° 26'	33.8 fms	on rock near Gate	
c	299° 35'	53 do	on rock	
d	on rock	at mean High Water Mark		

NOTES All bearings taken off Trig Meridian Measured in accordance with Circular N^o 89/51 Date of Survey 2nd October 1883

Transmitted to the Surveyor General with my Field Book Notes and Letter N^o 63/5 of 10th October

R. Baylis Mackenzie

Examined & Charted

J. H. Jones

1st May 1884

Approved see Misc 82/3590

Misc 83/24361

T. H. Jones

21 May 1884

Book 322 Folio 2

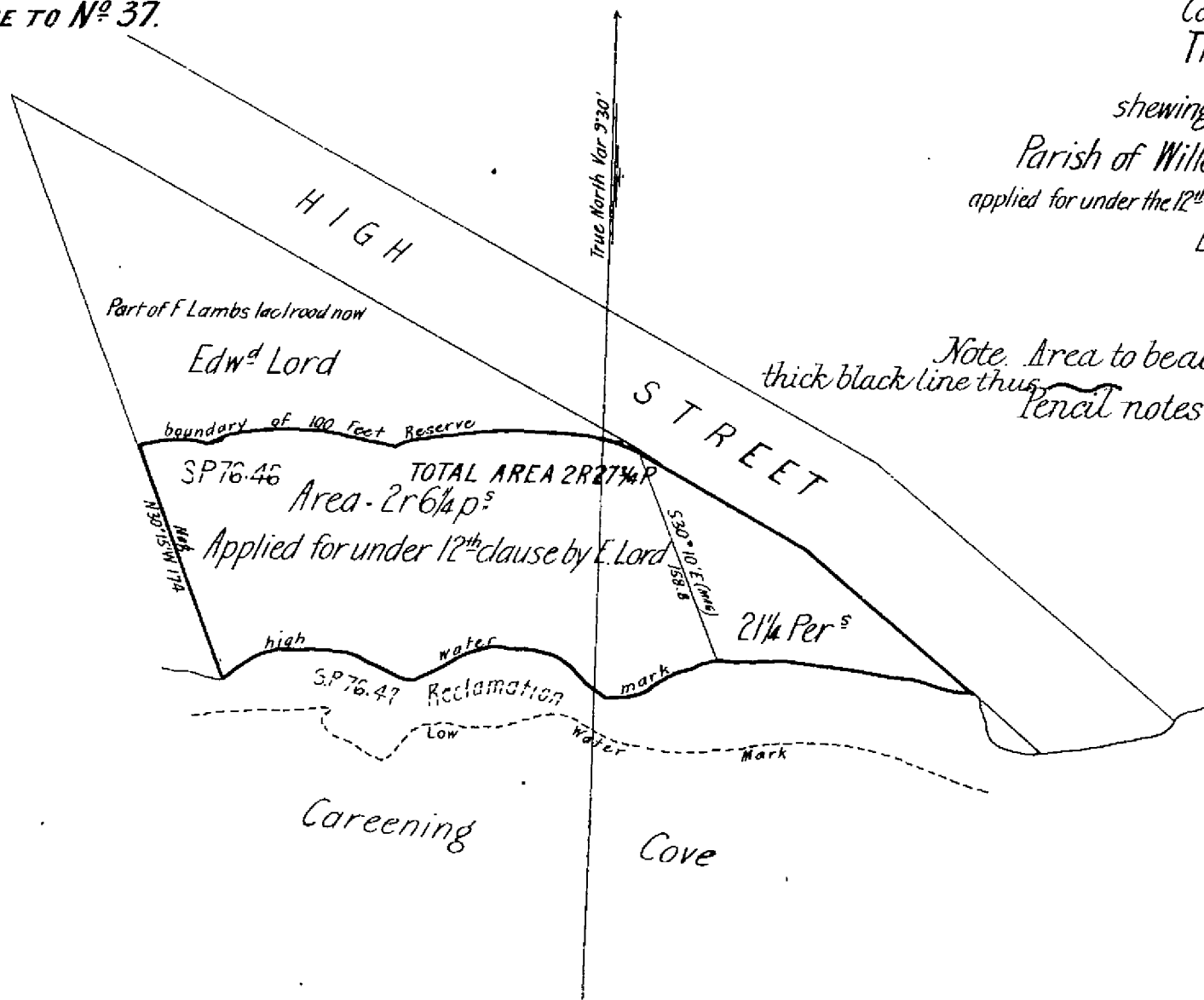
(Sig 629)

E 60100

ENCLOSURE TO N^o 37.

Copy of
Tracing.

shewing proposed rescission
Parish of Willoughby Co. of Cumberland
applied for under the 12th clause of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 by
Edward Lord



Note. Area to be alienated tinted Red on Original is edged by
thick black line thus. Pencil notes on original shewn thus. SP 76.

(Sig 629.)

Trans^d 10/10/83

(signed) R.B. Mackenzie

Copy of
Tracing

ENCLOSURE TO N^o 46.

B

showing proposed reclamation

Parish of Willoughby County of Cumberland.

Applied for under the 9th clause of the C.L.A. Act of 1861

by Edward Lord

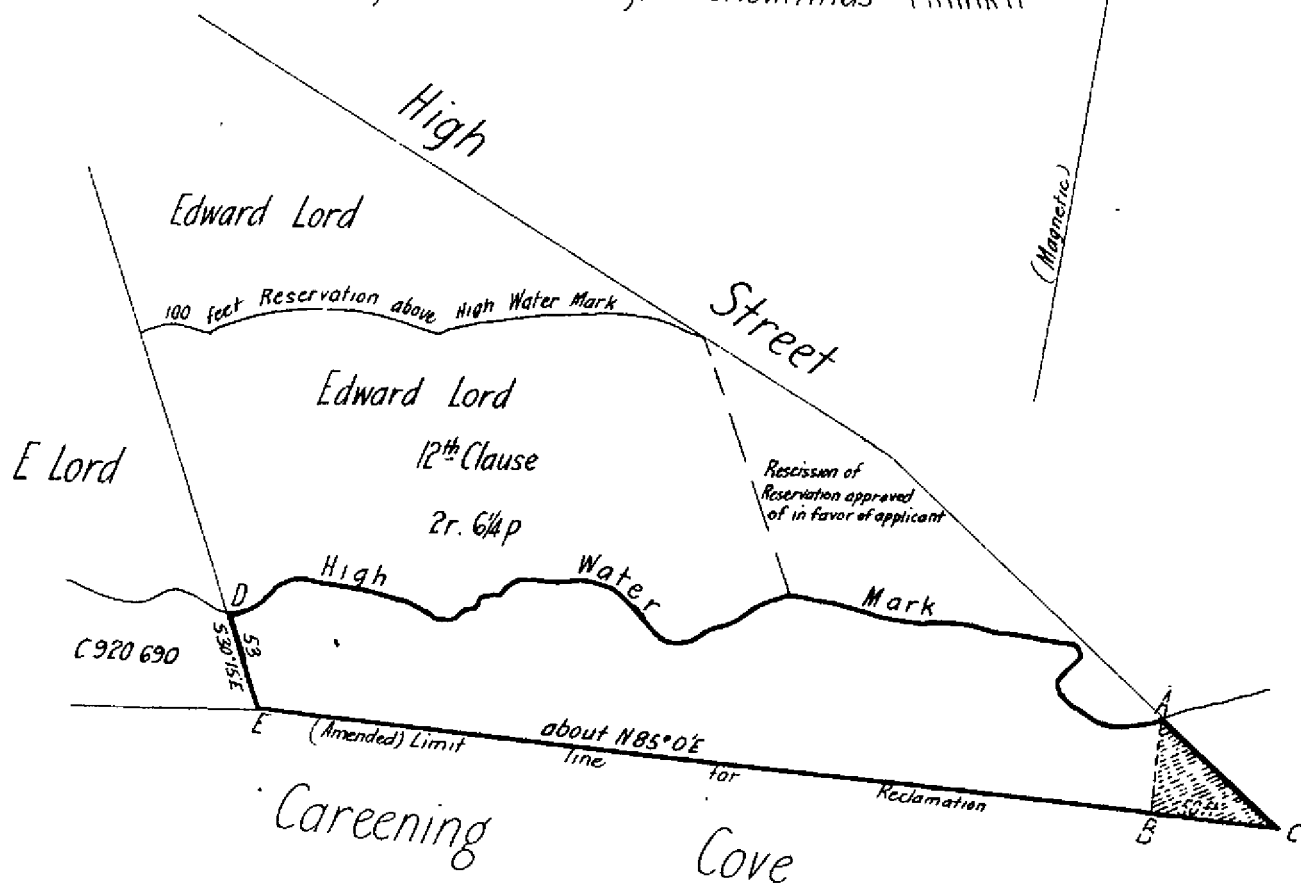
Area approved of in favor of applicant tinted Red on original is
edged by thick black line on this plan thus ~~~~~

Letters in Red on Original shown thus A, B.

Hatching in Red on Original shown in black

Lines in Red on Original shown thus -----

Writing in Pencil on Original shown thus I think it



I think it would be desirable if
the Reclamation should end at A-B
John W. Deering
Metrop Dist Sur
7 Aug 1885

With my Report to the Under Secretary N^o 879 of this date

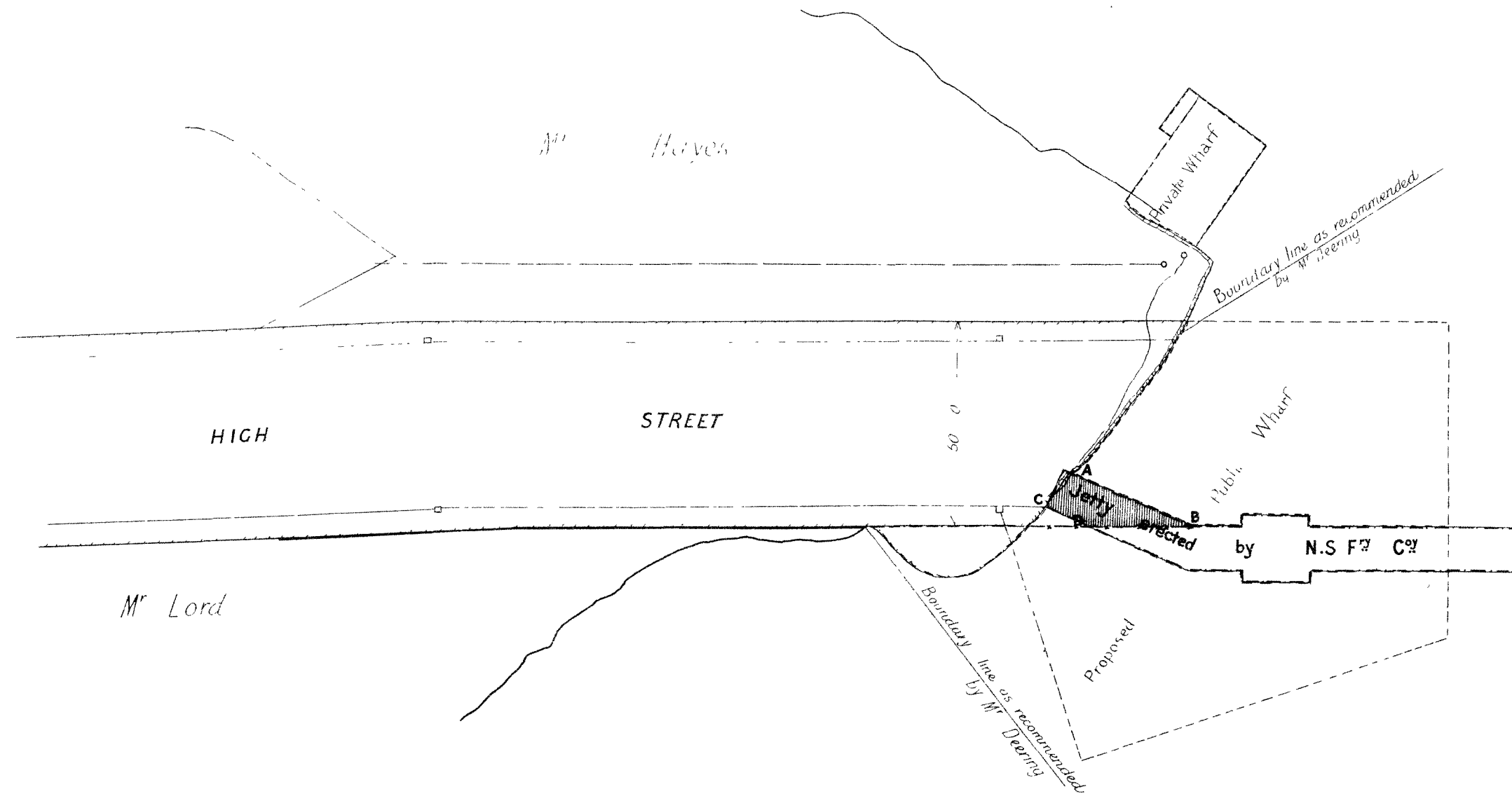
(signed) John W Deering
Metrop Dist Sur
17 Sept. 1885

(Sig 629)

SPECIAL LEASE

85 77

Enclosure Dec 86.2 Mls



That part tinted Brown on original is on this plan edged thus -----
 That part tinted Burnt Sienna on original is on this plan edged thus -----
 That part tinted Red on original is on this plan edged with thick black lines thus -----
 That part tinted Neutral tint on original is on this plan edged thus -----
 That part tinted Green on original is on this plan edged thus -----
 That part etched Red on original is on this plan etched thus -----
 Red line on original is on this plan shewn thus -----
 Red letters on original is on this plan shewn thus ABCD



PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
 SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Witness referred to in my Report N^o 1462
 or this date

(Signed) John Deering
 20th Nov. 1885

-----PLAN OF-----

Act 1861

Street One Chain

510 2019

Road
 Road

Road 50 feet wide

John Lamb

Edward Lora

F25C2

100 feet

Reclamation
unit - line to which
is extended -

Reclamation
 Approximate position of limit line to which claims may be extended

Reclamation line
as granted

Carreening Cove

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

GEORGE DOUGHERTY'S CONDITIONAL
PURCHASE;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,
13 *May*, 1886.

SYDNEY: THOMAS RICHARDS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1886.

1885-6.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 36. TUESDAY, 30 MARCH, 1886.

21. GEORGE DOUGHERTY'S CONDITIONAL PURCHASE:—*Mr. Burns*, for *Mr. Gould*, moved, pursuant to amended Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed, with power to send for persons and papers, to inquire into and report upon the matter of the forfeiture of George Dougherty's Conditional Purchase, made at the Lands Office, Gunnedah, on 18th May, 1876.
 - (2.) That such Committee consist of *Mr. Copeland*, *Mr. Spring*, *Mr. Barbour*, *Mr. Abigail*, *Mr. Day*, *Dr. Ross*, *Mr. Fitzgerald*, and the Mover.
 - (3.) That the Report from the Select Committee of Session 1883-4, in reference to this matter be referred to such Committee.
- Question put and passed.

VOTES No. 59. THURSDAY, 13 MAY, 1886.

5. GEORGE DOUGHERTY'S CONDITIONAL PURCHASE:—*Mr. Gould*, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 30th March, 1886.
- Ordered to be printed.

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1885-6.

 GEORGE DOUGHERTY'S CONDITIONAL PURCHASE.

 REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on the 30th March, 1886,—“*with power to send for persons and papers, to inquire into and report upon the matter of the forfeiture of George Dougherty's conditional purchase made at the Lands Office, Gunnedah, on 18th May, 1876, and to whom was referred, on the same date, the Report from the Select Committee of Session 1883-4 in reference to this matter,*”—have agreed to the following Report:—

1. Your Committee having carefully considered the Report and Evidence referred to them, find as follows:—

1. That on the 18th day of May, 1876, George Dougherty applied to purchase, under the 13th section of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, 317 acres of land situate on the Bando Run, being measured portion No. 60, County Pottinger, parish Calala.
2. That, consequent upon the report of Mr. H. V. Geary, Inspector of Conditional Purchases, an inquiry was held at Tambar Springs, by Mr. Commissioner Delaney, as to fulfilment by the said George Dougherty of the condition of residence on the said conditional purchase, when the evidence of the said George Dougherty and Henry Vincent Geary, and that of James W. Jones and William Grace, the superintendent and sheep overseer respectively of the said Bando Run, was taken, and the said Commissioner reported that he found condition of residence not to have been fulfilled, and therefore recommended that the said conditional purchase should be forfeited.
3. That the recommendation for such forfeiture was approved on the 3rd December, 1878.
4. That the statutory declaration of fulfilment of conditions of residence and improvements, as required by section 18 of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, was duly made and lodged at the Lands Office, Gunnedah, by the said George Dougherty, on the 25th day of June, 1879, and the first instalment of £15 17s. on account of the said conditional purchase paid by him and credited at the Treasury.
5. That a further inquiry into the fulfilment of the condition of residence by the said George Dougherty was held at Tambar Springs, before Mr. Commissioner Delaney, on the 31st July, 1879, when the only evidence taken was that of John Smith and John Sharp, and the Commissioner reported as follows:—“I respectfully submit there is nothing in the evidence to warrant me altering the recommendation in my report of the 5th September, 1878; and I have therefore to report that I find such conditions of residence not to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be forfeited.”
6. That no action appears to have been taken by the Department upon such further report until the month of December in the following year, when the recommendation that such forfeiture should be adhered to was approved.

7. That no intimation appears to have been given Dougherty that it had been decided that the purchase should be brought forward for forfeiture until the 7th February, 1880.
8. That the said George Dougherty paid his annual instalments of £15 17s. on account of the said conditional purchase, for the years 1879, 1880, and 1881.
9. That in consequence of a letter from Messrs. H. H. Brown & Co., praying for a rehearing of the case, the same was referred to Mr. Commissioner Delaney for that purpose.
10. That an inquiry by way of a rehearing was accordingly held at Tambar Springs, before Mr. Commissioner Delaney, on 1st December, 1881, when the evidence of the said George Dougherty and James William Jones, and that of Robert Sharp, W. Ryan, and John Pryor was taken, the whole of which indicated the fulfilment of conditions of residence and improvements by the said George Dougherty, and the Commissioner reported as follows :—"I have therefore to report that I find such conditions * * * * * to have been fulfilled, and to recommend that this conditional purchase be . . ."
11. That notwithstanding such evidence and report, the forfeiture originally decided in 1878 was approved, and the land subsequently sold by the Crown to the Messrs. White, the owners of Bando Run.
12. That Mr. Commissioner Delaney, when examined by your Committee, explained that he made no recommendation as to forfeiture or otherwise in the report of the last inquiry, as it had to be decided by the Minister, and not by him. And further, that with reference to his last inquiry, if that had been the only occasion it had come before him, considering the evidence given by Dougherty on that occasion, he should have recommended that the selection be allowed.
13. That, in addition to the payment of the deposit of £79 5s. on application for the said conditional purchase by the said George Dougherty, he effected improvements on the same valued at £340, and further paid three annual instalments of £15 17s. each, on account of the said conditional purchase, making in all a sum of £466 16s.; and further, that he the said George Dougherty valued his said conditional purchase at upwards of £2 per acre.

2. Your Committee are of opinion that the conditions of residence and improvements in respect of the said conditional purchase were complied with by the said George Dougherty, and therefore recommend his case to the favourable consideration of the Government.

*No. 2 Committee Room,
Sydney, 13th May, 1886.*

ALBERT J. GOULD,
Chairman.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

THURSDAY, 8 APRIL 1886.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

None.

In the absence of a quorum the meeting called for this day lapsed.

THURSDAY, 15 APRIL, 1886.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

None.

In the absence of a quorum the meeting called for this day lapsed.

THURSDAY, 13 MAY, 1886.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Gould,	|	Dr. Ross,
	Mr. Barbour.	

Mr. Gould called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings, appointing the Committee and referring Report from Select Committee of Session 1883-4, read by the Clerk.

Printed copies of the previous Report before the Committee.

Committee deliberated.

Motion made (Dr. Ross) and Question,—That the Report brought up by a former Committee on this subject, and dated 21 May, 1884, be the Report of this Committee,—put and passed.

Chairman to report to the House.

Sydney : Thomas Richards, Government Printer.—1886.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MR. HENRY ARTHUR HOUGH.
(PETITION OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 14 May, 1886.

PETITION of the undersigned Henry Arthur Hough to the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled.

Wherein your Petitioner, who came to this Colony in May, 1875, to select land as a home for himself and family, humbly sheweth the grievous trouble, litigation, and expense he has been put to for the past ten years—and is not yet at an end—through having to defend two Supreme Court actions for £2,000 each, for trespassing on land which your Petitioner had selected on Tarramiah Run (owned by one Henry Tarlton Whitty and John Charles Whitty), and which land had been surveyed before selection, but which survey had afterwards been found to encroach on two reserves, numbered respectively 296A and No. 98, in respect of which two portions so encroaching, not having previously been taken from the lease of the run, your Petitioner was sued as aforesaid for trespassing on his own land for which he held the Government receipts; but which did not prevent his being compelled to defend the said two actions, and involved him in costs amounting to over £500, and extended over a period of two years, necessitating his almost continual absence from his home and business in Albury, Sydney, or Melbourne, whereby his business was utterly neglected and his health very much impaired; and your Petitioner would humbly direct your attention to the significant fact that at a Supreme Court trial held in Sydney, in June, 1883, in which he was defendant, the barrister employed by Whitty admitted in open Court that Whitty never thought to get the £4,000 damages from him, but was determined to issue writ after writ to harass him with continuous litigation and compel him to sell his land. Your Petitioner was compelled to borrow money at high interest to meet the vexatious losses and expenses he was put to through this treatment; but in order to avoid further trouble your Petitioner (by Whitty's solicitation) leased the whole of his selections to Whitty for seven years in August, 1880, thereby hoping to have peace and recruit his health, which was very much impaired through the continual trouble and worry he had been put to. The lands in dispute, however, were afterwards legalized by a special Act of Parliament, passed on the 10th day of August, 1881, and called "The Validating Titles Act." Your Petitioner would further point out the grievous loss and trouble he was afterwards put to through selecting 140½ acres of land on Tarramiah Run, on the 15th May, 1879 (afterwards made freehold on the 5th day of March, 1883), and which land formed part of the lands leased by your Petitioner to Whitty, but which piece, on account of certain improvements thereon, was the subject of a special clause in the lease, providing that rent was only to be paid to him in the event of the said land being duly vested in and legalized to your Petitioner by the Government of New South Wales. A Court of Appraisement was held in Mulwala, on the 22nd day of October, 1882, to inquire into and value the improvements, the decision of which Court was to be final and binding as provided for by the Land Act of 1880. Said decision was ultimately given in your Petitioner's favour, as shown by a parliamentary report printed in April, 1884, and a circular letter of the Lands Department forwarded to your Petitioner. Relying on this title, and no rent whatever being paid for two years, your Petitioner was induced, after much opposition on his side, to sue Whitty in the Supreme Court in Sydney for the rent, then amounting to £40, your Petitioner's lawyer stating that the District Court, in which your Petitioner wished it tried, as being much less expensive, had no jurisdiction. After much delay and numerous journeys to Albury and Sydney to consult his lawyer and barrister, and several adjournments, the case came before the Supreme Court, Sydney, in June, 1884, and resulted in a verdict for your Petitioner, by consent, on the lease alone, no evidence being taken. A point of law, however, was reserved for argument by the full Bench, which took place on the following August 12th, 1884, before Sir James Martin, Sir George Innes, and Justice Windeyer, who decided that the Lands Department had no power to sell conditionally any surveyed land containing improvements over £40 in value, and that the Minister of Lands had acted illegally and *ultra vires* in awarding him the land after the recommendation by the Court of Appraisement in 1882 (October 22nd), as the improvements exceeded £40 in value, and the land was surveyed and marked on the ground and numbered 90; that therefore your Petitioner had no claim to 140½ acres in question nor to 68 acres adjoining it, an original conditional purchase in virtue of which the 140½ acres was selected. Moreover, your Petitioner had to pay all costs in that action, amounting to

£1,000. Immediately on receipt of news informing him of the decision of the Full Bench your Petitioner wrote to Mr. W. J. Lyne, M.P., on the case, which was brought under the notice of the Minister of Lands, Mr. Farnell, who was greatly surprised at the ruling, and on searching the survey records found out the verdict was entirely wrong and against facts, as the land at time of selection, viz., 15th May, 1879, was not an approved measured portion, not having received the signature of the Surveyor-General or that of the Minister, which was not affixed till the 2nd June, 1880, but was surveyed on 13th June, 1878, thereby clearly establishing it to be Crown Lands unimproved at date of selection, 15th May, 1879. Moreover, Mr. Farnell, through Mr. Lyne, sent a telegram informing your Petitioner that if he paid the balance of purchase money due on the 68 acres he, Mr. Farnell, would issue the Crown Grant for the whole allotment of 208½ acres, the same never having been subdivided, but comprising one lot, No. 90. Your Petitioner followed this advice, and obtained the Crown Grant on November 27th, 1884, but was not enabled to obtain a reversal of the verdict, as time to appeal, viz., fourteen days, had elapsed before the error was found out; nor could he take it to the Privy Council in England, as no new evidence could be admitted. To make things more complicated still, your Petitioner, acting under the best legal advice, sought to recover the rent owing for five years, amounting with interest to £117 11s. 5d., in the District Court, Corowa, on the 30th day of June, 1885, but was non-suited on a technical point. The same case came before Judge Forbes on the 14th November, 1885, who dismissed it, as he had no jurisdiction, in spite of your Petitioner producing his Crown Grant and bank book showing that Whitty had actually paid rent for three half-years on the 68 acres forming portion of 208½ acres named, since the verdict of Full Bench on August 12th, 1884, thereby clearly admitting your Petitioner's title to the whole lot of 208½ acres, as it was legally impossible for one part to be good without the whole being good, the Crown Grant covering all, and every preliminary condition fulfilled, as parliamentary report shows.

Your Petitioner would further point out that, had he have been in possession of the actual facts in connection with this piece of land, he might have been spared the ruinous loss and trouble he has been put to, for the parliamentary reports hold him blameless all through; and after the Court of Appraisement deciding in his favour and accepting purchase money and promising grant should issue, he naturally thought the land was his and all the rights pertaining thereto; but on his seeking to assert them in a lawful manner the disastrous and unforeseen results herein occurred. And your Petitioner would humbly point out, before concluding this Petition, that the money losses named herein do not nearly represent his actual losses, such as sacrificing stock to raise money, long absence from home on law business, the loss sustained from not being able to cultivate land for want of horses and machinery for the past ten years, and being compelled to pay high interest on loans to meet law costs, besides the expenses incidental to a mortgage of his property; also of worry and anxiety of mind, quite unfitting him for his business. Your Petitioner is at an utter loss how to recover the rent due to him, as apparently no Law Court has jurisdiction (from the ruling at Corowa District Court by Judge Forbes), a fact irreconcilable with the Supreme Court twice having had jurisdiction in said case, and Whitty through his lawyer having since paid three half-years' rent on one portion of the aforesaid land, absolutely taken from your Petitioner by the Full Bench, and pleading through his lawyer that the ruling of the Full Bench had not been reversed, which facts taken together place your Petitioner in a most extraordinary and unprecedented dilemma, from which he humbly prays that your Honorable House will take his case into your merciful consideration, and cause justice to be done to him for the heavy losses he has sustained.

And, as in duty bound, your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

HENRY ARTHUR HOUGH.

Hillside, Corowa, 18 November, 1885.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

MR. HENRY ARTHUR HOUGH;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND

APPENDIX.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,
8 *July*, 1886.

SYDNEY: THOMAS RICHARDS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1886.

1885-6.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 76. FRIDAY, 11 JUNE, 1886.

10. MR. HENRY ARTHUR HOUGH :—*Mr. Hungerford*, for Mr. McCulloch, moved, pursuant to Notice,—
(1.) That the Petition of Henry Arthur Hough, presented to this Honorable House on the 14th May, 1886, be referred to a Select Committee, with power to send for persons and papers, for inquiry and report.
(2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Chanter, Mr. Lyne, Mr. A. G. Taylor, Mr. Copeland, Mr. W. J. Fergusson, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Day, Mr. Parkes, and Mr. McCulloch.
Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 90. THURSDAY, 8 JULY, 1886.

4. MR. HENRY ARTHUR HOUGH :—Mr. McCulloch, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before, the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 11th June, 1886; together with Appendix.
Ordered to be printed.

* * * * *

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1885-6.

MR. HENRY ARTHUR HOUGH.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on the 11th June, 1886, to whom was referred "*the Petition of Henry Arthur Hough, with power to send for persons and papers for inquiry and report,*"—have agreed to the following Report:—

Your Committee having examined the witness named in the margin,* whose evidence will be found appended hereto, find as follows:—

* Mr. Henry Arthur Hough.

That the Petitioner has proved the allegations of his petition which may be briefly stated to be: That the Petitioner selected 1,280 acres, consisting of four lots of 320 acres each, on the Tarramiah Run, two lots of which land had been previously surveyed and were represented by that survey as being available for selection, and that he occupied and improved the said selections.

That subsequently it was discovered that they encroached on Reserves 296 A and No. 98 on that Run, and that immediately upon that discovery actions were commenced by Messrs. H. T. and J. C. Whitty the lessees of the run, for trespass; and the Petitioner was consequently cast in damages and costs amounting to £526 10s.; that subsequently these Reserves were to the necessary extent cancelled and the selections legalized.

That the total loss and expenditure of this Petitioner in respect of the said mistake in the survey amounted to £526 10s.

That the Petitioner, in August, 1878, selected 68 acres, and on the 15th May, 1879, by additional conditional purchases, 140 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres of land (on the same run), the two areas forming together a block which had been surveyed comprising in all 208 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres.

That the Petitioner was greatly harassed by the Messrs. Whitty, and ultimately agreed to lease the selections, including the 140 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres, to those gentlemen by a lease, a copy of which is attached hereto; that the Messrs. Whitty refused to pay rent for the 140 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres, and the Petitioner had to sue for it in the Supreme Court, and the evidence given by the Crown Lands officers in that case went to show that the said land formed part of a "measured portion" of 208 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres on which were improvements to an amount of £40, and the Court thereupon decided that such selection was invalid, and the Petitioner was further cast in damages and costs to the amount of £1,433 16s. 5d., inclusive of £106 15s. paid to make 140 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres freehold by legal advice in 1882.

That it was subsequently discovered that the 208 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres was not a "measured portion" within the meaning of the Act, and on payment of the balance of purchase money a grant of the land was issued to the Petitioner.

That it is proved that the land was properly taken up as a selection and that the judgment should have been for the Petitioner; but the discovery was not made in time to set aside the erroneous judgment, and consequently the Petitioner is left without remedy.

That the Petitioner's expenditure and costs in respect of such selections amounted to £2,140 6s. 5d., including £150, being six years' rent owing on the 140 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres but not paid, and £30 at least through absence from home.

Your Committee, in view of the extreme hardship of the case, recommend the claim of Henry Arthur Hough to the most favorable consideration of the Government.

A. H. McCULLOCH, JR.,
Chairman.

No. 3 Committee Room,
Sydney, 6th July, 1886.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

THURSDAY, 17 JUNE, 1886.

MEMBER PRESENT:—

Mr. Day.

In the absence of a quorum, the Meeting called for this day lapsed.

TUESDAY, 22 JUNE, 1886.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. McCulloch, | Mr. Chanter.

In the absence of a quorum, the Meeting called for this day lapsed.

WEDNESDAY, 23 JUNE, 1886.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. McCulloch, | Mr. Day,
Mr. Chanter.

Mr. McCulloch called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings appointing the Committee read by the Clerk.

Committee deliberated.

Mr. Henry Arthur Hough called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness handed in copies of estimated loss sustained by Petitioner, Lease from Hough to Whitty, and case for Counsel's opinion, with Counsel's opinion thereon. (*See Appendix.*)

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Re-assembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

(Adjourned.)

TUESDAY, 16 JULY, 1886.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. McCulloch in the Chair.

Mr. Day, | Mr. A. G. Taylor,
Mr. O'Sullivan.

Chairman submitted Draft Report.

Same read and agreed to.

Chairman to report to the House.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

PETITION OF HENRY ARTHUR HOUGH.

WEDNESDAY, 23 JUNE, 1886.

Present:—

MR. CHANTER,
MR. DAY,MR. McCULLOCH,
MR. O'SULLIVAN.

A. H. McCULLOCH, JUN., ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. Henry Arthur Hough called in and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] You presented a petition to the Legislative Assembly on the 14th May last? Yes.
2. You are a selector? Yes, on Tarramiah Run.
3. Who are the owners of that run? Henry Tarleton Whitty and John Charles Whitty—father and son.
4. What land did you select? First of all, on the 20th May, 1875, I selected 320 acres for myself and 320 acres for my three children.
5. There was no difficulty about those selections? Yes; the first difficulty arose in March, 1878, when it was intimated to me by the Government that two of the surveyed lines were wrong, whereby 100 acres on my son Charles's selection encroached on a reserve, No. 296, and my own selection encroached on another reserve, No. 98, to the extent of 52½ acres. At the same time the Lands Department officially informed me that they would rectify the mistake; but in the meantime I received a writ for £2,000 damages from Messrs. Whitty for trespassing on the land I had selected, which was all fenced in and the improvements completed. I placed the matter in the hands of Fleming and Bradley, solicitors, Albury, and the result was they compromised the action without my consent or instructions. That involved me in law costs to the extent of £166, besides other expenses.
6. Were these costs incurred in any way in consequence of the wrong action of the Government? Purely.
7. Now tell us what the action of the Government was? They said the land was surveyed before I took it up, and after I had been living there three years they found it encroached on reserves Nos. 296 and 98, whereby they made me legally but not morally a trespasser.
8. Had the land been surveyed? One portion was surveyed before selection, the other after. Besides the £166 I have mentioned I paid my lawyer £20, and court fees £10; and then I had to come to Sydney, which cost me £15, and I went to Melbourne likewise, which cost me £5; I was also repeatedly in Albury and Corowa on this business, at a cost of £10; and I had to sacrifice my stock and pay interest on money, besides neglecting my business, which I estimate at £150—making the total loss on the first action of £376. Then a second action was immediately entered for £2,000 for trespass on the 52½ acres encroaching on reserve No. 98, and the expense of that action was £150.
9. What is the total amount of loss you estimate that you have sustained? The amounts are particularised in the paper I now hand in. (*See Appendix A 1.*)
10. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] What is the total amount you claim as compensation for the loss inflicted on you through the maladministration of the Land law? £1,959 5s. 9d. Then we come to the measured portion of 140½ acres, selected on the 15th May, 1879. This was part of a surveyed portion marked and numbered

Mr.
H. A. Hough.
23 June, 1886.

Mr.
H. A. Hough.
23 June, 1886.

- numbered 90, and containing in the whole 208½ acres. Sixty-eight acres were taken up as an original selection, and the Department intimated to me that should I take up the balance of 140½ acres it would save me the expense of a subdivision fee, so I took it up as an additional C.P. Immediately after this Whitty made overtures to rent the land, and I agreed; but the 140 acres being claimed by him as part of a measured portion he refused to pay rent for it, and a clause was inserted in the lease stating that the rent was only to be paid in the event of the land being legally vested in me, which has been done.
11. *Chairman.*] I think you had better give us a copy of that clause, or a copy of the lease? This is the original lease (*produced*), and I will hand in a copy. (*See Appendix A 2.*)
12. Do you swear that all the statements in your petition of the 18th November, 1885, presented to the House on the 14th May, 1886, are absolutely true? I do solemnly.
13. You have recently taken Mr. Darley's opinion on your position in this matter? Yes.
14. You had better hand in the case and opinion? I produce the original, and will hand in a copy. (*See Appendix A 3.*) The only thing to add to make it complete is, that as regards the land mentioned in the lease I am as badly off as ever, although it is freehold, because I cannot get the rent; there is nearly six years' rent owing, and I cannot get one farthing.
15. The whole of the papers connected with this matter of the 140 acres have been printed in return to an order of the Assembly, made on the 18th December, 1883, on the motion of Mr. Lyne? Yes.
16. *Mr. Chanter.*] The 140 acres were made freehold, you say in your petition, on the 5th March, 1883? Yes.
17. You hold the grant? Yes, I hold the grant, but it is of no use to me, as there has been an adverse verdict of the Court, and the land has been used by Whitty for nearly six years, and I cannot recover anything for it, as it is the subject of an adverse verdict, which has never been reversed, through failing to file an application in time. I paid the balance due upon the land; the Government gave me the grant, and now it is no good to me.
18. *Chairman.*] Have you vouchers for all these payments set forth in the paper you have handed in? No, I cannot say I have vouchers.
19. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] I suppose you are prepared to swear to the truth of these items? Yes; the bulk of them are here in my bank-book.
20. *Mr. Chanter.*] I presume that at the time you entered into the contract to lease the 140 acres to the Whittys you had possession,—and you gave them possession? Yes.
21. And that possession they are now using against your grant? Yes. I may say that I never would have let it to Whitty at all only that my health was very bad, and he threatened to ruin me by law expenses.
22. Have you made any overtures to the Whittys to recover possession? Yes, repeatedly; I have their replies here.

APPENDIX.

[To evidence of Mr. Henry Arthur Hough, 23rd June, 1886.]

A 1.

	£	s.	d.
1878—Paid in first action for £2,000, for trespass on 152½ acres land, wrongly surveyed but legalized by Act in 1881	166	0	0
My own lawyer, £20; ditto, Court, £10	30	0	0
Journey Sydney on case, £15; Melbourne, £5	20	0	0
Ditto, Albury and Corowa	10	10	0
Sacrifice of stock and interest, and neglect of business	150	0	0
	376	10	0
Expenses second action for trespass on 140½ acres, wrongly taken from me by Supreme Court in August, 1884			
Caused by almost continual absence from home, and having to employ men to do my work, and neglect of business	150	0	0
	526	10	0
1884—Paid Marshall, solicitor, <i>re</i> matter	25	10	0
Supreme Court fees and Prothonotary	4	0	0
Expenses through case being struck off list	18	10	0
1883—Two journeys to Sydney <i>re</i> matter in middle haymaking whereby hay spoilt	20	0	0
1884—December 24—Costs paid through suing Whitty on 140½ acres	320	11	0
1885—March 14—Nagle's bill and costs	235	14	11
Journey to Sydney and waiting three weeks	30	0	0
1883—January 15—Paid Burcher <i>re</i> matter, £11; '84—Burcher, £2 10s. 6d.	13	10	6
February 5—Wilkinson, £1 1s. 6d.; account rendered in full, £20 10s.	21	11	6
14—Bradley and Son	10	14	10
April—Burcher, £2 2s. 6d.; Lyne, £42 12s. 8d., freehold	44	15	2
September 22—Lyne, £2 12s. 6d.; telegram Sydney, 1s. 6d.	2	14	0
1885—July 1—Costs of Court and summons, in suing Whitty for rent on 140½ acres; no jurisdiction, as per bank-book	7	13	6
	1,282	1	5
1884—Paid Pitcher £5; owing McCulloch <i>re</i> Darley's opinion, £21 10s.	21	10	0
Two journeys Sydney on case and expenses, at least	50	0	0
No crop for five years, through want of horse and machinery, and interest on borrowed money, at £10 per cent., making 140 freehold, £106 15s. (E. Grant, £1)...	500	0	0
	£1,853	11	5

A 2.

A 2.

Henry A. Hough to Henry T. Whitty, Lease and Memorandum, dated 18th August, 1880.

THIS INDENTURE made the eighteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty between Henry Arthur Hough of Tarramia in the Colony of New South Wales farmer (hereinafter called the lessor) of the one part and Henry Tarleton Whitty of Tarramia aforesaid grazier (hereinafter called the lessee) of the other part witnesseth that in consideration of the rent hereinafter reserved and of the covenants hereinafter contained and on the part of the lessor to be observed and performed He the lessor doth hereby grant demise and lease unto the lessee his executors administrators and assigns all those pieces or parcels of lands and hereditaments described in the Schedule to these presents together with the messuages buildings fences erections and improvements thereon together also with all rights easements and appurtenances belonging thereto to have and to hold the said pieces or parcels of land hereditaments and premises hereby demised or expressed so to be unto the lessee his executors administrators and assigns from the seventeenth day of August instant for the term of seven years thence next ensuing yielding and paying therefore during the said term the yearly rent of two hundred and twenty-seven pounds six shillings and sixpence payable half-yearly at the Bank of New South Wales Corowa on the seventeenth day of February and the seventeenth day of August in every year without any deduction (except in the cases hereinafter mentioned) the first of such half-yearly payments to be made on the seventeenth day of February next and the lessee doth hereby for himself his heirs executors administrators and assigns covenant with the lessor his heirs and assigns That he the lessee his executors administrators and assigns will (except as hereinafter provided) pay the said rent on the days and in manner hereinbefore mentioned Provided always that the lessor duly pays or causes to be paid all interest and instalments due or to become due to the Crown within fourteen days of the days or respective days appointed or to be appointed for payment thereof in respect of the unpaid balance of the purchase money of the lands hereby demised or intended so to be or any part thereof rendered necessary by the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861" or "The Lands Acts Amendments Act of 1875" or "The Lands Acts further Amendment Act of 1880" or the regulations thereunder or any other Act or Acts or regulation or regulations hereafter to come into operation in New South Wales And provided that should the lessee be evicted from or disturbed in the possession of all or any of the lands sixthly seventhly and eighthly described in the said Schedule the said yearly rental shall be reduced by an amount to be computed at the rate of three shillings per acre for each and every acre that the lessee may be so evicted from or disturbed in the possession of such reduction to commence from the date of such eviction or disturbance and the covenant to pay rent hereinbefore contained to be thereby proportionately affected and no right of action for breach thereof to accrue to the lessor his heirs or assigns in any such case And the lessee doth hereby for himself his executors administrators and assigns covenant with the lessor his heirs and assigns that he the lessee will from time to time during the said term keep all houses fences and other improvements on the lands hereby demised in good and sufficient repair (reasonable wear and tear and damage by fire except as to fences or tempest excepted) And that in case any of the fences on the lands hereby demised shall be destroyed by fire he will before the expiration of the said term duly replace and rebuild the same the cost of such replacing and rebuilding to be deducted from the seventh years' rental less half the value of the fences so destroyed at the date of destruction which half value the lessee hereby covenants to pay and will at the expiration or sooner determination of the said term quietly deliver up to the lessor his heirs or assigns possession of the premises hereby demised (save and except such portion or portions thereof as he may be disturbed in the possession of or evicted from) in such good and tenantable repair as aforesaid except as aforesaid Provided always and it is hereby declared that if the said yearly rent hereby reserved or any part thereof respectively (except as hereinbefore provided) shall be in arrear for the space of one calendar month next after any of the said days whereon the same ought respectively to be paid as aforesaid whether the same shall or shall not have been legally demanded or if there shall be any breach of any of the covenants hereinbefore contained and on the part of the lessee his executors administrators and assigns to be observed and performed then and in any of the said cases it shall be lawful for the lessor his heirs or assigns at any time thereafter into and upon the said premises or any part thereof in the name of the whole to re-enter the same to have again repossess and enjoy as in his or their former estate And the lessor doth hereby for himself his heirs executors administrators and assigns covenant with the lessee his executors administrators and assigns that he the lessor his heirs executors administrators or assigns will duly pay all interest or instalments or other moneys due or to become due to the Crown in respect of the unpaid balance of the purchase money of the lands hereby demised rendered necessary by the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861" or the "Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1875" or the "Lands Acts further Amendment Act of 1880" or the regulations thereunder or any Act or Acts or regulation or regulations hereafter to come into operation in New South Wales within fourteen days of the days or respective days appointed or to be appointed for payment thereof and that in default thereof and so often as the same shall occur it shall be lawful for (but not obligatory upon) the lessee to pay all or any of the said interest instalments or other moneys due or to become due to the Crown as aforesaid and that the amount or respective amounts thereof may be deducted from the then next accruing rent and shall be considered as rent received And that the lessee his executors administrators and assigns paying the said yearly rent hereby reserved in manner aforesaid (save as aforesaid) and observing and performing all the covenants hereinbefore contained and on his and their part to be observed and performed shall and may peaceably and quietly possess and enjoy the lands firstly secondly thirdly and fourthly and fifthly described in the said schedule during the said term without any eviction or disturbance by the lessor his heirs or assigns or any person or persons lawfully or equitably claiming by from under or in trust for him them or any of them Provided always and it is hereby agreed and declared that if any dispute or difference shall arise between the lessor his heirs or assigns or any person or persons claiming as aforesaid and the lessee his executors administrators or assigns touching the construction of these presents or as to the eviction of the lessee his executors administrators or assigns from or disturbance in the quiet possession of any of the lands hereby demised or as to the liability of the lessee his executors administrators or assigns to repair or replace the said fences or as to the value thereof if burnt or otherwise as to the rights and liabilities of either party under these presents or in anywise relating thereto such dispute or difference shall be referred to two arbitrators one to be named by each party and in case of their disagreement then to an umpire to be chosen by the arbitrators previously to entering upon the consideration of the matters referred to them and in case of either of the parties neglecting to name an arbitrator for the space of seven days next after a notice so to do shall have been given to him or them by the other party or shall name an arbitrator who shall refuse to act then the arbitrator named by the other party may make a final decision alone And every such arbitration shall be subject to the provisions as to arbitration contained in an Act passed in the session of the Parliament of the said Colony held in the thirty-first year of the reign of Her present Majesty intitled "An Act to make Arbitrations more effectual" except where the same are hereby expressly varied and the submission may be made a rule of the Supreme Court of the said Colony of New South Wales on the application of either party In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

The Schedule before referred to—

Firstly—All that piece or parcel of land in the said Colony of New South Wales containing by admeasurement two hundred and sixty-seven acres and two roods (more or less) situate in the county of Denison and parish of Tarramia being the land conditionally purchased by the lessor at Albury now Corowa on the twentieth day of May one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five under the provisions of the thirteenth section of the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861" as three hundred and twenty acres but which was subsequently reduced by the Minister for Lands to the above area on twenty-seventh March one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.

Secondly—All that piece or parcel of land containing by admeasurement one hundred and twenty-eight acres (more or less) situate in the Colony county and parish aforesaid being the land conditionally purchased by the lessor at Corowa aforesaid on the sixteenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six under the provisions of the twenty-first sections of the said Act.

Thirdly—All that piece or parcel of land containing by admeasurement sixty-four acres (more or less) situate in the Colony county and parish last aforesaid being the land conditionally purchased by the lessor at Corowa aforesaid on the sixth day of April one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six under the provisions of the twenty-first section of the said Act.

Fourthly—All that piece or parcel of land containing by admeasurement one hundred and twenty-eight acres (more or less) situate in the Colony county and parish last aforesaid being the land conditionally purchased by the lessor at Corowa aforesaid on the thirtieth day of March one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six under the provisions of the twenty-first section of the said Act.

Fifthly—

Fifthly—All that piece or parcel of land containing by admeasurement sixty-eight acres (more or less) situate in the Colony county and parish last aforesaid being the land conditionally purchased by the lessor at Corowa aforesaid on the fifth day of September one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight under the provisions of the thirteenth section of the said Act.

Sixthly—All that piece or parcel of land containing by admeasurement two hundred and twenty acres (more or less) situate in the Colony county and parish last aforesaid being the land conditionally purchased by one Charles Cooper Hough (one of the infant sons of the lessor) at Albury now Corowa aforesaid on the twentieth day of May one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five under the provisions of the thirteenth section of the said Act as three hundred and twenty acres but which was subsequently reduced by the Minister for Lands to the above area on the twenty-seventh day of March one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.

Seventhly—All that piece or parcel of land containing by admeasurement three hundred and twenty acres (more or less) situate in the colony county and parish last aforesaid being the land conditionally purchased by one Sarah Ellen Newman Hough (one of the infant daughters of the lessor) at Albury now Corowa aforesaid on the twentieth day of May one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five under the provisions of the thirteenth section of the said Act.

And eighthly—All that piece or parcel of land containing by admeasurement three hundred and twenty acres (more or less) situate in the colony county and parish last aforesaid being the land conditionally purchased by one Annie Emilie Gertrude Hough (one of the infant daughters of the lessor) at Albury now Corowa aforesaid on the twentieth day of May one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five under the provisions of the thirteenth section of the said Act.

Signed sealed and delivered by the said HENRY ARTHUR HOUGH in the presence of H. T. WHITTY.

Signed sealed and delivered by the said HENRY TARLETON WHITTY in the presence of WALTER JHONSON, Solicitor, Corowa.

MEMORANDUM made this eighteenth day of August one thousand eight hundred and eighty between the within-named lessor of the one part and the within-named lessee of the other part whereby it is mutually declared and agreed between the parties hereto that the lands hereinafter described shall (if and when they shall have been duly vested in and legalised to the said lessor by the Government of New South Wales) be held by the said lessee upon the terms and conditions and subject to the covenants of the within lease he the said lessee paying rent therefore at the rate of three shillings per acre as for the lands firstly hereinafter described from the date hereof during the term granted by the within lease and as to the lands secondly and thirdly hereinafter described from the date of such vesting or legalising during the residue of such term and such rent or arrears of rent for the lands firstly described to be paid on the half-yearly days next succeeding the time of such vesting or legalising and as to the lands secondly and thirdly described as from the time of such vesting or legalising on the then next succeeding half-yearly days as aforesaid. Firstly—All that piece or parcel of land containing by admeasurement one hundred and forty acres three roods (more or less) being the land conditionally purchased by the said lessor at Corowa 15th May 1879 under the twenty-first section of the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861." Secondly—All that piece or parcel of land containing by admeasurement fifty two acres two roods (more or less) being the reduction referred to in the first description in the within schedule. Thirdly—All that piece or parcel of land containing by admeasurement one hundred acres (more or less) being the reduction referred to in the sixth description in the within schedule.

In witness whereof the said parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first hereinbefore written.

HENRY ARTHUR HOUGH.
H. T. WHITTY.

Signed sealed and delivered by both parties in the presence of—
WALTER JHONSON Solicitor Corowa.

A 3.

Re Hough and Whitty.

Counsel's opinion *re* the 140½ acres.

On the 5th September, 1878, H. A. Hough selected 68 acres of Crown Lands on Tarramiah Run, being portion of a surveyed lot containing 208½ acres. On 26th April, 1879, Hough was informed by Department of Lands (A. O. Moriarty) that the 68 acres applied for by him was portion of measured portion "90," containing 208½ acres, and that if the balance of 140½ acres was taken up by Hough no subdivision fee would be necessary. In accordance with this advice Hough took up the balance of 140½ acres on the 15th May, 1879. The 68 acres contained no improvements, the 140½ acres contained some improvements. Meantime, on 18th August, 1880, Hough leased the 68 acres, and his other lands adjoining, to Whitty, and a lease was prepared costing Hough £6 6s. However as Whitty objected to pay rent for the 140½ acres, as containing improvements sufficient to bar selection, a special clause was endorsed on lease referring to this and other lands of Hough's which had been wrongly surveyed, providing that no rent was to be paid on the 140½ acres in question until said 140½ acres was legally vested in Hough. A Court of Appraisement was held and subsequently Hough was informed by circular letter from Lands Office on 22nd May, 1882, that the selection would be allowed to hold good to Hough, adding a proviso that it was at Hough's risk should any proceedings be taken against him by Whitty as to improvements on measured portions. No proceedings were taken by Whitty. On being applied to Whitty failed to pay rent, taking no notice of the demand. Hough would have distrained but his then solicitor, Mr. Nagle, of Albury, advised against it, saying there was a question of title. Nor would he sue in the District Court but he issued a writ in the Supreme Court against Whitty. Hough was dissatisfied with his adviser on account of vexatious and unnecessary delays, and transferred the matter to Mr. Burcher. Hough was compelled to pay Mr. Nagle's cost, amounting to £78, and he did so under protest by p. n. at two months date in order to get his papers, lease, &c., withheld by Nagle. * After great delay the case was tried in Sydney in June, 1884, when a verdict by consent was entered for Hough on his title and lease. The amount of verdict was £100; of this £42 only was for rent, the remainder being, as Hough supposed, damages for non-payment of rent at the specified time. A point of law was however reserved for argument before the Full Court as to the improvements, they being over £40 and land said to be and always spoken of as measured portion 90. On August 12, 1884, the Full Court met and Mr. Pilcher appeared for Mr. Hough, instructed by Mr. Burcher, who had all papers in connection with the case, showing that the land was not a legally measured portion, but the attention of the Court was not directed to these papers; consequently the former verdict was reversed and the 140½ acres and the 68 acres were declared void. Whitty had paid rent on the latter portion regularly. This trial entailed an expenditure by Hough of £320 11s. and £235 odd for costs. Hough wrote to the Minister at once; after waiting a few days for a reply the Minister for Lands wrote, saying that Full Court had given a wrong decision. The land not being a measured portion and the survey not having received Surveyor-General's signature till long after Hough's selection, and that if Hough paid up the balance of purchase money on the 68 acres (the 140½ having been already paid for) he would issue a Crown Grant to him for the whole block. Hough replied, asking the Minister to get the judgment reversed. He then came to Sydney and procured the grant not in time however to appeal. This law-suit cost Hough nearly £1,000, including costs, travelling expenses, and other incidental expenditure. Whitty has always paid rent for the 68 acres but not one penny for the 140½ acres. Hough sued him in the District Court and was non-suited with costs† through an error in the summons, and on a second occasion Judge Forbes said that he had no jurisdiction as the lease provided that the dispute must be settled by arbitration. Hough declined to submit to arbitration and has letters from Whitty admitting that this course is unnecessary. Hough is unable to obtain payment of rent. Whitty is still in possession. The Crown Grant is dated November 27, 1884. Counsel will please advise: 1st. Is Hough now in a position to sue Whitty for rent, interest, and damages? 2nd. Can he distrain for rent? 3rd. Can he succeed in an action against Whitty for damages for breach of covenants in lease *i.e.* non-payment of rent from the date of Whitty's first entry whereby all these losses have been occasioned?

Mr. Darley's Opinion.

I AM of opinion that Mr. Hough is now in a position to sue Whitty for the rent in respect of the 140½ acres reserved by the endorsement upon the lease, and is entitled to recover for all rent due since the 27th Nov., 1884. I fear that the decision of the Court of Hough-Whitty prevents Mr. Hough from recovering any rent previous to that date, but now that it has been discovered

* Mr. Darley says not all. This is a misapprehension. The amount of the verdict was £42 6s. See 5, Supreme Court Reports, 271.

† Summons and service.

discovered that the decision was based upon an error in the facts, and as Mr. Hough has obtained a Crown grant, I think he is in a position to say that the lands have been duly vested and legalized in him and may therefore proceed for the rent. I am further of opinion that Mr. Hough is not precluded from suing consequent upon the arbitration clause. Such a clause does not oust the jurisdiction of the Court (See *Scott v. Avery*, 5 H.L., Cas., 811). I also think that Mr. Hough may distrain for the rent due but this is a course which I do not advise. It is far better for Mr. Hough to be plaintiff in an action to recover the rent than to be a defendant in an action for trespass. It is also open to Hough to bring an action of ejectment upon the right to re-enter for breach of covenants contained in the lease but this course again I do not advise. In the action Mr. Hough will be entitled to recover the rent due from the date of the grant and interest thereon but nothing more; he cannot in any action recover damages for the great and serious loss he has sustained. The persons to blame for this loss are the Government officials, and this should weigh much in any application he may make for reimbursement, but he has no redress at law.

Wentworth Court, 25 May, 1886.

FREDK. M. DARLEY.

Ex parte Hough.

In re Whitty—In re Government.

COUNSEL will please refer to the report of the case of *Hough v. Whitty*, N.S.W. Law Reports, vol. v., part iii, page 269. It will be observed that the decision in that case rested entirely on the point* that the land selected was part of a measured portion. The information that it was a measured portion† was supplied by the Land Office on several occasions in a formal and official manner. As a matter of fact it now turns out that the 208½ acres was not a measured portion within the meaning of the Land Act then in force as it had not been approved of by the Minister unless the recognition of the measurement by his Department and the official numbering of it could be construed into an approval of it. The Lands Department have treated the selection as perfectly good and have now accepted the balance of the purchase money, and issued a grant of the whole 208½ acres to Hough, who is now in the peculiar position of having a decision of the Supreme Court declaring his selection void, and of having been thereby deprived of rent for his property, and he has been put to enormous expense in litigation which has nearly ruined him, while he has now a Crown grant of the land issued to him, which is it is contended an unquestionable certificate that the land has been his for five years previously to the issue of the grant. The decision of the Court rests solely on the point that the land in question was a measured portion, and it is now discovered that such was not the case. The information was conveyed to the Court by Whitty, and on that information that decision was obtained. Hough could not contradict it as the Lands Department informed him that Whitty's statement was correct, and it was not until long after the time for appealing against the decision of the Court had elapsed, even if what would really be fresh evidence could be given under that proceeding, that it was discovered that Whitty's representation was incorrect.

Counsel will please advise as to Mr. Hough's position. Can he now take any proceedings to obtain a reversal of the decision of the Court? Can he take any proceedings against Whitty at Law or in Equity to obtain from him damages or retribution for the injury he has sustained in consequence of Whitty's misrepresentation, wilful or otherwise, of the facts of the case? Can he recover from the Government compensation for his injuries which were occasioned by the wrong information supplied by its officers.

Mr. Darley's Opinion.

I HAVE read carefully the case of *Hough v. Whitty*, 5 N.S.W. L.R., 269, and think that upon the facts before the Court the decision could not have been otherwise. It now appears that the Court was misled in supposing this land to have been a measured portion. So far as the case of *Hough v. Whitty* is concerned I see no means of re-opening it, nor can any action be brought against Mr. Whitty that I am aware of for making the representations he did. If he innocently misled the Court he is not liable, and if on the other hand he stated the land to be a measured portion, knowing at the time such statement to be false, then he is liable to be indicted for perjury. But this can scarcely be the case. There can be no doubt but that Whitty has been himself misled. It must however be borne in mind that under the 39 Vic. No. 13, sec. 13, it is not the Minister who approves of measured portions, but such portions are not considered to be measured until the plan of measurement shall have been approved of by the Surveyor-General, the evidence of which is either the signature of the Surveyor-General upon the plan, or the signature of some officer deputed by him to sign the plan. This is what must be looked to. If the plan of the measurement of this 208½ acres bears the signature of the Surveyor-General, or the signature of some officer of his Department deputed by him to sign plan, then it was a measured portion, otherwise not.

The decision of the Court in *Hough v. Whitty* will not however affect the right of Mr. Hough to hold this land if the land was not a measured portion. In fact that decision will not prevent his bringing an action of ejectment to recover the land from any person occupying it hostilely to him, or if he be in possession he may maintain trespass against any person even though it be Mr. Whitty who enters upon his possession.

It may be that if Mr. Hough can establish that he has suffered so much injustice and has been put to so great an expense, consequent upon a mistake of the officer of the Lands Department, that Parliament upon being petitioned may grant relief by placing a sum of money upon the Estimates. I am unable to see in what other way relief can be obtained.

Wentworth Court, 28 May, 1885.

FREDK. M. DARLEY.

* That is so.

† The measured portion does not require the approval of the Minister. The plan of measurement requires the approval of the Surveyor-General.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

CLAIM OF CHARLES STEVENS;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,
6 *August*, 1886.

SYDNEY: THOMAS RICHARDS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1886.

1885-6.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 64. FRIDAY, 21 MAY, 1886.

17. CLAIM OF CHARLES STEVENS :—*Mr. Garrard*, for *Mr. Vaughn*, moved, pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed, with power to send for persons and papers, to inquire into and report upon the matter of a claim made by Charles Stevens, and arising out of the action *Pearson v. Stevens*, tried in the Supreme Court.
 - (2.) That such Committee consist of *Mr. Copland*, *Mr. Barbour*, *Mr. Day*, *Mr. Stokes*, *Mr. Coonan*, and *Mr. Vaughn*.
 - (3.) That the Report from the Select Committee of Session 1883-4, in reference to the said claim, be referred to such Committee.
- Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 106. FRIDAY, 6 AUGUST, 1886.

4. CLAIM OF CHARLES STEVENS :—*Mr. Vaughn*, as Chairman, brought up the report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 21st May, 1886.
- Ordered to be printed.
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1885-6.

CLAIM OF CHARLES STEVENS.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on the 21st May, 1886,—“*with power to send for persons and papers, to inquire into and report upon the matter of a claim made by Charles Stevens, and arising out of the action Pearson v. Stevens, tried in the Supreme Court, and to whom was referred on the same day the Report from the Select Committee of Session 1883-4 in reference to the said Claim,*”—have agreed to the following Report:—

1. Your Committee having carefully considered the Report referred to them, find as follows:—

- (1.) That on the 26th October, 1880, Charles Stevens, junior, a minor, selected two blocks of land, Nos. 76 and 100, containing 640 acres, on the Wonjagong Run, near Forbes, such blocks having been gazetted for thirty-one days previously as open for selection.
- (2.) That Charles Edmund Pearson, the lessee of the said run, had previously held these blocks by virtue of purchase at a Sheriff's sale, without residence.
- (3.) That the said Charles Edmund Pearson entered an action against Charles Stevens, junior, and Charles Stevens, senior, for trespass upon the said land.
- (4.) That the result of the trial was that the forfeiture of the land by the Crown was upheld, and the right claimed by the lessee of the run to hold land by virtue of purchase at a Sheriff's sale, without residence, was declared null and void.
- (5.) That the said Charles Stevens, senior, in defending his son's title to the said conditional purchase, virtually settled, on behalf of the Crown, a most important point in the administration of the Land Law, and incurred an expense in so doing of £624 2s. 11d.

2. Your Committee, therefore, in view of the extreme hardship of the case, recommend the claim of Charles Stevens to the most favourable consideration of the Government.

R. M. VAUGHN,
Chairman.

No. 3 Committee Room,
Sydney, 6th August, 1886.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

THURSDAY, 17 JUNE, 1886.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Vaughn, | Mr. Day.

In the absence of a quorum, the meeting called for this day lapsed.

FRIDAY, 6 AUGUST, 1886.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Vaughn, | Mr. Barbour,
Mr. Stokes.

Mr. Vaughn called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings, appointing the Committee, and referring Report from Select Committee of Session 1883-4, read by the Clerk.

Committee deliberated.

Printed copies of the Report before the Committee.

Motion made (*Mr. Barbour*), and question,—That the Report brought up by a former Committee, and dated 23rd April, 1884, be the Report of this Committee,—put and passed.

Chairman to report to the House.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(SELECTED OR SOLD BY AUCTION FROM 1865 TO 1872 INCLUSIVE.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 1 July, 1886.

[Laid upon the Table of the House, in accordance with promise made by the Honorable the Secretary for Lands, in answer to Question No. 6 on Votes and Proceedings No. 81, of the 22nd June, 1886.]

No. 1.

RETURN showing area of Land selected from 1865 to 1872 inclusive, and amount received.

Year.	Area.			Amount.		
	Acres	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
1865	151,450	0	0	37,862	10	0
1866	358,652	0	0	59,663	0	0
1867	232,176	0	0	58,004	0	0
1868	239,516	2	0	59,879	4	6
1869	397,328	2	26	99,332	3	3
1870	329,818	1	2	82,329	11	4
1871	358,682	2	8	89,670	11	0
1872	749,586	3	0	187,396	11	6

No. 2.

STATEMENT of Land sold and amounts received each year—during the year 1865 and each succeeding year up to 1872.

Year.	Area.	Amount.
	Acres.	£
1865	65,308	98,496
1866	67,147	84,660
1867	73,202	82,566
1868	51,669	58,328
1869	95,073	110,190
1870	52,759	67,707
1871	50,485	59,570
1872	62,175	69,116

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(SELECTED OR SOLD BY AUCTION, FROM 1873 TO 1885 INCLUSIVE.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 1 July, 1886.

[Laid upon the Table of the House in accordance with promise made by the Honorable the Secretary for Lands in answer to Question No. 7 on Votes and Proceedings No. 81, of the 22nd June, 1886.]

No. 1.

RETURN showing area of land selected from 1873 to 1885 inclusive, and amount received.

Year.	Area.			Amount.		
	Acres	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
1873	1,391,719	0	0	347,930	0	0
1874	1,586,282	0	0	396,570	10	0
1875	1,756,678	0	0	439,169	11	1
1876	1,984,212	0	0	496,053	8	2
1877	1,699,816	0	0	424,951	0	0
1878	1,588,247	3	18	398,728	11	1
1879	924,136	1	0	232,285	2	9
1880	1,147,001	2	39	296,274	13	9
1881	2,329,202	0	15	592,965	16	1
1882	2,392,217	2	35	621,617	1	11
1883	1,617,712	0	7	424,968	0	10
1884	1,453,937	0	0	381,550	4	0
1885	1,114,871	3	2	116,073	8	8

No. 2.

STATEMENT of Land sold and amounts received each year, during year 1873, and each succeeding year up to 1885.

Year.	Area.	Amount.
	Acres.	£
1873	276,704	290,098
1874	583,266	612,953
1875	983,442	101,495
1876	1,690,528	1,729,582
1877	1,830,996	1,855,749
1878	862,988	1,086,621
1879	355,569	462,818
1880	348,832	434,907
1881	526,549	647,538
1882	505,642	653,615
1883	30,301	97,228
1884	41,446	125,897
1885	2,648	74,368

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MR. E. H. BARTON'S CONDITIONAL PURCHASE, COUNTY OF
NARRAMINE, PARISH OF TRANGIE.

(PETITION FROM JOHN CAMPBELL IN REFERENCE TO.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 23 September, 1886.

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

The humble Petition of John Campbell, of Trangie, near Dubbo, in the Colony of New South Wales, conditional purchaser,—

SHOWETH:—

That on the 21st December, 1882, Edward Hugh Barton, a licensed surveyor, conditionally purchased at Dubbo, 320 acres of Crown Lands, in the county of Narramine, and parish of Trangie, under the 13th section of the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861."

2. That previous to the 12th June, 1883, the Honorable James Squire Farnell, the then Minister for Lands, required the said Edward Hugh Barton (he being a licensed surveyor) to consent to have his said conditional purchase declared void, which consent the said Edward Hugh Barton gave by letter to the Department of Lands on or previous to the date next hereinafter mentioned, and thereupon received a voucher for the refund of his deposit.

3. That on or before the 14th June, 1883, the said conditional purchase of the said Edward Hugh Barton was duly declared void by the Department of Lands, in pursuance of the direction of the Minister above referred to, and such voidance was duly communicated by letter from the head office of the Department, in Sydney, to the Crown Lands Office at Dubbo, by letter dated the 22nd June, 1883, and such voidance was, on the receipt of such letter, duly noted by the Crown Lands Agent at Dubbo, in the books of the Department there. That this is the only voidance of the said conditional purchase of the said Edward Hugh Barton contained in the books at Dubbo.

4. That on Thursday, the 28th June, 1883, your Petitioner attended at the Crown Lands Office at Dubbo, and on enquiry was informed by the Crown Lands Agent there that the said conditional purchase of the said Edward Hugh Barton had been duly declared void and was open to selection. And that your Petitioner thereupon, on the said 28th June, 1883, lodged an application at the Crown Lands Office at Dubbo aforesaid, for the said 320 acres as an additional conditional purchase, adjoining his original conditional purchase, under the Crown Lands Acts then in force, and paid the deposit of £80.

5. That your Petitioner has always resided upon and improved his original conditional purchase as by law required, and has made improvements on his said additional conditional purchase of 320 acres, to the value of about £1,400. And that your Petitioner has leased on building leases for terms of years several portions of his said additional conditional purchase of 320 acres.

6. That some considerable time after your Petitioner made his application for the said 320 acres, the Honorable James Squire Farnell, the then Minister for Lands, declared his your Petitioner's application void, on the alleged ground that it was made during the legal existence of the said Edward Hugh Barton's said conditional purchase; whereas, in fact, the said Edward Hugh Barton's said conditional purchase was declared void on or before the 14th June, 1883, and such voidance was communicated to the office in Dubbo, on the 22nd June, 1883, and your Petitioner did not make his application until the 28th June, 1883.

7. That since the 28th June, 1883, your Petitioner has always had and now has possession of the said 320 acres, either in person or by his tenants.

8. That by notice in the Government Gazette some considerable time after your Petitioner made his application, the said 320 acres was declared a village reserve, and has, notwithstanding the protestation of your Petitioner, been divided into allotments, some of which, containing your Petitioner's improvements, have been advertised for sale by auction on the 24th September instant.

9. That if it be contended, as it has been, that your Petitioner's application for the 320 acres is void because under the law the Honorable the Minister for Lands had no power or authority to declare the conditional purchase of the said Edward Hugh Barton void, even with his consent, then the said conditional purchase of the said Edward Hugh Barton is still in existence, as it has never been legally forfeited by the mode prescribed in the Crown Lands Acts, and the proclamation of the said lands as a village reserve is therefore void, and the sale advertised for the 24th September instant, consequently illegal.

10.

10. That the Honorable the Minister for Lands refuses to recognize the claim of your Petitioner to the said 320 acres of land, or to compensation for the loss of it and value of the improvements which he has made or caused to be effected.

11. That through the action of the Department of Lands in declaring the said conditional purchase of the said Edward Hugh Barton void, your Petitioner was induced to make application for the said 320 acres, and to hold and improve same as above mentioned.

12. That your Petitioner humbly prays that your Honorable House will take into its favourable consideration the above circumstances, and will afford him such relief as the merits of the case seem to warrant.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Trangie, 16th September, 1886.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

(REVENUE UNDER, FROM 1 JANUARY, 1885, TO 31 MAY, 1886.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 22 June, 1886.

RETURN (in part) to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 28th May, 1886, That there be laid upon the Table of this House, a Return showing,—

- “(1.) The amount of revenue derived under the ‘Crown Lands Act of 1884,’ from the time of its coming into operation up to the present date.
“(2.) The cost of administering the said Act during the same period.”

(Mr. Wisdom.)

REVENUE received under the “Crown Lands Act of 1884,” from 1st January, 1885, to 31st May, 1886:—

SALES.					
Deposits on Conditional Purchases, 1885 ... ..	...	...	...	121,437	
“ “ “ to 31st May, 1886 ... ..	...	...	...	52,999	
					174,436
Auction Sales, 1885 ... ..	...	...	...	118,738	
“ “ to May, 1886 ... ..	...	...	...	12,711	
					131,449
Improvement Purchases on Gold-fields, 1885, to May, 1886 ... ..	...	...	...	577	577
					£306,462
LEASES.					
Conditional Leases, 1885 ... ..	...	...	...	37,136	
“ “ to May, 1886 ... ..	...	...	...	23,301	
					60,437
Homestead Leases, 1885 ... ..	...	...	...	15,768	
“ “ to May, 1886 ... ..	...	...	...	4,211	
					19,979
Pastoral Leases, 1885 ... ..	...	...	...	140,940	
“ “ to May, 1886 ... ..	...	...	...	6,795	
					147,735
Occupation Licenses, 1885 ... ..	...	...	...	294,686	
“ “ to May, 1886 ... ..	...	...	...	4,847	
					299,533
Annual Leases, 1885 ... ..	...	...	...	15,881	
“ “ to May, 1886 ... ..	...	...	...	2,934	
					18,815
					£852,961

[3d.]

617—

[805 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £1 4s. 9d.]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

MEMORANDUM BY THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR LANDS IN REFERENCE TO RETURN OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, UNDER.

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 16 July, 1886.

MEMORANDUM by the Under Secretary for Lands in reference to Return of Revenue and Expenditure under the "Crown Lands Act of 1884," moved for by Mr. Abigail, and ordered to be laid upon the Table of the Legislative Assembly.

I HAVE to report, for the information of the Minister, that the books of the Treasury are not kept in Land Board Districts, and it will be therefore impossible, without special compilation, to give the information as to revenue in the form asked for by Mr. Abigail.

With respect to expenditure it has already been stated (*vide* answer to question No. 11 of 16 June, 1886), that the expenditure cannot be stated as the business is being conducted concurrently with that remaining under the repealed Acts and by the same staff.

A return was prepared in response to a motion by Mr. Wisdom, showing the revenue, and laid upon the Table of the House on the 22nd ultimo; perhaps a similar return would answer the purposes of Mr. Abigail; if not it will be necessary for the Treasury to distribute the amounts collected, so as to show it according to Land Board Districts. This will be a very considerable undertaking and will occupy some length of time in preparation. It will necessitate a scrutiny of the Conditional Purchase Registers to ascertain the payments made upon selections under the repealed Acts and which have been brought under the provisions of the present law as regards payment, and though only a small portion of the information sought it will engage the attention of several officers for a long time.

Again, the rents of pastoral leases and occupation licenses will need to be allotted to the Land Board Districts. To ascertain this it will be necessary to prepare a large return in itself, and it could only be furnished by this office at considerable expense and delay to current business.

C.O.,
1/7/86.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(REGULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT DOMAINS, BOTANIC GARDENS, AND GARDEN PALACE GROUNDS.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 145.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 23 October, 1885.

Hrs Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased, under the 106th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, to make the following Regulations for the Government Domains, Botanic Gardens, and Garden Palace Grounds.

P. A. JENNINGS.

GOVERNMENT DOMAINS.

REGULATIONS.

1. No person shall climb any of the trees, or climb or jump over the seats or fences, or shall stand or lie on any of the seats therein.
 2. No person shall cut or deface any of the trees, shrubs, plants, seats, gates, posts, or fences, or write thereon, or shall affix any bill or stencil mark to any tree, seat, gate, post, fence, wall, pillar, or to any building or other erection, or on any pavement or footway therein.
 3. No person shall walk on the grass-edging bordering any path therein.
 4. No person shall ride or drive within the Domains except on the roads laid out therein.
 5. No cart or waggon used for heavy loading shall be allowed within the Domains unless by permission of the Director.
 6. No person, unless authorized by the Director, shall offer or expose any article for sale therein.
 7. No person shall engage in or train for any race or game, or throw any stone or other missile, or deposit therein any bottle, broken glass, fruit-skins, bones, paper, cast-off clothing, or litter of any kind; and no person shall light fires therein or annoy visitors.
 8. No person in a state of intoxication or of reputed bad character shall enter or remain within the Domains; and no person shall behave in a disorderly or offensive manner, or use any bad language, or commit any act of indecency therein.
 9. No person shall depasture any horses, cattle, sheep, or stock of any kind in the Domains without proper authority.
 10. All goats or poultry found therein may be destroyed by any employé or police constable.
 11. No performance or entertainment of any kind shall be permitted in the Domains, nor shall any charge be made for admission to the Domains, or money be collected at the gates or elsewhere therein, without the authority of the Colonial Secretary.
 12. No person, in addressing a public meeting or assemblage of persons in the Domains for any purpose, shall be permitted to do so in violent or unseemly language, calculated to inflame the minds of the hearers or cause a breach of the peace; and if, in the opinion of the Director, such is being done, he may order the removal of the person so offending from the Domains.
 13. Every person offending against these Regulations shall be liable to a fine of ten pounds or not less than five shillings, and may be forthwith removed from the Domains.
- The employés and police on duty in the Domains are enjoined to enforce the foregoing Regulations, and visitors are requested to bring under the notice of the Director any breach of the same coming under their observation.

BOTANIC GARDENS AND GARDEN PALACE GROUNDS.

REGULATIONS.

1. No person in a state of intoxication, or of reputed bad character, or who is not cleanly and decently dressed, shall enter or remain within these Gardens; and no person shall behave in an improper or offensive manner, or use bad language, or commit any act of indecency therein.
2. No children under twelve years of age shall be allowed within these Gardens unless accompanied by some adult, whom they shall not leave while therein.

3. No person shall engage in any race or game therein, or throw any stone or other missile, or deposit therein any bottle, broken glass, fruit-skins, bones, paper, cast-off clothing, or litter of any kind; and no person shall light fires therein, or smoke, or annoy visitors, or carry any flowers into these Gardens.

4. No person shall climb any of the trees or shrubs therein, or climb or jump over the seats or fences, or shall stand or lie on any of the seats, or lie on the grass near to any of the walks therein.

5. No person shall bring any dog into these Gardens; any dog found therein without an owner shall be forthwith expelled. All goats or poultry found therein may be destroyed by any employé or police constable.

6. No person, unless authorized by the Director, shall offer or expose any article for sale therein.

7. No person shall walk on the grass-edging bordering any path therein.

8. No person shall cut or deface any of the statuary, trees, shrubs, plants, seats, gates, posts, or fences, or write thereon, or shall affix any bill or stencil mark to any tree, seat, gate, post, fence, wall, pillar, or railing therein.

9. No person shall take or injure any of the plants, flowers, or fruit therein; or shall interfere with the trees, shrubs, flowers, vases, labels, fountains, fish, birds, animals, or other property therein.

10. No public meeting of any kind, or assemblage of persons together to the number of twenty or more, for any purpose, shall be allowed: Provided always that this regulation shall not extend to any meeting or assemblage notified by authority, or which shall be holden for any purpose by the written permission of the Colonial Secretary.

11. Every person offending against any of these Regulations shall be liable to a fine of twenty pounds or not less than ten shillings, and may be forthwith removed from the Gardens.

12. The Botanic Gardens shall be open from 6.30 o'clock a.m. until 7 o'clock p.m. daily in summer; and from 7 o'clock a.m. until 5 o'clock p.m. in winter. Any person found in the Gardens during unauthorized hours shall be liable to a fine of one pound or not less than five shillings, and shall be forthwith removed therefrom.

The employés and police on duty in the Gardens are enjoined to enforce the foregoing Regulations, and visitors are requested to bring under the notice of the Director any breach of the same coming under their observation.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(AMENDED REGULATION—DOMAINS AND PUBLIC GARDENS.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 145.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 10 December, 1885.

REFERRING to the Notice published in a Supplementary Government Gazette of the 23rd October last, His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to make the following amended Regulation, relating to the Botanic Gardens and Garden Palace Grounds.

P. A. JENNINGS.

BOTANIC GARDENS AND GARDEN PALACE GROUNDS.

REGULATIONS.

7. No person shall walk on the grass-edging bordering any path, or on the embankment therein.
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1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(AMENDED REGULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT DOMAINS, BOTANIC GARDENS, AND GARDEN PALACE GROUNDS.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 145.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 8th February, 1886.

HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased, under the 106th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, to make the following Amended Regulations for the Government Domains, Botanic Gardens, and Garden Palace Grounds.

JOHN ROBERTSON.

GOVERNMENT DOMAINS.

REGULATIONS.

1. No person shall climb any of the trees, or climb or jump over the seats or fences, or shall lie on any of the seats therein.
2. No person shall cut, break, or deface any of the trees, shrubs, plants, seats, gates, posts, or fences, or write thereon, or shall affix any bill or stencil mark to any tree, seat, gate, post, fence, wall, pillar, or to any building or other erection, or on any pavement or footway therein.
3. No person shall walk on the grass-edging bordering any path therein.
4. No person shall ride or drive within the Domains except on the roads laid out therein.
5. No cart or waggon used for heavy loading shall be allowed within the Domains unless by permission of the Director.
6. No person, unless authorised by the Director shall offer or expose any article for sale therein.
7. No person shall engage in or train for any race or game, or throw any stone or other missile, or deposit therein any bottle, broken glass, fruit skins, bones, paper, cast-off clothing, or litter of any kind; and no person shall light fires therein or annoy visitors.
8. No person in a state of intoxication or of reputed bad character, shall enter or remain within the Domains; and no person shall behave in a disorderly or offensive manner, or use any bad language, or commit any act of indecency therein.
9. No person shall depasture any horses, cattle, sheep, or stock of any kind in the Domains without proper authority.
10. All goats or poultry found therein may be destroyed by any employé or police constable.
11. No performance or entertainment of any kind shall be permitted in the Domains, nor shall any charge be made for admission to the Domains, or money be collected at the gates or elsewhere therein without the authority of the Colonial Secretary.
12. No person, in addressing a public meeting or assemblage of persons in the Domains for any purpose, shall be permitted to do so in a violent or unseemly language, calculated to inflame the minds of the hearers or cause a breach of the peace, and if in the opinion of the Director or his appointee such is being done, he may order the removal of the person so offending from the Domains.

13. Every person offending against these Regulations shall be liable to a fine of ten pounds or not less than five shillings, and may be forthwith removed from the Domains.

The employés and police on duty in the Domains are enjoined to enforce the foregoing Regulations, and visitors are requested to bring under the notice of the Director any breach of the same coming under their observation.

BOTANIC GARDENS AND GARDEN PALACE GROUNDS.

REGULATIONS.

1. No person in a state of intoxication, or of reputed bad character, or who is not cleanly and decently dressed shall enter or remain within these Gardens; and no person shall behave in an improper or offensive manner, or use bad language, or commit any act of indecency therein.
2. No children under twelve years of age shall be allowed within these gardens unless accompanied by some adult, whom they shall not leave while therein.
3. No person shall engage in any race or game therein, or throw any stone or other missile, or deposit therein any bottle, broken glass, fruit skins, bones, paper, cast-off clothing, or litter of any kind; and no person shall light fires therein, or smoke, or annoy visitors, or carry any flowers into these gardens.
4. No persons shall climb any of the trees or shrubs therein, or climb or jump over the seats or fences, or shall stand or lie on any of the seats, or lie on the grass near to any of the walks therein.
5. No person shall bring any dog into these gardens,—any dog found therein without an owner shall be forthwith expelled. All goats or poultry found therein may be destroyed by any employé or police constable.
6. No person, unless authorised by the Director, shall offer or expose any article for sale therein.
7. No person shall walk on the grass-edging bordering any path, or on the embankments therein.
8. No person shall cut or deface any of the statuary, trees, shrubs, plants, seats, gates, posts, or fences, or write thereon, or shall affix any bill or stencil mark to any tree, seat, gate, post, fence, wall, pillar, or railing therein.

9. No person shall take or injure any of the plants, flowers, or fruit therein; or shall interfere with the trees, shrubs, flowers, vases, labels, fountains, fish, birds, animals, or other property therein.

10. No public meeting of any kind, or assemblage of persons together to the number of twenty or more, for any purpose, shall be allowed: Provided always that this Regulation shall not extend to any meeting or assemblage notified by authority, or which shall be holden for any purpose by the written permission of the Colonial Secretary.

11. Every person offending against any of these Regulations shall be liable to a fine of twenty pounds or not less than ten shillings, and may be forthwith removed from the gardens.

12. The Botanic Gardens shall be open from 6.30 o'clock a.m. until 7 o'clock p.m. daily in summer; and from 7 o'clock a.m. until 5 o'clock p.m. in winter. Any person found in the gardens during unauthorised hours shall be liable to a fine of one pound or not less than five shillings, and shall be forthwith removed therefrom.

The employes and police on duty in the gardens are enjoined to enforce the foregoing Regulations, but this must only be done through the Director or in his absence his appointee, and visitors are requested to bring under the notice of the Director or in his absence his appointee, any breach of the same coming under their observation.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(AMENDED REGULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT DOMAINS, BOTANIC GARDENS, AND GARDEN PALACE GROUNDS.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 145.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 7th April, 1886.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased, under the 106th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, to make the following Amended Regulations for the Government Domains, Botanic Gardens, and Garden Palace Grounds.

JOHN ROBERTSON.

GOVERNMENT DOMAINS.

REGULATIONS.

1. No person shall climb any of the trees, or climb or jump over the seats or fences, or shall lie on any of the seats therein.
2. No person shall cut, break, or deface any of the trees, shrubs, plants, seats, gates, posts, or fences, or write thereon, or shall affix any bill or stencil mark to any tree, seat, gate, post, fence, wall, pillar, or to any building or other erection, or on any pavement or footway therein.
3. No person shall walk on the grass-edging bordering any path therein.
4. No person shall ride or drive within the Domains except on the roads laid out therein.
5. No cart or waggon used for heavy loading shall be allowed within the Domains unless by permission of the Director.
6. No person, unless authorised by the Director shall offer or expose any article for sale therein.
7. No person shall engage in or train for any race or game, or throw any stone or other missile, or deposit therein any bottle, broken glass, fruit skins, bones, paper, cast-off clothing, or litter of any kind; and no person shall light fires therein or annoy visitors.
8. No person in a state of intoxication or of reputed bad character, shall enter or remain within the Domains; and no person shall behave in a disorderly or offensive manner, or use any bad language, or commit any act of indecency therein.
9. No person shall depasture any horses, cattle, sheep, or stock of any kind in the Domains without proper authority.
10. All goats or poultry found therein may be destroyed by any employé or police constable.
11. No performance or entertainment of any kind shall be permitted in the Domains, nor shall any charge be made for admission to the Domains, or money be collected at the gates or elsewhere therein without the authority of the Colonial Secretary.
12. No person, in addressing a public meeting or assemblage of persons in the Domains for any purpose, shall be permitted to do so in a violent or unseemly language, calculated to inflame

the minds of the hearers or cause a breach of the peace, and if in the opinion of the Director or his appointee such is being done, he may order the removal of the person so offending from the Domains.

13. Every person offending against these Regulations shall be liable to a fine of ten pounds or not less than five shillings, and may be forthwith removed from the Domains.

The employés and police on duty in the Domains are enjoined to enforce the foregoing Regulations, but this must only be done through the Director, or in his absence his appointee, and visitors are requested to bring under the notice of the Director, or in his absence his appointee, any breach of the same coming under their observation.

BOTANIC GARDENS AND GARDEN PALACE GROUNDS.

REGULATIONS.

1. No person in a state of intoxication, or of reputed bad character, or who is not cleanly and decently dressed shall enter or remain within these Gardens; and no person shall behave in an improper or offensive manner, or use bad language, or commit any act of indecency therein.
2. No children under twelve years of age shall be allowed within these gardens unless accompanied by some adult, whom they shall not leave while therein.
3. No person shall engage in any race or game therein, or throw any stone or other missile, or deposit therein any bottle, broken glass, fruit skins, bones, paper, cast-off clothing, or litter of any kind; and no person shall light fires therein, or smoke, or annoy visitors, or carry any flowers into these gardens.
4. No persons shall climb any of the trees or shrubs therein, or climb or jump over the seats or fences, or shall stand or lie on any of the seats, or lie on the grass near to any of the walks therein.
5. No person shall bring any dog into these gardens,—any dog found therein without an owner shall be forthwith expelled. All goats or poultry found therein may be destroyed by any employé or police constable.
6. No person, unless authorised by the Director, shall offer or expose any article for sale therein.
7. No person shall walk on the grass-edging bordering any path, or on the embankments therein.

8. No person shall cut or deface any of the statuary, trees, shrubs, plants, seats, gates, posts, or fences, or write thereon, or shall affix any bill or stencil mark to any tree, seat, gate, post, fence, wall, pillar, or railing therein.

9. No person shall take or injure any of the plants, flowers, or fruit therein; or shall interfere with the trees, shrubs, flowers, vases, labels, fountains, fish, birds, animals, or other property therein.

10. No public meeting of any kind, or assemblage of persons together to the number of twenty or more, for any purpose, shall be allowed: Provided always that this Regulation shall not extend to any meeting or assemblage notified by authority, or which shall be holden for any purpose by the written permission of the Colonial Secretary.

11. Every person offending against any of these Regulations shall be liable to a fine of twenty pounds or not less than ten shillings, and may be forthwith removed from the gardens.

12. The Botanic Gardens shall be open from 6 o'clock a.m. until 7 o'clock p.m. daily in summer; and from 7 o'clock a.m. until 5 o'clock p.m. in winter. Any person found in the gardens during unauthorised hours shall be liable to a fine of one pound or not less than five shillings, and shall be forthwith removed therefrom.

The employes and police on duty in the gardens are enjoined to enforce the foregoing Regulations, but this must only be done through the Director or in his absence his appointee, and visitors are requested to bring under the notice of the Director or in his absence his appointee, any breach of the same coming under their observation.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.
(AMENDED REGULATION UNDER.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 3 December, 1885.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 20 November, 1885.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulation 28, under the "Crown Lands Act of 1884" published on 2nd January last, being amended as hereunder.

JOSEPH P. ABBOTT.

28. Every application for a conditional purchase (except as mentioned in the next Regulation) must be tendered by the applicant in person, together with the required deposit and declaration, to the Land Agent of the District, on any day notified in the Gazette as a Land Office Day for that purpose, not being a public holiday, during the hours specified in Regulation 12. Not more than one application for an original conditional purchase shall be made on the same day by the same applicant: Provided however, that nothing herein shall prevent any person whose application shall have been rejected after determination by lot as prescribed by Regulation No. 31 from making another application during lawful hours on the same day, or shall limit the number of applications to be made by the same applicant on the same day, for additional conditional purchases: Provided the area applied for, together with the original and any prior additional conditional purchases, held in virtue of such original purchase, shall not exceed the limit allowed by law.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(FURTHER AMENDMENT OF REGULATION NO. 28 UNDER.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 25 March, 1886.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 18th February, 1886.
It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulation 28, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, published on 2nd January, 1885, and an amendment of which was published in the Government Gazette of 20th November, 1885, being further amended as hereunder.
[Ml. 86-1,267]

GERALD SPRING.

REGULATION NO. 28.

Every application for a conditional purchase (except as mentioned in the next Regulation) must be tendered by the applicant in person, together with the required deposit and declaration, to the Land Agent of the District, on any day notified in the Gazette as a Land Office Day for that purpose, not being a public holiday, during the hours specified in Regulation 12. Not more than one application for an original conditional purchase shall be made on the same day by the same applicant: Provided, however, that nothing herein shall prevent any person whose application shall have been rejected after determination by lot, as prescribed by Regulation No. 31, from making another application during lawful hours on the same day, or shall limit the number of applications to be made by the same applicant on the same day for additional conditional purchases; but not more than one application may be tendered in virtue of the same conditional purchase or series of conditional purchases until the first application is disposed of: Provided the area applied for, together with the original and any prior additional conditional purchases held in virtue of such original purchase, shall not exceed the limit allowed by law.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(AMENDED REGULATION, No. 32.)

Presented to Parliament by Command.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 31st December, 1885.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulation 32, under the "Crown Lands Act of 1884," published on 2nd January last, being amended as hereunder.

GERALD SPRING.

32. If the land intended to be applied for is unmeasured and does not adjoin a measured portion, the intended applicant shall, previously to sending in his application, mark one corner of such land, either by a conspicuous mark upon a tree standing at such corner, and by cutting an L trench 6 feet long and 9 inches deep, or by a post 6 inches in diameter, projecting above the surface not less than 3 feet, set in an L trench of the dimensions aforesaid. In standing water the corner may be marked by a tree or post as aforesaid without the trench, and in rocky country by a mound of stones, and such post as aforesaid fixed therein, and projecting 3 feet above the mound; and such post or boundary mark shall be kept erected until survey of the intended selection shall be made. Should the land adjoin a measured portion it will be sufficient instead of marking a corner as aforesaid, to specify as the starting-point of the description one of the corners of the measured portion, if the same can be found, but if not a corner must be marked by the intending applicant in the manner described. Unless a subdivision is applied for measured Crown Lands must be taken in portions as measured, and must be so described, but both measured and unmeasured land may be taken together, provided that the area in either case be not less than 40 acres.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(AMENDED REGULATION NO. 41 UNDER)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 25 March, 1886.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 25th February, 1886.
 It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulation No. 41, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, published on 2nd January, 1885, being amended as hereunder.

[MI. 86-1,468]

GERALD SPRING.

REGULATION 41.

If any part of the land applied for contains improvements for which payment has to be made under section 41 of the Act, the conditional purchaser shall pay the first annual instalment of one quarter of the appraised value of such improvements to the Colonial Treasurer, or the Land Agent of the District, on or before the expiration of three months from the date of confirmation of the application, and the balance thereafter in annual instalments of an equal amount in each of the three following years: Provided that the full amount of such appraised value may, at the option of the conditional purchaser, be paid within the first period of three months aforesaid: Provided, further, that the applicant may, with the consent of the Board, amend his application so as to omit therefrom any area containing improvements as defined by the next regulation, if such omission do not reduce the area of land applied for below 40 acres; and the Board shall, after the expiration of twenty-eight days from the day when their decision is given, if no notice of appeal be lodged, issue a certificate of confirmation for the land stated in the amended application.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(AMENDED REGULATION No. 128.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 26 May, 1886.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulation No. 128, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, published on 2nd January, 1885, being amended as hereunder.

HENRY COPELAND.

REGULATION 128.

Should the rent of a Homestead Lease be appraised at a higher rental than the minimum sum deposited, the balance due shall be paid to the Colonial Treasurer within one month after notification in the *Gazette* of approval of the issue of a lease; and subject as aforesaid all rents shall be paid yearly in advance to the Colonial Treasurer; if the abovementioned amounts are not paid on the day on which the same are due the additional sums mentioned in section 96 of the Act will be payable.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(AMENDED REGULATION No. 164.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 4 June, 1886.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulation No. 164, under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, published on 2nd January, 1885, being amended as hereunder.

HENRY COPELAND.

REGULATION 164.

Ringbarking.

Persons desirous of ringbarking trees on their leased land must make application on form 58, with all the particulars thereby required, correctly filled in, accompanied by a sketch of the locality, and a separate application must be made for each detached area for which permission is sought; such application shall be addressed to the Land Agent, accompanied by a fee of £2 for each 1,920 acres or portion of that area; should the cost of inquiry exceed the sum so deposited, the difference must be paid to the Land Agent prior to issue of the permit; if otherwise, the balance (if any) will be refunded.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(AMENDED REGULATIONS Nos. 144, 145, 146, 148, AND FORM No. 54.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 4th August, 1886.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulations Nos. 144, 145, 146, and 148, under the "Crown Lands Act of 1884," together with form No. 54, published on 2nd January, 1885, being amended as hereunder.

HENRY COPELAND.

REGULATION No. 144.

144. Whenever it is intended to let by tender any pastoral leases, occupation licenses, homestead leases, special leases, or annual leases, notice thereof shall be inserted in the Gazette at least thirty days before the date up to which tenders may be lodged, which date shall be specified in the notice, together with the minimum rental or license fee. A tracing, showing the boundaries of the land to be let, shall be exhibited at the office of the Land Agent of the District in which the land may be situated, and also at the head office of the Land Board District including such Land District. Tenders for such leases or licenses shall be made to the Under Secretary for Lands, and may be deposited by the tenderers or their agents in a box to be kept for that purpose at the Department of Lands, or may be transmitted by post, and any tenders so transmitted will be placed in the box unopened. Tenders must be sealed and endorsed "Tender for Annual Lease," or as the case may be, together with the name of the Land District in which the land is situated.

REGULATION No. 145.

145. At the expiration of the time specified for lodgment of tenders, the tender box shall be sealed by an officer duly authorized in that behalf, and on the following day, or as soon thereafter as possible, the box shall be opened, and the tenders examined by a Board of Officers appointed for that purpose. A list giving particulars of all tenders found in the box, with the respective amounts offered as rent or license fee, shall be made by such Board and transmitted to the Minister, together with such tenders.

REGULATION No. 146.

146. If there be only one tender for any land the tenderer shall be entitled to the lease or license of the same, if the rent offered be not below the minimum specified. If there be two or more tenders for the same land opened on the same day the lease or license shall be granted to the person whose tender contains the offer of the highest rent, but if no one tender be higher than all the others, a fresh day shall be named, on or before which the persons making the highest tenders shall be at liberty to send in fresh tenders, which shall be dealt with as hereinbefore provided. But, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Regulation, for sufficient reasons, any tender may be rejected and fresh tenders may be called for if deemed necessary.

REGULATION No. 148.

148. Particulars of all tenders opened by the Tender Board shall be recorded in a tender book, to be kept for that purpose; and upon the acceptance of any tender the same shall be notified in the Gazette.

FORM 54.

Crown Lands Act of 1884—(Part IV).

Tender for (a)

(a) "Pastoral Lease,"
"Occupation License,"
"Homestead Lease,"
"Annual Lease," or
"Special Lease," as
the case may be.

(b) "A Pastoral
Lease," "an Occu-
pation License," "a
Homestead Lease,"
"a Special Lease," or
"an Annual Lease,"
as the case may be.

(c) "Rent," or
"License Fee."

(d) "Land Agent" or
"Treasury."

NOTIFICATION having been published in the Government Gazette of 188 , that it is intended to let by Tender the land specified in Schedule hereto, as (b) I hereby offer an annual (c) for (b) of the said land.

Herewith is a receipt, showing that the sum of £2 10s. has been paid to the (d)

at as deposit hercon.

SCHEDULE.

No. of Block, Portion, or Resumed Area.	Date of Gazette notice.	Area.	County and Parish.	Rent or License Fee offered.	Remarks. (Further particulars, such as will lead to identification of land tendered for.)

Dated at this day of 188

(Signature of person tendering)

To the Under Secretary for Lands,

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(AMENDED REGULATIONS Nos. 30, 31, 87, 94, AND 147.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 17th August, 1886.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of Regulations Nos. 30, 31, 87, 94, and 147, under the "Crown Lands Act of 1884," published on 2nd January, 1885, being amended as hereunder.

HENRY COPELAND.

REGULATION No. 30.

30. Every applicant for a Conditional Purchase who has previously held a Conditional Purchase under the Act shall produce to the Land Agent, with his declaration, a certificate from a Local Land Board that he has fulfilled all the conditions of the law with reference to such former purchase, or that through adverse circumstances he has been compelled to abandon the same.

REGULATION No. 31.

31. When more than one application and deposit for a Conditional Purchase of the same land, or any part thereof, is tendered at the same time, the Land Agent shall, unless all applications but one be withdrawn, forthwith determine in manner following which application shall be received; the Land Agent shall write on tickets of equal size the names of the several applicants, which tickets shall be placed by the parties (should they desire to do so) in the box supplied to the Land Agent for the purpose, and the Land Agent shall, without looking, and in the presence of the parties, draw one ticket from the box, and the application to be received shall be that of the applicant whose name may be on the ticket so drawn, and the deposit paid by the remaining applicants shall be forthwith returned. And in the event of the same land or any part thereof being included in two or more applications for Conditional Purchase or Conditional Lease tendered at the same time or partly in one and partly in the other, only one ticket shall be placed in the box by each applicant, in lieu of a ticket for each of such applications, and the application or applications to be received shall be that or those of the applicant whose name shall be on the ticket so drawn.

REGULATION No. 87.

87. Applications for Conditional Leases shall be in the Form 32, and must be tendered to the Land Agent, together with a sum equal to the minimum amount of the rent for one year of the land applied for; and should there be more than one application for the same land, or any part thereof, tendered

at the same time, such applications shall be dealt with as provided by Regulation 31. And any person whose application for a Conditional Lease shall have been rejected after determination by lot, as provided by Regulation 31 aforesaid, shall not be debarred from making another application or other successive applications during lawful hours on the same day, subject, however, to the like conditions and limitations as are imposed by Regulation 28 on applications for Additional Conditional Purchases similarly made: Provided that no such application for a Conditional Lease, if tendered at any time later than the application for a Conditional Purchase or Additional Conditional Purchase in virtue of which it is made, shall have priority over any application for Conditional Purchase or Additional Conditional Purchase previously made for the same land or any part thereof.

REGULATION No. 94.

94. The land to be comprised in any Conditional Lease shall, where practicable, be measured in combination with the land in virtue of which the Conditional Lease is applied for, in such manner as to give a figure of the shape mentioned in section 59 of the Act: Provided that measured Crown Lands shall, upon being conditionally leased, be taken in portions as measured; but if the area applied for be less than a measured portion, or in the aggregate exceed one or more measured portions, and embrace a part of another measured portion, such portion may, on approval by the Local Land Board, be subdivided, but in that case the applicant shall pay the cost of survey for such subdivision.

REGULATION No. 147.

147. Tenders shall be made in the Form 54, and shall clearly describe the land applied for in terms of the notice calling for tenders, and shall be accompanied by a receipt showing that a sum of £2 10s. has been paid to the Land Agent or Treasury as a deposit thereon. The deposit paid by the person whose tender may be accepted shall be credited on account of the first year's rent or license fee; all other deposits will be refunded.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

(PETITION FROM LANDHOLDERS AND OTHERS, SUGGESTING AMENDMENTS IN.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 28 January, 1886.

The Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales.

We, the undersigned landholders and others, humbly petition that you will take into consideration, as early as possible, the following clauses in the present Land Act which we desire to see embodied; and also with a view to their amendment and a settlement of the lands on a permanent and equitable basis.

Clauses 24 and 48. That the area in the Eastern Division be extended to 2,560 acres—conditional purchase and leasehold.

Clause 33. Fencing; amendment—the same to be extended to five years.

Clause 49. Rent; amendment—conditional lessees to pay the same as the run they are located on, and to have the same right of appeal.

Clause 52. Amendment—that the terms of converted pre-emptive leases under this clause be altered to five years for fencing, with right of purchase; minimum rent, 1d. per acre.

Your Petitioners also pray that, in all places where the land is available, where pre-emptive leases were held prior to the passing of the present Act, and applied for as conditional leases, such leases should be granted to the maximum area of 3,840 acres, or any smaller area which applicant may have held.

Your Petitioners also pray that selectors on the leasehold area be allowed to extend their area to 640 acres, and that in all cases the selector must be a *bonâ fide* resident on the land which he desires to add to, and that the leaseholder of the run be allowed acre for acre in the resumed area for that which he may lose in the leasehold area.

And also, that a clause applying to mineral areas or reserves, as nearly similar as possible to clause 45 of the Land Act, applying to purchases on gold-fields, should be brought into operation.

We would also respectfully call your attention to the fact that the decisions of the local Land Board, in depriving selectors, under the repealed Acts, of their rights to conditional leases by reason of creeks, minor roads, travelling stock reserves, &c., being made frontages, is against the spirit and intention of the Act.

Also, that the rents of conditional leases be reduced to the minimum rent of (1d.) one penny per acre, before the 31st December, 1885.

And your Petitioners humbly pray that your Honorable House will take the foregoing circumstances into favourable consideration, and grant such relief as may to your Honorable House seem most expedient.

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

[*Here follow 101 signatures.*]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

(PETITION FOR AMENDMENT OF—INHABITANTS OF NEW ENGLAND.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 4 February, 1886.

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned landowners and inhabitants of New England,—

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :—

That several clauses in the Land Act of 1884 are detrimental to the interests of the Colony, and are arbitrary and unjust to the conditional purchasers in particular.

We therefore pray that you will take into consideration as early as possible the following clauses with amendments as suggested, with a view to the settlement of the land question in a fair and equitable manner, and on a sound and permanent basis :—

1. Clause 22, Volunteer Grants—That Volunteer Grants be taken on the leasehold areas if held by the squatting lessee.
2. Clauses 24 and 48—To extend the area of C.P., together with conditional lease in the Eastern Division, to 2,560 acres.
3. Clause 33, Fencing—Same to be extended to five years.
4. Clause 42—Residence of five years on original C.P. to be sufficient for the additional.
5. Clause 49, Rent—Selector to pay the same rent as the lessee of the run they are located on, and to have the same right of appeal.
6. Clause 61, Auction Sales—That no lands be sold by auction except town and suburban lots.
7. That sub-section 4 of clause 75 be altered to read as follows :—If it shall appear to the Minister that, by reason of insufficient area of any run held as one holding on the 25th June, 1884, division is inexpedient, the Governor may declare the whole area thereof a resumed area.
8. Clause 130—Conditional purchasers and lessees to have the same rights and privileges as the pastoral lessees, as regards trespass, damages, impoundings, &c.
9. That the reserves on the resumed areas, be thrown open for selection.
10. That the term of conditional leases under clause 52 be extended to ten years, and time for fencing to five years, lessees to have the right of conditional purchase of the whole or any part, 40 acres or over, at any period of the lease, maximum rent the same as the run they are located on
11. That the selector who is situated on the leasehold area be allowed to extend his area to 640 acres, and also to get his proportionate conditional leases.

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

[Here follow 341 signatures.]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN FARMERS OF MOLONG, IN REFERENCE TO PAYMENT OF ANNUAL
INSTALMENTS ON SELECTIONS.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 2 March, 1886.

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

The petition of the undersigned farmers of Molong and surrounding district.

HUMBLY SHOWETH :—

That your petitioners have sustained heavy pecuniary losses through the continued and disastrous drought, from which the Colony has of late been suffering, a drought which has brought many of us almost to the very brink of ruin arising from the failure of crops, the low price of farming produce, together with the high railway rates charged on the same when sent to market.

The year 1885 above all others, has been one of the most trying, disheartening, and ruinous, of all seasons to our industry. Painful to state in the present season of 1885, many settlers have not reaped so much as even 3 bushels per acre, while others again have had to turn their stock into the parched and famishing crops in order to save them from starvation. The agricultural returns for the district, and which has recently been compiled for the present year, shows a decrease in the yield of wheat alone of no less than 321,670 bushels in 1884, to 133,119 in 1885, being a decrease of 188,537 bushels, which is equivalent to $6\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre, or a loss in cash of £40,000.

We most respectfully desire therefore to point out to your Honorable House, that in many instances owing to the all but complete failure of crops many farmers this year in this district are now left almost helpless and penniless and unable to meet their usual engagements, but especially the annual instalments on their selections, and therefore your petitioners pray that your Honorable House may take such steps, whereby the payment of the said annual instalment thereon for 1886, may be postponed to those at least of such selectors and farmers especially, who from the failure of crops are unable to pay the same during the present year, or else so modify or amend section 38 of the Land Act of 1884, by extending the period of forfeiture to "twelve months" in place of "three" for nonpayment of instalment, that is to say to provide for the mitigation of the penalty of absolute forfeiture to which occupiers are now liable, by authorising the Government to accept to payment of a fine (in lieu of absolute forfeiture), and allow a further extension of time, say of twelve months within which to comply with such conditions of payment "in deserving cases of hardship," the rent of which now involves forfeiture.

Your petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable House may take the foregoing premises into your most favourable consideration, and grant such relief as in your wisdom may seem best fitted to save a large portion of the industrious farming community, the yeomanry of the soil from absolute ruin.

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

[Here follow 205 signatures.]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

(PETITION FOR AMENDMENT OF—LANDHOLDERS AND MEMBERS OF THE WENTWORTH LAND AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 24 March, 1886.

To the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales.

May it please your Honorable House,—The humble Petition of the undersigned landholders and members of the Wentworth Land and Industrial Association,—

SHOWETH:—

That the disadvantages and injustice under which your Petitioners labour, from the administration of the "Crown Lands Act of 1884," in the Western Division, compel them to seek redress from your Honorable House.

That the Local Land Board having recommended that no conversions of pre-emptive leases into conditional leases shall be granted where travelling stock or other reserves intervene, your Petitioners therefore pray that these reserves shall be no bar to the granting of the said leases in their entirety, and that your Petitioners shall have the same advantages enjoyed by pastoral and homestead lessees regarding travelling stock reserves.

That your Petitioners would respectfully submit the great injury and injustice which will be done to applicants for these leases if the recommendations of the Land Board are carried out, the boundaries of these pre-emptive leases having already been approved of by the Lands Department and in most cases surveyed, fenced, and otherwise improved at the expense of the applicants. And your Petitioners would further point out that in many cases the greater part or even the whole of these are being cancelled, and where as is the case 1,500 acres are taken out of a lease of 1,920 the remainder is no use at all to the holder.

That the tenure of pre-emptive leases converted into conditional leases be extended to fifteen years, the same as pastoral and homestead leases.

That in the event of the said conditional leases being finally refused or so modified as to be useless to the holder, that compensation shall be made to the holders thereof for all improvements that may exist thereon.

That where a conditional purchaser has converted his selection into a freehold by payment of the balance of the purchase money that he shall not be debarred from converting his pre-emptive leases held in virtue thereof into a conditional lease under the present Act.

That the rentals on all converted pre-emptive leases in this division be fixed on the same basis as pastoral and homestead leases.

That in the case of applications for homestead leases upon which there are improvements, that the Government purchase the same, and charge the lessees not more than five per cent. per annum on the value of the same, so as to enable men with moderate means to settle the country, and that in case of improvements being valued at a higher rate than the applicants may consider reasonable, that the value of the same be decided by arbitration.

And your Petitioners would further pray that all leaseholders, conditional, homestead, and pastoral, shall, at the expiration of their leases, receive compensation for any permanent improvement they may effect during the tenure of the said leases.

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

[Here follow 189 signatures.]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

(PETITION FOR AMENDMENT OF—MEMBERS OF THE GLEN INNES LAND LEAGUE AND RESIDENTS OF GLEN INNES.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 24 March, 1886.

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

The Petition of the Members of the Glen Innes Land League, and of the undersigned residents of the District of Glen Innes,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

That certain provisions of the "Crown Lands Act of 1884" have been found to act prejudicially to the interests of your Petitioners and of the Colony generally, and that the said Act requires amendment accordingly in the following particulars:—

Clause 24.—That whereas the Eastern Division contains a large area of inferior pastoral land for the profitable occupation of which a larger area of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres is required, the principle of classification already established in regard to special areas should be extended so as to permit application to be made for two thousand five hundred and sixty acres as a conditional purchase, and lease of land described as "inferior pastoral land," provided that such applications be subject to the approval of the Local Land Board, and shall not include lands within twenty miles of any existing railway or Municipality.

Clause 33.—That an alternative be allowed to the conditional purchaser and conditional lessee of erecting improvement of a fixed and durable nature upon his holding instead of fencing, such improvements to be of the value of ten shillings per acre, of which one half shall be expended during the first three years of the term, and the balance within five years from the date of the issue of the certificate by the Local Land Board.

Clause 49.—Whereas the appraisalment of rents is placed absolutely in the hands of the Local Land Board, of which the majority usually consists of officers receiving Government salary, and whereas no appeal is provided from the decision of such Board, your Petitioners desire that two Members of the Board shall be elected by the landholders in each district, or that three persons shall be so elected to act with the Local Land Board in Courts of Rent Appraisalment only.

Clause 52.—Whereas the conditional lease of a reduced area for five years is not sufficient compensation for the pre-leases which were attached to the conditional purchases under the repealed Acts, and whereas the condition of fencing renders conditional leases for so short a term practically untenable, your Petitioners desire that the holders of conditional leases under the 52nd clause shall have a preferent right of purchase at the end of five years, without further residence, provided that such right shall not be exercised by any person in respect of more than one conditional lease.

Clause 54.—That holders of conditional leases under this clause who shall exercise a preferent right of purchase may have the alternative of erecting improvements in lieu of fencing as proposed above in reference to clause 33, or that a ring fence enclosing the whole property of one owner or his family may be deemed sufficient compliance with the conditions of fencing clauses 52 and 54. That resident selectors under the repealed Acts, who through ignorance have not availed themselves of the provisions of these clauses, be allowed to secure conditional leases. That resident selectors on leasehold areas be entitled to extend their holdings up to six hundred and forty acres at least by additional conditional purchase or lease out of adjoining Crown land, the lessee of the leasehold to be compensated by adding to his holding an equal area of Crown lands on the resumed area of the run if available. That all doubt regarding the legality of conditional leases upon leasehold areas be set at rest by a declaratory Act of Parliament. That application for conditional leases which have been refused by Local Land Boards on account of the interference of reserves, creeks, and roads, be reconsidered and granted, except where any reserve may be reported on as required for public purposes.

Clause 130.—That instead of this clause a provision be substituted withholding from all occupants of unfenced land the right of impounding only. That auction sales be abolished, except upon application to and recommendation by the Local Land Board.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House to amend the "Crown Lands Act of 1884," in accordance with the principles hereinbefore specified.

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

[Here follow 168 signatures.]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

(PETITION FROM THE COMMITTEE ON BEHALF OF THE WANDSWORTH LAND LEAGUE.

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 8 June, 1886.

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Committee on behalf of the Members of the Wandsworth Land League,—

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:—

That several clauses in the Land Act of 1884 are injurious to the interest of the Colony, and arbitrary and unjust to Conditional Purchasers in particular.

We therefore pray that you will take into consideration the following clauses, with the suggested amendments.

Clauses 48-54 and 52 be amended to allow of 2d. being the maximum.

Also, that the rents of all scrubby, broken, ridgy, swampy country be reduced to the minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per acre.

That clause 52 give a right of purchase.

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

[Here follow 13 signatures.]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

(PETITION FOR AMENDMENT OF—RESIDENTS OF WENTWORTH DISTRICT.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 16 July, 1886.

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

The Petition of the residents and others interested in the Wentworth District, urging the necessity of recognizing the following resolutions in regard to the present Land Bill.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONORABLE HOUSE,—

Feeling the importance of the proposed amendments in the present Land Law of the Colony, your Petitioners would respectfully bring under your notice the following resolutions which were carried unanimously at a large meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Wentworth, and trust the same may receive the support and approval of your Honorable House.

Your Petitioners view with great anxiety and concern the fact that owing to the instructions laid down by the Honorable the Minister for Lands for the guidance of the Land Board, there is a probability that rents of all Crown Lands may be fixed at such a high rate as will completely crush the ruling industry of this part of the Colony.

Resolution No. 1,—

That this meeting views with alarm the disastrous effect of the present Land Bill in this district, as since its inception there has been an entire cessation of all improvements, and, as a consequence, hundreds of men have been thrown out of employment.

Resolution No. 2,—

That this meeting is of opinion that the minimum rent of one penny per acre and two pence per acre is far in excess of what occupiers of Crown Lands can afford to pay, and must result in the ruin and displacement of that class which the Government are so desirous of fostering on the land.

Resolution No. 3,—

That this meeting is of opinion that converted pre-leases into conditional leases under the 52nd clause should, in the Western District, have a fixed lease of 15 years, and that the minimum rental be similar to homestead leases.

Resolution No. 4,—

That this meeting is of opinion that a fair compensation should be allowed for all genuine improvements at expiration of lease.

Resolution No. 5,—

That fences 4 feet high of six wires should be substituted by fences 3 feet 2 inches high of five wires, which is not only sufficient for all pastoral purposes but more in keeping with present fences and the class of timber obtainable.

Resolution No. 6,—

That the true and equitable basis of assessing pastoral properties is to be found in the direct relationship which rainfall bears to the carrying capacity of the land.

Resolution No. 7,—

That lessees of all classes whose rents are fixed over the minimum should have the right of appeal.

Your Petitioners would further draw the attention of your Honorable House to the fact, that owing to the great distance between Sydney and this portion of the Colony, many very erroneous and exaggerated opinions have grown up respecting it, and the true facts require to be prominently brought forward at a time like the present, in order that our real position and just claims may receive the full and fair consideration of your Honorable House.

The law in its present form tends to bring misfortune and ruin upon a class that have been using capital and years of incessant labour, at great personal hardship, in developing what was up to a very recent date a vast expanse of dry arid country, incapable in its natural state of sustaining animal life, and useless to the State as a source of revenue until the capital of the resident lessees had been expended on the country in the conservation of water and other improvements, and the large outlay on such works has, up to the present time, in most cases made little or no return.

This,

This, we submit, ought to be recognized in any Legislation which may apply to this part of the Colony. The labour market has been greatly affected by the new law.

Numbers of contractors and others hitherto constantly employed are now out of work, and have either gone or are making preparations to leave the Colony.

Improvements have come to a standstill, and on all sides are business men complaining of the depressed state of trade, which, at the present, is not one quarter of what it formerly was.

These evils have followed the introduction of the Bill, and unless the amendments suggested by your Petitioners receive the favourable consideration of your Honorable House, all improvements will be permanently at an end, and such a state of things must result most disastrously to the Colony.

Notwithstanding the great assistance given by the Government, your Petitioners would also point out that all occupiers of Crown Lands in this district are put to very great expense in coping with the rabbit pest.

The expenditure thus incurred, in many instances, has almost doubled the ordinary expenditure, and renders the profitable occupation of pastoral holdings in this district almost impossible.

And your Petitioners pray that your Honorable House will take the before-mentioned resolutions into your favourable consideration, and cause such action to be taken as your Honorable House may consider proper in the premises.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 287 signatures.]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

(PETITION FOR AMENDMENT OF—LESSEES IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 21 July, 1886.

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Lessees and occupiers of Crown Lands in the Colony of New South Wales,—

SHOWETH:—

1. That under authority of the "Crown Lands Act of 1884," clause 78 and its sub-clauses, the new leases in the Western Division are to commence at the mean date of determination of the old leases.

2. That the rent of the new leases for the said Western Division it is enacted shall apply to the first period of five years of such new leases.

3. That notwithstanding this distinct enactment the Lands Department, we humbly submit in opposition to the terms of the Act, is proceeding with the new appraisements in the said Western Division with the avowed intention to collect increased rents with arrears for part of the year 1885, and for the whole of 1886, before the mean date of determination of the old leases, in many instances, has expired.

4. That with respect to pastoral rents and occupation license fees the right of appeal against minimum appraisements under clause 100 of the aforesaid Act is restricted to cases where the inferior grazing capabilities of the land alone can be urged.

5. That in the said Western District and in parts of the Central District a large majority of the Crown tenants are far removed from the benefits of railway communication, and are thereby placed at great disadvantage compared with other tenants more favourably located, in the cost of transit of their wool and other produce to and from the seaboard.

6. That the liability of the Western and main part of the Central Divisions to prolonged and disastrous droughts, the uncertainties and the expensive character of artificial water supply, the reduction of grazing capability in consequence of the prevalence of rabbits, and the additional burdens imposed in the extermination of the pest, especially in scrubby localities, are also factors that should receive special attention in the determination of the new rentals.

7. That in the remote parts of the said Western District the new rentals, even at a minimum, would range from three to ten times more under the present Act, as contrasted with the old assessment.

8. That your Petitioners understand it is the intention of the Government to introduce into your Honorable House during the present session a Bill to amend the Land Act of 1884.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to grant in the promised Amending Act the right of appeal in open Court to the Minister in respect of all rents and occupation fees to all Crown tenants alike, and the right to produce evidence in support thereof.

That amendment of the Act be also granted with regard to the proposed charge of rent in the Western Division prior to the expiration of the mean date of determination of the old leases.

That the period intended to be embraced in the words the mean date of determination, clause 78, sub-section 1, both as to its commencement and its termination, may be authoritatively defined, and thus obviate the uncertainty and ambiguity that are now said to exist, to the prejudice of your Petitioners.

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

[Here follow 672 signatures.]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

(PETITION—INHABITANTS OF NYMAGEE, GILGUNNIA, AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 3 August, 1886.

To the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled
Gentlemen,—The Petition of the undersigned inhabitants of Nymagee, Gilgunnia, and the surrounding districts,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH :—

That your Petitioners respectfully wish to bring under the notice of your Honorable House the disabilities under which the pastoral interest is suffering in this district ; deeming the present a suitable time, as the Government appraisers of land have been sent out, and some amendments of the Land Act are soon coming before your Honorable House, your Petitioners would humbly suggest that your Honorable House would cause the Government appraisers of land to be instructed to report on the boundaries of the area overgrown with pine scrub, so that your Honorable House may be able to ascertain the area, this course being we humbly suggest a more satisfactory one.

We have no hesitation in stating that in the present condition of the country within a considerable radius of Nymagee and Gilgunnia, owing to the rapid growth of pine scrub within the past few years, it is not capable of supporting a sheep to a very large area (many of the sheep now upon it being fed on scrub which is being cut for them), and also that the minimum rent provided by the Act we consider is excessive, but if the country were cleared of pine scrub it would soon grow a little grass and herbage, and increase the stock carrying capabilities of the district. Should this be done it would benefit the whole of the Colony, by increasing the amount of wool and stock, augment the railway revenue, and provide labour for the unemployed now being supported by the Government.

It is a well known fact that since the present Land Act was past the runholders have been unable to carry on improvements, thereby throwing large numbers out of employment and seriously affecting the prosperity of this large and important district.

Our position is being seriously jeopardised by the unprofitable condition of pastoral matters, and we pray that you may not wreck us at this time when so many troubles are oppressing us. We have only to mention the low price of wool and stock, and the spread of rabbits, which latter trial should perhaps be placed first, as, if more effectual means are not adopted for their destruction, and the scrub which shelters them destroyed, they will take possession of the country and render it utterly valueless.

Your Petitioners would humbly pray that your Honorable House would alter the scrub leases from their present impracticable form so as to enable the leaseholders to immediately commence the work of clearing, and convert this scrubby desert into a property which will be of value to the State at the termination of their leases, and that all *bond fide* improvements (not including ringing and clearing) should be paid for by the incoming tenant, as we consider the present provisions of the Act prevent any further improvements being effected.

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

[Here follow 642 signatures.]

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1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

PETITION FOR AMENDMENT OF—TANK-SINKERS, CARRIERS, MECHANICS, AND OTHERS IN THE
WESTERN DIVISION.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 27 September, 1886.

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

The Petition of the tank-sinkers, carriers, mechanics, and laborers in the Western Division of the
Colony of New South Wales,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

1. That since the passing of the present Land Act the improvements on stations in this division have come to a standstill and as a consequence our valuable plants, teams, and work-shops have remained idle to our serious loss and in many cases complete ruin, whilst the employment of labor in every branch has entirely ceased. Those of us settled here with our families and unable to leave are now living on our previous savings, whilst those not possessing any means have had to migrate in large numbers to other districts, or leave the Colony.

2. That cessation of navigation for the past eighteen months, and the absence of direct Railway communication with the metropolis in the greater part of the division, have been the cause of a scarcity of supplies and increased the cost of the necessaries of life to such an extent as to press heavily on our already narrowed means. In consequence of this lamentable state of things we beseech your Honorable House to consider the condition of your Petitioners and speedily to make such just amendments in the Land Act (after as this division is concerned) as will restore employment to labor and bring back that prosperity which in the past was characteristic of the Western country.

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

[*Here follow 2,883 signatures.*]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

(PETITION FOR AMENDMENT OF—MERCHANTS, TRADERS FORWARDING AGENTS &C. IN THE WESTERN DIVISION.

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 27 September, 1886.

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

The Petition of the undersigned, merchants, traders, forwarding agents, hotel-keepers, and others,
doing business in the Western Division of the Colony of New South Wales,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

1. That in consequence of the operation of the Land Act of 1884 (as affecting the pastoral tenants of the Crown in the Western Division of the Colony by the professed increased rental which in the best seasons they are unable to pay, and the fact that compensation for their improvements on the public estate is not provided for) the employment of labor in further developing the country has ceased, and the men who have hitherto been the support of the towns are now either idle and destitute or have left these districts and found their way to the larger centres of population or the other Colonies,—trade has become stagnant, and ruin brought upon many.

2. That under the Land Act of 1861 and subsequent Amendment Acts, in contrast to the present condition of things immense sums of money were expended in the struggle to render vast waterless tracts of country in this Division productive, and hundreds of hands were employed on every station who under similar circumstances would still be occupied in the excavation of tanks, sinking of wells, and the construction of other works with the object of rendering the still unimproved country capable of bearing stock.

3. That the supplying and forwarding the material and the necessaries of life required on the various stations during the period of active development referred to, constituted the main portion of our business, but since the present state of inactivity has set in our trade has dwindled to one fourth of its former dimensions to our serious loss individually, and to that of the revenue of the State.

4. That unless inducements to capitalists to invest money in reclaiming the still enormous unimproved area of country in this Division and rendering it fit for profitable occupation, are held out, such as provisions for gradual resumption only of the holdings and compensation for improvements, most of the present resumed areas must be surrendered by the licensees as valueless to them.

5. That if these resumed areas are abandoned by those who hold improved country adjoining as a base of operations from which the work of development can be carried on, it will be impossible for others (not in possession of like facilities for initiating the improvement of the country) to occupy such at a high rental and only a yearly tenure; wholesale injury to the interests of the State will result, as these large areas will be left in a state of desert, rabbits, unless kept down at an enormous public expense, will multiply on these unoccupied tracts to such an extent as to render the adjoining country eventually untenable; the value of property (already declined from 50 to 60 per cent.) will still further diminish, and what have been thriving and prosperous townships will be almost deserted and the inhabitants for the most part ruined.

6. That in addition to the unfavourable operation of the present Land Act the want of railway communication with the metropolis has been seriously felt by us in many parts of the Division, as most of the stations in the north-western portion have been doing business with South Australia owing to the excessive cost of obtaining supplies from Sydney.

Your Petitioners would humbly point out to your Honorable House that the Western Division comprises nearly one-half of the entire area of the Colony of New South Wales, that the land generally is of so poor a character and so subject to drought that it will be found necessary to deal with the question of its occupation in a most liberal spirit, in order to induce the employment of capital in a fresh conflict with the natural disadvantages of the country in the effort to render it productive.

That prompt extension of railway communication would not only be of benefit to the inhabitants of this Division but to the Colony at large. The improvement and stocking of the immense tracts of what

is now waste country would create traffic, increase the revenue, and open a large field for every branch of labour, give a stimulus to business, and (with more railways) the whole trade of this Western country would centre in the metropolis. This would naturally benefit the Eastern portions of the Colony by opening up a fresh market for their produce, and ourselves by affording us a cheap and certain means of transit.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable House will take immediate steps to amend the present Land Act in such a manner as to offer those special inducements in the way of moderate rent, fair compensation for improvements, and a reasonable security for those effected in the resumed areas to warrant a return of capital and enterprise into their former channel, and thus cause a renewal of trade and prosperity to ourselves and advantage to the State.

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

[Here follow 87 signatures.]

Sydney : Thomas Richards, Government Printer.--1884

[3d.]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

(PETITION FOR AMENDMENT OF—TENANTS OF THE CROWN IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL DIVISIONS.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 6th October, 1886.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of the Colony of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the tenants of the Crown in the Western and portions of the Central Division of the Colony,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

Your Petitioners are squatters, graziers, and leaseholders, occupying Crown lands in the said Western and Central Divisions of the Colony, under the Act of Parliament, entitled, "The Crown Lands Act of 1884."

Your Petitioners are much distressed in mind in consequence of the Land Act of 1884 having forfeited the valuable improvements erected by them on their holdings, and the high rentals fixed by the said Act of 1884 for the use and occupation of the Crown lands, which are being given effect to by the Land Boards now holding Courts in various parts of the district.

Your Petitioners desire to state that previous to the passing of the Land Act of 1861 a very large proportion of the Crown lands in the Western and Central Divisions of the Colony had never been occupied at all in any way, and the Legislature, in order to induce persons to occupy and improve such Crown lands, passed the Land Act of 1861, offering these lands at a rental of two shillings (2s.) per square mile, with a promise of a lease for five years, and a renewal for a further period of five years at the same rental, if, by the adoption of artificial means, the carrying capacity of such lands had been increased to the extent of 50 per cent.

Under the promises and inducements thus held out your Petitioners took up a large extent of these waste lands of the Crown, and in many cases, not having sufficient capital of their own to fully develop the said lands, borrowed the money from the banks and other financial institutions, who lent it on the security of the improvements such advances would create upon lands held at a low rental, and the promise made by the Act of 1861 of a ten years' lease, on condition these improvements were made.

Your Petitioners affirm that several millions of money were thus expended by them in the employment of labor, required in the erection of fences, conservation of water, and the necessary buildings requisite to work such an additional extent of country, and that for such outlay your Petitioners have up to the present time received little or no remuneration at all.

Your Petitioners further affirm that these previously unoccupied Crown lands are now carrying a very large number of sheep and other stock, which they certainly could never have done had it not been for the energy of your Petitioners, and the very large sums of money expended by them in developing these hitherto useless dry lands, and which would have remained in the same state until this day but for the promises and inducements made by the Legislature in the Land Act of 1861.

Your Petitioners beg most respectfully to lay the foregoing averments before your Honorable House, and to state the Land Act of 1884 not only sets aside the clear and distinct promises created by the Act of 1861, to let certain Crown lands at a rental of 2s. per square mile for ten years; and, though these leases have in many cases not yet expired, yet rents, varying from a minimum of 53s. 4d. up to £8 per square mile, can now be fixed upon your Petitioners' holdings; and the said Crown Lands Act of 1884 also forfeits to the State all the improvements made and erected in good faith by your Petitioners.

Your Petitioners are thus completely crushed and paralysed by the Crown Lands Act of 1884. Their stations and property have become unsaleable, their credit seriously injured, and all their improvements having been forfeited to the State financial companies are unwilling to render them further assistance; and if such assistance could be obtained, it would be impossible to pay even the minimum rent fixed by the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly and respectfully pray your Honorable House will repeal such portions of the Crown Lands Act of 1884 as relate to the forfeiture of improvements, and the rentals of the Crown lands in the Western and Central Divisions of the Colony, and thus put it in the power of your Petitioners to further develop the country.

Your Petitioners, having in view the importance of the pastoral industry, which they believe produces three-fourths of the total exports of the Colony, hope every encouragement and inducement will be held out for the continuance and further development of so great a source of national wealth; and having given the matter their most thoughtful and serious consideration, your Petitioners venture, with the utmost respect for your Honorable House, to suggest that an amending Land Bill, based on the following principles, would tend to restore that confidence in the pastoral industry which the Land Act of 1884 has so severely shaken, viz :—

That all lands shall be assessed according to their average grazing or carrying capacity—that is, at per head of sheep such land will carry, calculated on its average carrying capacity over a series of years.

That a rental of 2d. per sheep be fixed for all lands that require ten acres and upwards to carry one sheep.

That a rental of 4d. per sheep be fixed for all lands that require over six and under ten acres to carry one sheep.

That a rental of 5d. per sheep be fixed for all lands that require three and up to six acres to carry one sheep.

That a rental of 8d. per sheep be fixed for all lands that require under three acres to carry one sheep.

That rentals on the above basis be fixed on all Crown lands in the Western and Central Divisions of the Colony, stocked or unstocked.

That such rents be fixed as dating from the commencement of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, without any reference whatever to the mean determination of any lease or promise of lease previously made by any Act of Parliament.

That leases for twenty-one years on the above basis be issued for all Crown lands in the Western and Central Divisions of the Colony, dating from the commencement of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, such rents to be paid half-yearly in advance.

That on the expiration of such leases all improvements erected thereon be appraised at their then value, and such value be paid by the incoming tenant to the outgoing tenant.

In support of the preceding suggestions, your Petitioners desire most humbly and respectfully to state that the Government appraisers, in their sworn evidence before the Land Boards now sitting in the Western and Central Divisions, estimate from three to twenty-five acres as being requisite to carry one sheep; a sheep having to travel over so large an extent of poor, sandy country to find sufficient food to maintain it, produces wool of an inferior, light, harsh character, containing a quantity of sand, and the expenses of working such lands become heavier in proportion to the decrease in the weight and value of the wool produced, and in proportion to the acreage required to carry a sheep.

Your Petitioners in conclusion desire further to aver, though they have had considerable practical experience in the expense of developing lands in the Western and Central Districts of the Colony, and are well acquainted with its arid climate, limited rainfall, very inferior character of its soil, and great distance from markets, yet are still willing to pay a fair and just rent for the use and occupancy of the Crown lands of the Western and Central Divisions, if such rentals are coupled with security of tenure and compensation for all improvements as set forth in this their Petition.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House will take the statements and averments made herein into your most favorable consideration, and grant such relief, or cause such inquiries to be made, as your Honorable House in its wisdom may deem fit.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 107 signatures.]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT.

(PETITION FOR AMENDMENT OF—SELECTORS AND CONDITIONAL LEASEHOLDERS OF THE
EASTERN AND CENTRAL DIVISIONS.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 18 October, 1886.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled.
The humble Petition of the undersigned selectors and conditional leaseholders of the Eastern and
Central Divisions, near Wellington,—

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:—

That the delay in permitting selectors to take possession of their land is very injurious to
their interests and in many cases ruinous.

That the minimum rent fixed for conditional leases is far too high, and tends to interfere with the
progress of this district.

That it is not necessary to fence in the roads passing through lands the property of any one person,
where a gate would suffice, and that the fencing of unnecessary roads be dispensed with.

That in family selections, or a person taking up more than one series, one outside fence be
sufficient.

That at the expiration of a lease, in the event of the lessce giving up possession, all permanent
and substantial improvements shall be paid for by the incoming tenant.

That persons holding pre-leases under the repealed Acts, the same being converted into conditional
leases under the present Act, where all conditions have been complied with, should have the same right
of purchase as persons taking up land under the present Act.

That the attention of the Minister for Lands be especially drawn to the excessive rents fixed on
conditional leases at the Land Courts recently held at Wellington and Dubbo.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable House will take the foregoing premises
into consideration and afford them such relief as on a full deliberation you may deem permissible.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[*Here follow 196 signatures.*]

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(NOTICE OF RESUMPTION OF SITE FOR SCHOOL OF ARTS, TEMORA, UNDER 48 VIC. NO. 18.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 28 January, 1886.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 31 December, 1885.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF SCHOOL OF ARTS SITE AT TEMORA.

It is hereby notified for public information, that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the "Crown Lands Act of 1884," it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the School of Arts site at Temora, viz. :—Allotment No. 5 of section No. 4, containing 1 rood, and dedicated on the 7th October, 1884,—the land not having been available for the purpose for which it was proposed to devote it.

[Ms. 85-24,990]

GERALD SPRING.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 107.

ABSTRACT of Alterations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act
48 Victoria No. 18.

Town or Village.	Government Gazette in which alteration is notified.
Wollombi (Town)	15 September, 1885. Folio 6006.
Bathurst (City)	18 September, 1885. Folio 6094.
Wickham (Village)	18 September, 1885. Folio 6094.
Orley (Town)	18 September, 1885. Folio 6094.
Coogee (Village)	22 September, 1885. Folio 6148.
Bathurst (City)	29 September, 1885. Folio 6329.
Bega (Suburban Limits of Town)	29 September, 1885. Folio 6329.
Corowa (Town)	29 September, 1885. Folio 6329.
Mulwala (Town)	29 September, 1885. Folio 6329.
Tambaroora (Town)	29 September, 1885. Folio 6329.
Wilton (Town)	29 September, 1885. Folio 6329.
Narrandera (Town)	29 September, 1885. Folio 6329.
Murrumburrah (Village)	7 October, 1885. Folio 6569.
Loftus (Village)—Alteration of name	13 October, 1885. Folio 6686.
Banks Meadow (Village)	27 October, 1885. Folio 6964.
Jerry's Plains (Town)	27 October, 1885. Folio 6964.
Casino (Town)	30 October, 1885. Folio 7043.
Binalong (Town)	30 October, 1885. Folio 7043.
Moree (Town)	30 October, 1885. Folio 7043.
Raymond Terrace (Town)	30 October, 1885. Folio 7043.
Grenfell (Town)	13 November, 1885. Folio 7208.
North Hillston (Town)	13 November, 1885. Folio 7208.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 107.

ABSTRACT of Alterations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act
48 Victoria No. 18.

Town or Village.	Government Gazette in which alteration is notified.
Wec Waa (Town)	16 January, 1886. Folio 364.
Bokhara (Village)	23 January, 1886. Folio 587

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 107.

ABSTRACT of Alterations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act
48 Victoria No. 18.

Town or Village.	Government Gazette in which alteration is notified.
Bullah Delah (Design of Village and Suburban Lands)	5 March, 1886. Folio 1541.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 18 Vic. No. 18, sec. 107.

ABSTRACT of Alterations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Town or Village.	Government Gazette in which alteration is notified.
Barraba (Town)	18th April, 1886. Folio 2680.
Inverell (Town)	Do do
Tenterfield (Town)	Do do

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 107.

ABSTRACT of Alterations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th] section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Town or Village.	Government Gazette in which alteration is notified.
Canonba (Village)	20th April, 1886. Folio 2875.
Tenterfield (Town)	Do do
Uralla (Town).....	Do do
Parkes (Town)	28th April, 1886 Folio 3021.
Cargo (Town)	11th May, 1886. Folio 3338.
Armidale (City)	Do do
Armidale (City)	Do do

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 107.

ABSTRACT of Alterations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Town or Village.	Government Gazette in which alteration is notified.
Lismore (Town)	29th June, 1886. Folio 4327.
Murrumburrah (Village)	29th June, 1886. Folio 4327.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, UNDER 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 107.

ABSTRACT of Alterations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Town or Village	Government Gazette in which alteration is notified.
Lismore (Town)	29th June, 1886. Folio 4327.
Murrumburrah (Village)	29th June, 1886. Folio 4327.
Coolac (village)	20th July, 1886. Folio 4784.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

ABSTRACT of Alteration of Design of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Victoria, No. 18.

Town or Village.	Government Gazette in which alteration is notified.
Coolac (Village)	20 July, 1886, folio 4,784.
Cargo (Town and Suburban Lands)	30 July, 1886, folio 5,156.
Wentworth (Town)	30 July, 1886, folio 5,156.
Junee (Village)	11 August, 1886, folio 5,445.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

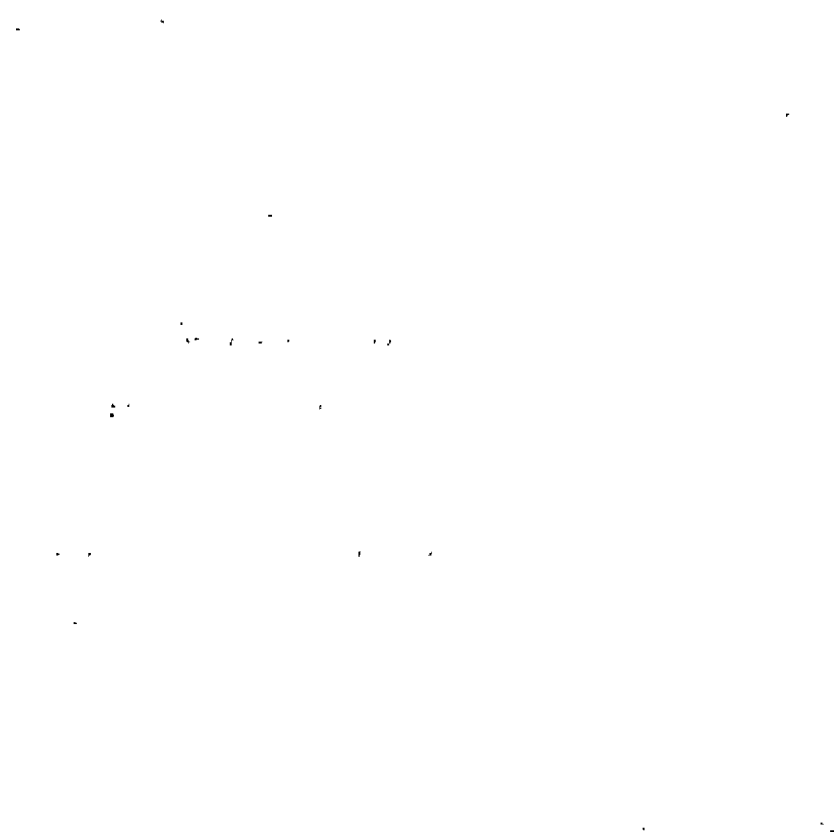
CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. NO. 18, SEC. 107.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 107.

ABSTRACT of Alterations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Town or Village.	Government Gazette in which alteration is notified.
Arthur (Village)	20th August, 1886. Folio 5650.
Elrington (Town)	20th August, 1886. Folio 5650.
Cumbamurre (Village)	10th September, 1886. Folio 6117.
Wyndham (Village)	10th September, 1886. Folio 6117.
Boorcok (Village)	18th September, 1886. Folio 6395.



1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, UNDER 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 107.

ABSTRACT of Alterations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Town or Village.	Government Gazette in which alteration is notified.
Bookham (Village).....	24th September, 1886.
Quirindi (Town).....	Folio 6469.
Tintenbar (Village and Suburban limits)	24th September, 1886.
Fitzroy (Suburban limits)	Folio 6469.
Seymour (Alteration of name to Adaminaby).....	24th September, 1886.
	Folio 6546.
	28th September, 1886.
	Folio 6914.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ALTERATIONS OF DESIGNS OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 43 Vic. No. 29, sec. 22.

ABSTRACT of Alterations in Designs of Towns and Villages, under the 22nd section of the Act
43 Victoria No. 29.

Town or Village.	Government Gazette in which alteration is notified.
Wittingham (Village)	8th September, 1885. Folio 5823.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.
(ALTERATION OF DESIGN OF TOWN.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

ABSTRACT of Alteration of Design of Town, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Victoria, No. 18.

Town.	Government Gazette in which alteration is notified.
Inverell (town)	21 May, 1886, folio 3,534.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.
(ALTERATION OF NAME OF VILLAGE.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 107.

ABSTRACT of Alteration of Name of Village, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Victoria, No. 18.

Town or Village.	Government Gazette in which alteration is notified.
Wickham (village)—Alteration of name	18 Nov., 1885, folio 7,446.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO RELIGIOUS PURPOSES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 25 Vic. No. 1, sec. 5.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Religious purposes, in accordance with the 5th section of the Act 25 Victoria No. 1.

Place.	County.	Allotment	Section.	Portion.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Cat. No. of Plan.
Molong.....	Ashburnham ..	1	37	.....	Town of Molong	a. r. p. 1 3 34½	Site for a Presbyterian Church.	85-21424	C. 1092-1984

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO RELIGIOUS PURPOSES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 25 Vic. No. 1, sec. 5.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Religious Purposes, in accordance with the 5th section of the Act 25 Victoria No. 1.

Place.	County.	Allotment.	Section.	Portion.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Cat. No. of Plan.
Bankstown	Cumberland ..	.....	.....	.....	Parish of Liberty Plains	a. r. p. 1 2 0	Site for Wesleyan Chapel and Minister's residence.	86- 997	C. 1,088-1,084
Rocky Hill	Auckland ....	.....	.....	27	do Coolangubra...	1 0 0	Church of England Church purposes.	85-24,227	C. 960-1,054
Do	do .....	.....	.....	25	do do ..	1 0 0	Roman Catholic Church purposes.	"	"

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO RELIGIOUS PURPOSES UNDER THE ACT 25 VIC. No. 1.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 25 Vic. No. 1, sec. 5.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Religious Purposes, in accordance with the 5th section of the Act 25 Victoria No. 1.

Place.	County.	Allotment.	Section.	Portion.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Cat. No. of Plan.
						a. r. p.			
Colombo	Auckland .....	.....	.....	165 & 166	Parish of Mogilla	1 2 0	Sites for Church of England Church and Parsonage.	86-2,528	C. 1,103-1,984

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO RELIGIOUS PURPOSES UNDER THE ACT 25 VIC. No. 1.

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 25 Vic. No. 1, sec. 5.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Religious Purposes, in accordance with the 5th section of the Act 25 Victoria No. 1.

Place.	County.	Allotment.	Section.	Portion.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Cat. No. of Plan.
Wentworth	Wentworth..	.....	....	....	Town of Wentworth	n. r. p. 0 2 0	Site for Roman Catholic Presbytery.	Misc. 86- 1929	C. 274-1984

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO RELIGIOUS PURPOSES UNDER THE ACT 25 VIC. No. 1.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 25 Vic. No. 1.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Religious purposes, in accordance with the 5th section of the Act 25 Victoria No. 1.

Place.	County.	Allotment.	Section.	Portion.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Cat. No. of Plan.
Boggabri	Pottinger....	1 & 2	30	....	Town of Boggabri	a. r. p. 1 0 0	Site for Union Church	Ms. 86-15191	C. 619-1984

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(RESERVED FROM SALE UNTIL SURVEYED, FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 43 Vic. No. 18, secs. 101, 103, 109, and 112.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed, for the preservation of Water Supply or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 103rd, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
Ms. 85-15077	103	101	St. Vincent	Borimbadal	15 acres	8 Sept., 1885	5878
14761	2 ex.	"	Clarence	Ulmara	8 "	"	"
6627	126 ex.	"	Rous	Coraki	122 "	"	"
8683	216	"	Cook	Jamieson	10 "	"	"
14608	148	"	Wellington	Wellington	240 "	"	"
15077	164	"	St. Vincent	Borimbadal	80 "	"	"
13489	190	"	Argyle	Goulburn	47½ "	"	5879
14888	5	"	Goulburn	Woomargama	64 "	"	"
14349	Ex. to Mount Fiddington Recreation Reserve.	"	Cook	Hartley	68 "	"	"
8859	220	"	King	Preston	20 "	"	"
12395	254	"	Brisbane	Park	1a. 3r. 33p.	"	"
10340	6	109	Wallace	Cabramatta	240 acres	"	5880
15580	643 ex.	101	"	Abington	125 "	9	5893
16311	165	"	St. Vincent	Bheverre	639½ "	"	"
9751	150	"	Wellington	Burrandong	8 "	"	"
9488	116	"	Roxburgh	Bendamora	34½ "	"	5894
14754	16	112	Rous	Cudgen and Condong	896 "	14	5973
12583	2652 ex.	"	Bourke	Dulah	300 "	22	6141
14854	203	101	Durham	Doon	46 "	23	6237
16860	41 ex.	"	King	Taunton	100 "	"	"
16912	15	"	Pottinger	Baan Baa, &c.	170 "	"	"
15452	5	103	Clive	Bolivia	40 "	28	6309
14601	213	"	Murray	Carwoola	16 "	"	6310
16914	123	101	Cumberland	South Colah	12½ "	"	6314
16913	49 ex.	"	Westmoreland	Adderley	6½ "	"	"
14607	8	"	Bourke	Mandamah	225 "	"	"
"	19	"	"	"	3½ "	"	"
14750	4	"	Canbelego	Gidalambone	40 "	"	"
16438	3	"	Sandon	Wentworth	35 "	"	"
15954	3	"	Gough	Boyd	150 "	"	6315
14607	18	"	Bourke	Mandamah	2 "	"	"
"	12	"	"	"	32 "	"	"
"	7	"	"	"	130 "	"	"
"	20	"	"	"	2 "	"	"
"	9	"	"	"	182 "	"	"
"	10A	"	"	"	90 "	"	"
"	11	"	"	"	7a. Or. 3p.	"	6316
"	13	"	"	"	5½ acres	"	"
"	14	"	"	"	5½ "	"	"
"	15	"	"	"	5½ "	"	"
"	16	"	"	"	5½ "	"	"
"	17	"	"	"	5½ "	"	"
"	10	"	"	"	380 "	"	"
18994	4	"	Urana	Waugh and Bingagong	640 "	30	6446
16221	16	112	Dampier	Bergalia	5,700 "	"	"
18902	2	"	Waradgery	Mungadal, Hay, &c.	13,000 "	"	"
11364	132	101	Roxburgh	Castleton	4a. Or. 39p.	2 Oct., 1885	6524
"	122	"	"	"	265 acres	"	"
"	119	"	"	"	96 "	"	"
"	124	"	"	"	6a. Or. 20p.	"	"
"	126	"	"	"	1a. Or. 26p.	"	6525
"	128	"	"	"	2a. 3r. 9p.	"	"
"	129	"	"	"	5a. 1r. 9p.	"	"

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
Ms. 85-11364	130	101	Roxburgh	Castleton	2a. 3r. 20p.	2 Oct., 1885	6525
"	131	"	"	"	5a. Or. 6p.	"	"
"	118	"	"	"	49½ acres	"	"
"	127	"	"	"	7a. Or. 13p.	"	"
18783	102	"	Westmoreland	Jocelyn and Baring...	580 acres	"	"
11364	123	"	Roxburgh	Castleton	89 "	"	6526
"	117	"	"	"	153 "	"	"
"	120	"	"	"	34 "	"	"
"	121	"	"	"	22½ "	"	"
"	125	"	"	"	4½ "	"	"
17034	3	"	Cooper	Narrandera	1a. Or. 19p.	6	6555
"	4	"	"	"	2a. Or. 24p.	"	"
16262	6	109	Beresford	Palmerston	84a. Ir. 0p.	"	6556
16261	16	"	Wallace	Arable	110½ acres	"	"
17034	6	101	Cooper	Narrandera	1a. 3r. 14p.	"	"
16628	1978 ex.	109	Baradine	Baradine, &c. . . .	6,000 acres	"	"
13831	2	101	Urana	Waugh	1a. Ir. 25½p.	"	"
17034	5	"	Cooper	Narrandera	5a. Ir. 9p.	"	"
16769	142	"	Roxburgh	Clandulla	5a. Ir. 8p.	20	6869
"	143	"	"	"	5a. Ir. 8p.	"	"
"	144	"	"	"	5a. Ir. 8p.	"	"
"	136	"	"	"	22a. Ir. 10p.	"	"
"	138	"	"	"	20 acres	"	"
"	137	"	"	"	13a. 3r. 10p.	"	6870
"	141	"	"	"	0a. 2r. 24p.	"	6871
"	140	"	"	"	29 acres	"	"
17036	13	112	Monteagle	Dananbilla	200 "	"	"
11311	250	101	Bathurst	Bringellet	15a. Or. 36p.	"	"
18696	21	"	Bourke	Kindra	3a. Or. 30p.	"	"
C.S. 85-3393 Sur.	1789 ex.	112	Wakool	Chowar	80 acres	"	"
Ms. 16943	2	109	Buccleuch	Peppercorn	640 "	"	6872
15139	17	"	Dampier	Shoalhaven, &c. . . .	420 "	"	"
21809	139	101	Roxburgh	Clandulla	75 "	"	"
17034	7	103	Cooper	Narrandera	10 "	22	6902
18260	240	101	Camden	Wilton	21a. 3r. 6p.	26	6955
16983	230	"	Gloucester	Topi Topi	112 acres	"	"
18260	242	"	Camden	Wilton	6 "	"	"
9903	6	"	Clive	Ballandean	2½ "	"	"
18260	244	"	Camden	Wilton	1a. 3r. 17p.	"	6956
19207	4	"	Pottinger	Goally	110 acres	"	6957
"	5	"	"	Millie	110 "	"	"
18260	238	"	Camden	Wilton	45 "	"	"
"	241	"	"	"	2a. 2r. 33p.	"	"
"	243	"	"	"	2a. 2r. 0p.	"	"
16500	57	"	Hunter	Baraemi	14 acres	"	"
21595	"	"	Sandon	Duval	3,200 "	4 Nov., 1885	7155
19877	213	"	Northumberland, &c	Newcastle, &c. . . .	"	13	7293

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(RESERVED FROM SALE UNTIL SURVEYED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY &C, UNDER 43 VIC. NO. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 43 Vic. No. 18, secs. 101, 103, 109, and 112.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed, for the preservation of Water Supply, or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 103rd, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 43 Victoria No. 18.

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					About		
					a. r. p.		
Ms. 85-11278	9	101	Wynyard	Unatbee	175 0 0	18 Nov., 1885	7433
Aln. " 7	29	"	Rous	Bexhill	8 3 22	" "	"
" " "	32	"	do	do	2 2 0	" "	"
Ms. " 16119	15	109	Cowley and Wallace...	Tharwa, &c.	15,000 0 0	" "	7434
" 16881	7	"	Goulburn	Hume and Dora Dora...	3,500 0 0	" "	"
" 17184	3	"	Gowen	Terrabille	52 0 0	" "	"
" 16631	13	"	Pottinger	Bomera	150 0 0	" "	"
" " "	14	"	do	Brennan, Clarke, &c.....	580 0 0	" "	"
" 16634	1	112	Farnell .....	.....	1,100 0 0	" "	7435
" " "	1	"	Menindie .....	.....	1,900 0 0	" "	"
" " "	1	"	Tandora .....	.....	720 0 0	" "	"
" " "	2	"	do .....	.....	368 0 0	" "	"
" " "	4	"	Yancowinna	Uberumberka, &c.	960 0 0	" "	"
" " "	5	"	do .....	.....	16 square miles	" "	"
" " "	6	"	do .....	.....	16 " "	" "	"
" " "	7	"	do	Albert and Victoria	4 " "	" "	"
" " "	8	"	do	Lewis, Mt. Gipps, &c. .	a r. p. 1,444 0 0	" "	"
" " "	9	"	do	Mt. Gipps	1,568 0 0	" "	"
Aln. " 2015	37	101	Cowper	East Bourke	250 0 0	" "	7436
" " "	38	"	do	Davidson	100 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 16181	18	"	Dampier	Murrumbidgee	525 0 0	" "	"
" 16270	727 ext.	"	Clarence	Tyndale	230 0 0	" "	"
" 16918	469 ext.	"	Pottinger	Weston	2 2 0	" "	"
Aln. " 7	31	"	Rous	Bexhill	86 0 0	" "	"
" " "	39	"	do	do	30 0 0	" "	"
" " "	42	"	do	do	0 3 30.1	" "	"
Ms. " 19598	150	"	Wellington	Merinda	1 2 15	" "	"
" " "	161	"	do	do	0 0 20	" "	"
" " "	162	"	do	do	0 1 32	" "	"
" " "	163	"	do	do	1 3 24	" "	"
" 17645	246	"	Brisbane	Wickham	40 1 0	" "	7437
" 16759	172	"	Northumberland	Wittingham	15 2 0	" "	"
Aln. 84- 3235	12	"	Wynyard	Euadera	0 2 0	" "	"
" " "	13	"	do	do	1 2 39	" "	"
" " "	14	"	do	do	2 0 8	" "	"
" " "	15	"	do	do	4 1 38	" "	"
Ms. 85-10769	171	"	Northumberland	Wittingham	2 0 0	" "	"
" " "	170	"	do	do	5 1 12	" "	"
" " "	167	"	do	do	17 0 0	" "	7438
" 19196	14	"	Harden	Binalong	80 0 0	" "	"
" 16759	166	"	Northumberland	Wittingham	27 0 0	" "	"
" " "	168	"	do	do	1 0 0	" "	"
" " "	169	"	do	do	2 2 0	" "	"
" " "	165	"	do	do	66 0 0	" "	"
" 16632	5	"	Townsend	Dahwilly	38 0 0	" "	7439
Aln. " 7	30	"	Rous	Lismore	140 0 0	" "	"
" 2015	35	"	Cowper	Barton	460 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 16771	4	112	Gipps	Merribooka, &c.	7,670 0 0	" "	"
" 19497	166	"	St. Vincent	Monga, Milo, &c.....	23 square miles	" "	"

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					About.		
Ms. 85-14625	16	101	Lincoln	Gewrie	2 0 0	18 Nov., 1885	7439
Aln. " 2015	32	"	Cowper	East Bourke	275 2 0	" "	7440
" " 7	36	"	Rous	Bexhill	1 2 0	" "	"
Ms. " 19598	151	"	Wellington	Merinda	16 0 0	" "	"
" " "	152	"	do	do	0 1 9	" "	"
" " "	153	"	do	do	4 2 3	" "	"
" " "	158	"	do	do	2 3 12	" "	"
" " "	160	"	do	do	2 2 23	" "	"
" " 19598	124	"	Cumberland	Cowan	160 0 0	" "	"
" " 19496	222	"	King	Kildare	384 0 0	" "	"
Aln. " 7	28	"	Rous	Bexhill	1 0 0	" "	7441
Ms. " 19598	154	"	Wellington	Merinda	1 1 0	" "	"
" " "	155	"	do	do	1 0 31	" "	"
" " "	156	"	do	do	1 0 0	" "	"
" " "	157	"	do	do	0 2 7½	" "	"
" " 19400	3	"	White	Wee Waa	0 2 0	" "	"
Aln. " 2015	34	"	Cowper	Barton	204 3 0	" "	"
" " "	36	"	do	do	368 3 0	" "	"
" " 7	34	"	Rous	Bexhill	11 0 0	" "	"
" " "	35	"	do	do	1 2 0	" "	"
" " "	43	"	do	do	13 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 5903	7	"	Wallace	The Peak	40 3 0	" "	7442
C.S. 85-4073 Sur.	167	"	St. Vincent	Bateman	62 0 0	" "	"
Aln. 85- 2015	29	"	Cowper, &c.	Bourke, &c.	26,500 0 0	" "	"
" " 7	37	"	Rous	Bexhill	167 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 16310	168	"	St. Vincent	Bherwerre	4,960 0 0	" "	"
" " 7140	4	"	Benarba	Meroc	40 0 0	" "	7443
" " 17645	248	"	Brisbane	Wickham	8 0 0	" "	"
" " 6397	2	"	Wakool	Chowar	56 3 0	" "	"
Aln. " 2015	30	"	Cowper	East Bourke	145 1 0	" "	"
" " "	81	"	do	do	181 1 0	" "	"
" " "	33	"	do	do	355 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 13520	118 ext.	"	Phillip	Hawkins	133 0 0	" "	"
" " 17645	245	"	Brisbane	Wickham	12 3 20	" "	"
" " "	247	"	do	do	12 3 0	" "	"
Aln. " 7	41	"	Rous	Bexhill	3 0 0	" "	7444
Ms. " 16627	18	"	do	Jiggi and Boorabee	100 0 0	" "	"
" " 19394	18	"	Richmond	Riley	10 2 30	" "	"
Aln. " 7	40	"	Rous	Bexhill	10 2 30	" "	"
Ms. " 19505	231	"	Gloucester	Topi Topi	106 0 0	" "	"
" " "	232	"	do	Topi Topi, &c.	270 0 0	" "	"
" " "	233	"	do	Topi Topi	66 0 0	" "	"
" " 15715	23	"	Leichhardt	Geelnoy	320 0 0	" "	"
Aln. " 7	38	"	Rous	Bexhill	2 0 0	" "	7445
" " "	33	"	do	do	5 2 0	" "	"
" " 84- 816	2	"	Finch	Burrabete, &c.	5 square miles	" "	"
Ms. 85-17154	126	"	Cumberland	Manly Cove	50 0 0	" "	"
" " 18909	125	"	do	Narrabeen	12 0 0	" "	"
" " 21937	7	"	Hardinge	Elderbury	60 0 0	" "	"
" " 11369	14	"	Ashburnham	Dulladerry	1,400 0 0	25	7606
" " 10053	23	"	do	Cargo	206 0 23	" "	"
" " 1924	1	"	Buckland	Telford	63 0 0	" "	"
" " 5742	3	"	Burnett	Ginerol and Clare	820 0 0	" "	"
" " 83-25975	2	"	Clarendon	Merrybundinah	4 0 0	" "	"
" " 85-11144	281A	"	Fitzroy	Bardool	162 0 0	" "	"
" " 17590	234	"	Gloucester	Bullah Delah	21 0 0	" "	"
C.S. 85-1542 Cor.	5	"	Hardinge	Williams	33 0 0	" "	"
Ms. 84-27429	5	"	Mitchell	Westby	4,000 0 0	" "	"
" " 85- 4022	1	"	Narran	Sawers	397 0 0	" "	"
" " 11556	207	"	Northumberland	Wyong	76 0 0	" "	7607
" " 7088	7	"	Rous	North Casino	7 3 0	" "	"
" " 7858	215	"	Cook	Cox	95 0 0	" "	"
" " 19722	204	"	Durham	Wallerobba	4 2 0	" "	"
" " 3206	1	"	Gough	Mann	640 0 0	" "	"
" " 25865	148A	"	Bathurst	Cowra	154 3 0	" "	"
" " 3711	1	"	Sandon	Uralla	3 3 37	" "	"
" " 6167	2786A	112	Bourke	Mandamah	4,530 0 0	" "	"
" " 6327	4	"	Finch	Yarraman	1,920 0 0	" "	"
" " 6626	21	101	Clarence	Banyabba	156 3 0	" "	7608
" " 11146	7	"	Finch	Birben	4,800 0 0	" "	"
" " 3712	1	"	Franklin	Vieta and Poli	9,200 0 0	" "	"
" " 19723	107	"	Georgiana	Yalbraith	4 2 0	" "	"
" " 13840	2	"	Gipps	Bologamy	2,604 0 0	" "	"
" " 11862	1279A	"	Warradgery	Wallaby	640 0 0	" "	"
" " 11145	8	"	Pottinger	Gunnedah	2 0 0	" "	"
" " 19972	1	"	Ularara	Wanaaring	1 3 28	" "	"
" " 15493	3	"	Ararawatta	Wandera	3 1 8	" "	7609
" " 84-24204	1	"	Clarendon	North Wagga Wagga	20 0 0	" "	"
" " 85- 6679	9	"	Monteagle	Coba	10 0 0	" "	"
" " 8686	22	"	Ashburnham	Cargo	880 0 0	" "	"
" " 4467	200	"	Durham	Foy	4 3 0	" "	"
" " 19973	4	"	Sandon and Clarke	Wentworth, &c.	40 0 0	" "	"
" " 2659	5	"	Napier	Biambil	60 0 0	" "	"
" " 2604	1	"	Wellesley	Cathcart	9 0 17	" "	7610
" " 4475	147	"	Wellington	Cooper	20 0 0	" "	"
" " 19388	9	112	Baradine	Gora and Rundle	13 square miles	" "	"

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					About.		
Ms. 85-19392	4	112	Courallie	Weah Waah	a r. p. 50 0 0	25 Nov., 1885	7610
" 2862	1	101	Wynyard	Willio Ploma	35 0 0	" "	"
" 3713	1	"	Yanda	Woolia	1,400 0 0	" "	"
" 1953	246	"	Camden	Cambewarra	15 0 0	" "	"
" 19206	27	"	Rous	Jasper	6 1 16	" "	7611
" 11739	120	"	Cumberland	Berowra	220 0 0	" "	"
" 2920	1	"	Denham	Finley, &c.	5,700 0 0	" "	"
Aln. " 701	3	"	Murchison	Molroy	435 0 0	" "	"
Ms. 84-18306	23	"	Cowper	Bye	263 2 0	" "	"
85- 4557	2	"	Start	Currathool	270 0 0	" "	"
" 15259	11	"	Finch	Eales and Ulah	1,100 0 0	" "	"
84-27357	247	"	Macquarie	Macquarie	1 3 0	" "	7612
85- 4524	3	"	Mouramba	Carlisle	200 0 0	" "	"
" 18637	2966 ext.	"	Wakool	Barham	600 0 0	" "	"
" 9331	9	"	Ashburnham	Nannami	88 0 0	" "	"
" 10012	251	"	Macquarie	Arakoon	80 0 0	" "	"
" "	252	"	do	Kinchela	14 0 0	" "	"
" "	253	"	do	do	27 0 0	" "	"
" 11386	259	"	do	Macquarie	0 2 0	" "	7613
84-27373	13	"	Lincoln	Cobborah	13 0 0	" "	"
85- 4519	1	"	Mouramba	Hartwood	200 0 0	" "	"
" 18440	300A	"	Wallace	Marrinumbra	525 0 0	" "	"
" 17034	4	"	Cooper	Narrandera	2 0 24	" "	"
" 12203	2	"	Robinson	Cobar	40 0 0	" "	"
" 12829	1	"	White	Borah	11 1 5	" "	7614
" 15252	2	"	Clyde	Brewarrina	201 0 0	" "	"
84-17766	865 ext.	103	Auckland	Yowaka	61 2 0	27 "	7649

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(RESERVED FROM SALE UNTIL SURVEYED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY &C, UNDER 48 VIC. NO. 18.

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, secs. 101, 103, 109, and 112.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed, for the preservation of Water Supply, or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 103rd, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserva.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					About a. r. p.		
Ms. 85- 24222	6	101	Buckland	Dight and Battenboon	1,600 0 0	2 Dec., 1885	7783
" " "	263	"	Brisbane	Temi	1,750 0 0	" "	"
" " "	262	"	do	do	2,100 0 0	" "	7784
" " 1764	4	"	Gowen	Bandalla, &c.	1000 0 0	12 " "	8010
" " "	1	"	Napier and Lincoln ..	Mendooran, &c.	1,820 0 0	" "	"
" " 10901	1062A	"	Wynyard	Belmore	81 3 0	" "	"
" " 1764	3	"	Napier	Mendooran	1,500 0 0	" "	8011
" " 17731	2	"	Selwyn	Khancoban	60 0 0	" "	"
" " 15492	40	"	Fitzroy	Bostobrick	620 3 20	" "	"
" " 20397	43	"	Hunter	Wambo	80 0 0	" "	"
" " 20991	13	"	Napier	Coolah	5 2 0	" "	"
" " 20067	6	"	Townsend	Bullatella	20 2 0	" "	"
" " 14350	4	"	Forbes	Bundaburrah, &c.	1,400 0 0	" "	8012
" " 14886	27B	"	Bligh and Phillip	Ulan, &c.	7,826 0 0	" "	"
" " 14978	125A	"	Bligh	Nandowra, &c.	7,072 0 0	" "	"
" " 14886	117A	"	Phillip	Cummo, &c.	4,500 0 0	" "	8013
" " 1926	944A	"	Gipps	Wamboynne, &c.	4,300 0 0	" "	"
" " 14597	2963A	"	do	Cowal, &c.	7,081 0 0	" "	8014
Oc. " 2050	257	"	Camden	Wollongong	0 1 28	" "	"
Ms. " 8703	1	"	Hume	Mahonga	5 0 0	" "	"
" " 488	16	"	do	Walbundry	2 0 0	" "	"
Oc. " 1055	211	"	Northumberland	Maitland	3 0 0	" "	"
" " 819	212	"	do	Patonga	2 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 14595	133	"	Roxburgh	Cullen Bullen	4 1 37	" "	"
Oc. " 1840	169	"	St. Vincent	Benandra	2 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 24674	1	"	Wakool	Barham	2 0 0	" "	"
Aln. " 1576	44	"	Cowper	Bourke	5 0 0	" "	8015
Ms. " "	45	"	do	do	5 0 0	" "	"
" " 19380	4	"	Gough	Tent Hill	6 0 4	" "	"
" " "	8	"	do	do	3 0 35	" "	"
" " 20397	51	"	Hunter	Wambo	2 1 20	" "	"
" " "	55	"	do	do	2 2 0	" "	"
" " 20991	9	"	Napier	Coolah	0 3 0	" "	"
" " "	10	"	do	do	0 1 13	" "	"
" " "	12	"	do	do	2 3 2	" "	"
" " 20397	54	"	Hunter	Wambo	5 1 13	" "	"
" " 20991	11	"	Napier	Coolah	16 1 20	" "	"
" " 4984	6	112	Bland	Trigalong	75 0 0	" "	8016
" " 19210	6	"	Gipps	Wamboynne	2,901 0 0	" "	"
" " 19935	6	"	Jamieson	Bobbiwaa	2,100 0 0	" "	"
" " 9070	2	"	Monteagle	Bungalong	680 0 0	" "	"
" " "	3	"	Townsend	Powheep	429 1 0	" "	"
" " 20397	45	101	Hunter	Wambo	444 3 0	" "	"
" " 12990	4	"	Clarendon	Jewnee	2 1 35	" "	"
" " 20069	8	"	Goulburn	Jindera	258 0 0	" "	8017
" " "	9	"	do	do	5 0 0	" "	"
" " "	10	"	do	do	5 0 0	" "	"
" " "	11	"	do	do	1 1 25	" "	"
" " "	12	"	do	do	2 3 31	" "	"
Aln. " 616	12	"	Hume	Howlong	5 0 0	" "	"
" " "	13	"	do	do	5 0 0	" "	"
" " "		"			10 0 0	" "	"

No. of Papers.	No of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					About a. r. p.		
Ms. 85- 2248	145	101	Roxburgh	Sofala and Wyagdon ..	6,600 0 0	12 Dec., 1885	8017
" 14472	1	"	Dudley	Nulla Nulla	65 0 0	" "	"
" 20497	48	"	Hunter	Wambo	4 0 32	" "	8018
" 12809	185	"	Northumberland	Gosford	12 2 0	" "	"
" "	186	"	do	do	4 0 0	" "	"
" 14935	369A	"	Beresford	Binjura	160 0 0	" "	"
" 8578	24	"	Ashburnham	Cargo	14 0 0	" "	"
" 22295	29	"	do	Toogong	47 3 0	" "	"
" 19389	5	"	Gough	Tent Hill	18 0 10	" "	"
" 12809	180	"	Northumberland	Gosford	5 0 0	" "	"
84- 26822	14	"	Auckland	Brogo	54 0 0	" "	8019
85- 7824	7	"	Wallace	Kiandra	0 3 17	" "	"
" 15491	5	"	Gordon	Warryberry, &c.	1,720 0 0	" "	"
" 20397	56	"	Hunter	Wambo	5 3 2	" "	"
" 18158	249	"	Macquarie	Camden Haven	45 0 0	" "	"
" 14757	1	"	Stapylton	Willimill	1,380 0 0	" "	"
" 2111	4	"	Wakool and Cadell ..	Damberry, &c.	3,840 0 0	" "	"
" 15106	210	"	Northumberland	Wyong	29 3 14	" "	"
" 20991	7	"	Napier	Coolah	21 3 0	" "	8020
" "	8	"	do	do	20 0 0	" "	"
" 17199	2722 ext.	112	Mitchell	Milbrulong	1,400 0 0	" "	"
" 27139	7	"	Townsend	Conargo	954 0 0	" "	"
" 17200	3052A ext	"	Urana	Gunambil	3,820 0 0	" "	"
" 8814	1	101	Cipps	Udah	377 3 0	" "	"
84- 26282	8	"	Jamison	Vickery	552 2 0	" "	"
85- 19974	6	"	Rous	Broadwater, &c.	700 0 0	" "	8021
" 3202	2	109	Benarba	Yarrol	330 0 0	" "	"
" 10603	7	"	Gowen	Coonabarrabran	480 0 0	" "	"
" 9867	7	"	Jamison	Billaboo South, &c.	1,170 0 0	" "	"
" 1576	48	101	Cowper	Bourke	12 0 0	" "	"
" 20397	44	"	Hunter	Wambo	20 2 30	" "	"
84- 25949	5	"	Gipps	Pullabooka	100 0 0	" "	8022
85- 17608	172	"	Bligh	Goodman	40 0 0	" "	"
" 19975	30	"	Clarence	Clifden	18 0 0	" "	"
" 15359	6	"	Flinders	Bebri	1,920 0 0	" "	"
" 1925	1578A	"	Gipps	Wamboyne	640 0 0	" "	"
" 8731	2	"	Gordon	Eurimbula, &c.	190 0 0	" "	"
Aln. " 1576	47	"	Cowper	Bourke	5 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 19389	7	"	Gough	Tent Hill	133 2 30	" "	"
" 12809	187	"	Northumberland	Gosford	134 0 0	" "	8023
" 8961	4	"	Buckland	Quirindi	1 0 0	" "	"
" 11202	12	"	Narromine	Turribung	2 3 8	" "	"
" 15416	1	"	Waradgery	Hay South	40 0 0	" "	"
Aln. " 1576	46	"	Cowper	East Bourke	44 0 0	" "	"
84- 2317	44	"	Rouse	Codrington	2 2 25	" "	"
Ms. 85- 4522	18	"	Hume	Walla Walla	200 0 0	" "	8024
" 4521	17	"	do	Hovell	200 0 0	" "	"
" 10066	3	"	Dudley	Barragong, &c.	28 square miles	" "	"
" 12809	183	"	Northumberland	Gosford	3 0 0	" "	"
" "	188	"	do	do	2 3 324	" "	"
" 20397	53	"	Hunter	Wambo	0 2 13	" "	"
" "	52	"	do	do	1 2 0	" "	8025
" "	46	"	do	do	2 2 32	" "	"
" 14594	8	"	Monteagle	Murringgo	23 2 10	" "	"
" 20397	47	"	Hunter	Wambo	5 0 0	" "	"
" 19389	6	"	Gough	Tent Hill	5 2 0	" "	"
" 12809	184	"	Northumberland	Gosford	2 0 0	" "	"
Aln. " 1576	39	"	Cowper	Bourke	3 0 0	" "	8026
" "	40	"	do	do	5 0 0	" "	"
" "	41	"	do	do	5 0 0	" "	"
" "	42	"	do	do	5 0 0	" "	"
" "	43	"	do	East Bourke	5 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 16633	8	"	Hume	Howlong	5 0 0	" "	"
" "	9	"	do	do	10 0 0	" "	"
" "	10	"	do	do	10 0 0	" "	"
" 20397	49	"	Hunter	Wambo	14 0 0	" "	"
" "	50	"	do	do	15 0 0	" "	"
" 10941	23	"	Clarence	Candolo and Condolam.	2000 0 0	" "	"
84- 27112	1	"	Ewenmar	Coradgerie	20 0 0	" "	8027
85- 5480	2	"	Murchison	Wyndham	12 1 10	" "	"
" 2112	151	"	St. Vincent	Yerrujung	10 1 30	" "	"
" 65	155	"	do	Boyne	10 0 0	" "	"
84- 22078	4	"	Wallace	Abington	9 0 0	" "	"
85- 4264	144	"	Wellington	Avisford	20 0 0	" "	"
" 4117	8	"	Wynyard	Mundarlo	8 0 0	" "	"
" 5722	13	"	Ashburnham	Belubula	7 0 20	" "	"
" 5481	6	"	do	Troubalgie	10 0 0	" "	8028
" 11391	11	"	Bland	Yeo Yeo	20 0 0	" "	"
" 5058	4	"	Gordon	Terrabolla	10 0 0	" "	"
" 6636	4	"	Goulburn	Carrabobala	8 0 0	" "	"
" 10067	2	"	Sandon	Arding	2 0 32	" "	"
" 11886	164	"	Wellington	Warratia	20 0 0	" "	"
" 1764	2	"	Lincoln	Richardson, &c.	500 0 0	" "	"
" "	2	"	Napier	Mendooran	640 0 0	" "	"
" "	4	"	do	do	2,700 0 0	" "	"
" 3390	247	"	Bathurst	Galbraith	10 0 0	" "	8029
" 6694	9	"	Pottinger	Yarraman	3 1 38	" "	"
" 8812	4	"	Sturt	Currathool	10 3 8	" "	"

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					About		
					a. r. p.		
Ms. 85- 10581	6	101	Hardinge	Darbysleigh	0 1 16	12 Dec., 1885	8029
" 9589	15	"	Hume	Corowa	4 0 0	" "	"
" 6261	10	"	Bland	Narraburra	38 0 0	" "	"
" 8028	2	"	Harden	Coppabella	1 0 27	" "	"
" 19724	26	"	Rous	Cudgen	30 0 0	" "	"
" 7274	3	"	Clarendon	Cooba	9 2 16	" "	"
" 20590	235	"	Gloucester	Topi Topi	10 0 0	" "	8030
" 17198	1799 ext.	112	Urana	Lake	335 0 0	" "	"
" 19506	168	"	Phillip	Simpson and Nullo	800 0 0	" "	"
" 19842	103 ext.	101	Durham	Doon	60 0 0	" "	"
" 10353	16	109	Cowley	Maouk	540 0 0	" "	"
" 22100	258	101	Camden	Mundialla	78 0 0	16 "	8109
" 19309	3	103	Courallie	Tycannah	640 0 0	18 "	8144
" 6561	2	"	Gough	Ben Lomond	20 0 0	" "	8146
" 17758	170	"	Bligh	Wargundy, &c.	7,500 0 0	" "	8148
" 6762	203	"	Northumberland	Awaba	2 0 0	" "	"
" 17758	14	"	Lincoln	Bodangora, &c.	34,000 0 0	" "	"
" 6108	206	"	Northumberland	Morrisset	3 0 0	" "	8149
" 17758	6	"	Napier, &c.	Narangerie, &c.	13,800 0 0	" "	"
" 6762	204	"	Northumberland	Awaba	2 0 0	" "	"
" 6108	205	"	do	Morrisset	3 0 0	" "	"
" 17758	171	"	Bligh	Namima	3,000 0 0	" "	8151
" 21208	24	101	Rous	Ballina	0 2 38	19 "	8250
" "	25	"	do	do	1 0 13	" "	"
" 21791	49	"	do	Byron	5 2 0	" "	"
" "	57	"	do	do	5 2 0	" "	"
" "	58	"	do	do	5 2 0	" "	"
" "	59	"	do	do	5 2 0	" "	"
" "	52	"	do	do	6 0 0	" "	"
" "	56	"	do	do	5 2 0	" "	"
" 11865	4	"	Bourke	Trickett	38 0 0	" "	"
" 19397	6	"	Gowen	Callangoon	8 0 0	" "	8251
" 21791	50	"	Rous	Byron	4 0 0	" "	"
" "	51	"	do	do	4 0 0	" "	"
" "	54	"	do	do	5 2 0	" "	"
" "	55	"	do	do	5 2 0	" "	"
" 15360	9	"	Cunningham	Badjeribong	83 0 0	" "	"
" 20043	160A	"	Macquarie	Ballungara	111 0 0	" "	"
" 15714	3	"	Gregory	Girralong	1,550 0 0	" "	"
" 15360	8	109	Cunningham	Monwonga, &c.	2,160 0 0	" "	8252
" 21907	10	"	Baradine	Baradine, &c.	3,200 0 0	" "	"
" 3969	4	101	Townsend	Banangalite	164 0 0	" "	"
" 17760	24	"	Leichhardt	Moonbar	630 0 0	" "	"
" 9306	11	"	Hume	Moorwatha	18 0 0	" "	"
" 22665	13	"	Narromine	Buddah	200 0 0	" "	8253
" 13371	10	"	Ashburnham	Brynedura	5 2 33	" "	"
" 14849	307 ext.	112	Dampier	Wagonga	4,200 0 0	" "	"
" 21791	53	101	Rous	Byron	240 0 0	" "	"
86- 377	30	"	Clarence	Great Marlow	70 0 0	13 Jan., 1886	253
85- 21483	171	"	St. Vincent	Wollumboola	40 0 0	16 "	355
" 22666	9	112	Townsend	North Deniliquin, &c.	20,650 0 0	" "	356
" 7091	27	101	Gough	Macintyre	600 0 0	" "	357
84- 26890	1	"	Fitzroy	Bagawa	19 2 0	" "	"
85- 16945	28	112	Cunningham	Badjeribong	161 0 0	" "	"
" 15451	3	"	Gregory, &c.	Gandymungydell, &c.	2,500 0 0	" "	"
" 22445	259	101	Vernon	Walcha	320 0 0	" "	"
" "	261	"	Camden	Couridja	17 0 0	" "	"
" 19598	154	"	do	do	18 0 0	" "	358
" 11575	19	"	Wellington	Merinda	1 3 26	" "	"
" 18550	14	109	Wynyard	Umutee	1 0 0	" "	"
" 21366	47	"	Goulburn	Gernanton	30 0 0	" "	"
" 21367	48	101	Rous	Jasper	100 0 0	" "	"
" 3692	22	"	do	do	90 0 0	" "	"
" 21814	218	"	Narran	Talawanta	2,500 0 0	" "	359
" 21200	27	"	Cook	Cooba	10 0 0	" "	"
Oct. 1946	1	"	Ashburnham	Boree Nyran	40 0 0	" "	"
Ms. 23163	146	"	Cooper	Narrandera	10 0 0	" "	"
" 23164	147	"	Roxburgh	Ben Bullen	5 0 0	" "	"
" 23165	148	"	do	do	5 0 0	" "	"
" 24481	128	"	do	Airly	40 0 0	" "	"
" 8942	45	"	Cumberland	Cowan	0 1 0	" "	"
" 9447	46	"	Rous	Meerchaun	98 0 0	" "	"
" 10084	8	"	do	do	299 2 0	" "	360
" 4518	2	"	Gowen	Coblinbil	20 0 0	" "	"
" 11574	18	"	Mouramba	Wells	200 0 0	" "	"
" 21939	5	"	Wynyard	Umutee	1 0 0	" "	"
" 14513	3	"	Buckland	Quirindi	10 2 0	" "	"
" 21207	3	"	Stapylton	Moppin	1 0 0	" "	"
" 4475	147	"	Parry	Crawney	5 0 0	" "	361
" 28137	149	"	Wellington	Cooper	20 0 0	" "	"
" 21712	264	"	Roxburgh	Airly	20 0 20	" "	"
" 22952	42	"	Camden	Colo	60 0 0	" "	"
" 21292	8	"	Fitzroy	Ucombe	720 0 0	" "	"
" 22576	4	"	Cooper	Dallas	640 0 0	" "	"
" 19508	"	"	Franklin	Marowie, &c.	1,204 0 0	" "	362
" 19595	"	"	Camden	Wingello	54 0 0	" "	393
" 21199	"	"	Bathurst	Lyndhurst	491 0 0	" "	394
Aln. 1742	262	"	Ashburnham	Eugowra	80 0 0	" "	"
		"	Macquarie	Macquarie	5 2 11	23 "	581

No of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					About		
					a. r. p.		
Ms. 86- 301	12	101	Gough.	Deepwater	0 1 29	23 Jan., 1886	581
85- 23534	264	"	Brisbane.....	Wingen	5 0 0	" "	582
" 21785	5	112	Dudley	Stuart	40 0 0	" "	"
" 24521	19	"	Hume	Quat Quatta.....	437 0 0	" "	"
" 24433	172	"	St. Vincent	Tiangara, &c.	25,500 0 0	" "	"
" 15554	28	101	Ashburnham	Boree Cabonne, &c.	40 0 0	" "	"
" 22099	15	"	Finch	Bundatarrina, &c.	13½ square miles	" "	"
					a. r. p.		
Aln. " 2713	21	"	Richmond	Riley	15 3 20	" "	"
Ms. " 24437	252	"	Bathurst	Byng	20 0 0	" "	583
" 15668	59	"	Hunter	Peribil	10 0 0	" "	"
" 23603	5	"	Blaxland	Mount Hope	10 0 0	" "	"
Oc. " 912	20	"	Dampier	Wagonga	4 2 0	" "	"
Aln. " 2713	19	"	Richmond	Riley	3 0 21	" "	"
Ms. " 15907	2	"	Culgoa	Barrington	2 0 0	" "	"
" 14662	29	"	Clarence.....	Woombah	8 0 0	" "	"
" 23439	12	"	Bland	Tumbleton, &c.	50 0 0	" "	584
" 20574	21 ext.	109	Northumberland	Warkworth	500 0 0	" "	"
" 24435	265	101	Camden	Couridjah.....	10 1 13	" "	"
" 7273	6	"	Clarendon	Eurongilly	2 0 34	" "	"
Aln. " 2713	20	"	Richmond	Riley	2 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 18879	8	"	Rous	Brunswick	1 0 15	" "	"
Aln. " 2788	63	"	do	Bexhill	45 1 0	" "	585
Ms. " 19071	61	112 & 101	do	Moobal, &c.....	3,000 0 0	" "	"
	62	"	do	Moobal	2,700 0 0	" "	"
" 13395	6	101	Raleigh	Bonville	640 0 0	" "	"
" 21105	227A	"	Brisbane.....	Pago	360 0 0	" "	"
" 23533	64	"	Rous	Bunjabee	6 2 0	" "	"
84- 25615	41	"	Fitzroy	Kreunos	400 0 0	" "	586
85- 991		"	Camden	Wingello	105 0 0	" "	"

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

RESERVED FROM SALE UNTIL SURVEYED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, secs. 101, 103, 109, and 112.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed for the preservation of Water Supply or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 103rd, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					About		
					a. r. p.		
Ms. 85-21559	.....	101	Murray	Molonglo	40 1 0	30 Jan., 1886	776
„ 22445	260	103	Camden	Couridjah	14 3 30	„ „	778
86- 2082	217	112	Northumberland	Coongowai, &c.	3,000 0 0	3 Feb., „	863
„ 2040	.....	101	Harden	Cooney	56 0 0	„ „	„
85-22450	8	112	Baradine & White	Meninborough, &c.	36 square miles	6 „ „	927
					a. r. p.		
„ 23846	207A	„	Northumberland	Wyong	76 0 0	„ „	„
„ 24432	216	„	do	do	9,700 0 0	„ „	„
„ 24820	18	„	Pottinger	Brigalow and Goally	4,700 0 0	„ „	„
„ 24325	174	„	St. Vincent	Mogendoura	6,550 0 0	„ „	„
„ 22450	2	„	White	Goona, Nuable, &c.	50 square miles	„ „	„
					a. r. p.		
„ 17530	264	101	Macquarie	Bobin	10 0 0	„ „	„
„ 24430	21	„	Dampier	Beloura	28 0 0	„ „	928
„ 25543	11	„	Townsend	Narrama	160 1 0	„ „	„
„ „	12	„	do	do	186 3 0	„ „	„
„ „	13	„	do	do	176 3 0	„ „	„
„ „	14	„	do	do	171 3 0	„ „	„
„ 24663	173	„	Bligh	Curryall, &c.	1,570 0 0	„ „	„
„ 23439	12	„	Bland	Tumbleton & Geraldra	50 0 0	„ „	929
„ 14176	7	„	Beresford	Micaligo	8 0 0	„ „	„
„ 12820	17	„	Cowley	Umburra	8 0 0	„ „	„
„ 25544	11	„	Gough	Mount Mitchell	8 0 0	„ „	„
„ 25545	10	„	Hardinge	Cooper	8 0 0	„ „	„
Occ. „ 1948	8	„	Clive	Angoperran	0 2 0	„ „	„
Ms. 86- 986	9	„	Forbes	Wongajong	1,725 0 0	„ „	„
Occ. 85- 490	150	„	Roxburgh	Cullen Bullen	20 0 0	„ „	930
Ms. „ 23356	129	„	Cumberland	Cornelia	1 0 0	„ „	„
„ 21555	5	„	Benarba	Kamilaroi	750 0 0	„ „	„
„ 11629	33	„	Clarence	Southgate	98 0 0	„ „	„
Aln. „ 161	206	„	Durham	Glendon	21 0 0	„ „	„
Ms. „ 4571	221	„	Argyle	Goulburn	7 2 30	„ „	„
„ 19318	222	„	do	Pomeroy	8 0 0	„ „	„
Aln. 84- 4539	16	„	Wynyard	Mundarlo	125 0 0	„ „	931
Ms. 85-22194	30	„	Auckland	Colombo	1,280 0 0	„ „	„
„ 25218	6	„	Forbes	Eualdrie	20 0 0	„ „	„
„ 8865	207	„	Durham	Dungog	6 0 20	„ „	„
„ 7878	23	„	Rous	Ballina	10 3 8	„ „	„
„ 16308	220	„	Argyle	Collector	7 2 6	„ „	„
„ 25105	2	„	Ewenmar	Meryon	300 0 0	10 „ „	1013
„ 22097	10	„	Narromine	Triangi	136 0 0	13 „ „	1071
„ 22097	11	„	do	do	324 0 0	„ „	„
„ 19470	31	„	Clarence	Ulmorra	32 3 0	„ „	„
„ 20475	8	112	Townsend	North Deniliquin, &c.	20,650 0 0	„ „	1072
„ 21028	263	101	Camden	Meryla	170 0 0	„ „	1073
„ 22097	6	„	Narromine	Triangi	12 0 17	„ „	„
„ 19881	19	„	Dampier	Moruya	26 2 0	„ „	„
Aln. „ 2733	60	„	Cowper	Bye	1 0 0	„ „	„
Ms. „ 19251	8	„	Hardinge	Tienga	270 0 0	„ „	1074
Occ. „ 799	31	„	Auckland	Pambula	0 1 0	„ „	„
„ 1692	7	„	Clive	Tenterfield	5 2 28	„ „	„
„ 2116	2	„	Denison	Turrarnia	50 0 0	„ „	„
Ms. „ 24665	4	„	Murchison	Delungra	10 0 0	„ „	„
„ 23138	223	„	King	Dalton	0 2 9	„ „	„

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					About		
					a. r. p.		
Ms. 85-22097	7	101	Narromine	Trianga	5 1 8	13 Feb., 1886	1074
" "	8	"	do	do	5 1 8	" "	"
" "	9	"	do	do	5 1 22	" "	"
86- 984	13	"	Bland	Bundawarra	4 2 0	" "	1075
85-23536	6	"	Courallie	Gordon	5 1 8	" "	"
" 20975	262	"	Camden	Belanglo	19 3 0	" "	"
" 21187	205	"	Durham	Russell	388 0 0	" "	"
" 24122	5	"	Kennedy	Graddie & Willanbalang	460 0 0	" "	"
" "	6	"	do	Graddie	200 0 0	" "	"
" 20767	12	"	Auckland	Maringo	108 0 0	" "	"
" 5478	7	"	Ashburnham	Collett	10 3 8	" "	1076
" 15695	14	"	Hume	Burrumbuttock	40 1 22	" "	"
" 22097	4	"	Narromine	Triangi	26 3 0	" "	"
" 24436	108	"	Georgiana	Jeremy	5 1 39 ³	" "	"
" 17398	165	"	Wellington	Cunningham	20 0 0	" "	"
" 19040	103	"	Westmorland	Thornshope	20 0 0	" "	"
" 20898	170	"	St. Vincent	Budawang	820 0 0	" "	"
" 23604	6	"	Goulburn	Woomargama	2 2 23	" "	1077
" 21787	60	"	Rous	Lismore	9 2 17	" "	"
" 22390	260	"	Brisbane	Killoe	39 0 0	" "	"
" "	261	"	do	Killoe	34 0 0	" "	"
" 21558	5	103	Courallie	Moore	520 0 0	17	1167
86- 2622	20	101	Monteagle	Bumbaldry	106 0 0	" "	1168
" "	21	"	do	Yambara	80 0 0	" "	"
Aln. 85- 2722	210	"	Argyle	Mulwarce	4 3 4	20	1262
" 1726	195	"	do	Upper Tarlo	22 2 26	" "	1263
" "	198	"	do	do	7 0 4	" "	"
" "	199	"	do	do	12 0 0	" "	"
" 2722	203	"	do	Mulwarce	57 1 0	" "	"
" "	204	"	do	do	68 3 0	" "	"
" "	215	"	do	do	83 0 0	" "	"
" "	217	"	do	do	24 3 15	" "	"
" "	214	"	do	do	2 0 19	" "	"
Ms. 86- 1535	20	"	Pottinger	Baan Baa	7 3 37	" "	"
Aln. 85- 2722	207	"	Argyle	Mulwarce	21 0 0	" "	1264
Ms. 86- 1542	4	"	White	Yaminba	2 0 0	" "	"
Aln. 85- 2722	208	"	Argyle	Mulwarce	3 0 0	" "	"
" "	211	"	do	do	5 1 9	" "	"
" "	213	"	do	do	5 1 9	" "	"
Ms. 86- 1537	7	"	Buckland	Warrah	8 0 0	" "	"
85-20328	34	"	Dampier	Noorooma, &c.	600 0 0	" "	"
Aln. " 1726	192	"	Argyle	Upper Tarlo	5 0 0	" "	1265
" "	193	"	do	do	4 1 13	" "	"
" "	196	"	do	do	2 1 2	" "	"
" 2722	209	"	do	Mulwarce	5 1 9	" "	"
" "	212	"	do	do	2 0 19	" "	"
" "	216	"	do	do	3 2 30	" "	"
" "	218	"	do	do	452 0 0	" "	"
" "	219	"	do	do	226 3 0	" "	"
" "	205	"	do	do	45 2 0	" "	1266
" "	206	"	do	do	208 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 16519	175	"	St. Vincent	Currowan	64 0 0	" "	"
Aln. " 1726	191	"	Argyle	Upper Tarlo	48 2 0	" "	"
" "	200	"	do	do	9 3 16	" "	"
" 1674	173	"	St. Vincent	Nowra	32 2 20	" "	"
" 1726	194	"	Argyle	Upper Tarlo	6 1 0	" "	1267
" "	197	"	do	do	2 1 35	" "	"
Ms. " 24695	39	109	Auckland	Meringo	14 2 0	" "	"
" "	40	"	do	do	28 0 0	" "	"
86- 1539	19	101	Pottinger	Breeze	40 0 0	" "	"
Aln. 85- 1726	201	"	Argyle	Upper Tarlo	14 2 0	" "	"
Ms. 86- 1534	3	"	Culgoa	Barrington	2 0 0	" "	"
85-22991	3	"	Ewenmar	Coradgerie	60 0 0	" "	1268
" 23430	266	"	Camden	Berrima	43 0 0	" "	"
86- 1534	4	"	Culgoa	Barrington	10 0 0	" "	"
85-16605	109	"	Georgiana	Jeremy	1 0 0	" "	"
" 23822	5 ext.	"	Townsend	Dahwilly	162 0 0	27	1465
" "	10	"	do	Wangonilla	200 0 0	" "	"
" 12891	8	"	Wallace	Wallgrove	8 0 0	" "	"
" 25543	11	"	Townsend	Narrama	160 1 0	" "	1469
" "	12	"	do	do	186 3 0	" "	"
" "	13	"	do	do	176 3 0	" "	"
" "	14	"	do	do	171 3 0	" "	"
86- 1394	18	"	Monteagle	Congera	20 0 0	" "	"
85-23461	3	109	Selwyn	Tumbarumba	150 0 0	" "	"
83-13084	1856 ext.	101	Caira	Pungmallee	324 0 0	" "	1470
" "	2005 ext.	"	do	do	410 0 0	" "	"
85-24034	28	"	Clarence	Tyndale	230 0 0	" "	"
86- 1667	219	"	Murray	Queanbeyan	6 1 35	" "	"
85-21516	37	"	Auckland	Wolumla	1 0 0	6 March, "	1605
" 21687	13	"	Gough	Deepwater	8 2 4	" "	"
" "	15	"	do	do	2 0 16	" "	"
" 20559	7	"	Sandon	Falconer	0 2 0	" "	"
Occ. " 3063	4	"	Young	Wilcannia	4 2 0	" "	"
Ms. " 21716	10	112	Beresford	Woolmulla & Binjura	2,050 0 0	" "	1606
" 25216	1961 ext.	"	Selwyn	King, Beaumont, &c.	13,000 0 0	" "	"
86- 2033	34	101	Clarence	Lanitza	8 0 0	" "	"
" 1807	9	"	Cooper	Narrandera	3 0 29	" "	"
85-21696	265	"	Macquarie	Yarratt	4 0 0	" "	"

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					About.		
					a. r. p.		
Ms. 85-22174	16	112	Pottinger	Benclaboi, &c.	8,600 0 0	6 March, 1886	1607
" 22173	17	"	do	Gill, Millie, &c.	12,000 0 0	" "	"
" 24066	214	101	Northumberland.....	Milbrodale	1,145 0 0	" "	"
Occ. " 3062	13	"	Clive	Ballandean	2 0 0	" "	"
Ms. 86- 1671	20	109	Wynyard.....	Hillas.....	189 0 0	" "	"
C.S. 85- 5432Cor.	22	101	Richmond	Tabbimoble and Esk....	1,280 0 0	" "	"
Ms. 86- 1802	23	112	Bourke	Kindra	1,500 0 0	" "	1608
" "	24	"	do	Cottee and Coolamon....	7,000 0 0	" "	"
85-22904	17	101	Wynyard.....	Euadera and Calafat....	1,165 0 0	" "	"
86- 1896	1	"	Poole.....	do	1,492 0 0	" "	"
" "	1	"	Tongowoko	do	448 0 0	" "	"
85-21516	38	"	Auckland.....	Wolumla	7 0 0	" "	"
" 2295	11	"	Yancowinna.....	Bray	0 2 0	" "	1609
86- 2188	136	"	Cumberland.....	Nelson	3 0 15	10 "	1687
" 3110	176	"	St. Vincent	Bherwerre.....	140 0 0	" "	"
85-22292	268	"	Camden	Illaroo	22 0 0	" "	"
86- 1593	269	"	do	Berrima.....	6 1 0	" "	"

[3d.]

Sydney : Thomas Richards, Government Printer.—1886.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

RESERVED FROM SALE UNTIL SURVEYED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, secs. 101, 103, 109, and 112.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed for the preservation of Water Supply or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 103rd, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					About		
					n. r. p.		
Ms. 86- 1393	9	103	Clive	Jondol	0 3 0	20 Mar., 1886	1946
" 1540	11	"	do	Tenterfield	1 1 9	" "	1947
" 1540	10	"	do	do	1 3 36	" "	"
85-22097	5	"	Narromine	Triangi	184 0 0	" "	"
" 24438	251	"	Bathurst	Cowra	2 0 0	" "	1948
86- 3810	26	101	Dampier	Noorooma	5 1 0	" "	1950
" "	31	"	do	do	1 2 33	" "	"
" "	28	"	do	do	56 0 0	" "	1951
" "	29	"	do	do	10 0 0	" "	"
" "	23	"	do	Wagonga	167 0 0	" "	"
" "	24	"	do	Noorooma	20 0 21	" "	"
" "	25	"	do	do	20 0 0	" "	"
" "	27	"	do	Wagonga	24 2 31	" "	"
" "	22	"	do	Noorooma	200 0 0	" "	1952
" "	30	"	do	do	3 1 10	" "	"
" "	32	"	do	do	3 1 7	" "	"
" "	33	"	do	do	17 0 0	" "	"
85- 178	58	112	Hunter	Grono, Colo, and Hawkesbury	6,120 0 0	" "	"
86- 1006	131	101	Cumberland	Gordon	38 0 0	" "	"
85-24520	25	"	Bourke & Clarendon.	Kinilbah and Maror	2,104 0 0	23 "	1971
86- 4232	1,914 ext.	"	Baradine	Ulambe	640 0 0	24 "	2031
" 2903	266	"	Macquarie	Lansdowne	0 1 20	27 "	2101
" "	268	"	do	do	0 2 5	" "	"
" "	269	"	do	do	0 1 42	" "	"
" 2702	11	"	Baradine	Cox	8 0 0	" "	2102
" 1670	254	"	Bathurst	Cowra	10 0 0	" "	"
85- 4698 C.S.	36	109	Auckland	Meringo	23 0 0	" "	"
Ms. 86- 2903	14	101	Clive	Timbarra	10 0 0	" "	"
85-25335	5	"	Macquarie	Lansdowne	1 0 24½	" "	"
86- 1670	255	"	Clarendon	Jewnee	65 0 1	" "	2103
85-25333	7	"	Bathurst	Cowra	40 1 0	" "	"
" 25158	9	"	Forbes	Cumbijowa	450 0 0	" "	"
" 21127	4	"	Beresford	Colinton	40 0 0	" "	"
" 25239	45 ext.	"	Gregory	Marebone	300 0 0	" "	"
86- 497	208	"	Wellesley	Tombong	30 0 0	" "	"
" 1133	236	"	Durham	Dyrring	2 0 0	" "	2104
" 2903	267	"	Gloucester	Wang Wauk	50 0 0	" "	"
85-15708	267	"	Macquarie	Lansdowne	0 1 2	" "	"
86- 2903	271	"	Camden	Belandlo	20 0 0	" "	"
85-22175	3	112	Macquarie	Lansdowne	0 3 8½	" "	"
86- 5271	10	101	Darling	Dinawirindi	3,200 0 0	" "	"
" 5572	18	"	Forbes	Morongla	12 0 0	31 "	2363
" "	19	"	Townsend	Narrarna	100 0 0	" "	"
" "	20	"	do	do	995 2 0	" "	"
" 84-23417	32	"	do	do	1,350 3 0	" "	"
85-24577	10	"	Clarence	Calamia	112 0 0	3 April, 1886	2488
" 23343	15	"	Gough	Waterloo	550 0 0	" "	"
86- 2623	7	"	Narromine	Obley and Momo	2,500 0 0	" "	"
" "	9	"	Gordon	Burrawong	6 0 31	" "	2489
" "	10	"	do	do	2 0 8	" "	"
" "	11	"	do	do	0 2 11	" "	"
" "	12	"	do	do	4 1 23	" "	"
" "	8	"	do	do	11 0 0	" "	"
" "	6	"	do	do	13 1 20	" "	"
" "		"	do	do	17 1 0	" "	"

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
Ms. 86- 77	6	101	Dudley	Hickey	About 17 square miles	3 April, 1886	2490
" 3287	12	"	Clive	Gibraltar	a. r. p. 1,280 0 0	" "	"
85-10736	30	"	Ashburnham	Mogong	20 0 0	" "	"
86- 2703	16	"	Harden	Coppabella	8 0 27	" "	"
85-21326	17	"	do	Mooney Mooney	8 0 0	" "	"
86- 4124	10	"	Cooper	Narrandera	4,910 0 0	" "	"
" 2857	8	"	Buckland	Telford	25 0 0	" "	2491
85-23629	4	"	Darling	Belmore	150 0 0	" "	"
" 71	43	"	Fitzroy	Bardsley and Kremnos.	256 0 0	" "	"
86- 3726	225	"	King	Gunning	15 1 21	" "	"
84-16658	65	"	Rous	Brunswick	70 3 0	" "	"
86- 2417	15	"	Gough	Marowan	150 0 0	" "	"
85-23628	21	"	Pottinger	Clift	610 0 0	" "	"
" 22194	30	"	Auckland	Colombo	1,280 0 0	" "	"
" 25220	6	"	Blaxland	Mount Hope	100 0 0	" "	"
84-12204	33	"	Clarence	Stuart	1,425 0 0	" "	2492
" 12721	44	"	Fitzroy	Woogoolga	702 0 0	" "	"
86- 3073	8	"	Blaxland	Gunnagi, &c.	1,557 0 0	" "	"
85-25220	7	"	do	Mount Hope	35 0 0	" "	"
86- 2037	66	"	Rous	Cudgen	30 0 0	" "	"
" 3620	7	"	Mossiel	Ivanhoe	2 0 19	" "	"
85-20684	6	"	Sandon	Metz	8 0 0	" "	2493
" 20980	108	"	Westmoreland	Konangaroo, &c.	20 0 0	" "	"
" 24639	46 A	112	Gloucester	Beryan, &c.	33,400 0 0	" "	"
86- 2398	6	101	Gipps	Nerang, &c.	1,560 0 0	" "	"
" 1803	15	112	Townsend	Edgar	192 0 0	" "	"
85-22718	16	"	do	Palmer	84 1 0	" "	"
Aln. 86- 504	219	101	Cook	Strathdon	0 3 17	" "	2494
" 504	222	"	do	do	17 0 0	" "	"
Ms. 85-24811	35	"	Auckland	Kameruka	25 0 0	" "	"
Aln. 86- 504	220	"	Cook	Strathdon	52 0 0	" "	"
" 504	221	"	do	do	7 3 0	" "	"
Ms. 3726	224	"	King	Gunning	20 2 20	" "	"
" 4828	139	"	Cumberland	Manly Cove	19 0 0	" "	2495
" 4955	270	"	Camden	Berrima, &c.	5,100 0 0	" "	"
" 4828	142	"	Cumberland	Manly Cove	2 0 9	" "	"
" "	143	"	do	do	3 0 0	" "	"
83-10104	868 ext.	"	Wellesley	Wangelhe	63 3 0	" "	2496
86- 4828	140	"	Cumberland	Manly Cove	1 0 5	" "	"
" "	141	"	do	do	2 1 25	" "	"
" "	144	"	do	do	3 0 0	" "	"
" "	146	"	do	do	0 3 23	" "	"
" 4961	143 ext.	112	Northumberland	Wyong	30 0 0	" "	"
" 4955	271	101	Camden	Berrima	8 1 30	" "	"
" 3903	42	"	Auckland	Brogo	2 0 18	" "	2497
" 4828	145	"	Cumberland	Manly Cove	16 0 0	" "	"
" "	137	"	do	do	17 0 0	" "	"
" "	147	"	do	do	2 0 11	" "	"
" "	138	"	do	do	3 2 4	" "	"
" 6023	22	"	Pottinger & Nandewar	Digby, &c.	95 square miles	7	2573
" 6089	51	"	Fitzroy	Moonee	a. r. p. 150 0 0	" "	"
" 6420	227	"	Argyle	Collector	115 0 0	" "	2574
" "	228	"	do	do	240 0 0	" "	"
" 1732	253	103	Bathurst	Cowra	0 1 17	10	2646
" 982	175	"	Bligh	Puggoon	40 0 0	" "	"
" "	174	"	do	do	40 0 0	" "	2649
85-18596	8	101	Beresford	Good Good	8 0 0	" "	2653
Aln. 86- 450	218	"	Gloucester	Bullah Delah	1 2 0	" "	"
" "	222	"	do	do	28 1 30	" "	"
" "	223	"	do	do	6 3 0	" "	"
" "	240	"	do	do	260 0 0	" "	"
" "	220	"	do	do	2 2 15	" "	2654
" "	221	"	do	do	10 1 20	" "	"
" "	226	"	do	do	2 0 19	" "	"
" "	227	"	do	do	2 2 6	" "	"
" "	228	"	do	do	1 0 0	" "	"
" "	229	"	do	do	60 2 0	" "	"
" "	225	"	do	do	1 3 32	" "	"
" "	219	"	do	do	4 0 0	" "	"
Ms. 3270	9	"	Blaxland	Mount Hope	2 0 0	" "	2655
Aln. 450	216	"	Gloucester	Bullah Delah	5 1 8	" "	"
" "	224	"	do	do	1 2 26	" "	"

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(RESERVED FROM SALE UNTIL SURVEYED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY, &c., UNDER 48 VIC. NO. 18)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, secs. 101, 103, 109, and 112.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed, for the preservation of Water Supply, or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 103rd, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

No. of Papers.	No of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					About.		
					a. r. p.		
Ms. 86- 3804	16	101	Narromine	Gundong	320 0 0	17 April, 1886	2854
" 5336	18	109	Clive	Glen Lyon	45 0 0	" "	"
" "	19	"	"	"	280 0 0	" "	"
" "	20	"	"	Clifton	350 0 0	" "	"
" "	21	"	"	"	150 0 0	" "	"
" "	22	"	"	"	230 0 0	" "	"
" "	23	"	"	"	100 0 0	" "	"
" 6602	17	101	Gough	Boyd	6 2 6	" "	2855
S5-20911	20	"	Oxley	Carval	10 0 0	" "	"
84-15134	71	"	Rous	Byron	8 0 0	" "	"
86- 4941	6	"	Urana	Bingagong	18 0 0	" "	"
85-19558	9	"	Wallace	Wilson	8 0 0	" "	"
86- 6606	241	"	Gloucester	Tuncurry	1 0 0	" "	"
Occ. " 370	12	"	Cooper	Narrandera	5 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 6597	17	"	Clive	Tenterfield	0 3 20	" "	"
" 4124	10	"	Cooper	Narrandera	4,910 0 0	" "	2856
85-12486	18	"	Harden	Bookham	7 0 20	" "	"
86- 1642	31	"	Ashburnham	Wanera	40 0 0	" "	"
" 4	"	"	Burnett	Gunnee	100 3 0	" "	"
86- 4296	46a	"	Wellington	Cooper	100 0 0	" "	"
Occ. " 370	11	"	Cooper	Narrandera	41 0 0	" "	"
C.S. 85- 5920Sur.	18	"	Gough	Eden	40 0 0	" "	2857
Ms. 85-21512	2	"	Menindie	Perry	3,550 0 0	" "	"
" 23309	4	"	Clyde	Carinda	2 0 0	" "	"
86- 1901	6	"	Mitchell	Tootool	860 0 0	" "	"
" 3280	67	"	Rous	Whian Whian	230 0 0	" "	"
" 4776	35	"	Dampier	Bodalla	16 2 0	" "	"
" 4295	14	"	Bland	Walladilly	8 0 0	" "	2858
Ms. " 58	28	"	Harden	Mooney Mooney	225 0 0	21	2927
Ms. " 6030	22	103	Monteagle	Illunie	1 3 0	22	2961
" 1516	130	"	Cumberland	Field of Mars	2 0 16	" "	2964
" 4100	5	109	Arrawatta	Byron	350 0 0	1 May	3110
85-25198	4	"	Buccleuch	Brungle	273 0 0	" "	"
86- 1787	10	"	Wallace	Nungar and Cabramurra	657 0 0	" "	"
" 1786	11	"	"	Beloka	12 0 0	" "	"
" 7459	4	101	Arrawatta	Swamp Oak	8 0 0	" "	"
" 7464	9	"	Hardinge	Darby	8 0 0	" "	"
85-22841	992 ext.	"	Wallace	Jimcnbuen	12 0 0	" "	"
" 17883	286	"	Brisbane	Tyrone	14 0 38	" "	"
" 23395	68	"	Rous	Brunswick	28 0 0	" "	3111
" 21409	69	"	"	Murwillumbah	9 0 35	" "	"
" 17883	287	"	Brisbane	Tyrone	0 3 27	" "	"
" "	293	"	"	"	0 1 39	" "	"
" "	294	"	"	"	12 0 28	" "	"
" "	295	"	"	"	14 2 39	" "	"
86- 6607	220	"	Murray	Kcewong	0 2 0	" "	"
" 7492	177	"	St. Vincent	Benandra	175 0 0	" "	"
85-20563	22	"	Wynyard	Umbango	5 3 0	" "	3112
" 17883	288	"	Brisbane	Tyrone	1 2 39	" "	"
" "	289	"	"	"	1 3 33	" "	"
" "	290	"	"	"	1 3 33	" "	"
" "	291	"	"	"	1 3 33	" "	"
86- 6152	7	"	Benarba	Meroc	1 0 0	" "	"
85-17883	292	"	Brisbane	Tyrone	4 1 30	" "	"
" 21329	21	"	Wynyard	South Wagga Wagga	0 0 38½	" "	"

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio
					About. a. r. p.		
Ms. 85-15013	61	101	Cowper	Bourke	2 0 0	1 May, 1886	3113
86- 2629	36	"	Dampier	Bodalla	31 3 20	" "	"
85-24821	6	112	Benarba	Bundoori, Newcastle, Kunopia, Tyrrell, and Boronga.	19,300 0 0	" "	"
86- 803	7	"	Kennedy	Carolina	1,200 0 0	" "	"
85-24821	4	"	Stapylton	Palarang and Willimill.	3,000 0 0	" "	"
" 22587	297	101	Brisbane	Wentworth	10 0 0	" "	"
86- 1557	7	"	Raleigh	South Bellenger	1 1 0	" "	"
85-23977	4	"	Wellesley	Bombala	5 0 0	" "	"
" 20104	43	"	Auckland	Candelo	14 1 26	" "	3114
" 17883	296	"	Brisbane	Tyrone	10 2 38	" "	"
86- 7023	5	"	Urana	Wood	1 0 32	" "	"
" 7602	44	"	Auckland	Candelo	1 1 18	S "	3325
" 7487	201 ext.	112	Durham	Boonabilla	42 0 0	" "	"

[3d.]

Sydney: Thomas Richards, Government Printer.—1886

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(RESERVED FROM SALE UNTIL SURVEYED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY, &c., UNDER 48 VIC. NO. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, secs. 101, 103, 109, and 112.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed, for the preservation of Water Supply, or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 103rd, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

No. of Papers	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					About.		
					a. r. p.		
Ms. 86- 6495	5	101	Irrara	Berawinia	30 0 33	15 May, 1886.	3464
" 6068	298	"	Brisbane	Alma	5 0 0	" "	"
" 5974	248	"	Macquarie	Harrington	40 0 0	" "	3465
" 6592	13	"	Irrara	Mueruss	323 0 0	" "	"
" 5246	12	"	Finch	Milrea, Eales, &c.	4,600 0 0	" "	"
Aln. " 682	214	"	Murray	Queanbeyan	0 0 23	" "	"
" "	215	"	do	do	1 0 17	" "	"
Ms. " 4805	70	"	Rous	Ballina	3 0 27	" "	"
" 8341	3	"	Buller	Borrook	353 3 0	" "	"
Aln. " 682	218	"	Murray	Queanbeyan	13 2 37	" "	3466
" "	216	"	do	do	2 3 19	" "	"
" "	217	"	do	do	8 2 28	" "	"
Ms. " 2403	23	"	Richmond	Cowperpa	120 0 0	" "	"
85-21699	8	"	Canbelego	Neiley &c.	1,500 0 0	19	3521
86- 9146	12	"	Yancowinna	Victoria	960 0 0	" "	"
" 8896	4	"	Stapylton	Willimill &c.	3,840 0 0	" "	3522
" 4063	225	112	Argyle	Cookbundoon &c.	7,000 0 0	22	3648
" 6714	4	"	Buller	Boomi &c.	6,700 0 0	" "	"
" 3975	16	"	Finch	Bukulla	1,200 0 0	" "	3649
" 299	6	"	Selwyn	Glenken	2,700 0 0	" "	"
85-18553	168	"	Wellington	Cooper &c.	640 0 0	" "	"
86- 8744	11	101	Buckland	Carroll	11 0 0	" "	"
" 5984	109	"	Westmoreland	Oberon	7 2 24	" "	"
" 8726	14	"	Gordon	Buckinbah	4 0 0	" "	"
" "	15	"	do	do	4 0 33	" "	"
" 4236	118	"	Georgiana	Mulgunnia	1 0 0	" "	"
" 8726	13	"	Gordon	Buckinbah	5 0 0	" "	"
" 6150	226	"	Argyle	Boro	8 0 0	" "	3650
" 1726	16	"	Baradine	Talluba	5 0 0	" "	"
" 6151	6	"	Darling	Tiabundie	8 0 0	" "	"
" "	1	"	Kilfera	Chnowa	8 0 0	" "	"
" 8745	19	"	Monteagle	Bumbaldry	10 0 0	" "	"
" 7007	179	"	St. Vincent	Meangora	10 0 0	" "	"
85-24810	41	"	Auckland	Meringo	10 0 13	" "	"
86- 8726	19	"	Gordon	Loombah	90 0 0	" "	"
" 8758	15	"	Sandon	Saltash	41 3 0	" "	"
" 7095	17	"	Wallace	Coonhoonulla	8 2 0	" "	"
" 8746	17	"	Lincoln	Bruah	255 0 0	" "	3651
" 8759	7	"	Clarindon	Boree	300 0 0	" "	"
" 8726	16	"	Gordon	Buckinbah	10 2 19	" "	"
" "	17	"	do	do	64 1 0	" "	"
" 3108	7	"	Monteagle	Young	30 0 0	" "	"
" 6362	209	"	Durham	Herschell	90 0 0	" "	"
" 8726	18	"	Gordon	Buckinbah	16 0 0	" "	"
" 5453	1322 ext.	"	Bland	Back Creek	197 1 12	" "	3652
" 8726	21	"	Gordon	Loombah	360 0 0	" "	"
85-12280	7	109	Canbelego	Lynch	143 0 0	" "	"
" 18834	166	101	Wellington	Tannabutta	11 1 30	" "	"
86- 8726	20	"	Gordon	Loombah	6 0 0	" "	"
" 3881	9	109	Sandon	Yarrowick	23 0 0	" "	"
" 7002	149	101	Cumberland	Broken Bay	3 1 20	" "	3653
" 2965	180	"	St. Vincent	Bherwerre	10 0 0	" "	"
" 5009	99 ext.	112	do	Tomago	80 0 0	" "	"
" 1941	223	101	Cook	Megalong &c.	13,900 0 0	" "	"
" 8949	19	"	Gough	Clifton	43 2 0	26	3709
" 6595	16	103	Clive	Tenterfield	1 3 0	29	3755
" 8511	7	101	Darling	Fleming	640 0 0	29	3758
" 8460	39	"	Dampier	Guinea	55 0 0	" "	"
" 10287	12	"	Buckland	Borambli	960 0 0	2 June	3797
" 10452	26	"	Raleigh	Nambucca	52 0 0	" "	"

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(RESERVED FROM SALE UNTIL SURVEYED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES,
UNDER 48 VIC. NO. 18).

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, secs. 101, 103, 109, and 112.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed for the preservation of Water Supply,
or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 103rd, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act
48 Victoria No. 18.

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					s. r. p.		
Ms. 86- 2935	8	109	Benarba	Booroo, Winslow, &c...	950 0 0	5 June, 1886	3922
85-25142	10	"	do	Kunopia & Newcastle...	1,060 0 0	" "	"
86- 6140	169	"	Wellington	Ironbarks	340 0 0	" "	"
" "	170	"	do	do	1,320 0 0	" "	"
" 130	701 ext.	"	Yancowinna	Bolaira	166 0 0	" "	"
85- 9270	23	101	Irrara	Effluence	30 0 36	" "	"
86- 4786	72	"	Rous	Terranora	2 3 17	" "	"
Occ. " 745	242	"	Gloucester	Tuncurry	4 3 0	" "	3923
" 1082	243	"	do	do	2 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 5875	210	"	Durham	Darlington	8 0 0	" "	"
" 7335	9	"	Irrara	Mucruss	2 0 19	" "	"
" "	10	"	do	do	3 0 29	" "	"
" 8432	5	"	White	Borah	1 0 27½	" "	"
" 6049	34	"	Ashburnham	Bowan	40 0 0	" "	"
" 4930	256	"	Bathurst	Milburn	300 0 0	" "	"
" 6320	18	"	Lincoln	Bald Hill &c.	720 0 0	" "	"
" 7335	6	"	Irrara	Mucruss	2 0 0	" "	3924
" "	7	"	do	do	2 0 0	" "	"
" 10171	36	"	Clarence	Southampton	30 0 0	" "	"
" 2018	74	"	Rous	Boorabee	825 0 0	" "	"
" 7335	12	"	Irrara	Mucruss	12 0 16	" "	"
" "	11	"	do	do	12 0 16	" "	"
" 1335	1	"	Inglis	Congi & Scott	200 0 0	" "	3925
85-23592	32	"	Ashburnham	Kamandra	420 0 0	" "	"
86- 7096	37	"	Dampier	Wyanbene	18 0 0	" "	"
85-23591	11	"	Forbes	Goonigal & Binda	240 0 0	" "	"
" 22273	8	"	Kennedy	Coradgery &c.	300 0 0	" "	"
" 22272	9	"	do	Weridgery	640 0 0	" "	"
" "	10	"	do	Weridgery & Limestone	340 0 0	" "	"
" 1524	1101 ext.	112	Clarence	Ashby, Richmond, &c...	14,468 0 0	" "	"
" 1370	3216 ext.	"	Denison	Mulwala	100 0 0	" "	"
" 7335	8	101	Irrara	Mucruss	5 1 8	" "	3926
" 5272	221	"	Murray	Gundaroo	4 2 8	" "	"
" 2935	9	109	Benarba	Dindierna	500 0 0	" "	"
85-22274	33	101	Ashburnham	Currajong	202 0 0	" "	"
Aln. 86- 19	38	"	Dampier	Murrabrine	28 0 0	" "	"
Ms. 86- 9827	112 ext.	"	Durham	Uffington	66 0 0	12	4049
" 10244	11	"	Cunningham	Bimbella &c.	460 0 0	" "	"
" "	12	"	do	Bimbella	350 0 0	" "	"
" 3825	151	"	Cumberland	Field of Mars	0 1 10	" "	"
" 9136	19	"	Lincoln	Barbigal &c.	300 0 0	19	4181
" 10931	9	"	Barrona	Goombalie	5 1 8	" "	4182
" "	10	"	do	do	5 1 8	" "	"
" "	12	"	do	do	5 1 8	" "	"
" 10935	15	"	Irrara	Berawinnia	5 1 8	" "	"
" "	19	"	do	do	5 1 8	" "	"
" 10928	9	"	Raleigh	Nambucca	31 0 0	" "	"
" "	16	"	do	do	7 0 0	" "	"
" "	18	"	do	do	1 2 33	" "	"
" "	19	"	do	do	1 0 0	" "	"
" "	20	"	do	do	1 2 39	" "	"
" 5918	240	"	Argyle	Yarralaw	3 2 0	" "	4183

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
Ms. 86-10931	6	101	Barrona	Goombalie	a. r. p. 54 0 0	19 June, 1886	4183
" "	7	"	do	do	77 0 0	" "	"
" "	8	"	do	do	18 0 0	" "	"
" 2750	5	"	Burnett	Goorabil	750 0 0	" "	"
" 10935	14	"	Irrara	Berawinnia	53 0 0	" "	"
" 10928	10	"	Raleigh	Nambucca	40 0 0	" "	"
" 10928	12	"	do	do	10 1 30	" "	"
" "	14	"	do	do	4 1 24	" "	"
" 10935	21	"	Irrara	Berawinnia	0 2 0	" "	4184
" 10931	2	"	Barrona	Goombalie	5 1 8	" "	"
" "	3	"	do	do	5 1 8	" "	"
" 1561	52	"	Fitzroy	Bardsley	8 0 0	" "	"
" 10935	16	"	Irrara	Berawinnia	2 0 19	" "	"
" "	17	"	do	do	3 0 29	" "	"
" 3286	375 ext.	109	Gough	Fletcher	93 0 0	" "	"
" 1785	18	"	Wallace	Jinderboine &c.	640 0 0	" "	"
" 7331	1	101	Barrona	Goombalie	33 0 30	" "	4185
" 10931	11	"	do	do	5 1 8	" "	"
" 10935	22	"	Irrara	Berawinnia	53 0 0	" "	"
" 10928	11	"	Raleigh	Nambucca	7 0 0	" "	"
" "	13	"	do	do	33 0 0	" "	"
" "	17	"	do	do	16 0 0	" "	"
" 10931	4	"	Barrona	Goombalie	15 0 0	" "	"
" 10935	20	"	Irrara	Berawinnia	0 2 0	" "	4186
" 10928	15	"	Raleigh	Nambucca	3 0 0	" "	"
" 10930	4	"	Mouramba	Priory Plains &c.	410 0 0	" "	"
" "	5	"	do	Evans & Knox	17 2 0	" "	"
" 85-20551	4	109	Selwyn	Tooma & Greg Greg	107 2 0	" "	"
" 86-10935	18	101	Irrara	Berawinnia	9 0 0	" "	"
" 8453	76	"	Rous	Ballina	10 0 0	" "	"
" 10931	5	"	Barrona	Goombalie	5 2 23	" "	4187
" 2393	75	"	Rous	North Casino	2 0 0	" "	"
" 7563	150	"	Cumberland	Holsworthy	1 3 30	" "	"
" 1941	223	"	Cook	Megalong, Mouin, &c.	13,900 0 0	" "	"
" 9766	142a	"	Cumberland	Manly Cove	2 0 0	22	4208
" 5631	219	103	Northumberland	Mandolong	0 3 38	26	4301
" "	218	"	do	Gosford	1 3 19	" "	4307
" 8348	7	"	Courallie	Moree	24 0 0	" "	4309
" 8352	3	101	Nicholson	Honuna	21 2 0	" "	4312
" 786	169	"	Phillip	Cumbo	7 3 0	" "	"
" 6758	132	"	Cumberland	Sutherland	259 0 0	" "	4313
" "	133	"	do	do	412 0 0	" "	"
" "	134	"	do	do	152 1 15	" "	"
" "	135	"	do	do	6 0 26	" "	"
" 8352	13	"	Nicholson	Honuna	10 0 0	" "	"
" "	14	"	do	do	10 0 0	" "	"
" "	23	"	do	do	10 0 0	" "	"
" "	4	"	do	do	152 0 0	" "	"
" "	18	"	do	do	183 0 0	" "	4314
" 85-24807	4	109	Manara	Goondoola, Clare, &c.	8,640 0 0	" "	"
" 86- 9443	17	"	Narromine	Wentworth	870 0 0	" "	"
" "	18	"	do	Frost & Myall Camp	5,100 0 0	" "	"
" "	19	"	do	Enervreena	2,000 0 0	" "	"
" "	20	"	do	Gradell & Myall Camp	330 0 0	" "	"
" 5591	21	101	do	Burrabadine	740 0 0	" "	4315
" 8331	73	"	Rous	East Gandurimba	1 3 11	" "	"
" 8352	7	"	Nicholson	Honuna	3 1 9	" "	"
" "	8	"	do	do	5 1 9	" "	"
" "	9	"	do	do	5 1 9	" "	"
" "	10	"	do	do	3 1 9	" "	"
" "	11	"	do	do	5 1 9	" "	"
" 4579	5	"	Murchison	Bingara &c.	250 0 0	" "	"
" 85- 6756	270	"	Bathurst	Walli	4 1 15	" "	4316
" 86- 8352	5	"	Nicholson	Honuna	1 2 0	" "	"
" "	6	"	do	do	1 2 0	" "	"
" "	12	"	do	do	231 2 0	" "	"
" "	15	"	do	do	10 0 0	" "	"
" "	16	"	do	do	16 0 0	" "	"
" "	17	"	do	do	34 1 0	" "	"
" "	2	"	do	do	2 0 0	" "	"
" 9464	22	"	Hume	Henty	2 0 0	" "	"
" 8352	19	"	Nicholson	Honuna	44 3 0	" "	4317
" 8350	13	"	Buccleuch	Nanangrove	10 0 0	" "	"
" 8352	22	"	Nicholson	Honuna	1,130 0 0	" "	"
" "	20	"	do	do	139 2 0	" "	"
" "	21	"	do	do	2 0 0	" "	"
" 9467	16	"	Golburn	Jindera	5 0 0	" "	"
" 85-14734	273	"	Camden	Murrumba &c.	900 0 0	" "	"
" 86- 8969	272	"	do	Burrawang	7 1 0	" "	4318

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(RESERVED FROM SALE UNTIL SURVEYED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY, OR
OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES, UNDER 48 VICTORIA NO. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, secs. 101, 109, and 112.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed, for the preservation of Water Supply, or
other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Victoria,
No. 18.

No of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					a. r. p.		
Ms. 86- 8629	22	101	Townsend	Narrama	100 0 0	29 June, 1886	4353
" "	23	"	do	do	995 2 0	" "	"
" "	24	"	do	do	1,360 3 0	" "	"
" 10402	1892	109	Sandon	Butler &c.	570 0 0	3 July, "	4460
" 11529	1864	101	Argyle	Mullengullenga	84 2 0	" "	4461
" "	1865	"	do	do	40 3 0	" "	"
" "	1866	"	do	do	5 1 9	" "	"
" "	1867	"	do	do	5 1 9	" "	"
" 12075	1866	"	Bathurst	Neville	5 1 9	" "	"
" "	1869	"	do	do	18 1 24	" "	"
" 11529	1870	"	Argyle	Mullengullenga	2 0 0	" "	"
" "	1871	"	do	do	3 1 9	" "	"
" 12075	1872	"	Bathurst	Neville	3 1 9	" "	"
" 3262	1873	"	Clarence	Ashby	8 0 0	" "	"
" 5267	1894	"	Ashburnham	Milpose	56 0 0	" "	4462
" 7344	1879	"	Brisbane	Mackenzie	34 0 0	" "	"
" 9951	1880	"	Gowen	Tarambijal	570 0 0	" "	"
" 9922	1881	"	Gregory	Neimby	130 0 0	" "	"
" 5460	1882	"	Phillip	Hawkins	2 0 0	" "	"
" 9331	1883	"	Raleigh	Newry	2 0 0	" "	"
" 12075	1884	"	Bathurst	Neville	19 1 4	" "	"
" 10012	1885	"	Blaxland	Euabalong	2 2 0	" "	"
" 12071	1886	"	Clyde	Carinda	40 0 0	" "	"
Occ. Ms. " 1749	1895	"	Caira	Bahrnald	0 1 0	" "	4463
" " 11529	1874	"	Argyle	Mullengullenga	5 1 9	" "	"
" "	1875	"	do	do	5 1 9	" "	"
" 12075	1876	"	Bathurst	Neville	5 1 8	" "	"
" "	1877	"	do	do	5 1 9	" "	"
" "	1878	"	do	do	5 1 9	" "	"
" 9923	1893	"	Gregory	Bokamore & Neimby	560 0 0	" "	"
" 11529	1896	"	Argyle	Mullengullenga	41 1 0	" "	"
" 12075	1887	"	Bathurst	Neville	4 1 3	" "	4464
" "	1888	"	do	do	17 3 17	" "	"
" "	1889	"	do	do	29 0 0	" "	"
" "	1897	"	do	do	1 0 0	" "	"
" 10809	1908	"	St. Vincent	Wandawandrian	125 0 0	" "	"
" "	1909	"	do	Bherwerre	230 0 0	" "	"
" "	1910	"	do	do	180 0 0	" "	"
" "	1911	"	do	Wandawandrian	11 0 0	" "	"
" 11571	1912	"	Cumberland	Heathcote	490 0 0	" "	"
" 11529	1898	"	Argyle	Mullengullenga	91 2 0	" "	4465
" 12075	1899	"	Bathurst	Neville	4 0 15	" "	"
" 5878	1900	"	Phillip	Gulgong	29 2 0	" "	"
" 11529	1890	"	Argyle	Mullengullenga	105 3 0	" "	"
" 85-22205	1891	"	Ashburnham	Collett	10 2 0	" "	"
" 86- 183	1906	"	Bourke	Methul	18 0 0	" "	"
" 11694	1901	"	Killara	Killara	5 0 0	" "	4466
" 10709	1966	112	Cook	Strathdon &c.	4,600 0 0	10 "	4656
" 85-17221	1967	109	St. Vincent	Cudmirrah	600 0 0	" "	"
" 86-10911	1968	101	Dampier	Murrabrine	2 0 0	" "	"
" 12563	1976	"	Cumberland	Manly Cove	5 3 0	" "	"
" "	1975	"	do	do	5 1 15	" "	"
" "	137	"	do	do	17 0 0	" "	"
" "	1974	"	do	do	11 3 0	" "	4657

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
Ms. 86-12563	139	101	Cumberland	Manly Cove	a r. p. 19 0 0	10 July, 1886	4657
" " 884	147	"	do	do	2 0 11	" "	"
" 10166	1969	"	Gowen	Eringanerin	2 0 0	" "	"
" 13228	1970	"	Wynyard	Tarrabandra	13 2 0	" "	"
" " 1977	1977	"	Richmond	Evans & Esk	640 0 0	14 " "	4709
" " 1978	1978	"	do	Donaldson &c.	360 0 0	" "	"
" " 1979	1979	"	do	Tabbimoble	50 0 0	" "	"
" 11316	2007	"	Cook	Strathdon	90 0 0	17 " "	4767
" " 2008	2008	"	do	do	95 0 0	" "	"
" 3399	2002	"	Hume	Sherwyn	770 0 0	" "	"
85-23638	2003	"	do	Walla Walla	640 0 0	" "	"
86-2596	2004	"	Roxburgh	Hearne	32 0 0	" "	"
85-1536	1980	"	Fitzroy	Tyringham	640 0 0	" "	4768
86-6866	1981	"	Cordon	Terrabella	520 0 0	" "	"
" " 1982	1982	"	do	do	230 0 0	" "	"
" 9886	1983	"	Gregory	Stanhope &c.	2,050 0 0	" "	"
" 10019	1984	"	Leichhardt	Yarragowa	100 0 0	" "	"
" 6294	1985	"	Lincoln	Dunedoo	360 0 0	" "	"
" 6302	1986	"	do	Bullinda	1,300 0 0	" "	"
" 7305	1987	"	Rous	Mummulgum	331 0 0	" "	"
" 10770	1988	"	Townsend	Boorooban	376 0 0	" "	"
C.S. 86-1534 Cor.	1989	"	Wellesley	Grenville	160 0 0	" "	4769
Ms. 86-7116	2009	109	Dudley	Nulla Nulla &c.	68 0 0	" "	"
" 6894	1990	"	Evelyn	do	60 square miles	" "	"
" 6892	1991	"	Poole	do	50 " "	" "	"
" 6893	1992	"	Poole & Evelyn	do	30 " "	" "	"
" 6890	1993	"	Tongowoko	do	9 " "	" "	"
" 6891	1994	"	Yantara &c.	do	85 " "	" "	"
Aln. " 1079	2005	101	Tongowoko	Hermitage	a r. p. 2 0 0	" "	"
" " 2006	2006	"	do	do	0 1 0	" "	"
Ms. 85-5750	1995	"	Bland	Bundawarrak	100 0 0	" "	4770
Occ. 86-1315	1996	"	Clive	Ballandran	5 0 0	" "	"
" 3013	1997	"	Gloucester	Fens	5 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 11387	1998	"	Yanda	Tatiara	10 0 0	" "	"
" 6929	2012	"	Macquarie	Arakoon	6 0 0	" "	"
" 10312	2013	"	Bligh	Munmurra	32 0 0	" "	"
" 10014	2014	"	Sturt	Currahoor	860 0 0	" "	"
85-23588	2015	"	Sandon	Armidale	3 2 20	" "	4771
86-7008	1999	112	Argyle	Bungonia	4,400 0 0	" "	"
85-17495	2000	"	Auckland	Wyndham &c.	6,000 0 0	" "	"
86-6309	2001	"	Lilcoln	Breelong	370 0 0	" "	"
" 7306	2016	101	Clarence	Quyarigo	40 0 0	" "	"
" 2596	2017	"	Roxburgh	Hearne	80 0 0	" "	"
" 8868	2010	109	Benarba	Mongyer	625 0 0	" "	4772
" 10118	2011	101	Ewenmar	Buramilong	20 0 0	" "	"
" 12986	2021	"	Demson	Finley &c.	191 0 0	" "	"
Aln. " 1079	2018	"	Tongowoko	Hermitage	0 1 12½	" "	"
Ms. " 5940	2019	"	Roxburgh	Castleton	4 0 10	" "	"
C.S. 85-22050 Dep	2020	"	St. Vincent	Bateman	5 0 0	" "	"
Ms. 86-10560	2022	"	Ashburnham	Bowan &c.	207 0 0	" "	4773

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(RESERVED FROM SALE UNTIL SURVEYED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY, OR
OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES, UNDER 48 VICTORIA NO. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, secs. 101, 103, 109, and 112.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed, for the preservation of Water Supply, or
other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 103rd, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48
Victoria, No. 18.

No of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
Ms. 86-13466	2045	101	Raleigh	Nambucca	a. r. p.	24 July, 1886	4980
" 13404	2038	"	Beresford	Gladstone	1 3 6	" "	4983
" "	2039	"	do	do	7 2 15	" "	"
" "	2040	"	do	do	2 1 29	" "	"
Aln. " 631	2043	"	do	do	0 2 11	" "	"
Ms. " 13455	2044	109	Gloucester	Bullah Delah	1 2 0	" "	"
" 13472	2046	101	Hume	Hovell	200 0 0	" "	4984
" 13404	2035	"	Young	Culpaulin	40 0 0	" "	"
" "	2036	"	Beresford	Gladstone	8 1 27	" "	"
" "	2037	"	do	do	5 2 19	" "	"
" "	2037	"	do	do	5 0 0	" "	"
" "	2059	"	do	do	3 3 25	" "	"
" "	2060	"	do	do	1 1 18	" "	"
" "	2061	"	do	do	0 1 21	" "	"
" "	2041	"	do	do	2 3 12	" "	4985
" "	2042	"	do	do	2 3 23	" "	"
" 11320	2057	"	Northumberland ..	Cowan	1,400 0 0	" "	"
" 9497	1965	"	Camden	Yarrawa	0 2 0	" "	"
" 11322	2058	112	Dampier	Wagonga	87 0 0	" "	"
" 11647	2053	101	Westmoreland	Norway	33 0 0	" "	"
" "	2054	"	do	do	46 0 0	" "	"
" 13404	2062	"	Beresford	Gladstone	13 2 0	" "	4986
" "	2063	"	do	do	12 2 14	" "	"
" "	2064	"	do	do	5 0 29	" "	"
" "	2065	"	do	do	2 0 9	" "	"
" 8759	2034	"	Clarendon	South Junee	1 2 25	" "	"
" 5015	2069	103	do	North Gundagai	0 0 12	31	5191
Aln. " 1086	2073	101	Gough	Llangothlin	2 2 0	" "	5199
" 1488	2074	"	Westmoreland	Oberon	5 0 0	" "	"
" "	2076	"	do	do	3 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 1560	2075	"	Arrawatta	Arthur's Seat	8 0 0	" "	"
" 11168	2071	"	Lincoln	Dubbo	50 0 0	" "	5200
" 2431	2078	"	Georgeana	Burrage	40 0 0	" "	"
Ms. 84-21122	2072	"	Jamison	Burren &c	260 0 0	" "	"
Aln. 86- 1086	2077	"	Gough	Llangothlin	94 0 0	" "	"
Ms. " 5767	2079	"	Ashburnham	Forbes	1,140 0 0	" "	"
" 11776	2083	"	Murray	Ballalaba	200 0 0	" "	5201
" 9494	2080	"	Arrawatta	Ashford	790 0 0	" "	"
" 9947	2081	"	Gowen	Tooraweanah	90 0 0	" "	"
" 10565	2082	"	Sandon	Falconer	250 0 0	" "	"
" 8792	2070	112	King	Alton	1,200 0 0	" "	"
" 14059	2066	"	Cumberland	South Colah &c	50 square miles.	4 August, "	5208
" 13539	2150	101	Harden	Cooney	a. r. p.	11	5445
" 12372	2122	112	Benarba &c.	Bundora &c	56 0 0	" "	5528
" 16501	2123	"	Clarence	Chapman	22,800 0 0	14	"
" 13215	2124	"	Pottinger	Bometa	13,380 3 8	" "	"
" 10780	2125	"	Townsend &c.	Werai &c	9,600 0 0	" "	"
" 12780	2156	101	Young	Netallie &c	36,500 0 0	" "	"
" 10109	2087	"	Ewenmar	Colli	130 2 0	" "	5529
" 10094	2088	"	do	Tenandra	570 0 0	" "	"
" 10124	2089	"	do	Bundemar	480 0 0	" "	"
" 10096	2090	"	do	Merrigal	520 0 0	" "	"
" "	2091	"	do	do	700 0 0	" "	"
" "		"			560 0 0	" "	"

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
Ms. 86-1010	2092	101	Ewenmar	Eurombedah	a. r. p. 540 0 0	14 Aug., 1886	5529
" 12762	2093	"	Fitzroy	Moonee	4 2 0	" "	"
" 9958	2094	"	Gowen	Breelong	330 0 0	" "	"
" 9941	2095	"	Gregory	Wundabungay	360 0 0	" "	"
" 9083	2096	"	do	Canonbar &c.	660 0 0	" "	"
" 6106	2097	"	Gordon	Whylandra	390 0 0	" "	5530
" 9816	2098	"	Gregory	Billabulka	380 0 0	" "	"
" 9851	2099	"	do	Bebrue	770 0 0	" "	"
" 9889	2100	"	do	Gilgoen	330 0 0	" "	"
" 9903	2101	"	do	Grahway	700 0 0	" "	"
" 9880	2102	"	do	Duffity	280 0 0	" "	"
" 10058	2103	"	Leichhardt	Weelalita	1,050 0 0	" "	"
" 6718	2104	"	Lincoln	Breelong	160 0 0	" "	"
" 11725	2105	"	do	Erskine	360 0 0	" "	"
" 6314	2106	"	do	Spring Creek	290 0 0	" "	"
" 6313	2107	"	do	Bomely	420 0 0	" "	"
" "	2108	"	do	Erskine	1,260 0 0	" "	"
" 6684	2109	"	do	Richardson	760 0 0	" "	5531
" 6297	2110	"	do	Dapper	320 0 0	" "	"
" 6682	2111	"	Narromine	Bulgandramine	360 0 0	" "	"
" 11580	2112	"	Oxley	Lawson	1,400 0 0	" "	"
" 11595	2113	"	do	Dooran	1,360 0 0	" "	"
" 8150	2114	"	Bucleuch	Wagara	10 0 0	" "	5532
" 13064	2115	"	Bland	Trigalong	8 0 0	" "	"
" 4636	2116	"	Bourke	Currawanama	8 0 0	" "	"
Aln. Ms. " 1133	2117	"	Canbelego	Genariff	5 1 8	" "	"
" 6047	2118	"	Leichhardt	Morambilla	2 3 0	" "	"
" 13121	2119	"	Monteagle	Geigullalong	3 0 13	" "	"
" 14333	2120	"	Narromine	Narromine	10 0 0	" "	"
" 1930	2121	"	Sandon	Uralla	5 0 0	" "	"
" 9859	2144	"	Gregory	Bulgala	470 0 0	" "	"
" 12783	2138	"	Argyle	Wologorong	57 0 8	" "	5533
" 5268	2139	"	Yancowinna	Bray	0 2 0	" "	"
" 1895	2140	"	Finch	Yerambah	451 2 16	" "	"
" 3272	2141	"	Murray	Bywong	11 2 0	" "	"
" 11946	2142	"	Beresford	The Brothers	65 0 0	" "	"
" 11520	2143	"	Fitzroy	Bagawa	806 0 0	" "	"
" 12149	2135	109	Ashburnham	Warregal	640 0 0	" "	5534
" 5586	2131	101	Narromine	Frost	900 0 0	" "	"
" 6285	2132	"	Lincoln	Boston &c.	1,280 0 0	" "	"
Aln. " 1133	2133	"	Canbelego	Genariff	5 1 8	" "	"
" "	2134	"	do	do	5 1 8	" "	"
" "	2137	"	do	do	12 0 17	" "	"
Ms. " 10690	2136	"	Bland	Berendebba	136 0 0	" "	"
" 2412	2129	109	Gough	Scott &c.	350 0 0	" "	5535
" 13187	2130	"	Hume	Buraga	17 2 0	" "	"
" 14657	2158	"	Denison	Ulupia	252 0 0	" "	"
" 12044	2159	"	Goulburn	Talinalmo	40 0 0	" "	"
" 4903	2160	"	Hume	Loves	640 0 0	" "	"
" 6317	2126	"	Lincoln	Beni	290 0 0	" "	"
" 11319	2127	"	Tara	Wilpatera	880 0 0	" "	"
" "	2128	"	Wentworth	Avoca	1,000 0 0	" "	"
" 14328	2147	"	Pottinger	Baan Baa	1,140 0 0	" "	5536
" 11248	2152	112	Fitzroy	Hyland	7,000 0 0	" "	"
" 13529	2153	"	Nandewar	Tulcumba &c.	17,300 0 0	" "	"
" 11606	2172	101	Oxley	Terooble	470 0 0	" "	"
" 11600	2157	"	do	Boelban	2,260 0 0	" "	5537
" 8952	2173	109	Arrawatta	Redbank	49 2 0	" "	"
" 6889	2177	"	Poole		640 0 0	" "	"
" 8402	2148	101	Cook	Lett &c.	1,560 0 0	" "	"
85- 941	2170	"	Richmond	West Coraki	12 0 0	" "	"
86-14656	2171	"	Wallace	Jinderboine	11 1 0	" "	"
" 11399	2149	"	Camden	Jellore	5 2 0	" "	5538
" 9062	2167	"	Rous	Mooball	450 0 0	" "	"
" 7424	2168	"	Ashburnham	Warregal	210 0 0	" "	"
" 7284	2154	101 and 109	Cowley	Tharwa	640 0 0	" "	"
" "	2155	"	do	Cotter	525 0 0	" "	"
" 12721	2169	101	Clarence	Tamba	3 0 0	" "	"
" 9926	2161	"	Gregory	Buttahone &c.	550 0 0	" "	5539
" 9936	2162	"	do	The Mole	820 0 0	" "	"
" 13184	2163	"	Hume	Goombargana	34 0 0	" "	"
" 13185	2164	"	do	Richmond	90 0 0	" "	"
" 13055	2165	"	Leichhardt	Coocyah Warrah	670 0 0	" "	"
" 14659	2166	"	Sandon	Davidson	20 0 0	" "	"

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

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Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, secs. 101, 103, 109, and 112.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed, for the preservation of Water Supply, or
other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 103rd, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48
Victoria No. 18.

No of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					a. r. p.		
Ms. 86- 9489	2230	103	Bathurst.....	Kenilworth	0 0 26	29 Aug., 1886	5830
" 15271	2305	101	Cunningham	Badjerrebong	6 0 32	" "	5841
" 14075	2306	"	Yancowinna	Umberumberka	20 0 0	" "	"
" 5196	2218	"	Inglis	Loanga	32 0 0	" "	5842
" 10126	2215	"	Ewenmar	Bugabada.....	130 0 0	" "	"
" 10127	2216	"	do	do	560 0 0	" "	"
" 10049	2219	"	Leichhardt.....	Mowlma	190 0 0	" "	"
" 10072	2220	"	do	Dahomey	860 0 0	" "	"
" 10073	2221	"	do	Yoe	1,130 0 0	" "	"
" "	2222	"	do	Yoe and Coonamble ..	400 0 0	" "	"
" 10075	2223	"	do	Nimbria	640 0 0	" "	"
" 9847	2217	"	Gregory	Billabulla.....	830 0 0	" "	"
" 13633	2224	"	Lincoln	Terramungamine.....	30 0 0	" "	"
" 14985	2233	"	Ewenmar	Umangla	5 0 0	" "	5843
" 14986	2206	"	Wellesley	Burnima	10 2 16	" "	"
" "	2207	"	do	do	6 2 18	" "	"
" "	2108	"	do	do	6 0 18	" "	"
" "	2209	"	do	do	4 2 37	" "	"
" "	2210	"	do	do	2 3 5	" "	"
" 9858	2225	"	Gregory	Bulgala	400 0 0	" "	"
" 9882	2226	"	do	Colane	160 0 0	" "	"
" 15276	2274	109	Dampier	Guinea	160 0 0	" "	5844
" "	2275	"	do	do	360 0 0	" "	"
" "	2276	"	do	Dolondundale	500 0 0	" "	"
" "	2277	"	do	Guinea	80 0 0	" "	"
" "	2278	"	do	do	70 0 0	" "	"
" "	2279	"	do	do	25 0 0	" "	"
" 13464	2376	101	Lincoln and Bligh.....	Tenandra, &c	3,520 0 0	" "	"
" 10105	2295	"	Ewenmar	Coolbaggie	410 0 0	" "	5845
" 10116	2296	"	do	Carrigan	790 0 0	" "	"
" 10117	2297	"	do	Burraway	1,060 0 0	" "	"
" 6098	2299	"	Gordon	Draway	40 0 0	" "	"
" 11609	2300	"	Oxley	Tabratong.....	480 0 0	" "	"
" 10131	2298	"	Ewenmar	Boebung and Berida ..	380 0 0	" "	"
" 15275	2303	"	Ashburnham	Cargo	18 2 18	" "	"
" "	2304	"	do	do	0 3 30½	" "	"
" 11728	2227	"	Oxley	Boro and Gobabla	1,100 0 0	" "	5846
" 11568	2307	"	Murray	Queanbeyan.....	1 0 2	" "	"
" "	2308	"	do	do	2 0 0	" "	"
" 14076	2314	"	Yancowinna	Robc, &c	3,600 0 0	" "	"
" 13373	2315	"	Georgiana	Booloombayt	100 0 0	" "	"
" 5979	2309	"	Gloucester	Meglo	40 0 0	" "	5847
" 15275	2310	"	Ashburnham	Cargo	1 0 0	" "	"
" 13632	2311	112	Dudley	Yarravel	6 2 0	" "	"
" 8337	2312	101	Sandon	Armisdale	1 1 20	" "	"
" 15275	2301	"	Ashburnham	Cargo	2 2 21	" "	"
" "	2302	"	do	do	3 1 3	" "	"
" 14986	2211	"	Wellesley	Burnima	1 0 0	" "	5848
" "	2212	"	do	do	1 0 2	" "	"
" "	2213	"	do	do	1 3 3	" "	"
" "	2214	"	do	do	5 1 11	" "	"
" 12151	2228	109	Ashburnham	Bunbury	20 0 0	" "	"
" 10949	2316	101	Murray	Bywong	10 0 14	" "	"

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
Ms. 86-14004	2313	101	Goulburn	Germanton	a. r. p.	28 Aug., 1886	5849
" 15326	2354	"	Clive	Angoperran	21 0 0	1 Sept., "	5941
" "	2355	"	do	do	1 2 0	" "	"
" "	2356	"	do	do	4 0 0	" "	"
" "	2357	"	do	do	7 0 0	" "	"
" 9123	2403	"	Gresham	Sturt	22 0 0	" "	"
" 15632	2257	"	Clarence	Lawrence	240 0 0	4 "	6041
" 5224	2404	"	Hardinge	Roumalla	32 0 0	" "	"
" "	2405	"	do	Balala	55 0 0	" "	"
" 14079	2406	"	Monteagle	Congera	40 0 0	" "	"
" 13839	2407	"	Murray	Thurralilly	318 0 0	" "	"
" 13881	2408	"	Northumberland	Yango	3 1 0	" "	"
" 9916	2409	"	Gregory	Quambone	40 0 0	" "	"
" 9874	2410	"	do	Gardiner, &c.	240 0 0	" "	"
" 4689	2424	"	Yancowinna	Bray	1,720 0 0	" "	"
" 12152	2411	109	Brisbane	Tongo	204 0 0	" "	"
" 12154	2412	"	do	Terell	3,390 0 0	" "	6042
" 9273	2413	"	Clive	Timbarra	1,610 0 0	" "	"
" 11806	2414	"	Forbes	Melyra	600 0 0	" "	"
" 13903	2415	"	Pottunger	Dubbleda	300 0 0	" "	"
" 8454	2425	112	Rous	Mummulgun	30 0 0	" "	"
" 12297	2416	101	Cooper	Dowling	5,200 0 0	" "	"
" 14050	2418	"	Kennedy	Kadina	1,320 0 0	" "	6043
" 15632	2258	"	Clarence	Lawrence	530 0 0	" "	"
" "	2259	"	do	do	3 2 14	" "	"
" "	2255	"	do	do	3 0 0	" "	"
" "	2256	"	do	do	6 0 0	" "	"
" "	2251	"	do	do	11 0 0	" "	"
" "	2252	"	do	do	0 1 39	" "	"
" 12379	2421	"	Yancowinna	Naradin, &c.	0 3 32	" "	"
" 12524	2422	"	do	Bray	12,800 0 0	" "	6044
" 10008	2420	"	Culgoa	Eringonia	8 2 16	" "	"
" 15632	2260	"	Clarence	Lawrence	10 0 0	" "	"
Aln. 86- 1269	2261	"	do	do	1 2 0	" "	"
Ms. 86-10009	2423	"	Buckland	Quirindi	6 0 29	" "	"
" 15632	2419	"	Culgoa	Eringonia	6 3 20	" "	"
" "	2253	"	Clarence	Lawrence	3 0 29	" "	6045
" "	2254	"	do	do	0 3 0	" "	"
" 14658	2438	103	Fitzroy	Woolgoolga	0 1 6	" "	"
" 9282	2437	"	Lincoln	Taylor	2,160 0 0	11 "	6157
" 9504	2244	101	Harden	Gooramna	1,050 0 0	" "	6158
" 6851	2186	"	Rous	North Casino	8 0 0	" "	6172
" 7537	2197	"	Macquarie	Lorne	8 0 0	" "	"
" 15986	2250	"	Roxburgh	Sofala	2 0 0	" "	"
" 9545	2198	"	Georgiana	Yewrangara	20 0 0	" "	"
" 12047	2184	109	Goulburn	Billahong	20 0 0	" "	"
" 12046	2189	"	do	Back Creek	240 0 0	" "	6173
" "	2196	"	do	do	100 0 0	" "	"
" 12048	2193	"	do	Germanton	240 0 0	" "	"
" 10466	2231	"	do	Mountain Creek	79 3 0	" "	"
" 11063	2182	"	Wellesley	Ashton	548 0 0	" "	"
" 14745	2200	"	Lincoln	Blackheath, &c.	28 0 0	" "	"
" 13040	2240	101	Gresham	Grafton	9,200 0 0	" "	"
" 10093	2246	"	Ewenmar	Tenandra	600 0 0	" "	6174
" 9850	2263	"	Gregory	Bena	230 0 0	" "	"
" 9944	2264	"	Gowen	Wilber	620 0 0	" "	"
" 10888	2267	"	Leichhardt	Budgeon	350 0 0	" "	"
" "	2268	"	do	Moolambong	60 0 0	" "	"
" 9942	2265	"	Gregory	Yhababong	75 0 0	" "	"
" 10115	2266	"	Ewenmar	Carrigan	970 0 0	" "	"
" 8549	2243	"	Murray	Yarroolmulla	730 0 0	" "	"
" 14306	2245	112	Hume	Bungowannah	2 2 20	" "	"
" 14658	2439	"	Fitzroy	Woolgoolga, &c.	320 0 0	" "	6175
" 13615	2262	"	Townsend	Euroka	4,680 0 0	" "	"
" 2329	2236	"	Cowper	Goulburn, &c.	320 0 0	" "	"
" 12832	2238	109	do	Banga	1,400 0 0	" "	"
" 12833	2239	"	do	do	93 0 0	" "	"
" 14182	2203	101	Gregory	Canonba North	46 1 0	" "	"
" "	2202	"	do	do	10 0 0	" "	"
" 13536	2269	"	Leichhardt	Wyabery	22 0 0	" "	6176
" "	2270	"	do	Brewan	5,000 0 0	" "	"
" "	2271	"	Clyde	Grandoole	2,960 0 0	" "	"
" 4248	2247	"	Boyd	Waddi	580 0 0	" "	"
" "	2248	"	do	do	38 0 0	" "	"
" 14204	2241	101 and 109	Murray	Purronimba	51 0 0	" "	"
" 14182	2204	101	Gregory	Canonba North	100 0 0	" "	6177
Occ. 85- 3068	2272	"	Murray	Keenong	11 0 0	" "	"
Ms. 86- 6267	2440	"	Rous	Berwick	5 0 0	" "	"
" 4248	2249	"	Boyd	Waddi	398 0 0	" "	"
" 14723	2196	"	Beresford	Rowland	660 0 0	" "	"
" 14182	2205	"	Gregory	Canonba North	10 0 0	" "	6178
" 9681	2195	"	Waljeers	Oxley	60 0 0	" "	"
" 11398	2242	"	St. Vincent	Tomerong	1 0 0	" "	"
85-18036	2180	"	Franklin	Whealbah	9 3 30	" "	"
86-14182	2201	"	Gregory	Canonba	1,100 0 0	" "	"
C.S. 86-4721 con.	2189	"	Camden	Bundanoon	3 0 0	14 "	6179
" "	2490	"	do	do	100 0 0	" "	6261
" "		"			579 0 0	" "	"

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserves.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
C.S. 86-4721 cor.	2491	101	Camden	Bundanoon	a. r. p. 360 0 0	14 Sept., 1886	6262
" "	2492	"	do	do	379 0 0	" "	"
" "	2493	"	do	do	274 0 0	" "	"
" "	2494	"	do	do	200 0 0	" "	"
" "	2495	"	do	do	612 0 0	" "	"
" "	2496	"	do	do	43 0 0	" "	"
" "	2497	"	do	do	464 0 0	" "	6263
" "	2498	"	do	do	80 0 0	" "	"
" "	2499	"	do	do	44 0 0	" "	"
" "	2500	"	do	do	56 0 0	" "	"
Ms. 86-15481	2344	"	Harden	Coolac	0 2 34	18	6390
" "	2345	"	do	do	1 1 10	" "	"
" "	2346	"	do	do	0 1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	" "	"
" "	2347	"	do	do	1 0 37 $\frac{1}{2}$	" "	"
" 14736	2335	112	Courallie	Terry Hie Hie, &c	13,500 0 0	" "	"
" 14737	2336	"	do	Berrygill, &c	7,500 0 0	" "	"
" 14795	2338	101	Phillip	Eitzgerald	20 0 0	" "	6391
" 15168	2339	"	Georgiana	Keverstone	26 0 0	" "	"
" 15481	2348	"	Harden	Coolac	18 2 20	" "	"
" "	2349	"	do	do	4 3 32	" "	"
" "	2343	"	do	do	2 0 8	" "	"
" 14549	2341	"	Hardinge	Everett	4 2 0	" "	"
" 15481	2353	"	Harden	Coolac	16 3 7	" "	"
" 15525	2237	"	Yancowinna	Bray	0 2 0	" "	6392
" 15481	2351	"	Harden	Coolac	23 2 0	" "	"
" "	2350	"	do	do	5 1 14	" "	"
" 14645	2290	"	St. Vincent	Boyle	6 0 0	" "	"
" 14849	2340	"	Georgiana	Blackman	4 0 0	" "	"
" 15036	2282	"	Cumberland	Manly Cove	1,000 0 0	" "	"
" 15148	2294	"	Northumberland	Popran	0 1 20	" "	6393
" 4137	2187	109	Goulburn	Jindera	93 0 0	" "	"
" 14798	2337	101	Gough	Waterloo, &c	40 0 0	" "	"
" 15481	2352	"	Harden	Coolac	2 1 24	" "	"
" 12049	2280	109	Goulburn	Vautier	41 0 0	" "	"
" 4137	2188	101	do	Jindera	100 0 0	" "	"

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(RESERVED FROM SALE UNTIL SURVEYED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WATER SUPPLY, UNDER
ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, secs. 101, 103, 109, and 112.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands reserved from sale until surveyed for the preservation of Water Supply,
or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 103rd, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act
48 Victoria No. 18.

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
					a. r. p.		
Ms. 86-15069	2366	101	Yancowinna	Bray	0 2 0	25 Sept., 1886	6527
" 14972	2377	"	Rous	Terranora	77 0 0	" "	"
" 15394	2383	112	Georgiana	Garryman	4,400 0 0	" "	6528
" 14735	2364	"	Courallic	Fletcher, &c.	15,800 0 0	" "	"
" 15395	2372	"	Nandewar	Narrabri, &c.	6,400 0 0	" "	"
" 15453	2382	"	Cooper	Yondaryan, &c.	5,700 0 0	" "	"
85-18814	2369	101	Hume	Walla Walla	515 0 0	" "	"
86-15530	2401	"	Rous	Lismore	6 0 15	" "	6529
" 6308	2293	"	Lincoln	do	13 0 0	" "	"
" 14744	2367	"	do	Bomely, &c.	680 0 0	" "	"
" 5595	2368	"	Narromine	Elong Elong	50 0 0	" "	"
" 10047	2370	"	Leichhardt	Dungary, &c.	740 0 0	" "	"
" 15455	2386	"	Roxburgh	Urawilkie, &c.	800 0 0	" "	"
" 15214	2371	109	Yantara	Bocoble	19 0 0	" "	"
" 15794	2427	"	Cook	Terrawinda	640 0 0	" "	"
" 13428	2363	"	Selwyn	Cox	86 0 0	" "	6530
" 12752	2430	"	Hume	Jingellie East	142 0 0	" "	"
" 15116	2378	"	Evelyn, &c.	Walla Walla	200 0 0	" "	"
" 15400	2380	101	Rous	Whean Whean	114 0 0	" "	"
" 15069	2365	"	Yancowinna	Bray	5 2 0	" "	"
" 15530	2394	"	Rous	Lismore	6 3 29	" "	6531
" "	2395	"	do	do	3 2 30	" "	"
" "	2396	"	do	do	9 2 0	" "	"
" "	2397	"	do	do	14 2 0	" "	"
85-24633	2388	"	Georgiana	Werong	640 0 0	" "	"
" "	2389	"	Westmoreland	Mozart	640 0 0	" "	"
" "	2390	"	do	Vulcan	320 0 0	" "	"
" "	2391	"	Westmoreland & Georgiana	Kowmung, &c.	640 0 0	" "	"
" "	2392	"	Westmoreland, &c.	do	320 0 0	" "	"
86-15530	2393	"	Rous	Lismore	8 2 23	" "	6532
" "	2398	"	do	do	7 2 32	" "	"
" "	2399	"	do	do	9 1 0	" "	"
" "	2400	"	do	do	13 0 0	" "	"
" 14303	2428	"	Goulburn	Talmalmo	8 0 0	" "	"
" 15319	2379	112	Bligh	Worobil	1,143 0 0	" "	"
" 15401	2381	101	Rous	Jasper	23 0 0	" "	6533
" 16131	2550	"	Gregory	Bulgeraga	640 0 0	" "	6648
" 6025	2235	103	Blaxland	Back Whoey	20 0 0	29 " "	6749
" 15915	2537	101	Hardinge, &c.	Clive, &c.	260 square miles	2 Oct., 1886	6758
" 16002	2462	109	Boyd	Jurumbula	244 0 0	" "	"
" 8187	2441	101	Camden	Bundanoon	40 0 0	" "	6759
" 15818	2455	"	Yancowinna	Bray	2 1 3½	" "	"
" 15959	2456	"	Phillip	Price	79 0 0	" "	"
" 15801	2458	"	Cumberland	Castle Hill	2 2 0	" "	"
" 15972	2457	"	Narromine	Hervey	500 0 0	" "	"
" 11556	2471	109	Kennedy	Wombin	340 0 0	" "	"
" "	2472	"	Ashburnham	Milpose	640 0 0	" "	"
" "	2473	"	do	Milpose & Gunningbland	640 0 0	" "	"
85-24401	2453	101	Canbelego	Vega	2 2 16	" "	6760

No. of Papers.	No. of Reserve.	Section.	County.	Parish.	Area.	Government Gazette in which the description is published.	Folio.
Ms. 86-15664	2454	101	Yancowinna.....	Bray	a. r. p. 12 0 0	2 Oct., 1886	6760
" 15729	2450	"	Goulburn	Gerogery	7 0 0	" "	"
86-24402	2449	"	Canbelego.....	Glenariff	3 0 29	" "	"
86-17157	2460	"	Bourke	Coolaman	2 0 0	" "	"
" 15806	2475	"	Argyle	Cullulla, &c.....	420 0 0	" "	"
" 16781	2373	109	Oxley	Garule	60 0 0	" "	6761
" 15721	2463	101	Argyle	Currowang	1 0 0	" "	"
" "	2464	"	do	do	19 2 0	" "	"
" "	2465	"	do	do	18 1 22	" "	"
" "	2461	"	do	do	80 0 0	" "	"
" "	2462	"	do	do	1 0 0	" "	"
" 15660	2459	109	Buckland	Currabubula	640 0 0	" "	6762
" 15731	2451	101	Denison	Tocumwal	2 0 19½	" "	"
" 11556	2474	109	Kennedy, &c.....	Weridgery, &c.....	5,100 0 0	" "	"
" 12056	2547	101	Macquarie	Macquarie	3 0 10	" "	"
" 14797	2487	"	Hardinge	Torryburn	40 0 0	9	6907
" 16201	2484	"	Camden	Nattai	21 0 0	" "	"
" 15855	2529	109	Goulburn	Albury	16 0 0	" "	"
" 15654	2525	"	Canbelego.....	Gedalambone	592 3 0	" "	"
" 15996	2513	101	Auckland	Wyndham	0 2 0	" "	"
" 8951	2536	109	Gough	Eden, &c.....	1,500 0 0	" "	6908
" 15457	2535	"	Jamison	Graham, &c.....	620 0 0	" "	"
" 15080	2534	101	Oxley	Narrar	360 0 0	" "	"
" 13440	2502	"	Walgeers	Yaloo	335 0 0	" "	6909
" 15996	2509	"	Auckland	Wyndham	0 2 1	" "	"
" "	2510	"	do	do	0 2 1	" "	"
" "	2511	"	do	do	1 2 18	" "	"
" "	2512	"	do	do	1 3 0	" "	"
" "	2515	"	do	do	2 0 25	" "	"
" 16305	2530	"	do	Wolumla	2 0 0	" "	"
" 13901	2485	"	Bathurst	Neville	0 3 39	" "	"
" 15996	2506	"	Auckland	Wyndham	2 2 30	" "	6910
" "	2517	"	do	do	14 3 8	" "	"
" 10006	2452	"	Culgoa	Eringonia	46 2 26	" "	"
Aln. 85- 2461	2488	"	Clyde	Willenbone, &c.	160 0 0	" "	"
Ms. 86-15727	2483	"	Hunter	Whybrow	2 0 0	" "	"
" 16290	2519	"	Westmoreland	Speedwell	740 0 0	" "	"
" 15996	2516	"	Auckland	Wyndham	5 1 33	" "	6911
" "	2504	"	do	do	0 1 1	" "	"
" 11949	2531	"	Selwyn	Tooma	100 0 0	" "	"
" 15393	2486	"	Gloucester	Wilmot	100 0 0	" "	6911
" 11615	2528	"	Kennedy	Weridgery, &c.....	340 0 0	" "	"
" 12124	2527	"	Cunningham	Bimbella	350 0 0	" "	"
" 1125	2533	"	Goulburn	Mullanjandra	900 0 0	" "	"
" 15996	2507	"	Auckland	Wyndham	10 3 24	" "	6912
" "	2508	"	do	do	0 1 26	" "	"
" "	2514	"	do	do	3 3 30	" "	"
" 15454	2532	"	Wellington	Ganboola	5 1 25	" "	"
" 15996	2505	"	Auckland	Wyndham	50 0 0	" "	"
" 15397	2358	109	Pottinger	Doona, &c.....	3,250 0 0	16	7069
" 16515	2543	"	Townsend	North Moonbria, &c.	634 0 0	" "	"
" 10783	2384	112	Denison	Wahgunyah	180 0 0	" "	7070
" 15397	2350	109	Buckland	Wallala	630 0 0	" "	"
" 14892	2286	101	Georgiana.....	Mulgunnia	10 2 35	" "	"
" "	2285	"	do	do	5 1 33	" "	"
" "	2289	"	do	do	4 1 0	" "	"
" 17965	2646	"	King	Winduella	38 2 13	" "	7071
" 17884	2635	"	Perry	Pooncaira	0 2 0	" "	"
" 16454	2603	"	Bathurst	Lyndhurst	491 0 0	" "	"
" 17965	2647	"	King	Winduella	178 0 0	" "	"
" 14892	2287	"	Georgiana.....	Mulgunnia	4 2 20	" "	"
" "	2288	"	do	do	5 3 6	" "	7072
" "	2283	"	do	do	2 2 0	" "	"
" "	2284	"	do	do	18 0 0	" "	"
" 16453	2548	"	King	Jerrara	40 0 0	" "	"
" 14523	2518	"	Yancowinna.....	Bray	11,000 0 0	" "	"

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vict. No. 18, sec. 101.

ABSTRACT of Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act 48 Victoria, No. 18.

City, Town, or Village.	Area for City, Town, or Village— about.	Area for Suburbs— about.	Locality.	Government Gazette in which published.
Mandamah (Village)	acres. 300	acres. 2,263	County of Bourke, parish of Mandamah.	28 September, 1885; folio 6313.
Carwell (Village)	220	370	County of Roxburgh, parish of Clandulla.	20 October, 1885; folio 6872.
Wilton (Town)	114	209	County of Camden, parish of Wilton.	26 October, 1885; folio 6956.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 101.

ABSTRACT of Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act
48 Victoria No. 18.

City, Town, or Village.	Area for City, Town, or Village.	Area for Suburbs.	Locality.	Government Gazette in which published.
Wittingham (village)	104 acres ...	435 acres...	County of Northumberland, parish of Wittingham.	18 Nov., 1885, folio 7445.
Gungal (village)	217 „ ..	1,040 „ ..	County of Brisbane, parish of Wickham.....	18 Nov., 1885, folio 7446.
Merinda (village)	60 „ ..	52 „ ..	County of Wellington, parish of Merinda ...	18 Nov., 1885, folio 7446.
Adelong (extension to suburban lands).	.....	2,500 „ ..	County of Wynyard, parishes of Euadera and Adelong.	18 Nov., 1885, folio 7446.
Brewarrina (extension to town and suburban lands).	44 „ ..	220 „ ..	County of Clyde, parish of Brewarrina	25 Nov., 1885, folio 7614.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 101.

ABSTRACT of Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act
48 Victoria No. 18.

City, Town, or Village.	Area for City, Town, or Village.	Area for Suburbs.	Locality.	Government Gazette in which published.
Balranald (town)	14a. 3r. 32p. (extension.)	.....	County of Cairn, parish of Balranald	12 Dec., 1885, folio 8034.
Dubbo (town) .....	.....	700 acres (extension.)	County of Lincoln, parish of Warric	12 Dec., 1885, folio 8035.
Gosford (town)	375 acres	1,340 acres	County of Northumberland, parish of Gos- ford.	12 Dec., 1885, folio 8035.
Coolah (village)	90 „	70 „	County of Napier, parish of Coolah.....	12 Dec., 1885, folio 8035.
Tent Hill (village) .....	.....	390 „ (extension.)	County of Gough, parish of Tent Hill.	12 Dec., 1885, folio 8035.
Jerry's Plains (town)	240 „	700 acres	County of Hunter, parish of Wambo	12 Dec., 1885, folio 8036.
Bourke (town)	420 „ (extension.)	.....	County of Cowper, parishes of Bourke and East Bourke.	12 Dec., 1885, folio 8036.
Cayvanbah (village)	500 „	2,700 „	County of Roue, parish of Byron	19 Dec., 1885, folio 8255.
Uralla (town)	340 „	310 „	County of Sandon, parish of Uralla.....	16 Jan., 1886, folio 364.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ABSTRACT OF SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 101.

ABSTRACT of all Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

City, Town, or Village.	Area for City, Town, or Village.	Area for Suburbs.	Locality.	Government Gazette in which published.
Bega (amended suburban boundaries).	.....	5,500 acres	County of Auckland, parishes of Bega, Brogo, and Merinda.	13 Feb., 1886, folio 1082.
Brelsford (village)	380 acres ...	220 „ ...	Counties of Fitzroy and Raleigh, parish of Coff.	13 Feb., 1886, folio 1082.
Trangie (village)	165 „ ...	1,735 „ ...	County of Narromine, parish of Triangi	13 Feb., 1886, folio 1082.
Woomargama (amended suburban boundaries).	.....	144 „ ...	County of Goulburn, parish of Woomargama	13 Feb., 1886, folio 1083.
Mulwaree (village)	205 „ ...	1,595 „ ...	County of Argyle, parish of Mulwaree	20 Feb., 1886, folio 1268.
M'Allister (village)	220 „ ...	440 „ ...	County of Argyle, parish of Upper Tarlo ...	20 Feb., 1886, folio 1269.
Mungindi (village)	310 „ ...	406 „ ...	County of Benarba, parish of Yarouah	27 Feb., 1886, folio 1470.
Keramingly (village)	250 „ ...	470 „ ...	County of Courallie, parish of Gordon.....	27 Feb., 1886, folio 1471.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(ABSTRACT OF SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 101.

ABSTRACT of all Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act
48 Victoria No. 18.

City, Town, or Village.	Area for City, Town, or Village.	Area for Suburbs.	Locality.	Government Gazette in which published.
Noorooma (village)	380 acres	640 and 370 acres.	County of Dampier, parishes of Noorooma and Wagonga.	20 Mar., 1886, folio 1953.
Coopernook (village)	33 „	.....	County of Macquarie, parish of Lansdowne	27 Mar., 1886, folio 2105.
Berrima (extension to suburban lands).	.....	97 acres	County of Camden, parish of Berrima	3 April, 1886, folio 2496.
Myrangle (village)	88 acres	112 „	County of Gordon, parish of Burrawong	3 April, 1886, folio 2500.
Glenbrook (village extension) ...	42 „	296 „	County of Cook, parish of Strathdon ...	3 April, 1886, folio 2500.
Bullah Delah (village)	427 „	178 „	County of Gloucester, parish of Bullah Delah.	10 April, 1886, folio 2656.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 101.

ABSTRACT of all Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act
48 Victoria No. 18.

City, Town, or Village.	Area for City, Town, or Village.	Area for Suburbs.	Locality.	Government Gazette in which published.
Bunnan (village)	104 acres	185 acres	County of Brisbane, Parish of Tyrone.	1 May, 1886. Folio 3105.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.
(SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

ABSTRACT of Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act 48 Victoria, No. 18.

City, Town, or Village.	Area for City, Town, or Village.	Area for Suburbs.	Locality.	Government Gazette in which published.
Yeoval (Village)	acres. 190	acres. 450	County of Gordon, parishes of Buckinbah and Loombah.	22 May, 1886 ; folio 3645.
Bourke (Town).....	570 (extension)	. . .	County of Cowper, parish of East Bourke.	22 May, 1886 ; folio 3645.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 101.

ABSTRACT of all Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act
48 Victoria No. 18.

City, Town, or Village.	Area for City, Town, or Village.	Area for Suburbs.	Locality.	Government Gazette in which published.
Yantabulla (village)	a. r. p. 398 0 20	..... Extension 800 acres.	County of Irrara, parish of Mucruss ...	5 June, 1886, folio 3927.
Raleigh . . . . .	. . .		County of Raleigh, parish of South Belhngen	5 June, 1886, folio 3928.
Goombalie (village)	683 0 0	1843 „	County of Barrona, parish of Goombalie .	19 June, 1886, folio 4188.
Berawinnia (village)	476 2 0	. . . . .	County of Irrara, parish of Berawinnia	19 June, 1886, folio 4188.
Nambucca (village)	200 0 0	250 „	County of Raleigh, parish of Nambucca	19 June, 1886, folio 4189.
Gunbar (town)	218 0 0	1650 „	County of Nicholson, parish of Honuna	26 June, 1886, folio 4318.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 101.

ABSTRACT of all Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

City, Town, or Village.	Area for City, Town, or Village.	Area for Suburbs.	Locality.	Government Gazette in which published.
	a. r. p.			
Heathcote (village)	82 0 0	1410 acres.	County of Cumberland, parish of Heathcote...	3 July, 1886, folio 4467.
Curlewis (village)	206 0 0	300 „ ...	County of Pottinger, parish of Curlewis	3 July, 1886, folio 4467.
Cooper (village).....	171 3 0	560 „ ...	County of Argyle, parish of Mullengullenga	3 July, 1886, folio 4468.
Barry (town)....	200 0 0	200 „ ...	County of Bathurst, parish of Neville	3 July, 1886, folio 4468.
Nevada (village)	90 0 0	.....	County of Yancowinna, parish of Stephen ...	3 July, 1886, folio 4468.
Tibooburn (village)	43 0 0	.....	County of Tongowoko, parish of Hermitage...	17 July, 1886, folio 4774.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 101.

ABSTRACT of all Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act
48 Victoria No. 18.

City, Town, or Village.	Area for City, Town, or Village.	Area for Suburbs.	Locality.	Government Gazette in which published
Rock Flat (Village)	166 acres.	474 acres.	County of Beresford, parish of Gladstone ...	24 July, 1886, folio 4988.
Bullah Delah (Village)... ..	390 „ ..	215 „ ..	County of Gloucester, parish of Bullah Delah	24 July, 1886, folio 4988.
Glencoe (Village)	29 „ ..	.....	County of Gough, parish of Llangothlin	31 July, 1886, folio 5202.
Coolabah (Village)	308 „ ..	.....	County of Canbelego, parishes of Vega and Glenariff.	14 Aug., 1886, folio 5541.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.
(SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 101.

ABSTRACT of all Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act
48 Victoria No. 18.

City, Town, or Village.	Area for City, Town, or Village.	Area for Suburbs.	Locality.	Government Gazette in which published.
Cargo (Town)	220 acres.	900 acres.	County of Ashburnham, parish of Cargo ...	28 Aug., 1886, folio 5851.
Canonba (Village).....	165 „ ...	418 „ ...	County of Gregory, parishes of Canonba and Canonba North.	11 Sept., 1886, folio 6179.
Coolac (Village)	197 „ ...	35 „	County of Harden, parish of Coolac.	18 Sept., 1886, folio 6395.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(SITES FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, DECLARED UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 101.

ABSTRACT of all Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act
48 Victoria, No. 18.

City, Town, or Village.	Area for City, Town, or Village.	Area for Suburbs.	Locality.	Government Gazette in which published.
Manilla (Village)	acres.	acres. 114 (extension.)	County of Darling, parish of Manilla.	25 September, 1886; folio 6533.
Murray (Village)	149	325	County of Argyle, parish of Ourrawang.	2 October, 1886; folio 6764.
Lismore (Town)	2,000 (extension.)	.....	County of Rous, parishes of Lismore, North Lismore, &c.	2 October, 1886; folio 6765.
Bourke (Town)	1,700	.....	County of Cowper, parishes of Bourke and East Bourke.	9 October, 1886; folio 6913.
Wyndham (Village)	210	455	County of Auckland, parish of Wyndham.	9 October, 1886; folio 6913.
Arthur (Village)	138	940	County of Georgiana, parish of Mulgunnia.	16 October, 1886; folio 7079.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 104.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Place.	County.	Portion.	Allotment	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Cat. No. of Plan.
Ballina	Rous .....	.....	.....	.....	Parish of Ballina	a. r. p. 13 0 32	General Cemetery	Misc. 85- 7,878	C. 1,068-1,084
Earra Creek	Phillip	87	.....	.....	do Botobolar	2 0 0	Public School Site	" 13,640	P. 1,478-1,978
Bevandah	King	191	.....	.....	do Preston	2 0 0	do	" 19,513	P. 1,477-1,978
Burrumbuttock	Hume .....	.....	.....	.....	do Burrumbuttock	16 1 14	General Cemetery	" 16,065	C. 1,058-1,084
Cargo	Ashburnham .....	.....	.....	.....	Parish of Cargo	142 1 0	Racecourse	" 7,275	A. 3-2,399, S.G.O.
Lawrence	Clarence .....	.....	10	3	Town of Lawrence	0 0 37	Site for School of Arts	" 19,725	L. 16-1,553, S.G.O.
Merinda	Wellington .....	.....	.....	.....	Parish of Merinda	4 1 29	General Cemetery	" 18,986	C. 1,068-1,984
Milong	Bland	169	.....	.....	do Milong	2 0 0	Public School Site	" 16,663	P. 1,462-1,978
Mulwala	Denison .....	.....	11	4	Town of Mulwala	0 0 19½	Addition to Public School Site	" 18,250	P. 874-1,978
Parkes	Ashburnham	293	.....	.....	Parish of Curragong	10 0 0	Site for Show Ground for the use of the Parkes Pastoral, Agricultural, and Horticultural Association	" 16,238	P. 39-2,130
Riverstone	Cumberland .....	.....	.....	.....	do St. Matthew	25 3 0	Camping, Public Buildings, and other public purposes	" 9,437	C. 64-2,063
Streamville	Georgiana	76	.....	.....	do Grabine	2 0 0	Public School Site	" 19,514	P. 1,480-1,978
Wagga Wagga South	Wynyard .....	.....	8	47	Town of South Wagga	0 1 20½	Site for Public Baths	" 15,461	W. 57-1,345
Walla Walla	King	191	.....	.....	Parish of Ware	2 0 0	Public School Site	" 18,443	P. 1,483-1,978
Wolbung	Wellington .....	.....	.....	.....	do Wellington	94 0 0	Public Recreation	" 18,639	W. 30-2,075
West Kempsey	Dudley .....	.....	.....	.....	Town of West Kempsey	5 3 31	Extension of Show Ground for the use of the Macleay River Agricultural and Horticultural Association	" 18,593	K. 25-1,593

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES UNDER ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 104.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Place.	County.	Portion.	Allotment.	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated	No. of Papers.	Cat. No. of Plan.
Brownlea	Bathurst	178	....	....	Parish of Bringellat	a. r. p. 2 0 0	Public School Site	Misc. 85-21012	P. 1495-1978
Coogee	Cumberland ..	...	....	....	Village of Coogee	0 1 0	Addition to Public School Site.	17040	P. 260-1978
Crookwell	King .....	...	....	....	Town of Crookwell	10 0 10	Public Recreation	21554	K. 23-2003
Delegete	Wellesley ....	...	....	....	Village of Delegete, parish of Hayden.	12 0 0	Show & Cricket Ground	16987	W. 1-2443
Lower Mookera- wa.	Wellington ..	169	....	....	Parish of Burrendong ..	2 0 0	Public School Site	19600	P. 1481-1978
Narrandera	Cooper .....	...	....	....	Town of Narrandera ..	29 1 31	Public Recreation ..	28440	N. 10-1712
Oxley (Lachlan River).	Walgiers ....	...	20	43	Parish of Tooralbong ..	2 0 0	Public School Site	17644	P. 1395-1978
Queanbeyan ..	Murray .....	...	....	....	Parish of Queanbeyan ..	110 0 0	Racecourse	22319	M. 45-2070
Silverton	Yancowinna ..	125	....	....	Parish of Bray	10 0 0	Site for Hospital	4170	A. 141-2136
Species Creek (Lower).	Lincoln	6	...	....	Parish of Bald Hill	2 0 0	Public School Site	16224	P. 1436-1978
Tinandra	Bathurst	131	....	...	Parish of Tenandra	2 0 0	do	18085	P. 1487-1978
Tintenbar	Rous .....	...	....	..	Village of Tintenbar, parish of Ballina.	8 2 4	General Cemetery	5680	C. 1039-1034a
Walcha	Vernon .....	...	21	84	Town of Walcha	0 0 12	Additions to site for School of Arts.	17126	W. 42-1493

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES UNDER 104TH SECTION OF 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 104.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Place.	County.	Portion.	Allotment.	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated	No. of Papers.	Cat. No. of Plan.
Adelong Crossing	Wynyard	277	.....	.....	Parish of Bangus	a. r. p.	Public Recreation	Misc. 85- 4096	W. 1-2333
Avisford	Wellington	60	.....	.....	do Avisford	2 0 0	Public School Site	86- 250	P. 1412-1978
Balladrum	Wentworth	1	.....	.....	do Drillwarrina	2 0 0	do	85- 4571	P. 1450-1978
Ballina	Rous	.....	.....	.....	Town of Ballina	14 0 0	Public Recreation	25286	R. 7-2339
Beechwood	Macquarie	141	.....	.....	Parish of Redbank	1 1 22	Public School Site	15667	P. 1510-1978
Berrima	Camden	.....	.....	42	Town of Berrima	10 1 0	Public Recreation	13335	B. 50- 801
Binalong	Harden	.....	.....	17	do Binalong	15 2 0	do	20870	B. 25-1338
Bourke	Cowper	13 to 21 inclusive.	.....	.....	Parish of Bourke	401 0 0	Public Park	24867	C. 1-2337
Byeroak	Cowper	part of 77.	.....	.....	Town of Byeroak	15 2 22	General Cemetery	13363	C. 1043-1984
Casino	Rous	.....	.....	13	do Casino	10 0 0	Site for Hospital	20871	C. 33-1690a
Coolamon	Bourke	.....	2	8	Village of Coolamon	2 0 20	Public School Site	22451	P. 1341-1978
Cooloon	Rous	.....	.....	.....	do Cooloon	0 1 0	Site for School of Arts	18028	C. 2-2515
Coonahbarabran	Gowen	140	.....	.....	Parish of Coonahbarabran	9 3 34	Site for Hospital	86- 1	C. 21-1704
Curran's Creek	King	281	.....	.....	do Crookwell	2 0 0	Public School Site	85- 8860	P. 1470-1978
Everton Vale	Sandon	113	.....	.....	do Arding	2 0 0	do	86- 9	P. 1461-1978
Grahamstown	Wynyard	.....	.....	.....	do Euadera	29 3 25	Public Recreation	85- 5009	M. 369-1834
Gungah	Brisbane	.....	.....	part of 22	Parish of Wickham, village of Gungah	0 1 13	Addition to Public School Site.	79- 2259	G. 1-2306a
Hillston North	Nicholson	.....	2	21	Town of Hillston North	9 0 15	Extension of Site for Show Ground for use of the Lachlan Pastoral Association	85-23547	H. 6-2203
Merriwa	Brisbane	.....	1	22	Village of Merriwa	8 0 0	Site for Hospital	16060	M. 20-1114
Molong	Ashburnham	.....	.....	part of 13	Town of West Molong	5 0 0	do	20150	M. 37-1342
Molroy	Murchison	29	.....	.....	Parish of Wyndham	2 0 0	Public School Site	23521	P. 1429-1978
Narrabri	Nandewar	291, 292, 293, 294, and 303.	.....	.....	do Narrabri	15 2 10	Site for Cattle Sale-yards	23690	N. 746-1774
North Willoughby	Cumberland	.....	.....	.....	do Willoughby	45 3 38	Public Recreation	23176	C. 70-2063
Nowra	St. Vincent	.....	.....	.....	do Nowra	10 2 0	do	86- 318	N. 4-1489
Richmond (Pugh's Lagoon)	Cumberland	.....	.....	.....	Town of Richmond	4 2 18	Water Supply	1337	C. 71-2063
do do	do	.....	.....	.....	do do	1 3 22	do	1337	C. 71-2063
Tilbuster (near Duval Creek).	Sandon	37	.....	.....	Parish of Duval	2 0 0	Public School Site	8	P. 1445-1978
Tuckombil	Rous	222	.....	.....	do Tuckombil	2 0 0	do	3	P. 1314-1978
West Ballina	do	60	.....	.....	Town of West Ballina	5 1 8	Site for Public Markets	85-24013	B. 27-1012

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES UNDER 104TH SECTION OF THE ACT
48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 104.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the
104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Place.	County.	Portion.	Allotment.	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose Dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Cat. No. of Plan.
AdelongCrossing Albury	Wynyard Goulburn.....	276	.....	.....	Parish of Bangus..... Town of Albury	a. r. p. 2 0 0 11 0 17	Public School Site Addition to Show Ground for the use of the Albury and Border Pas- toral, Agricultural, and Horticultural Society.	Misc. 84-24811 85-23169	P. 1400-1978 A. 41-1802 M. 361-1834
Armatree	Gowen	5	.....	.....	Parish of Callangan	2 0 0	Public School Site.....	80- 454	P. 1401-1978
Bathurst	Bathurst .....	.....	.....	.....	City of Bathurst	0 0 12½	Addition to Public School Site.	85-18256	B. 182-824
Bell's Lagoons	Goulburn	201	.....	.....	Parish of Canbrolala	2 0 0	Public School Site	23010	P. 1458-1978
Colombo	Auckland .....	.....	5	5	Village of Colombo	0 1 14	Site for School of Arts	21110	C. 1-2208a
Coobera	Clarendon .....	.....	.....	.....	Parish of Coobera	10 0 0	General Cemetery	25522	C. 1073-1984
Comdgerie	Ewenmar	28	.....	.....	do Comdgerie	2 0 0	Public School Site	86- 72	P. 1411-1974
Elong Elong	Lincoln	33	.....	.....	do Narrui	2 0 0	do	85- 3745	P. 1363-1978
Fitzroy	Caundon .....	.....	.....	.....	do Jellere	372 0 0	Public Recreation	80- 1893	C. 33 & 33a-2061
Garra	Ashburnham .....	.....	.....	.....	do Brynedura	10 1 7	General Cemetery	540	C. 1059-1934
Grenfell	Monteagle .....	.....	.....	.....	Town of Grenfell	0 0 20	Addition to Public School Site	85-21742	G. 2-1952a
Jellingroce	Wynyard	207	.....	.....	Parish of Mundarlo	2 0 0	Public School Site.....	4117	P. 1442-1978
Lismore	Rous	282	.....	.....	do Lismore.....	14 0 20	Site for Show Ground for the use of the Lismore Agricultural and In- dustrial Society.	86- 69	R. 3774-1760
Little River	St. Vincent	134	.....	.....	do Budawang	0 3 27	General Cemetery	85-16157	C. 1091-1984
Moonbah	Wallace	117	.....	.....	do Abington	2 0 0	Public School Site	84-22073	P. 1389-1978
Mudgee	Wellington .....	.....	.....	55	Town of Mudgee	43 3 10	Public Recreation	86- 785	W. 33-2075
Narraburra	Bland	13	.....	.....	Parish of Narraburra	2 0 0	Public School Site	85-25231	P. 1460-1978
Nevertire	Oxley	59	.....	.....	do Garule	9 0 0	General Cemetery	30- 49	C. 1062-1984
Nuliygyn	Wellington	117	.....	.....	do Cooper	2 0 15	Public School Site	85-25399	P. 1454-1978
Springwood	Cook .....	.....	.....	.....	do Magdala	330 0 0	Public Recreation	84-25948	C. 29-2062
Toganmain	Boyd	70	.....	.....	do Toganmain	2 0 0	Public School Site	85- 4085	P. 1448-1978
Triangle (Horse Flat)	Wellington	17	.....	.....	do Warrata	2 0 0	do	80- 450	P. 1500-1978
Trickett	Bourke	47	.....	.....	do Trickett	2 0 0	do	85-11305	P. 1461-1978
Wandera	Arrawatta .....	.....	1	9	Village of Wandera	2 0 0	do	3751	P. 1446-1973
Wellington	Gordon .....	.....	.....	.....	Parish of Curra	8 0 0	Public Recreation	84-15858	W. 143-1834a
Wentworth Falls, Brisfort.	Cook .....	.....	.....	.....	Village of Brisfort	1 2 0	do	86- 2639	C. 25-2062
do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	do do	10 0 21	do .....	.....	.....
do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	do do	2 2 0	do .....	.....	.....
do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	do do	5 2 0	do .....	.....	.....
do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	do do	45 0 0	do .....	.....	.....
Yeo Yeo	Bland	241	.....	.....	Parish of Yeo Yeo	2 0 0	Public School Site	85-25233	P. 1400-1978
Yerilyong	St. Vincent	30	.....	.....	do Yerilyong	2 0 0	do	86- 210	P. 1372-1978
Young	Monteagle	1113	.....	.....	do Young	2 3 20	Site for Show Ground for the use of the Burrang- ong Pastoral and Agri- cultural Association.	85-25223	M. 3795-1760
Yurrammie	Auckland	222	.....	.....	do Yurrammie	2 0 0	Public School Site	84-22092	P. 1394-1978
Argyle Cutting	Murray	78	.....	.....	do Carwoola	2 0 0	do	86- 2163	P. 1544-1978
Ballimore, Lower	Lincoln	7	.....	.....	do Murrumbidge	2 0 0	do	85-15200	P. 1525-1978
Bimlow	Westmoreland	56	.....	.....	do Bimlow	2 0 0	do	20223	P. 1503-1978
Bradshaw Flat	Wellington	29	.....	.....	do Cunningham	2 0 0	do	86- 2167	P. 1537-1978
Cadogan (Jerry's Swamp)	Bathurst	53	.....	.....	do Byng	2 0 0	do	85-24437	P. 1521-1978
Candelo	Auckland	249	.....	.....	do Candelo	5 0 0	Site for Hospital	86- 2169	C. 18-1806
Crookwell	King .....	.....	.....	.....	Town of Crookwell	10 0 10	Public Recreation	85-21554	K. 29-2068
Currahooh	Sturt .....	.....	.....	.....	Parish of Currahooh	13 0 32	General Cemetery	8212	C. 1048-1984
Gosford	Northumber- land .....	.....	.....	.....	do Gosford	55 1 0	Public Recreation	23093	G. 50 1123 not
Gunning	King .....	.....	.....	.....	do Gunning	7 3 37	General Cemetery	24633	C. 1076-1984
Lawrence	Clarence .....	.....	.....	11	Town of Lawrence	5 1 8	Public Recreation	86- 2230	C. 10-2390 S G O.
do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	do do	54 2 0	do .....	.....	C. 0-2390
Jawson	Cook .....	.....	13, 7, 8, & 9	1	Parish of Linden	2 0 32	Public School Site	1550	L. 32277 Roll
Morero	Clarence	211	.....	.....	do Woombah	2 0 0	do	85-14662	P. 1527-1978
Mount Mitchell	Gough	27	.....	.....	do Mount Mitchell	2 0 0	do	25544	P. 1518-1978
Nelson's Creek (Apple-tree Flat)	Hunter	66	.....	.....	do Piribil	2 0 0	do	80- 092	P. 1522-1978
Newbridge	Bathurst .....	.....	.....	.....	do Galbraith	11 0 0	General Cemetery	241	C. 1053-1984

Place.	Country.	Portion.	Allotment.	Section	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose Dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Cat. No. of Plan.
Noorooma.....	Dampier	24	.....	.....	Parish of Noorooma ..	a. r. p. 0 2 0	Site for Mechanics Insti- tute.	Misc. 86- 2956	D. 1990-1618
Nyrang Creek ..	Ashburnham .....	.....	.....	.....	do Belubula	9 2 20	General Cemetery	85- 5722	C. 1060-1984
Parkville	Brisbane .....	.....	.....	.....	do Park	16 0 23	do	19019	C. 1099-1984
Pomeroy	Argyle	210	.....	.....	do Pomeroy	3 2 3	Public School Site	19318	P. 1536-1978
Randwick	Cumberland..	.....	.....	.....	do Alexandria ..	1 2 30	Public Recreation	86- 2900	C. 69-2063
do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	do do	2 1 10	do	"	"
do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	do do	3 3 36	do	"	"
do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	do do	3 0 15	do	"	"
do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	do do	1 0 25	do	"	"
do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	do do	2 1 4	do	"	"
do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	do do	1 1 37	do	"	"
do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	do do	3 0 0	do	"	C. 67-2063
do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	do do	1 0 12	do	"	C. 68-2063
do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	do do	1 0 19	do	"	"
Rodbank	Camden ....	.....	.....	.....	do Couridjah..	10 3 20	General Cemetery	85-24435	C. 1078-1984
Tirrauna	Argyle	342	.....	.....	do Goulburn	2 0 0	Public School Site	14571	P. 1548-1978
Towamba	Auckland .....	.....	.....	.....	do Towamba	9 2 0	General Cemetery	124840	C. 1070-1984
Trangie	Narromine .....	.....	.....	.....	do Trangie	11 8 16	do	6772	C. 1079-1984a
Wagga Wagga..	Wynyard .....	.....	.....	.....	do South Wagga	12 0 0	Public Recreation	24090	W. 3-2383 S.G.O.
Wee Waa	White .....	.....	.....	.....	Wagga. Town of Wee Waa ...	0 0 19	Addition to Public School Site.	24681	N. 90-1867
Wiseman's Ferry	Cumberland..	89	.....	.....	Parish of Cornelia.....	4 0 0	Public School Site	24027	C. 891-2030
Yarraman	Pottinger.....	.....	.....	.....	do Yarraman.....	4 2 0	General Cemetery	89- 4	C. 1061-1984
Yumburra West.	Cowley	9	.....	.....	do Umburra	2 0 0	Public School Site	85-12520	P. 1506-1978

[3d.]

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES UNDER ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 104.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Place.	County.	Portion.	Allotment.	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Catalogue No. of Plan.
Anarel (Jerry's Mount).	Westmoreland.	294	.....	....	Parish of Thornshope.	a. r. p. 2 0 0	Public School site	85-19040	P1531-1978
Baan Baa	Pottinger.....	81	.....	....	" Baan Baa ..	2 0 0	" " " "	86- 1535	P1538-1978
Ballina	Rous.....	.....	.....	....	" Ballina	13 0 32	General Cemetery	1742	C1033-1934R
Barrington	Culgoa .....	.....	.....	....	" Barrington ..	16 0 0	" " " "	2534	C1080-1934R
Bohin Flat	Macquarie ..	46	.....	....	" Bohin	2 0 24	Public School site	85-17530	P1539-1978
Brooman	St. Vincent ..	50	.....	....	" Boyne	2 0 0	" " " "	86- 258	P1423-1978
Budjong Vale	Camden	107	.....	....	" Illaroo	2 0 0	" " " "	85-24052	P1539-1978
Bulgo	Cumberland ..	.....	.....	....	" Bulgo	1 3 38	" " " "	12292	P1492-1978
Bundarigo	Clarence	40	.....	....	" Lanitza	2 0 0	" " " "	86- 2033	P1567-1978
Congora	Monteagle ..	133	.....	....	" Congera	2 0 0	" " " "	1394	P1534-1978
Cootamundry	Harden .....	.....	1	29	Town of Cootamundry	0 2 0	Site for School of Arts.	8535	C7-1772R
Cubmurra	Wallace	86	.....	....	Parish of Wallgrove ..	2 0 0	Public School site	85-12891	P1501-1978
Dungog	Durham .....	.....	.....	....	" Dungog	8 2 12	Extension to General Cemetery.	8865	C1083-1934R
Germanton	Goulburn .....	.....	.....	....	" Germanton	4 3 3	Addition to Show Ground for the use of the Germanton Pastoral and Agricultural Society.	20055	G7-2229
Grafton	Clarence	187	.....	....	" Great Marlow ..	50 0 0	Site for Night-soil Depot and Sewerage Farm.	25225	C1203-1577
Grong Grong	Bourke .....	.....	.....	....	Village of Grong Grong	8 1 8	General Cemetery	9032	C1072-1984
Hill Dyke	Beresford ..	185	.....	....	Parish of Micalgo	2 0 0	Public School site	14176	P1509-1978
Holey Flat	Macquarie	104	.....	....	" Stewart	5 0 0	General Cemetery	3383	C1034-1984
Landsdowne (Koppin Yarratt).	do	63	.....	....	" Yarratt	2 0 0	Public School site	21696	P1041-1978
Merigan Creek (Duck Flat).	Murray	300	.....	....	" Merigan	2 0 0	" " " "	86- 2262	P1583-1978
Mudgee	Wellington .....	.....	9 & 10	64	Town of Mudgee	1 0 0	Further addition to Hospital site.	1585	M41-1009
Nana	Fitzroy .....	.....	.....	....	Village of Nana	7 3 17	General Cemetery	85-25120	C1046-1984
Terra Bella	Gordon	57	.....	....	Parish of Terra Bella ..	2 0 0	Public School site	23611	P1452-1978
Tibba Tibba	Dampier .....	.....	.....	....	" Nooroona	24 0 0	General Cemetery	86- 2805	D1937-1918
Wandera	Ararwatta .....	.....	.....	....	" Wandera	8 1 8	" " " "	85-24229	C1057-1984
Warrah Ridge	Buckland	72	.....	....	" Warrah	2 0 0	Public School site	86- 1537	P1549-1978
Yamma	Ashburnham ..	12	.....	....	" Troubalgie	2 0 0	" " " "	85- 5481	P1427-1978

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES UNDER 104TH SECTION OF THE ACT
48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 104.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the
104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Place	County.	Portion.	Allotment	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose Dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Cat. No. of Plan.
Ballina	Rous. . . . .	....	.....	..	Town of Ballina	a. r. p. 15 2 16	Public Recreation . . .	Misc. 85-12066	R. 6-2339
Macquarie Pass. .	Camden . . . .	..	....	..	Parish of Calderwood . .	11 0 28	do	80- 4501	S. G. O. C. 1604-2041
Mowbray Point. . (Middle Harbor)	Cumberland. . .	..	.....	....	do Willoughby	5 0 23	Wharfage and Recreation.	85-20622	C. 73-2063
St. Joseph's . . .	Cook.	31	..	....	do Cooba	2 0 0	Public School Site . . .	86- 5781	C. 1303-1507

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES UNDER ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 104.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Place.	County.	Portion.	Allotment.	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Catalogue No. of Plan.
Bairnald	Caira .....	....	2, & 3	86	Town of Bairnald....	a. r. p. 7 0 0	Extension to Hospital Site.	86-10200	B. 22-1405
Bega.....	Auckland .....	....	....	....	Parish of Brogo....	14 1 23	General Cemetery	„ 4958	C. 1094-1084
Belmore.....	Ashburnham....	....	....	....	do Collett.....	13 0 32	do	„ 2164	C. 1041-1084
Budthingaroo	Westmoreland..	10	....	....	do Konangaroo	2 0 0	Public School Site	85-20980	P. 1562-1978
Clive.....	Urana	48	....	....	do Clive.....	2 0 0	do	86-2682	P. 1419-1978
Come-by-Chance...	Barudine	30	....	....	do Cox.....	2 0 0	do	2702	P. 1543-1978
Coppabella	Harden	201	....	....	do Coppabella..	2 0 36	do	2703	P. 1550-1978
Jerry's Plains	Hunter.....	....	....	....	do Wambo.....	8 0 0	General Cemetery	4980	C. 1098-1984
Mogong	Ashburnham....	40	....	....	do Mogong	2 0 0	Public School Site ...	4957	P. 1562-1978
Mooney Mooney...	Harden.....	178	....	....	do Mooney Mooney	2 0 0	do	85-21826	P. 1561-1978
Newstead	Dampier	132	....	....	do Moruya	1 3 33	do	86- 2224	D. 2017-1618
Nomblinnie	Blaxland .....	....	....	....	do Mount Hope	8 1 8	General Cemetery	85-15800	C. 1037-1934
North Lismore ..	Rous	1159	....	....	do North Lismore	34 2 33	Public Recreation	20695	R. 18-2330
Yeoval	Gordon.....	..	9	4	Village of Yeoval ..	1 3 38	Public School Site	86- 0027	P. 1574-1978

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 104.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Place.	County.	Portion.	Allotment.	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose Dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Cat. No. of Plan.
Belanglo	Camden	31 .....	.....	.....	Parish of Belanglo	a r. p.	Public School Site	86-10013	P. 1514-1978
Bourke	Cowper .....	.....	.....	Part of 49	Town of Bourke	2 0 0	Stock and Sale Yards	8872	B. 20-1821R
Cargo	Ashburnham	41 .....	.....	.....	Parish of Cargo	14 0 0	Public Recreation	6	Ain. 35- 877R
Collarindabri	Finch .....	.....	2	6	Town of Collarindabri	2 0 0	Public School Site	35-12716	P. 1468-1978
Coonamble	Leichhardt .....	.....	.....	Part of 8	do Coonamble	0 1 15½	Town Hall Site	86- 6046	C. 20-1749
Deniliquin	Townsend .....	.....	.....	.....	Parish of South Deniliquin	163 1 0	Extension to Racecourse	5982	D. 41-1458
Doorrin	Oxley	22 .....	.....	.....	do Carval	2 0 0	Public School Site	85-20011	P. 1572-1978
Glenlogan	Bathurst	141 .....	.....	.....	do Glenlogan	2 0 0	do	12716	P. 1310-1473
Goolagong	Forbes .....	.....	1	23	Village of Goolagong	2 0 19	do	11263	P. 1237-1978
Gordonville	Raleigh	161 .....	.....	.....	Parish of South Bellingen	2 0 0	do	86- 1567	P. 1566-1978
Hogan's Brush	Northumberland	13 .....	.....	.....	do Gosford	100 0 0	State Forest Nursery	10010	N. 1116-2111
Little Plain, Gosford	Murchison	311 .....	.....	.....	do Little Plain	2 0 0	Public School Site	85-12717	P. 938-1978
Mount Hope	Blaxland	108 .....	.....	.....	do Mount Hope	10 0 0	Site for Hospital	86- 4668	B. 378-2022
Murray's Run	Northumberland	7 .....	.....	.....	do Hay	2 0 0	Public School Site	85-11264	P. 1204-1978
New Bristol	St. Vincent	32 .....	.....	.....	do Bherwerre	2 0 0	do	86- 8737	V. 1460-2013
North Willoughby	Cumberland .....	.....	.....	.....	do Willoughby	1 1 22½	Public Recreation	83- 9317	(C. 444-2030
Oxley's Peak	Brisbane	119 .....	.....	.....	do Wentworth	2 0 0	Public School Site	85-22587	(C. 931-600R
do Park	do .....	.....	1	9	Village of Parkville	2 0 0	do	86- 226	P. 1580-1978
Paupong	Wallace	52 .....	.....	.....	Parish of Wilson	2 0 0	do	85-19553	P. 1579-1978
Polican Island	Dudley	160 .....	.....	.....	do Clybucca	2 0 0	do	85-19553	P. 1554-1978
Pipeclay Springs	Wentley	164 .....	.....	.....	do Bombala	2 0 0	do	13723	P. 1064-1978
Queanbeyan	Murray .....	.....	.....	.....	do Queanbeyan	14 0 13	General Cemetery	86- 7460	P. 1531-1978
Springbank	Urana	79 .....	.....	.....	do Bingogong	2 0 0	Public School Site	2997	C. 1097-1984
Sunny Corner	Roxburgh .....	.....	.....	13	Village of Sunny Corner	5 1 9	Site for Hospital	4941	P. 1555-1978
Temora	Bland .....	.....	.....	.....	do Bundawarra	15 0 0	Site for Show Ground for the use of the Temora Pastoral and Agricultural Association	1023	S. 1-2338R
Whittingham	Northumberland .....	.....	.....	.....	do Whittingham	9 1 7	General Cemetery	6902	B. 1987-1946
Wiagen	Brisbane .....	.....	.....	.....	do Wingen	13 0 27	do	85-21262	C. 1106-1984
Yarrowford	Gough	99 .....	.....	.....	Parish of Boyd	2 0 0	Public School Site	86- 530	C. 1105-1984
								6602	P. 1570-1978

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES UNDER THE ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 104.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Place.	County.	Portion.	Allotment.	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated	No. of Papers.	Cat. No. of Plan.
Bagdad	Bland	36	.....	.....	Parish of Walladilly	a. r. p.	Public School Site	Ms. 86- 4295	P. 1553-1978
Barry (Five Islands.)	Bathurst	1	.....	6	Town of Barry	2 0 0	do	5554	1593-1978
Berawinia	Irrara .....	.....	.....	.....	Parish of Berawinia	17 0 36	General Cemetery	6495	C. 1096-1984
Bookham	Harden .....	.....	.....	.....	Village of Bookham	11 3 14	do	85-12486	1096-1984
Boro Lower	Argyle	86	.....	.....	Parish of Boro	2 0 0	Public School Site	86- 6150	P. 1577-1978
Byangum	Rous	65	.....	.....	do Wollumbin	2 0 0	do	85-19472	P. 1646-1978
Countegany	Dampier	58	.....	.....	do Guinea	2 0 0	do	86-12340	D 2021-1618
Gerogery	Goulburn	206	.....	.....	do Gerogery	2 0 0	do	6801	P. 1529-1978
Hatfield	Killara	6	.....	.....	do Chown	2 0 0	do	8757	P. 1613-1978
Inverell	Gough .....	.....	.....	.....	Town of Inverell	0 0 19	Addition to Public School Site.	6500	J. 11-1651
Inverell	Gough .....	.....	.....	.....	Town of Inverell	1 0 19	Addition to Show Ground for the use of the Inverell Pastoral and Agricultural Association	5955	J.L.B. 1651
Meangora	St. Vincent	60	.....	.....	Parish of Meangora	2 0 0	Public School Site	86- 7007	P. 1584-1978
Murrumburrah	Harden .....	.....	.....	6	Village of Murrumburrah	7 3 14	Public Recreation	11423	H. 2-2397
Nerrabundah	Murray	170	.....	.....	Parish of Nerrabundah	6 3 0	Public School Site	La. 86- 1851	P. 1593-1978
Oberon	Westmoreland .....	.....	.....	.....	do Oberon	12 3 32	General Cemetery	Ms. 6984	C. 1104-1984
Rockmove	Darling	26	.....	.....	do Tiabundie	2 0 0	Public School Site	6151	P. 1573-1978
Rocky Glen	White .....	.....	.....	.....	do Borah	16 2 0	General Cemetery	85-24123	C. 1056-1984
Sapphire (Swamp Oak.)	Ararawatta	87	.....	.....	do Swamp Oak	2 0 0	Public School Site	86-12823	P. 1542-1978
Seaham	Durham .....	.....	.....	.....	do Seaham	5 2 29	General Cemetery	3824	C. 1012-1984
Stanborough	Hardinge	4	.....	.....	do Darby	2 0 0	Public School Site	7464	P. 1523-1978
Wangat	Gloucester .....	.....	.....	.....	do Wangat	6 3 0	General Cemetery	85-11090	C. 1071-1984
Warrowire	Monteagle	77	.....	.....	do Bumbaldry	2 0 0	Public School Site	86- 8745	P. 1550-1978

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES UNDER ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 104.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Place.	County.	Portion	Allotment.	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Catalogue No. of Plan.
Balranald	Caira .....	....	1	7	Town of Balranald ..	a. r. p. 0 1 0	Site for Public Baths..	86-13847	B 1 A-9
Barraba	Darling .....	....	....	27, 28, 29, 30	do Barraba	100 2 7	Public Recreation	9345	B. 17-14188, a.o.
Belmore Falls, Barrangarry.	Camden .....	....	....	....	Parishes of Burrawang and Yarrawa.	about 2100 0 0	do	14185	
Clarendon	Clarendon .....	....	....	....	Parish of Eurogilly..	4 2 0	General Cemetery	8751	C. 1074-1984
Quandong	Gowen	58	....	....	do Cobbinbil	2 0 0	Public School Site	12577	P. 1496-1978
Reedy Flat	Wynyard .....	....	....	....	do Batlow	84 1 0	Public Recreation	11203	W. 6-2383
Seymour, Adaminahy.	Wallace .....	....	....	....	do Seymour	210 0 0	do	12784	Ms. 86-0536a
Tintenbar	Rous .....	....	....	....	Village of Tintenbar..	17 1 22	Public Recreation and Show Ground.	9653	
Wannaring	Irrara .....	....	....	....	Parish of Effluence ..	10 3 21	General Cemetery	85- 9270	C. 1069-1084
Waratah	Northumberland	252	....	....	do Newcastle	0 0 34	Site for School of Arts	86- 7730	N. 843-2111
Wentworth	Wentworth	1	....	....	do Wentworth	20 0 0	Site for Show Ground for the use of Wentworth Pastoral and Agricultural Society.	18998	W. 2, C-9 D.S.O., Hay.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES UNDER ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 104.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Place.	County.	Portion.	Allotment.	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose Dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Cat. No. of Plan.
Blaxland's Flat ..	Fitzroy	206	.....	.....	Parish of Bardsley	a. r. p.	Public School Site	Misc.	
Bobundarah	Wellesley	107	.....	.....	do Nelson	2 0 0	do	88-1561	P. 1578-1978
Bowra	Ralcligh .....	.....	1, 2, 3, 6, 7, & 8.	20	do Bowra, suburbs of Bowra.	2 0 0	Public Recreation	8069	P. 1611-1978
Cobar	Robinson	237	.....	.....	do Cobar	8 2 0	.....	85-18495	
Condoumlin	Cunningham ..	112	.....	.....	Town of Condoumlin ..	51 1 20	Site for show ground for the use of the Cobar Pastoral and Agricultural Association.	86-14826	R. 266-2127
Currahooll	Sturt .....	.....	2	3	Village of Currahooll West.	27 0 20	Site for show ground for the use of the Condoumlin Pastoral and Agricultural Association.	4408	C. 11-1706
Inverell	Arnwatta	374	.....	.....	Parish of Byron	0 2 0	Site for School of Arts ..	9066	C. 1-2293a
Jugiong	Harden .....	.....	.....	.....	do	1 0 0	do	14617	
Kincumber	Northumberland ..	185	.....	.....	do Jugiong	7 3 32	General Cemetery	4863	C. 975-1984
Lismore	Rous .....	.....	.....	.....	do Kincumber	0 1 0	Site for School of Arts ..	9257	N. 1144-2111
Longbottom (Concord).	Cumberland ..	.....	1	5	Town of Lismore	1 2 0	Public Recreation	3755	
Mimosa East ..	Bourke	108	.....	.....	Village of Longbottom ..	0 1 0	Site for Town Hall	10011	L. 22-1252
Moree	Courallie .....	.....	.....	.....	Parish of Methul	2 0 0	Public School Site	12069	P. 1582-1978
Nangunia	Denison	104	.....	.....	do Moree, town of	abt 19 0 0	Public Recreation	15404	
Noorooma	Dampier .....	.....	.....	.....	do Gerildery	2 0 0	Public School Site	1419	P. 1578-1978
Pilliga	Barrdine .....	.....	1	1	Village of Noorooma ..	8 1 8	General Cemetery	18823	C. 1086-1984
Rocky Glen ..	White .....	.....	1, 2, 6, & 7	6	Town of Pilliga	0 2 1	Site for School of Arts ..	15224	
Spring Gully ..	Hardinge	13	.....	.....	Village of Rocky Glen ..	2 0 0	Public School Site	8432	R. 2304a
Springwood ..	Cook .....	.....	.....	.....	Parish of Cooper	2 0 0	do	10151	R. 1-2304a
Sunny Corner ..	Roxburgh .....	.....	.....	.....	do Coomassie	10 0 0	General Cemetery	5175	P. 1524-1978
Walcha	Vernon .....	.....	8	34	Village of Sunny Corner	49 8 0	Public Recreation	85-22448	C. 1317-1507
Wolumla	Auckland	95	.....	.....	Town of Walcha	0 1 23	Further addition to site for School of Arts.	86-11448	S. 1-2338
					Parish of Wolumla	137 1 0	Public Recreation	15231	

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(AUTHORIZED TO BE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC PURPOSES UNDER ACT 48 VIC. No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 104.

ABSTRACT of Crown Lands authorized to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Victoria No. 18.

Place.	County.	Portion.	Allotment.	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Catalogue No. of Plan.
Arthur's Seat	Arrawatta	4	...	...	Parish of Arthur's Seat	a. r. p. 2 0 0	Public School Site	Misc. 80-13030	P. 143-1978
Barry	Bathurst	...	...	...	Town of Barry	11 0 0	General Cemetery	11163	C. 1116-1934
Belargabil	Lincoln	25	...	...	Parish of Coolbaggie	2 0 0	Public School Site	13468	P. 989-1978
Cootamundry	Harden	351	...	...	do Cootamundry	10 0 0	Site for Hospital	12062	H. 537-1716
Grant's Creek	Brisbane	...	...	...	do Wickham	6 3 15	General Cemetery	13240	C. 1118-1934
Homebush	Cumberland	...	...	...	do Concord	12 3 0	Railway Purposes	16733	C. 981-2030
Lismore	Rous	280	...	...	do Lismore	7 1 16	Addition to Hospital Site.	10172	Roll, 400 & 477
Do	do	...	...	...	Town of Lismore	about 15 0 0	Water Supply	11422	Reg.-Gen. R. 3891-1759
Marengo	Monteagle	...	...	...	Parish of Murringo	12 2 0	Public Recreation	17225	Registered L.B.86-3010
Quaamaa	Dampier	...	1	3	Village of Quaamaa	0 1 36	Site for School of Arts	84-25833	Goulburn. D. 2031-1618
The Falls	St. Vincent	63	...	...	Parish of Tomerong	2 0 0	Public School Site	86-11398	V. 1471-2018
Umbango	Wynyard	88	...	...	do Oberne	2 0 0	do	15917	P. 970-1978
Walli	Bathurst	...	...	...	do Walli	7 8 34	General Cemetery	6958	C. 1050-1934
Young	Monteagle	...	...	46	Town of Young	2 2 36	Public Recreation	16248	

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(GAZETTE NOTICES 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 VICTORIA NO. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 105.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PART OF THE PERMANENT COMMON AT TUMUT FOR ROAD PURPOSES.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 18 November, 1885.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of part of the Permanent Common at Tumut, with the view of the land being set apart for road purposes.

JOSEPH P. ABBOTT.

DESCRIPTION.

Area 1 acre 2 roods 29 perches of the Permanent Common at Tumut, parish of Tumut, county of Wynyard, dedicated 15 August, 1879: Commencing at a point on the western boundary of recreation reserve, dedicated 18 November, 1870, bearing south and distant 4 chains 14 links from the north-west corner of the recreation reserve; and bounded thence on the south-east by a line bearing south 54 degrees 35 minutes west 9 chains 24 links; thence on the south-west by a line bearing north 67 degrees 26 minutes west 7 chains 60½ links to the north-western boundary of the Permanent Common, dedicated 15 August, 1879; thence on part of the north-west by part of that north-western boundary of the Common, bearing north 53 degrees east 1 chain 16 links; thence on the north-east by a line bearing south 67 degrees 26 minutes east 6 chains 46 links; thence on the remainder of the north-west by a line bearing north 54 degrees 35 minutes east 9 chains 40 links to the west boundary of the recreation reserve aforesaid; thence on the east by part of that west boundary south 1 chain 23 links, to the point of commencement.

Shown on plan catalogued M. 339-1,834, Surveyor-General's Office. [Ms. 85-18,656]

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF SITE FOR MECHANICS' INSTITUTE AT BOURKE.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 2 October, 1885.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the site for Mechanics' Institute in the town of Bourke, hereunder described, another site having been granted in lieu thereof.

[Ms. 85-18,857]

JAMES S. FARNELL.

DESCRIPTION.

3 roods, county of Cowper, parish of Bourke, town of Bourke, allotment No. 1 of section No. 17. Commencing at the north-western corner of the section; and bounded thence on the north by Merlin-street easterly 2 chains and 50 links; on the east by the western boundary-line of allotment No. 2 southerly, at right angles to Merlin-street, 3 chains to a lane; on the south by that lane westerly parallel with Merlin-street 2 chains and 50 links to Glen-street; and on the west by that street northerly 3 chains, to the point of commencement.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PRESBYTERIAN BURIAL GROUND AT SEAHAM.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 2 October, 1885.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Presbyterian Burial Ground at Seaham, hereunder described, with a view to the land being included in an area proposed to be dedicated as a site for General Cemetery at that place.

[Ms. 85-18-856]

JAMES S. FARNELL.

DESCRIPTION.

DESCRIPTION.

1 acre, county of Durham, parish of Seaham, town of Seaham. Commencing on the southern side of Sinclair-street at a point where the western side of Grape-street meets it; and bounded thence on the north by Sinclair-street, bearing west 5 chains; on the west by a line bearing south 2 chains; and on the south by a line bearing east 5 chains to Grape-street; and on the east by that street bearing north 2 chains, to the point of commencement.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF THE PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY COMMONS AT MUSCLEBROOK.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 6 October, 1885.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication and reservation of the Permanent and Temporary Commons at Musclebrook, hereunder described, with a view to the alienation of the land, a Common in lieu thereof having been purchased by the Crown.

[Ms. 85-19,259]

JAMES S. FARNELL.

DESCRIPTIONS.

Permanent Common, Musclebrook, dedicated 25th August, 1865.

County of Durham, parish of Rowan, area 1,187 acres: Commencing on the south boundary of portion No. 19, parish of Russell, at a point bearing westerly and distant 6 chains 60 links from its south-east corner; bounded thence on the north by a line partly part of the south boundary of that portion and the south boundaries of portions Nos. 21 and 17, same parish, bearing south 89 degrees 27 minutes west 73 chains 40 links; thence on the west by the east boundary of H. Dumaresq's portion of 680 acres, parish of Rowan, bearing south 50 minutes east 162 chains 55 links to the north boundary of Musclebrook Temporary Common, notified 15th November, 1867; thence on the south by part of that north boundary east to the north-east corner of the Common; thence on the east by a line partly forming the west boundary of portion No. 13 bearing north 1 degree west, to the point of commencement,—shown on plan catalogued D. 147-1,557, Surveyor-General's Office.

Temporary Common, Musclebrook, notified 15th November, 1867.

County of Durham, parish of Rowan, area 1,321 acres, near Musclebrook: Commencing on the western boundary of E. Sparke's 2,000 acres, at the north-eastern corner of G. Bowman's 603 acres; and bounded thence on the south by a line partly forming the northern boundaries of that land and G. Bowman's 614 acres bearing west 1 degree 3 minutes north 159 chains 80 links; on the west by a line bearing north 39 degrees east 1 chain 63 links to the south-eastern corner of E. S. Dumaresq's 837 acres, and by the eastern boundary of that land bearing north 15 minutes east 80 chains 52 links; on the north by part of the southern boundary of H. Dumaresq's 2,180 acres and the southern boundary of H. Dumaresq's 680 acres, bearing east 45 minutes north 84 chains 58 links to the south-eastern corner of the last-mentioned land; and thence by a line bearing east to its intersection with the northerly prolongation of the western boundary of E. Sparke's 2,000 acres aforesaid; and on the east by that prolongation and part of that boundary, being in all a line bearing south 1 degree east, to the point of commencement.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PART OF THE CANDELO RECREATION RESERVE AND DEDICATION AS A SITE FOR COURT-HOUSE.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 6 October, 1885.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of that part of the Recreation Reserve at Candelo hereunder described, with a view to the land being dedicated as a site for Court-house.

[Ms. 85-19,258]

JAMES S. FARNELL.

DESCRIPTION.

County of Auckland, parish of Candelo, town of Candelo, being section No. 31, area 2 acres 1 rood 39 perches, exclusive of road: Commencing at the intersection of the south side of Queen-street with the east side of William-street; thence bounded on the west by that side of William-street bearing south 6 chains to the north side of Gordon-street; thence on the south by that side of Gordon-street bearing easterly 5 chains to the west side of Bega-street; thence on the east by that side of Bega-street bearing north 6 chains to the south side of Queen-street aforementioned; and thence on the north by that side of Queen-street bearing west 5 chains, to the point of commencement,—but exclusive of the road 1 chain wide from Bombala to Merrimbula.

Plan catalogued C 11-1,906, Surveyor-General's Office.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF CEMETERY AT JUGIONG.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 6 October, 1885.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Cemetery at Jugiong, dedicated on the 7th January, 1879, and hereunder described, it being intended to dedicate another Cemetery in lieu thereof.

[Ms. 85-19,257]

JAMES S. FARNELL.

DESCRIPTION.

7 acres 2 roods, county of Harden, parish of Jugiong, at Jugiong: Commencing on the eastern side of a road 1 chain 50 links wide, at a point bearing south 89 degrees 13 minutes east, and distant 1 chain and 50 links from the north-eastern corner of portion No. 34 of 22 acres 2 roods 28 perches; and bounded thence on the west by that road dividing it from part of that portion bearing south 47 minutes west 8 chains; on the south by a line bearing south 89 degrees 13 minutes east 10 chains 38 links; on the east by a line bearing north 47 minutes east 8 chains; and on the north by a road 1 chain wide dividing it from part of portion No. 33 of 106 acres 2 roods, bearing north 89 degrees 13 minutes west 10 chains 38 links, to the point of commencement,—exclusively of the road 1 chain wide passing through this land in a southerly direction, the area of which has been deducted from the total area.

PROPOSED

PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF TOWN HALL AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE SITES AT GOULBURN.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 30 October, 1885.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Town Hall site at Goulburn, viz., allotment No. 16 of section No. 2, containing 1 rood 1 perch, and the reservation of the Telegraph Office site at that place, being allotment No. 14 of section No. 2, containing 1 rood, with a view to the first-mentioned allotment being reserved for Post and Telegraph Office site, and the latter dedicated for Town Hall site.

[Ms. 85-20,878]

JOSEPH P. ABBOTT.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF CEMETERY AT MARULAN, AND APPROPRIATION FOR POLICE PURPOSES.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 30 October, 1885.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the General Cemetery at Marulan, hereunder described, with a view to the land being set apart for Police purposes.

[Ms. 85-20,879]

JOSEPH P. ABBOTT.

DESCRIPTION.

8 acres, county of Argyle, parish of Marulan, at Marulan: Commencing on the southern side of a road 1 chain wide, at a point distant 1 chain south from the south-eastern corner of a measured portion of 100 acres; and bounded thence on the north by that road dividing it from part of that portion bearing west 8 chains; on the west by a line bearing south 10 chains; on the south by a line bearing east 8 chains; and on the east by a line bearing north 10 chains, to the point of commencement.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

(GAZETTE NOTICES OF INTENDED DEDICATION OF CERTAIN LANDS UNDER 105TH SECTION OF 48 VIC.
No. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 105.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 31st December, 1885.PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF NATIONAL SCHOOL
SITE AT JEWNEE AND DEDICATION FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the National School Site at Jewnee, hereunder described, it being intended to dedicate portion No. 190, also hereunder described, as a site for a Public School in lieu thereof.

[Ms. 85-22,486]

GERALD SPRING.

DESCRIPTIONS.

NATIONAL SCHOOL SITE—TO BE RESUMED.

2 acres. County of Clarendon, parish of Jewnee, town of Jewnee, allotments 1 and 2 of section 30: Commencing at the north-western corner of the section; and bounded thence on the north by Stephen-street easterly 4 chains; on the east by a line crossing the lane forming partly the western boundaries of allotments 3 and 8, southerly, at right angles to Stephen-street, 5 chains and 30 links to White-street; on the south by that street westerly, parallel with Stephen-street, 4 chains; and on the west by a line northerly, at right angles to White-street, 5 chains and 30 links, to the point of commencement,—exclusively of the existing lane, 30 links wide, passing through this land in a westerly direction parallel with Stephen-street, the area of which has been deducted from the total area.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE—TO BE DEDICATED.

2 acres 0 roods 1 perch. County of Clarendon, parish of Jewnee, at Jewnee, portion 190: Commencing on the north-western side of the road 3 chains wide at the south-eastern corner of portion 154 of 20 acres 2 roods 16 perches; and bounded thence on the south-east by that road dividing it from part of portion 191 of 13 acres 3 roods 32 perches bearing south 26 degrees 2 minutes west 4 chains 98 links; on the south by a line bearing west 3 chains 39½ links; on the west by a line bearing north 4 chains 48 links; and on the north by part of the southern boundary of portion 154 aforesaid bearing east 5 chains 58 links, to the point of commencement.

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Department of Lands,
Sydney, 22nd January, 1886.PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC PARK IN THE
PARISH OF CONCORD, COUNTY OF CUMBER-
LAND, AND DEDICATION OF PUBLIC PARK IN
LIEU THEREOF.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Public Park in the parish of Concord, county of Cumberland, dedicated on the 7th January, 1879, and hereunder described, with a view to the dedication in lieu thereof of an area of 66 acres 2 roods 15 perches, also hereunder described.

[Ms. 86-987]

GERALD SPRING.

DESCRIPTIONS.

For Resumption.

County of Cumberland, parish of Concord, area 17 acres 0 roods 12½ perches: Commencing on the north side of the Parramatta Road, at the south-west corner of the Longbottom Pound site; and bounded thence by that side of that road, being lines bearing south 87 degrees 40 minutes west 13 chains 53 links, and north 86 degrees 35 minutes west 1 chain 15 links to the south-east corner of the Wesleyan Church land; thence by the east boundary of that land bearing north 2 chains 6 links; thence by the north boundary of that land bearing west 1 chain 94½ links to the south-east side of Stockade-street, as resumed 24th November, 1881; thence by that side of that street bearing north 20 degrees 11 minutes east 11 chains 18½ links to the south-west boundary of Police Paddock, as resumed 24th November, 1881; thence by that boundary of that land bearing south 75 degrees 38 minutes east 15 chains 5½ links to the west boundary of Dr. Harris' 1,500 acres; thence by that boundary of that land bearing south 6 degrees 43 minutes west 6 chains 76 links to the north-east corner of the pound site aforementioned; thence by the north boundary of that site bearing south 87 degrees 40 minutes west 85 links; thence by the west boundary of the said pound site bearing south 6 degrees 43 minutes west 1 chain 60 links, to the point of commencement.

The above was dedicated 7th January, 1879, and is shown on plan catalogued L. 21-1,252, in the Surveyor General's Office.

For Dedication.

County of Cumberland, parish of Concord, area 66 acres 2 roods 15 perches: Commencing on the northern side of the Great Western Road, at the south-western corner of the Longbottom Pound site; and bounded thence on the south by that side of that road, being lines bearing south 87 degrees 30 minutes west (magnetic) 13 chains 55 $\frac{1}{2}$ links, and north 86 degrees 46 minutes 10 seconds west (magnetic) 1 chain 15 links to the south-eastern corner of allotment No. 3, as shown on plan catalogued C. 631-730; thence on the west by the eastern boundary of that allotment bearing north 12 minutes west (magnetic) 2 chains 6 links to its north-eastern corner; thence again on the south by the northern boundaries of allotments Nos. 3, 2, and 1, as shown on said plan bearing south 89 degrees 51 minutes west (magnetic) 1 chain 92 links to the south-eastern side of Stockade-street; thence on the north-west by that side of Stockade-street, being lines bearing north 20 degrees 3 minutes 3 seconds east (magnetic) 11 chains 17 links north 16 degrees 17 minutes east (magnetic) 1 chain 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ links to the north-eastern side of Gipps-street; thence on the south-west by that side of Gipps-street bearing north 76 degrees 13 minutes 38 seconds west (magnetic) 11 chains 74 $\frac{3}{4}$ links; thence again on the north-west by a line bearing north 19 degrees 33 minutes 12 seconds east

(magnetic) 9 chains 67 $\frac{2}{3}$ links to the south-west side of Stanley-street; thence on the north-east by that side of that street bearing south 70 degrees 11 seconds east (magnetic) 9 chains 54 $\frac{1}{4}$ links; thence again on the north-west by a line bearing north 19 degrees 30 minutes east (magnetic) 19 chains; thence again on the north-east by lines bearing south 70 degrees 30 minutes east (magnetic) 6 chains 25 links, and south 68 degrees 36 minutes east (magnetic) about 1 chain 50 links to the shore of Hen and Chicken Bay; thence by that shore of that bay easterly to the north-western corner of Dr. Harris' 1,500 acres grant; thence on the south-east by the north-western boundary of that land, being lines bearing south 10 degrees 20 minutes 2 seconds west (magnetic) 22 chains 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ links, and south 6 degrees 32 minutes 39 seconds west (magnetic) 11 chains 82 $\frac{3}{4}$ links to the north-eastern corner of the Longbottom Pound site aforementioned; thence again on the south by the north boundary of the said pound site bearing south 87 degrees 30 minutes west (magnetic) 85 links to the north-west corner of that land; and thence again on the south-east by the north-western boundary of that pound site bearing south 6 degrees 32 minutes 39 seconds west (magnetic) 1 chain 60 links, to the point of commencement,—as shown on plan catalogued C. 55-2,063, in the Surveyor General's Office.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(DEDICATION OF CERTAIN LANDS UNDER.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 105.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 5th March, 1886.**PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF WATER RESERVE IN
THE CITY OF BATHURST, AND DEDICATION
FOR CATTLE SALE YARDS AND PUBLIC
RECREATION.**

It is hereby notified, for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the reserve for water supply in the City of Bathurst, hereunder described, with a view to a portion thereof, containing 6 acres 3 roods 39 perches, also described below, being dedicated as a site for cattle sale yards; and the remainder, 2 acres 0 roods 23 perches, as defined by description herewith, being dedicated for public recreation.

HENRY COPELAND.

Water Reserve proposed to be resumed.

County of Bathurst, parish of Bathurst, City of Bathurst, area 8 acres 2 roods 39 perches. Commencing at the intersection of the north-east side of Russell-street with the south-east side of Acheron-street; and bounded thence by that side of the latter street bearing north-easterly to the south-west side of Howick-street; thence by that side of that street bearing south-easterly to the north-west side of Pearl-street; thence by that side of that street bearing south-westerly to the aforesaid north-east side of Russell-street; and thence by that side of that street bearing north-westerly, to the point of commencement,—exclusively of Queen Charlotte's Vale Creek, passing through this land, and of the two lanes, each 30 links wide, the areas of which have been deducted from the total area, being section No. 103, as shown on plan catalogued B. 150-824 in the Surveyor-General's Office.

The above was dedicated for water supply, 13th March, 1877, and vested in the Municipal Council of Bathurst.
[Ms. 86-3,003]

Proposed Cattle Sale Yards.

County of Bathurst, parish of Bathurst, City of Bathurst, area 6 acres 3 roods 39 perches. Commencing at the intersection of the south-east side of Acheron-street with the north-east side of Russell-street; and bounded thence by that side of the latter street bearing south 50 degrees 4 minutes east 10 chains 10 links to the north-west side of Pearl-street; thence by that side of that street bearing north 39 degrees 56 minutes east 4 chains 90 links to the left bank of Queen Charlotte's Vale Creek; thence by that bank of that creek downwards to the south-west side of Howick-street; thence by that side of that street bearing north 50 degrees 4 minutes west 2 chains 30 links to the south-east side of Acheron-street aforesaid; and thence by that side of that street bearing south 40 degrees 23 minutes west 10 chains 53 links to the point of commencement, being part of section No. 103, as shown on plan catalogued B. 25-2,382, in the Surveyor-General's Office.
[Ms. 86-3,003]

Proposed Reserve for Public Recreation.

County of Bathurst, parish of Bathurst, city of Bathurst, area 2 acres 0 roods 23 perches. Commencing at the intersection of the north-west side of Pearl-street with the south-west side of Howick-street; and bounded thence by that side of the latter street bearing north 50 degrees 4 minutes west 6 chains 30 links to the right bank of Queen Charlotte's Vale Creek; thence by that bank of that creek upwards to the north-west side of Pearl-street aforesaid; and thence by that side of that street bearing north 39 degrees 56 minutes east 3 chains 82 links to the point of commencement,—being part of section No. 103, as shown on plan catalogued B. 25-2,382, in the Surveyor-General's Office. [Ms. 86-3,003]

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 12th March, 1886.**PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF THE PERMANENT
COMMON AND PART OF THE TEMPORARY
COMMON AT WALCHA, AND DEDICATION FOR
PERMANENT COMMON AND PUBLIC RECREA-
TION IN LIEU THEREOF.**

It is hereby notified, for public information, that in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Permanent Common at Walcha, and the reservation of that part of the Temporary Common at that place, hereunder described, with the view to the dedication in lieu thereof of 806 acres for Permanent Common and 100 acres for public recreation, also hereunder described.

[Ms. 86-2,999]

HENRY COPELAND.

Permanent Common at Walcha proposed to be resumed.

County of Vernon, parish of Walcha, area about 806 acres. Commencing at the south-west corner of A. Nivison's 160 acres; and bounded thence on part of the east by the west boundary of that portion and a line bearing north 21 chains to the south-west corner of portion No. 292; on part of the north by a line partly forming the south boundary of portion No. 293 of 42 acres 3 roods bearing north 89 degrees 43 minutes west 16 chains 14 links to its south-west corner; again on the east by part of the west boundary of that portion bearing north 17 minutes east 11 chains 25 links; on the north by a line bearing west 92 chains; on part of the west by a line bearing south 5 chains; on the remainder of the north by a line bearing west 4 chains; on the remainder of the west by a line bearing south 72 chains 46 links; on the south by a line bearing east 112 chains 10 links to a point south of the south-west corner of A. Nivison's 160 acres aforesaid; and on the remainder of the east by a line bearing north to that corner, the point of commencement.

Dedicated 6th December, 1867.

The Permanent Common proposed to be dedicated this date is in lieu of the above.

Portion of the Temporary Common at Walcha proposed to be revoked.

County of Vernon, parish of Walcha, area about 120 acres. That part of the Temporary Common at Walcha, notified 17th January, 1868, within portion No. 118, measured for public recreation, and the Permanent Common at Walcha, both proposed to be dedicated this date.

Plan catalogued N. 133-1,834, Surveyor General's Office.

Permanent Common at Walcha proposed to be dedicated.

County of Vernon, parish of Walcha, area 806 acres. Commencing at the south-west corner of portion No. 293 of 42 acres 3 roods; and bounded thence on part of the east by part of the west boundary of that portion bearing north 17 minutes east 11 chains 25 links; on part of the north by a line bearing west 92 chains; on part of the west by a line bearing south 6 chains; again on the north by a line bearing west 4 chains; again on the west by a line bearing south 52 chains 58 links; on part of the south by a line bearing east 35 chains; on the remainder of the west by a line bearing south 30 chains 25½ links; on the south-west by a line bearing south 37 degrees 58 minutes east 16 chains 6½ links; again on the south by a line bearing east 30 chains 97 links; again on the east by a line bearing north 23 chains 5 links; on the remainder of the south by a line bearing east 38 chains 43 links; again on the east by a line bearing north 44 chains 14 links; again on the north by a line bearing west 318 links; on the remainder of the east by a line bearing north 22 chains to the south-east corner of portion No. 293 aforesaid; and on the remainder of the north by the south boundary of that portion bearing north 89 degrees 43 minutes west, to the point of commencement, but exclusive of reserved roads, as shown on plan catalogued N. 133-1,834.

NOTE.—The above is in lieu of Permanent Common proposed to be revoked this day.

Proposed Recreation Reserve at Walcha.

County of Vernon, parish of Walcha, area 100 acres. Commencing on a south boundary of the Permanent Common proposed to be dedicated this date, at a point 2 chains east from the east boundary of portion No. 409, E. B. Boulton's 65 acres 2 roods; and bounded thence on the west by a line bearing south 30 chains 77 links; on the south by a line bearing east 32 chains 50 links; on the east by a line bearing north 30 chains 77 links; and on the north by a line bearing west 32 chains 50 links, to the point of commencement.

To include portion No. 118.

Plan catalogued N. 133-1,834, Surveyor General's Office.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 19th March, 1886.

**PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE
AT ROCKY PONDS AND DEDICATION OF
ANOTHER SITE IN LIEU THEREOF.**

It is hereby notified for public information, that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th Section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Public School site at Rocky Ponds, viz., portion No. 37, in the parish of Rocky Ponds, county of Gordon, containing 2 acres, with a view to an area of 2 acres in the locality mentioned, viz., portion No. 46, being dedicated as a site for Public School in lieu thereof.

[Ms. 86-4,661.]

HENRY COPELAND.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(DEDICATION OF CERTAIN LANDS UNDER.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 105.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 13th April, 1886.**PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PART OF COOK'S
SQUARE AND PARK AT EAST MAITLAND AND
DEDICATION AS A SITE FOR GAS WORKS.**

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of that part of the Recreation Reserve at East Maitland, known as Cook's Square and Park, area 3 acres 1 rood 36 perches, hereunder described, with a view to the area mentioned being dedicated as a site for Gas Works.

[Ms. 86-5,957]

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTION.

3 acres 1 rood 36 perches, county of Northumberland, parish of Maitland, town of East Maitland: Commencing at the intersection of the north-western side of Bank-street with the south-western side of Rous-street; and bounded thence on the south-east by Bank-street bearing south 45 degrees 27 minutes west 5 chains; on the south-west by a line bearing north 44 degrees 33 minutes west 5 chains 35 links; on the west by a line dividing it from part of T. Boardman's 27 acres bearing north 1 degree 20 minutes east 3 chains 13 links to Melbourne-street; on the north-west by that street bearing north 45 degrees 20 minutes east 2 chains 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ links to Rous-street; and on the north-east by that street bearing south 45 degrees 19 minutes east 7 chains 53 $\frac{1}{2}$ links, to the point of commencement.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 13th April, 1886.**PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE
AT BURRAGA AND DEDICATION FOR PUBLIC
SCHOOL SITE IN LIEU THEREOF.**

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Public School Site at Burraga, being portion No. 85 in the parish of Jeremy, county of Georgiana, containing 2 acres, dedicated on the 18th January, 1884, and hereunder described, with a view to the dedication of allotment No. 1 of section No. 25 in the town of Burraga, containing 2 acres, also hereunder described, as a site for Public School in lieu thereof.

[Ms. 86-6,501]

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTIONS.

Public School Site proposed to be Dedicated.

2 acres. County of Georgiana, parish of Jeremy, town of Burraga, allotment No. 1 of section No. 25: Commencing at a point where the south-western side of Burraga-street meets the western side of Lloyd-street; and bounded thence on the north-east by Burraga-street bearing north 69 degrees 16 minutes west 3 chains 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ links; on the west by the eastern boundary of allotment No. 2 bearing south 5 chains 67 links to Jeremy-street; on the south-west by that street bearing south 69 degrees 16 minutes east 3 chains 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ links to Lloyd-street aforesaid; and on the east by that street bearing north 5 chains 67 links, to the point of commencement.

Public School Site proposed to be Resumed.

2 acres. County of Georgiana, parish of Jeremy, at Burraga, portion No. 85. Commencing on the southern side of a road 1 chain wide at a point distant 1 chain south from the south-western corner of portion No. 82 of 100 acres; and bounded thence on the north by that road dividing it from part of that portion bearing east 4 chains; on the east by a western boundary of portion No. 86 of 20 acres bearing south 5 chains; on the south by a northern boundary of that portion bearing west 4 chains; and on the west in a line bearing north 5 chains, to the point of commencement.

Departments of Lands,
Sydney, 13th April, 1886.**PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF SITE FOR TEMPERANCE
HALL AT BATHURST AND DEDICATION FOR
PUBLIC RECREATION.**

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Temperance Hall site in the City of Bathurst, area 1 rood 22 perches, hereunder described, with a view to the area mentioned being dedicated for Public Recreation.

[Ms. 86-5,958]

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTION.

1 rood 22 perches. County of Bathurst, parish of Bathurst, City of Bathurst, part of section No. 88: Commencing at the western corner of the section; and bounded thence on the north-west by the south-eastern building line of Bentwick-street north-easterly 2 chains; on the north-east by a line south-easterly at right angles to Bentwick-street 1 chain and 64 links to Queen Charlotte's Vale Creek; thence by that creek upwards about 40 chains; on the south-east by a line south-westerly parallel with Bentwick-street 1 chain and 70 links to Howick-street; and on the south-west by the building line of that street north-westerly 2 chains, to the point of commencement.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 13th April, 1886.**PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF GENERAL CEMETERY
AT PORT MACQUARIE AND RESERVATION FROM
SALE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF GRAVES.**

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the General Cemetery at Port Macquarie, area 3 acres 10 perches, dedicated on the 16th July, 1863, and hereunder described with a view to the area mentioned being reserved from sale for the Preservation of Graves.

[Ms. 86-5,956]

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTION.

About 3 acres 0 roods 10 perches, county of Macquarie, parish of Macquarie, at Port Macquarie: Commencing on the right bank of Kooloonbung Creek at a point where the southern side of Gordon-street meets it; and bounded thence on the north by that street easterly to Wright's Creek; thence by that creek downwards to Kooloonbung Creek; and thence by that creek downwards, to the point of commencement.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS.

GAZETTE NOTICE SETTING FORTH THE MODE OF DEDICATION OF CERTAIN LAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACT 48 VIC. NO. 18.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act, 48 Vic. No. 18.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 7 May, 1886.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHURCH SITE AT SOUTH DENILIKUIN.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Church of England Church site at South Deniliquin, viz., allotment No. 3 of section No. 7, area 1 acre, dedicated on the 16th July, 1863, and hereunder described, another site having been dedicated for the same purpose.

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTION.

1 acre, county of Townsend, parish of South Deniliquin, allotment No. 3 of section No. 7. Commencing on the north-western side of Butler-street at the southern corner of allotment No. 1; and bounded thence on the south-east by that street bearing south-westerly 2 chains; on the south-west by the north-eastern boundary-line of allotment No. 4 north-westerly at right angles to Butler-street 5 chains; on the north-west by a line north-easterly parallel with Butler-street 2 chains; and on the north-east by the south-western boundary-line of allotment No. 2 and the south-western boundary-line of allotment No. 1 aforesaid, in all south-easterly at right angles to Butler-street 5 chains, to the point of commencement.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(DEDICATION OF CERTAIN LANDS UNDER.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 105.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 21st May, 1886.PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE
AT SMITHTOWN, AND DEDICATION FOR PUBLIC
SCHOOL SITE AT WEDDIN IN LIEU
THEREOF.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the public school site at Smithtown, viz.:—Portion No. 110 in the parish of Coba, county of Montecagle, area 2 acres, and hereunder described, with a view to the dedication in lieu thereof of portion No. 124, in the same locality, area 2 acres, also hereunder described as a site for Public School at Weddin.

[Ms. 86-8,736]

HENRY COPELAND.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE PROPOSED TO BE RESUMED.

2 acres, county of Montecagle, parish of Coba, portion No. 110: Commencing on the southern side of a road 1 chain 50 links wide at a point distant 1 chain 50 links southerly from the south-eastern corner of portion No. 64 of 40 acres; and bounded thence on the north by that road bearing west 5 chains and 1 link, on the west by an eastern boundary of a measured portion of 10 acres 2 roods 1 perch bearing south 4 chains, on the south by a northern boundary of that measured portion bearing east 4 chains and 99½ links, and on the east by a line bearing northerly 4 chains to the point of commencement.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE PROPOSED TO BE DEDICATED.

2 acres, county of Montecagle, parish of Coba, at Weddin, portion No. 124: Commencing at the most easterly north-eastern corner of portion No. 22 of 10 acres; and bounded thence on

the south by a northern boundary of that portion bearing west 6 chains 37 links, on the west by the eastern boundary of that portion bearing north 4 chains, on the north by a line bearing east 3 chains 70 links, and on the north-east by lines bearing south 23 degrees 3 minutes east 21 links; and thence south 34 degrees 12 minutes east 4 chains 60½ links to the point of commencement.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 21st May, 1886.PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF GENERAL CEMETERY
AT BOWNA, AND DEDICATION FOR PUBLIC
PARK.

It is hereby notified for public information, that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the General Cemetery at Bowna, dedicated on the 24th October, 1882, and hereunder described, with a view to the land being dedicated for Public Park.

[Ms. 86-8,730]

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTION.

8 acres 1 rood 8 perches, county of Goulburn, parish of Bowna, village of Bowna: Commencing on the northern side of a road 1 chain 50 links wide at a point distant 1 chain 50 links north from the north-eastern corner of allotment No. 1 of section No. 23; and bounded thence on the south by that road dividing it from that allotment and from part of allotment No. 2 bearing west 10 chains 38 links; on the west by a line bearing north 8 chains; on the north by a line bearing east 10 chains 38 links; and on the east by a line bearing south 8 chains, to the point of commencement.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(DEDICATION OF CERTAIN LANDS UNDER.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 4th June, 1886.PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF NATIONAL SCHOOL
SITE AT NARRANDERA AND DEDICATION FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE IN LIEU THEREOF.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the National School site in the town of Narrandera, viz.: Allotments Nos. 1, 2, 9, and 10 of section 12, area 2 acres, dedicated on the 27th July, 1863, and hereunder described, with a view to the dedication in lieu thereof of allotments Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7 of section 44, area 1 acre 3 roods 36 perches, also hereunder described, as a site for Public School.

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTIONS.

National School Site proposed to be Resumed.

2 acres. County of Cooper, parish of Narrandera, town of Narrandera, allotments Nos. 1, 2, 9, and 10 of section 12: Commencing at the south-western corner of the section; and bounded thence on the south by Peters-street easterly 4 chains; on the east by the west boundaries of allotments Nos. 3 and 8, being in all a line crossing a lane northerly at right-angles to Peters-street 5 chains and 30 links to Melbourne-street; on the north by that street westerly parallel with Peters-street 4 chains to Beckham-street; and on the west by that street southerly 5 chains and 30 links, to the point of commencement,—exclusively of the lane 30 links wide passing through the middle of this appropriation in an easterly direction, the area of which has been deducted from the total area.

Public School Site proposed to be Dedicated.

1 acre 3 roods 36 perches. County of Cooper, parish of Narrandera, town of Narrandera, allotments Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7 of section No. 44, and lane 30 links wide. Commencing at the south-eastern corner of the section; and bounded thence on the east by Adams-street northerly 5 chains and 30 links to Douglas-street; on the north by that street westerly at right angles to Adams-street 3 chains and 72½ links to a lane; on the west by that lane southerly parallel with Adams-street 5 chains and 30 links to Bolton-street; and on the south by that street easterly 3 chains and 72½ links, to the point of commencement.

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Department of Lands,
Sydney, 4th June, 1886.PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF SITE FOR MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE AT GOSFORD, AND DEDICATION OF
SITE FOR SCHOOL OF ARTS IN LIEU THEREOF.

It is hereby notified for public information, that in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the site for Mechanics' Institute in the town of Gosford, viz.:—Allotment No. 21 of section 32, area 2 roods, dedicated on the 14th October, 1881, and hereunder described, with a view to the dedication in lieu thereof of allotment No. 4 of section No. 81, area 2 roods, also hereunder described as a site for School of Arts.

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTIONS.

Site for Mechanics' Institute proposed to be Resumed.

2 roods. County of Northumberland, parish of Gosford, town of Gosford, allotment No. 21 of section No. 32: Commencing on the northern side of Georgiana Terrace at the south-western corner of 1 acre appropriated for a Public School; and bounded thence on the south by that Terrace westerly 2 chains and 50 links; on the west by a line northerly at right angles to Georgiana Terrace 2 chains; on the north by part of the southern boundary line of allotment No. 18 easterly, parallel with Georgiana Terrace 2 chains and 50 links; and on the east by the western boundary line of the firstmentioned land southerly at right angles to Georgiana Terrace 2 chains, to the point of commencement.

Site for School of Arts proposed to be Dedicated.

2 roods. County of Northumberland, parish of Gosford, town of Gosford, allotment No. 4 of section No. 81: Commencing at the intersection of the south side of Georgiana Terrace with the west side of Mann-street; and bounded thence on the north by the south side of Georgiana Terrace aforesaid bearing west 5 chains; on the west by a line bearing south 1 chain; on the south by a line bearing east 5 chains to the west side of Mann-street aforesaid; and on the east by that street bearing north, to the point of commencement.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 4th June, 1886.

**PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF SITE FOR CATTLE
MARKET AT GRAFTON, AND APPROPRIATION
FOR GAOL AND CATTLE MARKET SITES IN
LIEU THEREOF.**

It is hereby notified, for public information, that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the site for cattle market at Grafton, area 5 acres and 33 perches, dedicated on the 18th March, 1873, and hereunder described, with a view to the reservation of 6 acres 2 roods 3 perches (including the above area) as a site for gaol, and the dedication of 3 acres 2 roods 26 perches, being allotment No. 1 of section No. 139, as a site for cattle market.

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTIONS.

Site for Cattle Market proposed to be Resumed.

5 acres 33 perches. County of Clarence, parish of Great Marlow, town of Grafton. Commencing at the intersection of the north-western side of Queen-street with the south-western side of Arthur-street; and bounded thence on the north-east by Arthur-street bearing north 64 degrees 53 minutes west 5 chains 20 links; on the north-west by a line bearing south 25 degrees 7 minutes west 10 chains 2 links to Hoof-street; on the south-west by that street bearing south 64 degrees 53

minutes east 5 chains 20 links to Queen-street aforesaid; and on the south-east by that street bearing north 25 degrees 7 minutes east 10 chains 2 links to the point of commencement.

Site for Gaol proposed to be Reserved.

6 acres 2 roods 3 perches. County of Clarence, parish of Great Marlow, town of Grafton, allotment No. 1 of section No. 118: Commencing at the intersection of the north-western side of Queen-street with the south-western side of Arthur-street; and bounded thence on the north-east by Arthur-street bearing north 64 degrees 53 minutes west 9 chains 2 links; on the west by a line bearing south 1 degree 29 minutes east 11 chains 20 links to Hoof-street; on the south-west by that street bearing south 64 degrees 53 minutes east 4 chains to Queen-street aforesaid; and on the south-east by that street bearing north 25 degrees 7 minutes east 10 chains 2 links to the point of commencement.

Site for Cattle Market proposed to be Dedicated.

3 acres 2 roods 26 perches. County of Clarence, parish of Great Marlow, town of Grafton, allotment No. 1 of section No. 139. Commencing at the intersection of the north-eastern side of Crown-street with the north-western side of Mary-street; and bounded thence on the south-west by Crown-street bearing north 64 degrees 54 minutes west 2 chains 91 links; on the west by a line bearing north 5 degrees 11 minutes west 6 chains 80 links to North-street; on the north by that street bearing east 7 chains 2 links to Mary-street aforesaid; and on the south-east by that street bearing south 25 degrees 12 minutes west 8 chains 86 links to the point of commencement.

1855-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(PROPOSED DEDICATION OF CERTAIN LANDS UNDER.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 105.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 25th June, 1886.

**PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE
AT M'DONALD'S HOLE, AND DEDICATION OF
SCHOOL SITE IN LIEU THEREOF.**

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Public School Site at M'Donald's Hole, viz.:—Portion No. 26, in the parish of Airly, county of Roxburgh, area 2 acres, dedicated on the 18th January, 1884, and hereunder described, with a view to the dedication in lieu thereof of an area of 2 acres, also hereunder described, being portion No. 40 in the same locality.

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTIONS.

Public School Site to be Resumed.

2 acres. County of Roxburgh, parish of Airly, at M'Donald's Hole, portion No. 26. Commencing at a point distant 5 chains 80 links south from the north-eastern corner of portion No. 20 of 40 acres; and bounded thence on the west by part of the eastern boundary of that portion bearing south 5 chains; on the south by a line bearing east 4 chains; on the east by a line bearing north 5 chains; and on the north by a line bearing west 4 chains, to the point of commencement.

Public School Site to be Dedicated.

2 acres. County of Roxburgh, parish of Airly, at M'Donald's Hole, portion No. 40. Commencing at the most westerly south-eastern corner of portion No. 41 of 20 acres 20 perches; and bounded thence on the west by an eastern boundary of

that portion bearing north 4 chains; on the north by a southern boundary of that portion bearing east 5 chains; on the east by a line dividing it from that portion bearing south 4 chains; and on the south by a line bearing west 5 chains, to the point of commencement.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 25th June, 1886.

**PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF HOSPITAL SITE AT
MENINDEE.**

It is hereby notified, for public information, that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th Section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Hospital Site at Menindee, area 4 acres 2 roods, dedicated on the 6th December, 1867, and hereunder described, it being intended to dedicate a more suitable site in lieu thereof.

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTION.

County of Menindee, parish of Perry, town of Menindee, area 4 acres 2 roods, part of section No. 45: Commencing at the western corner of the section, and bounded thence on the south-west by Wood-street south-easterly 5 chains to a lane; on the south-east by that lane north-easterly at right angles to Wood-street, 7 chains 54 links to the River Darling; on the east by that river upwards to Sophia-street; on the north-east by that street north-westerly 1 chain and 52 links to Yaltolka-street; and on the north-west by that street south-westerly 10 chains to the point of commencement.

The above was dedicated 6th December, 1867.

Within the Land Board District of Wilcannia.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(DEDICATION OF CERTAIN LANDS UNDER.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 105.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 9th July, 1886.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF BEGA MARKET RESERVE AND DEDICATION FOR SHOW GROUND AND PUBLIC RECREATION.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the market reserve at Bega, area about 17 acres, being section No. 49, dedicated on the 22nd November, 1870, and hereunder described, with a view to the dedication in lieu thereof of allotment No. 1 of section No. 49, area $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres, for Show Ground for the use of the Bega Agricultural, Pastoral, and Horticultural Society, and allotment No. 2 of the same section, area about 7 acres 2 roods 22 perches, for Public Recreation.

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTIONS.

Market Reserve, proposed to be Resumed.

About 17 acres. County of Auckland, parish of Bega, at Bega, section No. 49. Commencing at the intersection of the southern side of Upper-street with the eastern side of Parker-street; and bounded thence on the north by Upper-street bearing south 89 degrees 35 minutes 30 seconds east 17 chains 18 links to East-street; on the east by that street bearing south 1 degree 9 minutes west 10 chains $3\frac{1}{2}$ links; on the south by the northern boundary of R. Tooth's portion No. 83 of 38 acres bearing north 89 degrees 25 minutes 30 seconds west 17 chains 18 links to Parker-street; and on the west by that street bearing about north 1 degree 9 minutes east 10 chains 5 links, to the point of commencement.

Show Ground, proposed to be Dedicated.

8 acres 3 roods. County of Auckland, parish of Bega, at Bega. Allotment No. 1 of section No. 49. Commencing at the intersection of the southern side of Upper-street with the western side of East-street; and bounded thence on the north by Upper-street bearing north 89 degrees 25 minutes 30 seconds west 9 chains 18 links; on the west by a line bearing south 1 degree 9 minutes west 10 chains $5\frac{1}{2}$ links; on the south by part of the northern boundary of R. Tooth's portion No. 83 of 38 acres bearing south 89 degrees 35 minutes 30 seconds east 9 chains 18 links to East-street; and on the east by that street bearing north 1 degree 9 minutes east 10 chains $3\frac{1}{2}$ links, to the point of commencement,—exclusively of a road 50 links wide passing through this land along the southern boundary, the area of which has been deducted from the total area.

Recreation Reserve, proposed to be Dedicated.

About 7 acres 2 roods 22 perches. County of Auckland, parish of Bega, at Bega, allotment No. 2 of section No. 49. Commencing at the intersection of the southern side of Upper-street with the eastern side of Parker-street; and bounded thence on the north by Upper-street bearing south 89 degrees 35 minutes 30 seconds east 8 chains; on the east by the western boundary of allotment No. 1 bearing south 1 degree 9 minutes west 10 chains $5\frac{1}{2}$ links; on the south by part of the northern boundary of R. L. Tooth's portion No. 83 of 38 acres bearing north 89 degrees 25 minutes 30 seconds west 8 chains to Parker-street; and on the west by that street bearing about north 1 degree 9 minutes east 10 chains 5 links, to the point of commencement,—exclusively of a road 50 links wide passing through this land along the southern boundary, the area of which has been deducted from the total area.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 9th July, 1886.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE AT CHAUCER.

It is hereby notified for public information, that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Public School Site at Chaucer, viz., portion No. 68 in the parish of Chaucer, county of Bathurst, area 2 acres, dedicated on the 11th July, 1884, and hereunder described, another school site in the same locality having been secured.

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTION.

County of Bathurst, parish of Chaucer, portion No. 68, area 2 acres: Commencing on the south-western side of the road 1 chain 50 links wide from Canowindra to Carcoar at the most westerly north-eastern corner of portion No. 69 of 20 acres, being a point bearing south 46 degrees 38 minutes east, and distant 5 chains $37\frac{1}{2}$ links from the northern end of the eastern boundary of portion No. 34 of 640 acres; and bounded thence on the north-east by that road dividing it from part of portion No. 25 of 320 acres bearing south 46 degrees 38 minutes east 5 chains and $50\frac{1}{2}$ links; on the east by a western boundary of portion No. 69 aforesaid bearing south 3 chains and 11 links; on the south by the northern boundary of that portion bearing west 4 chains; and on the west by an eastern boundary of that portion bearing north 6 chains and 89 links, to the point of commencement.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 9th July, 1886.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PARTS OF THE
WILBERFORCE COMMON.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to resume the portions of the Wilberforce Common, area about 2,190 acres and 3,200 acres respectively, in the county of Cook, parish of Wilberforce, hereunder described, with a view to the alienation of the areas in question.

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTIONS.

County of Cook, parish of Wilberforce, area about 2,190 acres: Commencing on the left bank of the Hawkesbury River, at the northern corner of Wm. Burgess' 50 acres; and bounded thence on the south-east by the north-western boundary of that portion and its continuation bearing south-westerly to the north-eastern corner of Wm. Hopkins' 34 acres; thence by the northern boundary of that 34 acres bearing westerly to north-eastern boundary of D. Brown's 90 acres; thence by part of that boundary north-westerly to the north-eastern corner of that 90 acres; thence on the south-east by the north-western boundary of that portion bearing south-westerly to its north-western corner; thence by the south-western boundary of the portion bearing south-easterly to the north-eastern corner of W. Wairing's 30 acres; thence by the north-western boundaries of Wairing's 30 acres aforesaid, F. Fowkes' 30 acres, and James Baker's 30 acres bearing south-westerly to the north-eastern boundary of D. Dunstan's 100 acres; thence by part of that north-eastern boundary bearing north-westerly to the north-eastern corner of the portion; thence on the west by a line bearing north about 105 chains; thence on the south by a line bearing west about 63 chains to Currency Creek; thence by that creek downwards in a north-easterly direction about 50 chains; thence by a line bearing north-easterly about 28 chains to the southern boundary of William Hall's 1,230 acres; thence on the north by a line partly forming the south boundary of that 1,230 acres and the south boundaries of portion No. 20 of 1 acre 1 rood 4 perches, and portion No. 19, Thos. Kemp's 40 acres, exclusive of road, bearing easterly to the north-western corner of John Howe's 100 acres; thence by a line forming the western boundaries of that 100 acres, James Davison's 100 acres, and Owen Cavanagh's 100 acres bearing southerly to the south-western corner of the last-named portion; thence by the south boundary of Cavanagh's 100 acres bearing easterly to the left bank of the Hawkesbury River aforesaid; and thence by that bank of that river upwards, to the point of commencement.

County of Cook, parish of Wilberforce, area about 3,200 acres: Commencing at the north-west corner of W. Singleton's 92 acres grant; and bounded thence on the south-east by the north-west boundary of the grant bearing north-easterly to its north-east corner; thence on the west by part of the east boundary of the said grant bearing southerly to the north-west corner of Henry Baldwin's 100 acres; thence again on the south-east by a line partly forming the north-west boundaries of Henry Baldwin's 100 acres aforesaid, Thomas Gosport's 100 acres, Thomas Reilly's 100 acres, and E. Reynold's 30 acres bearing north-easterly to the north-west corner of J. Coberoff's 50 acres; thence by the north-western boundary of that 50 acres and its north-easterly continuation bearing north-easterly to the west boundary of M. Lock's 50 acres; thence by a line partly forming the south-west boundary of M. Lock's 30 acres bearing north-westerly to the north-west corner of the portion; thence by the north-west boundary of that 30 acres bearing

north-easterly to its north-east corner; thence on the east by a line bearing north to Currency Creek; thence by that creek downwards in a north-easterly direction to a point due south of the south-east corner of John Buckland's 640 acres; thence again on the east by a line bearing north to that corner; thence on the north by a line partly forming the southern boundaries of John Buckland's 640 acres aforesaid and portion No. 3 of 40 acres bearing westerly to the north-east corner of J. R. Hatfield's 50 acres grant; and thence on the west by a line partly forming the eastern boundaries of that 50 acres grant, D. Sweeney's 40 acres, the Benovolent Society's 500 acres grant, G. Ycoman's 60 acres, T. Gosport's 60 acres, T. W. Farr's 100 acres, H. Baldwin's 100 acres, and M. Reilly's 100 acres grant bearing southerly, to the point of commencement.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 9th July, 1886.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION AND RE-DEDICATION OF
RECREATION RESERVE IN THE VILLAGE OF
WEEKES, BELLINGER RIVER.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke and re-dedicate for public recreation allotment No. 4 of section No. 5, in the village of Weekes, Bellinger River, area 4 acres, and hereunder described, an amended plan of the allotment in question having been furnished.

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTION FOR RESUMPTION OF DEDICATED RECREATION
GROUND, VILLAGE OF WEEKES.

County of Raleigh, parish of South Bellingen, area 4 acres: Commencing at the south-west corner of allotment No. 3 of 2 acres 0 roods 2 perches, section No. 5; and bounded thence on the south-west by a line bearing north 69 degrees 57 minutes west 4 chains 53 links; thence on the west by a line bearing north 10 chains 75 links; thence on the north by a line bearing east about 104 links to the north arm of the Bellinger River; thence by that river downwards to the north-west corner of allotment No. 3 aforesaid; and thence by the west boundary of that allotment bearing south 1 degree 45 minutes east 7 chains 55 links, to the point of commencement,—to include allotment No. 4 of section 5, as shown on plan catalogued M. 10-1,834b, Surveyor General's Office.

The above was dedicated 29th July, 1884.

DESCRIPTION FOR DEDICATION FOR A PUBLIC RECREATION
GROUND, VILLAGE OF WEEKES.

County of Raleigh, parish of South Bellingen, area 4 acres. The Crown Lands within the following boundaries: Commencing on the right bank of the north arm of the Bellinger River at the north-western corner of allotment No. 3 of 2 acres 0 roods 3 perches; bounded thence on the east by the western boundary of that allotment bearing south 7 minutes east 7 chains 34 links to a 1-chain road from Boutharbour to Kempsey; on the south-west by a north-eastern side of that road bearing north 68 degrees 12 minutes west 4 chains 87 links; on the west by a road 1 chain wide dividing it from part of Alex. Nicholson's (now F. Bennett's) portion No. 33 bearing north 30 minutes east 10 chains 75 links; on the north by a line bearing south 89 degrees 30 minutes east 1 chain 4 links to the right bank of the north arm of the Bellinger River aforesaid; on the north-east by that bank downwards, to the point of commencement,—to include allotment No. 4 of section No. 5, as shown on plan catalogued R. 3-2,378, Surveyor General's Office.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(PROPOSED DEDICATION OF CERTAIN LANDS UNDER.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 105.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 23rd July, 1886.PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF WESLEYAN CHURCH
SITE AT COPELAND, AND DEDICATION IN LIEU
THEREOF FOR THE SAME PURPOSE, AND FOR
HOSPITAL SITE.

It is hereby notified for public information, that in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1864, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the site for Wesleyan Church at Copeland, viz., allotment No. 5 of section No. 5, area 1 rood 30 perches, dedicated on the 21st April, 1880, and hereunder described, with a view to the dedication in lieu thereof of allotment No. 3 of section No. 10 for the same purpose, and allotments Nos. 4 and 5 of section No. 5 as a site for Hospital.

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTIONS.

Site for Wesleyan Church, proposed to be Resumed.

1 rood 30 perches. County of Gloucester, parish of Bindera, village of Copeland, allotment No. 5 of section No. 5: Commencing on the western side of Vista-street, at the south-eastern corner of allotment No. 4; and bounded thence on the east by that street bearing south 1 chain 29 links; on the south by part of the northern boundary of portion G.L. 99 of 3 acres bearing south 82 degrees 39 minutes west 1 chain and 4 links; on the west by part of the eastern boundary of portion G.L. 47 of 3 acres bearing north 7 degrees 24 minutes west 75 links; again on the south by part of the northern boundary of that portion bearing south 82 degrees 36 minutes west 2 chains 52 links; on the north-west by Bowman-street bearing north 30 degrees east 1 chain and 98½ links; and on the north-east by the south-western boundary of allotment No. 4 aforesaid bearing south 75 degrees east 2 chains and 73 links, to the point of commencement.

Site for Wesleyan Church, proposed to be Dedicated.

1 rood 26 perches. County of Gloucester, parish of Bindera, village of Copeland, allotment No. 3 of section No. 10: Commencing on the south-eastern side of Copeland-street, at the south-western corner of allotment No. 4; and bounded thence on the north-east by the south-western boundary of that allotment bearing south 72 degrees 8 minutes east 4 chains and 14 links; on the south-east by a line bearing south 17 degrees 43 minutes west 1 chain; on the south-west by the north-eastern boundary of allotment No. 2 bearing north 72 degrees 8 minutes west 4 chains and 16½ links; and on the north-west by Copeland-street aforesaid bearing north 19 degrees 4 minutes east 1 chain, to the point of commencement.

Site for Hospital, proposed to be Dedicated.

2 roods 28 perches. County of Gloucester, parish of Bindera, village of Copeland, allotments Nos. 4 and 5 of section No. 5: Commencing on the western side of Vista-street, at the south-eastern corner of allotment No. 3; and bounded thence on the

east by that street bearing south 2 chains and 29 links; on the south-east by a line bearing south 82 degrees 39 minutes west 1 chain 4 links; on the south-west by a line bearing north 7 degrees 24 minutes west 75 links; again on the south-east by a line bearing south 82 degrees 36 minutes west 2 chains and 52 links; on the north-west by Bowman-street bearing north 30 degrees east 2 chains and 98½ links; and on the north-east by the south-western boundary of allotment No. 3 aforesaid bearing south 75 degrees east 2 chains and 21 links, to the point of commencement.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 23rd July, 1886.PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE
IN THE PARISH OF GOOD GOOD, COUNTY OF
BERESFORD, AND DEDICATION FOR THE SAME
PURPOSE IN LIEU THEREOF.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Public School site in the parish of Beresford, area 2 acres, being portion No. 21, dedicated on the 12th November, 1884, and hereunder described, with a view to the dedication in lieu thereof of 2 acres in the same locality, viz., portion No. 38, as a site for Public School, at Cowra Creek.

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTIONS.

Public School Site, proposed to be Resumed.

2 acres. County of Beresford, parish of Good Good, portion No. 21: Commencing on the eastern bank of Cowra Peak Creek, at the south-western corner of portion No. 12 of 40 acres; and bounded thence on the north by part of the southern boundary of that portion bearing east 3 chains and 49½ links; on the east by a line bearing south 5 chains and 22 links; on the south by a line bearing west 4 chains and 24½ links to the aforesaid creek; and on the west by that creek northerly, to the point of commencement.

Public School Site, proposed to be Dedicated.

2 acres. County of Beresford, parish of Good Good, at Cowra Creek, portion No. 38: Commencing at a point bearing about north 7 degrees 17 minutes west, and distant 40 chains 77 links from the north-eastern corner of portion No. 17 of 40 acres, parish of Rose Valley; and bounded thence on the south by a line bearing west 5 chains 6 links; on the west by lines dividing it from portion No. 39 of 8 acres, bearing north 5 chains 29 links east 73 links; and thence about north 27 degrees east 75 links to the left bank of Cowra Creek; on the north by that creek upwards to a point bearing north 28 degrees 7 minutes west from the point of commencement; and on the north-east by a line bearing south 23 degrees 7 minutes east about 6 chains 60 links to that point.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 23rd July, 1886.

**PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF ROMAN CATHOLIC
SCHOOL SITE AT RANDWICK AND RESERVA-
TION FOR TRAMWAY PURPOSES.**

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Roman Catholic School site at Randwick, area 1 rood 36 perches, situated at the corner of Avoca-street and Frenchman's Road, and hereunder described, with a view to the land being reserved for tramway purposes.

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTION.

1 rood 36 perches. County of Cumberland, parish of Alexandria, at Randwick: Commencing at the north-eastern corner of A. M'Gee's 6 acres 3 roods; and bounded thence on the south by part of the northern boundary of that land bearing east 3 chains 7 links; on the east by the western boundary of a measured portion of 3 roods 37 perches bearing north 2 chains 9½ links; on the north-west by a line bearing south 71 degrees west 3 chains 26 links; and on the west by a line bearing south 1 chain 2 links, to the point of commencement.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 23rd July, 1886.

**PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL
SITE AT SIX-MILE SWAMP.**

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Public School site at Six-mile Swamp, viz., portion No. 82 in the parish of Glenlyon, county of Olive, area 2 acres, dedicated on the 3rd May, 1878, and hereunder described, the land being no longer required for the purpose for which it was dedicated.

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTION.

2 acres. County of Olive, parish of Glenlyon, portion No. 82: Commencing on the south-western bank of Ten-mile Creek at a point where the western side of a road 1 chain wide dividing it from parts of portion No. 29 of 80 acres meets that creek; and bounded thence on the east by that road bearing south 4 chains and 81 links; on the south-east by a line bearing south 74 degrees west 2 chains and 69½ links; on the west by the eastern boundary of portion No. 83 of 6 acres bearing north 9 chains and 80 links to Ten-mile Creek; and on the north and north-east by that creek easterly and south-easterly, to the point of commencement.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884.

(DEDICATION OF CERTAIN LANDS UNDER.)

- Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 18, sec. 105.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 17th August, 1886.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION AND RE-DEDICATION OF
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CEMETERY AT
JINGERA.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the Church of England Cemetery at Jingera, viz.:—Portion 23 in the parish of Rowland, county of Beresford, area 2 acres, dedicated on the 29th October, 1880, and hereunder described, with a view to its re-dedication for the same purpose, an amended plan of the land in question having been furnished.

[Ms. 86-14,904]

HENRY COPELAND.

DESCRIPTIONS.

Church of England Cemetery, proposed to be Resumed.

2 acres. County of Beresford, parish of Rowland, portion 23: Commencing at a point bearing about south 81 degrees 3 minutes east, and distant 13 chains 24 links from the north-eastern corner of portion 5 of 40 acres, parish of Wangrah; and bounded thence on the west by a line bearing south 4 chains and 48 links; on the south by a line bearing east 4 chains and 47 links; on the east by a line bearing north 4 chains and 48 links; and on the north by a line bearing west 4 chains and 47 links, to the point of commencement.

Church of England Cemetery, proposed to be Dedicated.

2 acres. County of Beresford, parish of Rowland, at Jingera, portion 23. Commencing on the south-western side of the road 1 chain 50 links wide from Cooma to Braidwood, at a point bearing north 53 degrees east and distant 41 links from a gum-tree marked broad-arrow over 23-52; and bounded thence on the north-east by that road bearing north 47 degrees 14 minutes west 1 chain 8 links, and thence north 70 degrees 4 minutes west 3 chains 87½ links; on the west by a line bearing south 5 chains 36 links; on the south by a line bearing east 4 chains 44½ links; and on the east by a line bearing north 3 chains 30 links, to the point of commencement.

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Department of Lands,
Sydney, 17th August, 1886.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF EXTENSION TO THE
PERMANENT COMMON AT TAMWORTH, AND
DEDICATION IN LIEU THEREOF.

It is hereby notified for public information that, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, it is proposed to revoke the dedication of the extension to the Permanent Common at Tamworth, area 1,075 acres, dedicated on the 6th January, 1880, and hereunder described, with a view to the dedication in lieu thereof of 1,450 acres in the same locality, for the purpose mentioned, the latter area having been found to accord with the survey of the land.

[Ms. 86-14,903]

HENRY COPELAND.

Extension to Permanent Common, proposed to be Resumed.

County of Inglis, parish of Tamworth, area about 1,075 acres. The Crown Lands within the following boundaries: Commencing at the north-east corner of the Permanent Common at Tamworth, as dedicated on the 22nd October, 1866; and bounded thence on part of the south by the north boundary of that common bearing west 140 chains 32 links; thence on part of the east by part of the west boundary of the permanent common aforesaid bearing south to the north-east corner of portion 67; again on the south by a line partly forming the north boundaries of that portion and portions 68 and 69 bearing west to the east boundary of portion 71; thence on part of the west by part of the east boundary of that portion north to its north-east corner; on the remainder of the south by a line partly forming the north boundaries of the last-named portion and portions 72, 73, 74, and 75, bearing west to the east boundary of George Jenkins' 612 acres; on the remainder of the west by part of the east boundary of that land north to north boundary of the Tamworth population reserve, per Census of 1861, being a point due west of the south-west corner of portion 59, parish of Woolomol; thence on the north by part of that population boundary, being a line partly forming the south boundaries of the last-named portion and portions 68 and 67 of same parish, bearing east to a point due north of the point of commencement; and on the remainder of the east by a line south to that point.

Extension to Permanent Common, proposed to be Dedicated.

County of Inglis, parish of Tamworth, containing an area of about 1,450 acres. The Crown Lands within the following boundaries: Commencing at the north-east corner of the Permanent Common at Tamworth, as dedicated on the 22nd October, 1866; and bounded thence on part of the south by the north boundary of that common bearing west 140 chains 55 links; thence on part of the east by part of the west boundary of the permanent common aforesaid, bearing south to the north-east corner of portion 67; again on the south by a line partly forming the north boundaries of that portion and portions 68 and 69 bearing west to the east boundary of portion 71; thence on part of the west by part of the east boundary of that portion north to its north-east corner; on the remain-

der of the south by a line partly forming the north boundaries of the last-named portion and portions 72, 73, 74, and 75, bearing west to the east boundary of George Jenkins' 612 acres; on the remainder of the west by part of the east boundary of that land north to its north-east corner; thence by a line bearing north 89 degrees 45 minutes east 72 chains and 73 links to the south-west corner of portion 59, parish of Woolomol; thence by the south boundary of that portion to its south-east corner; thence by a line bearing north 89 degrees 49 minutes east 54 chains and 32 links to the south-west corner of portion 68, parish of Woolomol; thence by the south boundaries of that portion and portion 67, in the same parish, and their prolongation due east, in all 72 chains and 20 links, to a post marked broad-arrow over 20 over 1880; thence on the east by a line south to the point of commencement.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CROWN LANDS TITLES AND RESERVATIONS VALIDATION BILL.
(PETITION FROM JOSEPH TARRANT, OF SYDNEY.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 31 August, 1886.

To the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled.
The humble Petition of Joseph Tarrant, of No. 100, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, gentleman,—

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :—

That a certain Company, called the “Redhead Coal-mining Company (Limited),” was duly registered in 1875, under the “Companies Act of 1874,” with a nominal capital of 15,000 £1 shares, paid up on issue to 6s. per share.

That in the year 1882 the capital of the said Company was increased to £30,000.

That the registered shareholders in the said Company, along with the number of shares held by each shareholder, are as follows :—

Shareholders.	Number of Shares.
Flood, Hon. Edward, M.L.C....	6,300
Brown, Alexander, Pyrmont ...	5,650
Hutchison, W. A., Sydney ...	4,249
Humphrey, C. H., Burwood ..	3,700
Ireland, J., Newcastle...	2,000
Steel, W. R., Sydney ...	2,087
Morris, William, Dr. ...	1,333
Butchart, J. H. ...	1,000
Piddington, W. T., Tamworth	164
Owen, W. R. ...	666
Stokes, C. F., Newcastle ...	768
Sweetland, C., Newcastle ...	268
Steel, M., Lambton ...	668
Ramsay, F. B. ...	130
Wise, G., Tamworth ...	200
Vickery, E., Sydney ...	367
Lewis, M. A., Tamworth ...	100
Brown, A. K., Sydney ...	300
Executors Alexander Brown ...	50

That the said Company has for the last thirteen years held under lease from the Crown over 2,000 acres of Crown lands, within the population area of the city of Newcastle, in the Colony of New South Wales.

That the said Company has not paid any rent in respect of the said lands for some nine years past, and that the rent thereon now due to the Government is about £4,500.

That though the said lease was granted by the Crown, subject to the express condition that £5 per acre should be spent upon the land within the first three years, the said Company has not expended any money whatever upon the said land.

That the said Company, on the 18th day of November, 1875, upon one and the same day and at the same time, purported to conditionally select for the purpose of mining, other than gold-mining, certain other lands near Newcastle, to wit, 4,199 acres of Crown lands.

That the said Company obtained grants from the Crown of the same lands in virtue of having conditionally selected the same as aforesaid.

That your Petitioner, being advised and believing that the said lands, conditionally selected as aforesaid, were illegally selected by the said Company, and that the said Company had no right or title to the same, duly applied, on the 18th day of December, 1884, to conditionally purchase, for the purposes of mining, other than gold-mining, a certain portion of the said lands.

That your Petitioner, in order to establish the illegality of the title of the said Company to the said lands, and so to obtain the revocation and repealing of the Crown grants as aforesaid, presented a Memorial to the Honorable the Attorney-General, asking him to grant his fiat to the issue of writs of *scire facias* in the name of the Queen, calling upon the said Company to show cause why the said Crown grants should not be cancelled and repealed, as it was only by a legal proceeding in the name of the Queen that your Petitioner could obtain the repeal or revocation of the said grants.

That your Petitioner obtained the said fiat on entering into an approved bond for the payment of all costs and expenses which might be incurred in respect of the said writs.

That the said writs of *scire facias* alleged three grounds for cancelling and repealing the said grants :—

1. That the Company, being a Corporation, was not a person within the meaning of the Crown Lands Acts, and could not conditionally select Crown Lands.
2. That more than one selection had been applied for by the said Company on the same day.
3. That the area of land (four thousand one hundred and ninety acres) conditionally purchased as aforesaid by the said Company, was in excess of the area allowed by law, *videlicet*, six hundred and forty acres.

That the said writs were duly issued and served on the said Company, who appeared to the same.

That the said Company then applied to the Supreme Court in Banco on the sixteenth and seventeenth days of August instant of this year, to set aside and quash the said writs.

That the Supreme Court thereupon refused to set aside the said writs, holding that they had been properly issued, and also that the first ground alleged, as aforesaid, for repealing the said grants, that a Corporation is not a person within the meaning of the Crown Lands Acts of 1861 and 1875 was a good one, and that on that ground alone (without deciding the other grounds) the grants were bad and ought to be cancelled and repealed.

That your Petitioner is aware that a Bill for the validation of certain mineral conditional purchases has since the said decision of the Supreme Court been introduced in your Honorable House.

That your Petitioner has incurred great expense in selecting the said lands, and in prosecuting the said writs of *scire facias* and otherwise.

That your Petitioner has been advised that the said Bill, in its present shape, will entirely deprive him of his rights to the said lands now in dispute as aforesaid.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that the said Bill, and more especially the last clause of it, which does not protect proceedings already instituted by the Crown (as in the present case) from the operation of the Bill may be so amended by your Honorable House as to fully preserve to him his rights to the lands now in dispute as aforesaid, and so as not to interfere with any proceedings he may take to substantiate his claim to the said lands.

And your Petitioner further prays to be allowed to be heard at the Bar of your Honorable House by Counsel in support of this Petition.

And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

JOSEPH TARRANT.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF MINES,

NEW SOUTH WALES,

FOR THE YEAR

1885.

Printed in accordance with Resolutions of both Houses of Parliament.

SYDNEY : THOMAS RICHARDS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1886.

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ANNUAL REPORT.

TO THE HONORABLE JAMES FLETCHER, Esq., M.P., SECRETARY FOR MINES, &c., &c.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to submit to you the following Report upon the working of the Department under your charge, and also upon the progress of Mining and the results of our Mining during the year 1885.

As indicating, in some degree, the amount of work performed in this Department, I beg leave to submit the following statement:—

STATEMENT OF THE NUMBER OF PAPERS REGISTERED AND OF LETTERS DESPATCHED BY THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES.

Branch.	Papers registered.	Letters written.
Mines	15,146	7,477
Forests	10,829	3,265
Rabbit	10,194	4,059
Stock	9,698	3,000
Drills	9,290	1,944
Public Watering-places.....	4,865	2,447
Roads	3,858	2,660
Parks	1,034	530
	64,914	25,382 *

* Exclusive of printed circulars, notices, &c., &c.

The number of applications to lease Crown lands for mining purposes during the year 1885 was 2,059, being an increase of 282 as compared with the number of such applications made in 1884.

Of the 2,059 applications so made, 820 were for auriferous land, and 1,739 for mineral land.

The number of applications dealt with during 1885 was 1,814, which, compared with the number dealt with in 1884, shows an increase of 391. I have not abated my efforts to reduce the time occupied in dealing with such applications; and I am pleased to be able to record the fact that the officers in charge have cheerfully seconded my efforts in this direction. This is specially noticeable in regard to the working of the Survey and Charting Branches.

Of the 1,814 applications dealt with in 1885, 503 were for gold-mining leases, comprising an area of 3,828½ acres; and 1,311 were for mineral leases, comprising an area of 45,027 acres. The number of applications dealt with in 1885 was less by 245 than the number lodged during that year. But, though we have not kept pace with the influx of work, it must, I think, be conceded that our record of work done during the year is creditable.

The area of auriferous land applied for under lease in 1885 is not so great as that applied for in 1884 by 1,072 acres, but the area of mineral land applied for in 1885 exceeds the area applied for in 1884 by 11,140 acres.

The following table shows the quantity of land applied for to lease during the year 1885, and the minerals to be mined for therein:—

	a.	r.	p.
Diamonds	880	0	0
Tin and diamonds.....	3,310	0	0
Tin	3,978	0	1
Tin and bismuth.....	250	0	0
Tin, silver, and copper.....	20	0	0
Tin and silver.....	170	0	0
Silver	20,218	0	14
Silver and copper.....	140	0	0
Silver and lead	26,981	2	28
Silver, lead, and copper.....	580	0	0
Silver and antimony.....	202	0	0
Silver, lead, and bismuth.....	900	0	0
Copper	240	0	0
Limestone	80	0	0
Marble	20	0	0
Wolfram	40	0	0
Antimony	180	0	0
Manganese	135	0	0
Graphite	40	0	0
Gold	2,012	1	8½
	60,377	0	11½

The

The increase in the area of mineral land applied for is chiefly due to the applications to lease land for mining silver and lead ores.

The following table shows the area of land held under application to lease on the 31st December, 1885:—

	a.	r.	p.
Gold	2,317	2	8
Silver	21,911	0	20
Silver, manganese, cobalt, and copper .. .	120	0	0
Silver, tin, and lead	120	0	0
Silver, lead, and copper .. .	152	0	0
Silver and tin	535	3	1
Silver and bismuth	80	0	0
Silver, copper, and tin ..	120	0	0
Silver and lead	28,550	0	28
Silver, lead, and asbestos.....	40	0	0
Silver and antimony	40	0	0
Silver and copper.....	932	0	0
Kerosene shale .. .	640	0	0
Bismuth	20	0	0
Slate	100	0	0
Coal	1,990	0	0
Manganese	200	0	0
Coal and shale	3,722	0	0
Marble	20	0	0
Wolfram	40	0	0
Lead	120	0	0
Graphite	40	0	0
Galena	40	0	0
Limestone	620	0	0
Tin	4,790	1	0
Tin and diamonds	1,050	0	0
Tin and bismuth	120	0	0
Diamonds	820	0	0
Copper	540	0	0
	69,790	3	17

The aggregate area of land held under application to lease on the 31st December, 1885, is greater than the area so held on the 31st December, 1884, by 27,020 acres. This increase is mainly due to the quantity of land applied for to lease for silver and lead mining.

The following table shows the area of land held under lease, and the minerals to be mined:—

Mineral.	Mining Act, 1874.	Mining Act Further Amendment Act 1884.	Gold Fields Act, 1900.	Crown Lands Occu- pation Act, 1861.	Total.
	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.
Gold	3,057 3 39½	4 0 0	21 0 4*	.....	30,830 0 3½
Antimony	220 0 0	.....	.....	.....	220 0 0
Bismuth.....	25 0 0	.....	.....	.....	25 0 0
Coal	2,849 3 0	.....	.....	4,514 0 0	7,368 3 0
Cobalt	40 0 0	.....	.....	.....	40 0 0
Copper	1,008 0 34	.....	.....	120 0 0	1,128 0 34
Copper and tin.....	20 0 0	.....	.....	.....	20 0 0
Coal, shale, and iron.....	100 0 0	.....	.....	.....	100 0 0
Diamonds	947 0 0	240 0 0	.....	.....	1,187 0 0
Diamonds and tin.....	.....	20 0 0	.....	.....	20 0 0
Kerosene shale	640 0 0	.....	.....	.....	640 0 0
Manganese.....	85 0 0	.....	.....	.....	85 0 0
Slate	252 3 0	60 0 0	.....	.....	313 3 0
Shale, copper, &c.....	40 0 0	.....	.....	.....	40 0 0
Silver	3,976 2 17	320 0 0	.....	.....	4,296 2 17
Silver and lead	9,358 0 27	.....	.....	.....	9,358 0 27
Silver and copper	340 0 0	.....	.....	.....	340 0 0
Silver, lead, and copper.....	968 0 19	.....	.....	.....	968 0 19
Silver, lead, copper, and tin...	80 0 0	.....	.....	.....	80 0 0
Silver and tin.....	73 0 34	.....	.....	.....	73 0 34
Silver, lead, and tin.....	238 0 14	.....	.....	.....	238 0 14
Tin	8,307 3 30	875 2 17	.....	1,180 0 0	10,363 2 7
Not specified	20 0 0	.....	.....	137 1 33	157 1 33
	32,648 3 14½	1,519 2 17	21 0 4	5,951 1 33	40,140 3 28½

* 2,684 yards river-bed.

The aggregate area of land under lease for mining purposes at the end of 1885 exceeds the area so held at the end of 1884 by 10,638 acres 1 rood 10 perches. The increase is due to the large area of land occupied for the purpose of mining for silver and lead.

The number of applications for authorities under section 28 of the Mining Act to mine under reserves received during 1885 was 116, being a decrease as compared with the number in 1884. The number of such applications dealt with in 1885 was 207, being less than the number dealt with in 1884 by 216.

The

The following table shows the areas of reserves, &c., comprised in authorities granted under section 28, during 1885, and the minerals to be mined thereunder:—

	a.	r.	p.
Coal	4,102	0	0
Coal and shale	22,659	0	0
Coal, iron, &c.	1,280	0	0
Tin	669	0	0
Silver.....	329	0	0
Silver and lead.....	11	0	0
Copper	190	0	0
Manganese	10	0	0
Gold	116	0	0
	29,366	0	0

In the bulk of the cases the authorities in respect of the above areas had not actually issued prior to 31st December last.

The aggregate area comprised in the authorities granted in 1885 is less by 3,043 acres than in 1884.

The following table shows the areas comprised in authorities issued under section 28, prior to 1885, and still in force, and the minerals to be mined thereunder:—

	a.	r.	p.
Coal	81,376	3	0
Coal and shale	11,570	0	0
Shale	8	2	32
Tin	133	2	2
Copper	22	3	12
Copper and silver.....	2	2	16
Limestone	10	0	0
Bluestone and gravel ..	12	0	0
Cobalt and nickel	45	2	0
Marble	5	0	0
Gold	310	1	21
	93,497	1	3

The following table shows the areas comprised in authorities which were in force on 31st December, 1885, and the minerals to be mined thereunder:—

	a.	r.	p.
Coal	83,737	3	0
Coal and shale.....	22,149	2	33
Tin	539	2	11
Copper	128	2	34
Copper and silver	5	1	28
Silver	302	2	16
Silver and lead	7	3	35
Limestone	10	0	0
Bluestone and gravel.....	12	0	0
Cobalt and nickel	45	2	0
Marble.....	5	0	0
Gold.....	320	3	38
	107,265	0	35

The aggregate area held under such authorities in force at the end of 1885 exceeds the area under such authorities at the end of 1884 by 9,797a. 3r. 0½p.

A return of the holdings under the 28th section of the Mining Act to the end of 1884 has been published in pursuance of an order of the Legislative Assembly.

In the months of January, May, and July, of 1885, particulars of gold and mineral leases in force in the several mining districts were published in the Government Gazette, and copies thereof forwarded to the several Wardens' and Registrars' offices throughout the Colony, in order that the public may know what lands are so held, and the conditions attached to such holdings. The Wardens have been urged to take steps to report all cases of non-work, and the Inspector of Mines has aided as far as practicable in this work. Such encouragement as could be has been given to miners to report cases in which lessees are failing to observe the conditions of their respective leases in regard to the employment of labour, and all complaints of non-work have been inquired into with the least possible delay consistent with fairness to the lessees.

The foregoing tables do not represent all the land occupied for mining purposes, as they do not include holdings under miners' rights or mineral licenses on Crown Lands, nor the areas mined under mineral conditional purchases. There are also large areas of private lands upon which mining operations are conducted which are not included in these tables.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

I cannot speak too highly of the manner in which the Geological Surveyor in charge (C. S. Wilkinson, Esq., F.G.S., F.L.S.) and the staff under him perform the important duties devolving upon that Branch of this Department, and the ready and valuable assistance he at all times renders in furthering the interests of mining.

The

The Geological Surveyor in charge, during the year, inspected various parts of the Colony, including the Singleton, Molong, Clyde, Forbes, Parkes, Tomingley, Temora, Young, Nundle, and Hanging Rock Districts.

An application had been made for boring for water near Singleton, but on examination of the locality the formation was found to consist of shales and sandstones belonging to the lower coal-measures in which a supply of good water is not likely to be found; boring operations were, therefore, not undertaken. The same description of strata as those of Rix Creek, containing coal-seams and lenticular beds of iron ore, occur on the Dulcalmah estate, about 10 miles S.E. from Singleton.

In the Molong District, the silurian sedimentary strata, embracing large beds of marble limestone, have been upheaved by masses of porphyritic trap-rock, which appear at the surface, over considerable areas. This rock is traversed by numerous lodes of gossan, containing galena, which have been more or less extensively prospected, and found to contain both gold and silver, but not as yet in payable quantity. Copper Hill, which many years ago was worked for copper, also consists of this trap-rock, the joint fissures of which contain irregular masses of earthy carbonates and other ores of copper, sometimes associated with quartz, but not in regular lodes, and therefore the ore, though of rich quality, is difficult to mine for.

The seams of coal and kerosene shale recently discovered at the head of the Clyde crop out in a ravine 600 feet deep, which has been eroded through the Hawkesbury sandstone formation and into the coal-measures. Two seams have been opened—one 4 feet 9 inches thick, and the other 3 feet—and the coal is of good quality. The kerosene shale found is not of commercial value. The coal formation occupies a large area in this district, and it is believed that the seams will eventually be worked, and the coal shipped either at Jervis Bay or at Ulladulla.

The Western Gold-fields were examined chiefly in connection with the selection of the sites for prospecting for deep alluvial gold-deposits. The sites chosen were upon formations which are usually of a gold-bearing character; but the prospecting operations in no case resulted in the discovery of payable deposits. However, good service has been done in that the different sites have been tested once for all.

Mr. Wilkinson's report upon the geology of the Nundle and Hanging Rock Gold-field is of much interest, as showing that both the gold-reefing and alluvial resources of the field are far from being fully developed. The bed-rock formations are siluro-Devonian slates and sandstones, serpentine, and intrusive diorites, traversed by gold-bearing quartz-reefs, besides containing lodes of chromic iron, manganese, and copper. The ancient valleys crossing these formations have been filled with a great thickness of tertiary gold-bearing gravels overlaid by basalt. These gravels form the so-called "cement leads," which have already been profitably worked for gold when water has been available; but, owing to the drought which has prevailed during the last few years, alluvial mining has, with one or two exceptions, been almost at a standstill. The Geological Surveyor points out that there is a large extent of the gravel deposits yet to be worked, and that water for mining purposes could be brought on to the ground from the eastern falls of the Main Dividing Range, so that the future prospects of this gold-field are encouraging.

The Mining and Geological Museum of the Department has during the year received many additional specimens, both of practical and scientific interest, which are being arranged by the Curator, Mr. J. E. Carne. The number of specimens registered is 16,710. It was expected that the Museum would have been opened to the general public, but this was found impossible, as Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Carne have had, in addition to the usual departmental work, to prepare the mineral and geological collections for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London, 1886; also to arrange for the display of the mineral exhibits of the private exhibitors, which the Department undertook to do at the request of the New South Wales Commission. The collections well represent our varied mineral resources, and particular attention has been given to the minerals of commercial value, especially to those for which efficient methods of treatment are desired. Some of the minerals have been sent in large bulk samples.

Mr. David, Geological Surveyor, has been chiefly engaged upon the completion of the map and sections of his geological survey of the Vegetable Creek tin-fields. These, together with his descriptive report, which treats exhaustively of the tin-bearing deposits, both from a geological and also practical mining point of view, are now in the printer's hands, and will shortly be published. Mr. David also inspected the country between Byrock and Bourke, and reports that the cretaceous formation, in which artesian water is likely to be found, extends for about 27 miles along the railway line, S.E. from Bourke. In the neighbourhood of Byrock the palæozoic rocks come to the surface and occupy an extensive area, and it is probable that within this area gold and other metalliferous deposits will be discovered.

Mr. David has furnished a description of the Wombeian Caves, which will shortly be published as a guide-book to these interesting caves.

The

The keeper of the Jenolan Caves reports that the number of visitors during the year at the caves was 770. To the Wellington Caves there were a great number of visitors, and to the Wombeian Caves.

Besides numerous mineral samples which miners have submitted to the Geological Survey Branch for general report as to value, &c., assays have been made of 1,428 samples, particulars of which are given in this report, under the heads of the several minerals.

MINING SURVEYS.

During the year ending December 31st, 1885, 1,702 surveys were made under the supervision of the Chief Mining Surveyor (E. F. Pittman, Esq.), comprising 1,172 mineral lease portions, 324 gold-mining leases, 91 mining tenements, 82 mining permits, and 32 tenants' leases and public-watering places.

Twenty-five surveyors were employed, and of these thirteen were paid partly by salary and partly by fees, the remainder being paid by fee only. Three surveyors (paid by salary and fees) have been kept employed in the Northern, Western, and Southern Districts of the Colony respectively, and I have thus been enabled to deal, within a reasonable time with the isolated applications for leases of small areas which are being continually made, and which have hitherto caused great delay by reason of their being too scattered to pay surveyors for the time consumed in surveying them.

In the years 1883 and 1884 the numbers of mining surveys made were 620 and 1,188 respectively. It will thus be seen that a large and progressive increase has occurred. This is owing to a considerable extent to the discovery of silver-bearing lodes at Silverton, Sunny Corner, Eamaville, Rockley, and other places, where the demand for leases of mineral land was so great as to render prompt measurement a matter of considerable difficulty.

Towards the end of the year the surveys under the Public Watering-places Act were placed under my supervision, and I recommended the appointment of three surveyors (paid partly by salary and partly by fee) whose duties are to survey a tenant's lease and a public watering-place (reserve) at each of the tanks or wells recommended by the Chief Inspector of Public Watering-places. By these means areas of the most suitable description for leasing under the Act are being surveyed as rapidly as possible.

The work performed in the Charting Branch during the year cannot fail to be regarded as satisfactory, showing, as it does, a marked improvement upon previous years. Thus, while 1,889 applications for gold-mining and mineral leases were received in the Branch during the twelve months, 1,881 were charted and finally dealt with, in addition to a large number of miscellaneous papers, the preparation of twenty-four parish and gold-field compilations, and the continuous charting of locality maps for the Wardens' Clerks' Offices.

The following is a list of the maps compiled and published during 1885.

Map of the parishes of Boyd, Bald Nob, Bloxsome, and part of Severn, in the Peel and Uralla Mining District.	
Map of the parish of Mount Gipps	} Silverton Mining District.
" Stephen	
" Lewis	
" Robe	
" Umberumberka	
" Moorkaie	
" Picton	
" Bolaira	
" Alma	
" Bray	
" Bomangaldy	} Vegetable Creek District.
" parishes of Blair, Purvis, Cranbrook, and Bowman	
" Binghi and Silent Grove	
" Rockvale, Bates, and Rock Glen	
" Bingera Diamond Fields.	
" Gold and mineral leases at Upper Bingera.	
" the Newcastle Coal District.	
" parish of Wyaldra, in the Gulgong Gold-field.	
" Gold and mineral leases at Sunny Corner.	
" *Mount Kosciusko and surrounding Range.	
Office compilation of gold leases, Black Range Gold-field.	
" gold leases at Walgett and Irralong, in the Gloucester Gold-field.	
*Diagram of ear-marks, Forbes District.	
The above list does not include locality maps charted up for local offices.	

The record of work in this Branch is in the highest degree satisfactory, and reflects great credit upon the Chief Mining Surveyor, the Chief Draftsman, and the gentlemen employed under them. In view of such results, I feel justified in hoping that the limit of time within which, in my opinion, leases should be granted will soon rarely be exceeded except in special cases.

The

* Not Mining Maps.

The following is a list of Mining Maps in use, showing which have been published, and date of publication:—

No.	Press.	Parish or Locality.	See Note.	County.	Mining District.	Published.
		Parish of Tent Hill. Second edition	F	Gough	New England.	21 Mar., 1884.
		" Highland Home. "	"	"	"	"
		" Arvid. Second edition	"	"	"	3 Nov., 1883.
		" Wellington Vale. Second edition	"	"	"	"
		" Strathbogie	"	"	New England, Peel, & Uralla.	1884.
		" " North } One map. Second edition.	"	"	"	16 Feb., 1884.
		" Hamilton. "	"	"	"	7 Feb., 1884.
		" Scone "	"	"	Peel and Uralla.	8 Dec., 1883.
		" Clive "	"	"	"	7 Jan., 1884.
		" Herbert "	"	"	"	6 April, 1881.
		" Muir "	"	"	New England	"
		" Land's End } One map	"	"	"	4 Feb., 1881.
		" Dumaresq } One map	"	"	"	"
		" Frazer } One map	"	"	"	"
		" Haystack } One map	"	"	"	1 Oct., 1881.
		" Paradise North } One map	"	"	"	"
		" Wellington " } One map	"	"	"	"
		" Bundar "	"	"	"	9 June, 1881.
		" Flagstone	"	"	"	6 April, 1880.
		" Strachan	"	"	"	"
		Anderson. Charted Survey Office, Litho. ..	"	"	Peel and Uralla	"
		" Clare. Second edition	"	Hardinge	"	4 Mar., 1884.
		" Mayo. "	"	"	"	30 July, "
		" Cope's Creek "	"	"	"	9 April, "
		" Darby "	"	"	"	31 July, "
		" Swinton "	"	"	"	15 May, "
		" Aston "	"	"	"	18 Aug., "
		" Tienga "	"	"	"	6 Oct., "
		" Stephen (part of)	"	Yancowinna	Albert	6 June, "
		" Albert "	"	"	"	"
		" Bomangaldy (part of) } One map {	"	"	"	"
		" Bray (part of) } One map {	"	"	"	"
		" Ruby. Second edition } One map. {	"	Buller "	New England	31 Oct., 1884.
		" Wylie "	"	"	"	"
		" Maryland "	"	"	"	"
		" Marsh "	"	"	"	"
		" Corry (part of) "	"	"	"	"
		" Undercliff "	"	"	"	"
		" Cullendore "	"	"	"	"
		" Bookookoorara "	"	"	"	"
		" Annandale "	"	Clive "	"	—Nov., 1884.
		" Astley (one roll)	R.	Arrawatta	"	Not published.
		" Athol "	"	"	"	"
30	4	" Hawthorn (part of)	"	"	"	"
		" Gordon "	"	Gough	Peel and Uralla	"
		" Craven (One map) } 3rd edition.	F.	Gloucester	Hunter & Macleay	5 Dec., 1884.
31	3	" Bindera } Barrington Gold-field.	"	"	"	"
32	3	" Teleraree (part of) Gloucester Gold-field	T	"	"	"
33	2	" Bootowaa (part of)	"	"	"	Not published.
4	3	" Cooloongolok (part of)	"	"	"	"
5	3 {	" Wangat (part of) } One tracing	"	"	"	"
6	3 {	" Irralong " } One tracing	"	"	"	"
7	1 {	" Topi (part of) "	"	"	"	"
		Parish of Bullongong (part of) } One tracing { Captain's Flat.	"	Murray "	Tumut & Adelong	"
		" Ballalaba "	"	"	"	"
8	3	Parish of Sara (part of) (The Gulf)	"	Gresham "	Peel & Uralla	"
9	3	" Wyambene (part of) } One tracing ... {	"	Dampier "	Southern	"
		" Krawaree "	"	Murray "	"	"
40	1	Green Swamp, part of parishes of Eskdale, Melrose, and Yetholme.	R	Roxburgh	Bathurst	"
1	2	Solitary Creek, Wattle Flat Gold-field	T	"	"	"
2	1	Part of Barmedman Gold-field (part of parishes Barmedman and Mandamah).	"	"	"	"
3	2	" Nowendoc Gold-field, Nuggety Gully	"	Bland "	Lachlan	"
4	2	" Muttama " part of parish of Mooney Mooney.	"	Hawes "	Peel & Uralla	"
5	2	" Junction Point Gold-field, part of parish of Mcglo.	"	Harden "	Tumut & Adelong	"
6	2	" Burrangong Gold-field, part of parish of Young.	"	Georgiana	Bathurst	"
7	3	" Emu Creek Gold-field, part of parish of Coba.	"	Montcagle	Lachlan	"
8	2	Union and Lone Star Reefs, Quart-pot Creek, parish of Nullama.	"	"	"	"
9	2	Part of Cunglebung Gold-field	"	Gresham "	Clarence & Richmond	"
50	2	" Chambigne " parish of Ermington	"	"	"	"
1	1	" Boyd or Little River Gold-field, Perseverance Reef, &c.	R	"	"	"
2	3	" Milburn Creek Gold-field, part of parish of Dunlary.	T	"	"	"
2A	2	Parish of Cavert (part of)	"	Bathurst "	Bathurst	"
3	3 {	" Mongarlows (part of) } One tracing {	"	"	"	"
		" Budawang "	"	St. Vincent "	Southern	"
4	3	Yalwal Creek Diggings	"	"	"	"

No.	Press.	Parish or Locality.	See Note.	County.	Mining District.	Published.
5	4	Tomingley Gold-field (part of)	R	Narromine	Mudgee	Not published.
6	1	Solferino " " parish of Churchill	"	Drake	New England	"
7	1	Mulgunnia " " Mulgunnia	"	Georgiana	Bathurst	"
8	3	Macquarie River Gold-field (part of)	T	Wellington	Tambaroora & Turon	"
9	"	Gulgong Gold-field (part of), Black Lead, &c.	"	Phillip	Mudgee	"
60	1	" " " parish of Guntawang	R	"	"	"
1	"	" " " "	F	"	"	"
2	"	Peel River " " "	"	Parry	Peel & Uralla	"
3	"	Adelong " " "	"	Wynyard	Tumut & Adelong	"
4	"	" " " South	"	"	"	"
5	2	Cargo " " "	T	Ashburnham	Lachlan	"
6	2	Black Range Gold-field (part of) { One tracing { Nail-can Reef	"	Goulburn	Tumut & Adelong	"
7	2	" " " { May Day "	"	"	"	"
8	3	Ophir Gold-field (part of)	"	Bathurst & Wellington	Bathurst	"
9	"	Nana Creek Gold-field (part of), parish of Bagawa	"	Fitzroy	Clarence & Richmond	"
70	2	Gura Falls (part of), parish of Metz	"	Sandon	Peel & Uralla	"
1	2	Mitchell's River	"	Gough	"	"
2	3	Village of Cooyal	"	Phillip	Mudgee	"
3	1	Parishes of Cobar and Mopone (part of)	"	Robinson	Cobar	"
4	1	Parish of Jingellic (part of)	R	Goulburn	Tumut & Adelong	"
5	1	Parishes of Oban, Coventry, and Hall (Paddy's Gully, &c.)	"	Clarke	Peel & Uralla	"
6	3	Watson's Creek, parish of Hanning	"	Inghis	"	"
7	1	Pheasant " " Moogem	T	Clive	New England	"
8	4	Silverton (town of)	R	Yancowinna	Albert	"
9	"	Parish of Inverell (part of)	"	Gough	Peel & Uralla	"
80	1	Tambaroora, Turon River, and Chambers Creek Gold-field (part of).	"	Wellington, Roxburgh, & Bathurst	Tambaroora & Turon	"
1	4	Parish of Tunnabidgee (part of), Turon River Gold-field.	T	"	"	"
2	"	Lachlan Gold-field, parish of Forbes (part of)	R	Ashburnham	Lachlan	"
3	"	Billabong " (part of)	F	"	"	"
4	2	Sunny Corner, Mitchell's Creek	"	Roxburgh	Bathurst	"
5	1	Parish of Cowan (part of)	"	Gresham	Clarence & Richmond	"
6	4	Peel River Gold-field (part of), parishes of Duncowan and Nundle.	R	Parry	Peel & Uralla	"
7	1	Parish of Quidong, &c.	"	Wellesley	Southern	"
		Albert Gold-field, parish of Warratta (part of)	"	Evelyn	Albert	"
		Boyd, Bald Nob, Bloxsome, and part of Severn	F	Gough	Peel & Uralla	30 Jan., 1885.
		Mount Gipps	"	Yancowinna	Albert	28 Mar., 1885.
		Stephen	"	"	"	26 May, 1885.
		Lewis	"	"	"	11 Mar., 1885.
		Robe	"	"	"	22 July, 1885.
		Umberumberka	"	"	"	24 June, 1885.
		Moorkaie	"	"	"	25 Aug., 1885.
		Picton	"	"	"	28 Sept., 1885.
		Bolaira	"	"	"	11 Nov., 1885.
		Alma	"	"	"	10 Dec., "
		Bray	"	"	"	19 Dec., "
		Bomangaldy	"	"	"	30 Dec., "
		Blain, Purvis, Cranbrook, Bowman	"	Clive	New England	20 Oct., "
		Binghi, Silent Grove	"	"	"	10 Aug., "
		Rockvale, Bates, Rockglen	"	"	"	23 April, "
		Bingera Diamond Fields	"	Murchison	Peel & Uralla	18 June, "
		Gold and Mineral Leases at Upper Bingera	"	"	"	25 Feb., "
		Wyaldra (Gulgong Gold-field)	"	Phillip	Mudgee	29 July, "
		Sunny Corner (temporary map)	"	"	"	18 Sept., "
		Gold Leases in the Black Range Gold-field	T	Goulburn	Albury	Not published.
		Gold Leases at Wangat and Irralong (Gloucester Gold-field.	T	Gloucester	Hunter & Macleay	"
		The Newcastle Coal District	"	Northumberland	Hunter & Macleay	"

DIAMOND DRILLS AND WATER AUGERS.

During the first part of the year the drills and augers were worked under the supervision of Mr. W. B. Henderson, but that gentleman resigned his position in the month of September. Since then they have been worked under the supervision of the Inspector of Mines (Mr. W. H. J. Slee). When Mr. Slee took charge there were twelve drills in the field. Of these, six were boring, four were in difficulties, and two were idle; and one was in the store. Since then eleven drills have been actively engaged in boring. The aggregate depth bored during the year was 11,325 feet 11 inches (581 feet 11 inches more than was bored in 1884), at a cost to the Department of £9,619 18s. 6d., including wages, diamonds, materials, wear and tear, carriage, and other field expenses, but exclusive of office expenses, equal to 16s. 11½d. per foot, or of £10,811 3s. 9d., inclusive of all expenses, equal to 19s. 1½d. per foot. The cost to the persons for whom the boring was performed was £9,235 13s. 11d., equal to 16s. 3¾d. per foot, the Minister having, under the regulations, granted reductions upon the prices contracted for to the extent of £406 6s. 7d. The table published with the Superintendent's report shows that the average cost per foot from the 1st January, 1885, to the 12th September was 17s. 7½d., and from the 14th September to the end of the year the cost per foot was 15s. 7½d. The management of these drills under Mr. Slee has been highly satisfactory, and the zeal with which

which he has performed his duties is beyond all praise. In justice to that gentleman, I trust I shall be pardoned for so far anticipating events as to quote from a report recently furnished showing the result of the operations of the drills for the quarter ending 31st March, 1886. This report shows that the total cost of working the drills, including office and all other expenses, for the quarter (except interest on the capital invested) was £1,571 18s. 2d., while the earnings of the drills during that period was £1,583 10s. 10d. The aggregate depths bored during the quarter was 1,913 feet 6 inches, consequently the cost to the Department was 16s. 5d., whereas the cost to the public was only 16s. 6½d. per foot, which is much below the price that would have to be paid to private contractors for such work. From these facts it may be seen that by means of these drills the work of developing the mineral resources of the Colony is being materially aided without cost, or with very trifling cost, to the State. These drills have hitherto been chiefly employed in proving the coal-measures, which is an important work, as it is most desirable this Colony should retain the premier position in the export of coal, and that ample provision be made for the rapidly increasing demand for coal both at home and abroad, as each new colliery opened affords another field for the employment of labour. I am aware it has been urged that the original intention was that these drills should be employed in developing our auriferous and metalliferous deposits, and that the working miners, as well as the Colony generally, would be thereby benefited to a greater extent than by piercing the coal-measures for capitalists. This may be quite true, but I think it must also be conceded that though collieries must almost necessarily be opened up by capitalists the Colony generally, and the operative miners specially, derive advantage from the development of our coal deposits, and that up to the present time there are scarcely any known auriferous deposits that could be advantageously prospected by means of the diamond drill. For the purpose of prospecting deep alluvial leads which underlie deposits of basalt, they are specially valuable, and there may, it is to be hoped, yet be found employment for them in that description of work, but hitherto there has been no demand for them in that direction. For the purpose of prospecting lodes there has been comparatively no demand, and it may be questioned whether they would prove a valuable aid in this kind of prospecting, because, though they might readily prove the existence of the lode to or at a given depth, the core obtained might afford no certain indication of the richness in mineral of the lode pierced.

During the year eleven augers have been employed in the search for water, with the result that twenty-five bores have been sunk on stock routes for the Government to an aggregate depth of 3,161 feet 7 inches, the total cost per foot being £1 18s. 0½d. Thus it will be seen that the aggregate depth bored in 1885 exceeded the depth bored in 1884, and the cost per foot was less. In four of these bores fresh water was obtained, namely: In one bore on the Bourke and Wanarring line, at a depth of 427 feet, the quantity being 4,320 gallons per diem; in two at Goodooga, at 68 feet and 67 feet respectively, the quantity in each bore being 24,000 gallons per diem; and in one on the Hay route, from 84 feet to 200 feet, the quantity being 3,600 gallons per diem. In addition to these, good stock-water, to the extent of 1,440 gallons per diem, was obtained on the Wilcannia route, at 110 feet to 145½ feet, and brackish water, considered fit for stock, was obtained on the Wilcannia and Silverton route, at 290 feet 293 feet respectively, the quantity in each bore being 2,000 gallons per diem; and it was also obtained in a third bore, at 49 feet, quantity not reported. Four bores were sunk for private persons, to an aggregate depth of 683 feet, at a cost to the Government of 9s. 8½d per foot, and to the persons for whom they were sunk of 8s. 1½d per foot. In four of these bores fresh water was obtained, namely, at 158 feet 9,792 gallons per diem, at 182 feet 12,672 gallons per diem, at 150 feet 12,000 gallons per diem, and at 173 feet 17,280 gallons per diem. These bores are all on the Gorian Station. The tables attached to the Superintendent's report contain interesting details of the work performed by the drills and augers. The water-map contains a large amount of additional information, and will in course of time become a valuable compilation.

The report of the Inspector of Mines gives the number of fatal and non-fatal accidents in mines other than coal-mines, and, as usual, contains important information concerning the numerous localities inspected by him during the year.

The Prospecting Vote for 1885 has, I regret to say, been expended without any satisfactory result so far, except that in every case work has been done for the money expended.

ROADS, STREETS, AND GATES.

The officers of this Branch have, under the supervision of Mr. G. E. Herring, the Chief Clerk of the Department, performed their work in a most expeditious and satisfactory manner. As will be seen from the following statement, the amount of work disposed of was less in 1885 than in 1884, but in consequence of the death early in the year of Mr. W. C. Bell the Branch was deprived of the services of a most efficient officer, and owing to the great pressure of work in other Branches of the Department it was not possible during the year to supply his place.

The

The following is a comparative statement of the work done in the Roads and Gates Branch :—

	1883.	1884.	1885.
Number of papers registered	5,260	5,520	3,858
Number of letters written	2,502	2,695	2,660
New roads and streets	320	263	133
New gates	70	87	42
Number of plans sent to the Executive Council	359	249	186
Tracings and book of reference sent for exhibition	354	273	168

Besides the above, the returns for Parliament, the preparation of papers for laying on the tables of the Houses of Parliament, supervision of advertisements, distribution of papers and stores, the time of Mr. Ormiston and Mr. Bransby, both officers of this Branch, is frequently occupied upon miscellaneous work of an urgent necessity, on account of their efficiency and promptitude.

I have much pleasure in again acknowledging the able assistance so readily afforded me by Mr. Herring (the Chief Clerk), Mr. Binny (the Registrar, who, I regret to say, is absent on sick leave), Mr. Farr (the Accountant), and the heads of Branches generally. I also gladly acknowledge my indebtedness to the Geological Surveyor in charge, the Chief Mining Surveyor, the Inspector of Mines, and the Wardens, for their valuable assistance.

MINERAL PRODUCTS.

The aggregate value of our mineral products to the end of 1885 is £66,843,759 8s. 3d., the value of the output for the year 1885 being £2,775,175, showing a decrease, as compared with 1884, of £228,656, mainly due to the reduced value of copper, which has led to a reduction in the output. The decrease in the output of tin is also considerable, though the prospects of the tin-fields have improved. As regards silver and silver ores, it will be noticed that the quantity of ore exported in 1885 is very much less than in 1884; but the quantity of fine silver is very much greater; this, of course, is due to the fact that at the principal mines the ores are being smelted on the ground. On the whole the output from our silver-mines in 1885 is not so much in excess of that of 1884 as might have been expected.

The following table shows the aggregate value of minerals the produce of New South Wales for the years 1884 and 1885 respectively compared :—

Minerals.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Increase in value.	Decrease in value.
	1884.	£ s. d.	1885.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gold	107,198.92 oz.	395,291 12 5	103,736.36 oz.	378,665 0 3	.....	16,626 12 2
Silver	93,660.25 „	19,780 0 0	794,173.80 „	159,187 0 0	139,407 0 0	.....
Coal	2,749,109.00 tons.	1,303,077 0 0	2,878,863.23 tons.	1,340,212 13 7	37,135 13 7	.....
Shale	31,618.00 „	72,176 0 0	27,462.00 „	67,239 0 0	.....	4,937 0 0
Tin	6,665.45 „	521,537 0 0	5,192.80 „	415,626 0 0	.....	105,961 0 0
Copper	7,305.20 „	416,179 0 0	5,746.00 „	264,920 0 0	.....	151,259 0 0
Iron	3,759.12 „	24,571 11 2	4,175.79 „	25,792 19 9	1,221 8 7	.....
Antimony	433.60 „	6,458 0 0	292.75 „	4,296 0 0	.....	2,162 0 0
Bismuth	14.37 „	2,770 0 0	14.17 „	3,700 0 0	930 0 0	.....
Sundry Minerals...	.....	.....	456.76 „	7,820 0 0	7,820 0 0	.....
Silver Lead Ore ...	9,167.52 „	241,940 0 0	2,286.20 „	107,626 0 0	.....	134,314 0 0
Asbestos .....	.....	.....	6.00 „	90 0 0	90 0 0	.....

THE following Return shows the quantity and value of Gold, Coal, Shale, Copper, Tin, Silver, Silver Lead Ore,

Year	Gold.		Coal.		Shale		Copper and Regulus.		Tin and Tin Ore.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Oz.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
1876.....	167,412	613,190	1,319,918	803,300	15,998	47,994	3,275	249,978	6,958	439,638
1877.....	124,111	471,418	1,444,271	858,998	18,963	46,524	4,513	324,226	8,054	503,540
1878.....	119,665	430,033	1,575,479	920,936	24,371	57,211	5,219	345,158	7,210	395,822
1879.....	109,650	407,219	1,583,381	950,879	32,519	66,930	4,142	257,352	5,921	372,349
1880.....	118,600	441,543	1,466,180	615,337	19,201	44,725	5,394	364,059	6,159	471,337
1881.....	149,627	566,513	1,769,597	608,248	27,894	40,748	5,494	355,062	8,200	724,003
1882.....	140,469	526,521	2,109,282	948,965	48,065	84,114	4,958	324,727	8,670	833,461
1883.....	123,806	458,509	2,521,457	1,201,942	49,250	90,861	8,957	677,201	9,125	824,552
1884.....	107,199	395,292	2,749,109	1,303,077	31,618	72,176	7,305	416,179	6,665	521,587
1885.....	103,736	378,665	2,878,863	1,340,213	27,462	67,239	5,746	264,920	5,193	415,626
	1,264,275	4,688,903	19,417,555	9,546,895	295,341	618,522	55,003	3,478,862	72,155	5,506,915

Notwithstanding the decrease in the value of our mineral products for 1885 it still exceeds the decennial average by £295,891; and I venture to think that, even should the depression in copper-mining continue, the output from other mines during 1886 will help us to recover lost ground.

GOLD.

I regret to have to notice a further decrease in the yield of gold. That for 1885, as compared with 1884, shows a decrease in value of £16,626 12s. 2d. Judging from the reports of the officers stationed on the gold-fields, this may be attributed wholly or mainly to the drought. I had hoped that the provision in the Mining Act Further Amendment Act of 1884 for the granting of special leases of worked auriferous land, might have led to the reworking of some of our abandoned gold-fields, which would probably prove remunerative if worked on a large scale with system and economy. So far, however, little advantage has been taken of this important provision, probably owing, in some degree, to the scarcity of water for mining purposes. The following extracts from the reports furnished by the Wardens and Mining Registrars affords some indication of the state of mining in the several districts, and the causes of the depression.

In the Bathurst District the Wardens and Mining Registrars report:—In the Bathurst Division there is no alluvial mining worth mentioning, and no sluicing owing to the scarcity of water. At Cook and Co.'s battery, at Dark Corner, a trial crushing of 400 tons of quartz yielded 292 oz. of gold; the reef is 3 feet wide at a depth of 100 feet—500 tons yielded 1,100 oz. of gold. At Oberon a payable reef had been found, and a small battery erected; a trial crushing gave £350 worth of gold. At Blackman's Swamp a rich leader has been discovered, which, though small (1 to 6 inches wide), has given some good returns, the last crushing of 5 tons yielding 51 oz. At Mount M'Donald only 100 men are now regularly employed, and there has been a falling off in the yield of gold, the output for 1885 being about 4,000 oz.; 1,642 tons of quartz crushed yielded 2,861 oz. 7 dwt. 17 gr., giving an average of 1 oz. 14 dwt. per ton, the highest yield being 3 oz. 1 dwt. per ton, and 1,014 oz. was obtained from a re-crushing of a parcel of tailings. At Trunkey the yield of gold in 1885 exceeded that of 1884 by over 400 oz. The rainfall in the division was quite insufficient for sluicing purposes. At Pharo's Point, on the northern bank of the Abercrombie River, some miners worked during the last six months of the year and obtained nice gold. The Pine Ridge Co. crushed 2,725 tons of quartz for 432 oz. of gold; the deepest level is 120 feet. The total quantity of gold won in the Trunkey Division during the year was 718 oz. 12 dwt. 5 gr.

In the Carcoar Division the yield of gold in 1885 was less by 2,966 oz. than the yield for 1884, the decrease being due to the scarcity of water. From the Brown's Creek mine about 1,500 oz. of gold was won; no new finds of any importance reported during the year. The mines at Gally Swamp appear to be payable. The quantity of gold sent from this division during the year was 9,073 oz. 6 dwt. 3 gr., which probably includes the gold won at Mount McDonald. In the Tuena Division 400 oz. 10 dwt. of gold was won during the year, viz. 300 oz. from alluvium, and 100 oz. 10 dwt. from quartz. In the Orange Division, Ophir continues to attract attention. The Bluff Amalgamated Gold-mining Company is pushing on operations which must result in developing a locality on which so many have been speculating for years past. In sinking their several shafts good gold has been procured; they have a shaft down 80 feet, and expect to meet the tunnel in about 250 feet. About 200 yards from this shaft they have sunk another 60 feet, and have a large body of quartz ready for stoping, which will average 9 dwt. per ton. The engine and battery are in good order, and crushing will be commenced shortly. At the Belmore, two men are working with prospects of success; they have a large quantity of stone at grass, which

Iron, Antimony, Asbestos, and Bismuth produced in the Colony of New South Wales during the last ten years:—

Silver.		Silver Lead Ore.		Iron.		Antimony and Ore.		Asbestos.		Bismuth.		Sundry Minerals.		Total.
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
oz. dwt.	£	t. c.	£	t. c.	£	t. c.	£	t. c.	£	t. c.	£	t.	£	£
60,179 0	15,456	67 0	1,392	2,680 0	13,399	40 0	140	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,184,487
31,409 0	6,673	20 12	325	2,600 0	7,600	69 12	1,131	...	...	...	...	231	7,725	2,233,160
60,563 0	13,291	5 0	253	900 0	6,666	64 0	1,964	...	...	...	...	77	1,082	2,172,421
83,164 0	18,071	18 13	535	1,118 0	10,550	76 16	1,046	...	...	...	...	25	525	2,085,456
91,419 0	21,878	27 14	890	2,322 0	15,335	99 19	1,652	12 8	323	...	...	21	795	1,977,874
67,254 0	13,026	52 14	1,625	6,560 0	47,871	539 4	17,346	...	...	12 10	2,728	154	1,020	2,373,190
38,618 0	9,024	11 19	360	7,476 0	37,224	1,068 18	16,732	7 10	75	2 14	162	7	979	2,782,344
77,065 18	16,488	136 4	2,075	3,434 3	26,908	375 11	5,555	...	...	3 14	650	31	160	3,204,901
93,660 5	19,780	9,167 11	241,940	3,759 2	24,572	433 12	6,458	...	...	14 7½	2,770	...	...	3,003,831
794,174 0	159,187	2,286 0	107,626	4,176 0	25,793	293 0	4,206	6 0	90	14 0	3,700	457	7,820	2,775,175
1,396,506 3	292,874	11,793 7	357,026	35,025 5	215,918	3,060 12	56,320	25 18	488	47 5½	10,010	864½	20,106	24,732,839

which it is thought will pay well. The alluvial mines are paying moderately, but no startling finds have been reported. Lucknow maintains its reputation under the able management of Mr. Newman. Bonanzas continue to be unearthed, and the ores which are exported for treatment yield a satisfactory return. At Forest Reefs the claims are being worked with varied success. The Old Lumpy Lead shaft is down 200 feet, and payable gold is found in the wash with fossil nuts, leaves, and woods.

In the Mudgee District the Wardens and Mining Registrars report:—The yield of gold in this district in 1885 shows a falling off of some 1,500 oz. as compared with the yield for 1884, which may be ascribed to the drought. At Gulgong some hopes are entertained that the Nil Desperandum and Britannia mines will prove successful. In the former claim a seam of payable wash has been cut in the main drive from which some thousands of tons payable wash will probably be raised. The claims on the Black Lead are not progressing satisfactorily. In Stott's paddock, Mayes and party's claim has been payable from the commencement. The quantity of gold sent to Sydney by the banks was 1,017 oz. from Gulgong and 3,148 oz. from Mudgee. At Tomingley mining has somewhat improved; the yield of gold from quartz reefs during the year exceeds that of the preceeding year by about 1,000 oz., although only about fifty-five men are now employed; this is mainly due to the success of Messrs. Moore, Mooney & Co., at No. 1, North Myall, who obtained 666 oz. of gold from 300 tons of quartz. The battery at Myall crushed during the year 1,050 tons of quartz for 1,551 oz. of gold. The battery at Tomingley crushed 1,166 tons for 593 oz. 13 dwt. 5 gr.: Total for the Tomingley Division, 2,144 oz.

In the Tambaroora and Turon District the Wardens and Mining Registrars report:—Sofala Division: At Spring Creek, 96 tons of quartz were crushed for 21 oz.; the depth of the shaft is 284 feet, and the deepest level 275 feet. At Solitary Reef, 448 tons of quartz were crushed, yielding 143 oz., 8 dwt.; the depth of the shaft is 400 feet, and the deepest level 370 feet. A trial crushing of 10 tons from Quart-pot Reef yielded 5 oz. 11 dwt. per ton. The total yield for the division was 3,815 oz. 0 dwt. 20 gr., viz. 2,015 oz. 0 dwt. 20 gr. from alluvium, and 1,800 oz. from quartz. In the Hill End Division the yield from quartz was 2,540 oz. 1 dwt., and from alluvium 1,363 oz. 9 dwt. 10 gr. Total yield for the division, 3,903 oz. 10 dwt. 10 gr. At Ironbarks, Messrs. Liddell have struck a really good reef, at a depth of 90 feet. Many of the abandoned reefs have been taken up lately with the object of testing them at a depth. Two Companies have been at work at the Mookerawa junction of the Macquarie River during the year. One has been engaged in cutting races and opening the mine, the prospects of which are good; the plant consists of an engine 100 h.p., and two large pumps capable of throwing 78,000 gallons per hour. The other Company is not working at present, but expect to start shortly. At Spring Creek, on the Macquarie, near Burrendong, a nugget weighing 62 oz. was found. The quantity of gold won from alluvium was 1,046 oz. 11 dwt. 12 gr., and 97 oz. 11 dwt. from quartz. Total for the division, 1,144 oz. 2 dwt. 12 gr.

In the Lachlan District the Wardens and Mining Registrars report:—A fair amount of prospecting has been done throughout the district, but no discoveries of importance were made. The only drawback to the progress of mining in the Parkes Division was the want of water. Some very handsome returns have been obtained from a line of reef which appears to be an offshoot of the Buchanan, on which several claims are working; the shoot of gold appears to be rich and extensive. This discovery should encourage prospectors, as the reef is in the centre of ground which had been worked for years, and abandoned over and over again. From the Buchanan reef, 1,081 tons of quartz yielded 4 oz. to the ton. From Scrubby Plains 220 tons yielded 3 oz. per ton. It is estimated that seventy men are working on the old alluvial leads, and 110

on

on the reefs. The total quantity of quartz crushed in the division was 2,947 tons, yielding 5,777 oz. 11 dwt.; the total quantity of alluvium was 545 tons, yielding 129 oz. 17 dwt. 12 gr. At Bald Hills a considerable amount of money has been expended in labour and machinery without success, though the owners of the mines are still sanguine. The lead is patchy—in places payable, and even rich, but in other places very poor. At Strickland's reef, between Forbes and Parkes, no work is being done for want of a battery on the ground. The reef is large, but the stone is not sufficiently rich to pay for carting it some 12 or 13 miles. The yield of gold in the Forbes Division was 1,200 oz. 3 dwt. 12 gr. At Grenfell there are numerous reefs extending nearly 3 miles that have yielded payable stone to a considerable depth, and are thought by experts likely to prove permanently payable if tested to greater depths. Of these, O'Brien's reef is said to have yielded gold to the value of £100,000, the Homeward-bound to the value of £80,000, the Britannia to the value of £50,000, and the Enterprise to the value of £30,000. Several parties of miners are working old alluvial ground, which they say pays wages. On the Enterprise reef Pettet and party crushed 83 tons for a return of 1 oz. 14 dwt. per ton, and they have 40 tons equally rich at grass. Lawson and party raised 60 tons from Lawson's reef, estimated to yield 1 oz. 10 dwt. per ton, but not crushed. Mathews and party crushed 47 tons from the Homeward-bound reef for 14 dwt. per ton, and have about 180 tons ready for crushing. At Cargo there is only one mine, the Ironclad, at work; 90 tons of quartz from this mine yielded 154 oz. At Canowindra there are several reefs being worked, but there is a great deal of mineral in the stone which requires special treatment. 343 tons of quartz crushed yielded 303 oz. 14 tons of stone from the London reef, Boney's Rocks, gave a yield of 32 oz. 11 dwt. of gold. At Young mining is at a very low ebb. A Company has been formed to work the lead at Possum Flat on a large scale. They have large and complete plant on the ground. The claim comprises 42 acres. The Company is at present sinking a third shaft and erecting machinery. The lead is 80 feet deep, with a heavy underground flow of water. The mine will shortly be in complete working order, and great results are anticipated, as the former Company obtained some rich wash. The quantity of gold purchased by the Banks was 253 oz. 6 dwt. 19 gr. At Murrumburrah the New Cuningar Quartz-mining Company, on the Marshall McMahon reefs, has opened a reef 4 feet wide, well-defined. Fully 20,000 tons of quartz is visible and ready for stoping, besides 1,200 tons at grass ready for treatment, estimated to yield 2 oz. per ton of gold, and from 2 to 10 oz. of silver. The shaft is 212 feet deep. The plant, including a Campbell Probert smelter, treats 20 tons per day, and saves 90 per cent. of the gold and silver. At Blind Creek about 100 miners are making wages. The few miners at Wombat and Little Wombat get excellent returns. At Barmedman the prospects are improving, owing to the reported discovery of payable gold in reefs supposed to be almost valueless. In the Jackson Company's mine the tributors have obtained good results by driving at the 79-foot level. In No. 2 North Ada reef several excellent crushings have been obtained from leaders varying in width from a few inches to many feet. Two miners obtained payable gold at the Hard to Find. 2,741½ tons in this division yielded 1,797 oz. 14 dwt., the highest yield being 2 oz. 12 dwt. 8 gr. per ton, and the lowest being 4 dwt. 7 gr. Crushing operations had to be suspended during part of the year owing to the scarcity of water. At Temora about 25,000 loads of wash-dirt was puddled, the yield therefrom being 4,500 oz. of gold, equal to 3 dwt. 14 gr. per ton. Buckley and party obtained good returns from some old ground, including one nugget weighing 50 oz., and several smaller ones, the particulars of which cannot be furnished by the Warden, but the following are the weights of some, viz:—1 oz., 11 oz., 17 oz., 5 oz., and 9 oz. One party obtained a patch of nuggets varying in size from 2 oz. to 20 oz.; the Warden estimates the aggregate weight at 250 oz. The largest quantity of gold got in one patch was found at Upper Temora (part of this gold was purchased for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition consisting of three specimens containing 308·35 oz. of gold, valued at £1,233 8s.) the value of the patch was £4,300, besides some specimens still on hand. This was obtained from a claim that had been idle for months. The shaft is 90 feet deep, and the reef is 2 feet wide. Nuggets are not confined to any particular part of the lead or leads but all of them were found within an area of 3 miles. The South Australian Company crushed 1,516 tons of quartz for 1,131 oz. of gold. They also crushed 40 tons from other claims, which averaged 1 oz. per ton. From the Homeward-bound mine 115 tons of quartz were raised, 90 tons of which were crushed, yielding 156 oz. of gold, when work was stopped under an injunction. From the Evening Star mine at Sebastopol 650 tons of stone were crushed, yielding 10 dwt. per ton; 150 tons still at grass; the shoot of gold is 9 feet wide, and is visible 45 feet along the reef. The yield of gold in the Temora Division was 6,222 oz., being 5,111 oz. less than the yield for 1884. In the Junee Division scarcity of water has retarded mining operations. 77 tons of quartz crushed yielded 1 oz. 2 dwt. 6 gr. per ton. The yield of gold was 65 oz. 12 dwt. 5 gr. from alluvium and 85 oz. 15 dwt. from quartz. A parcel of quartz, 19½ tons, from Cowabec about 45 miles from Temora, between Junee Junction and Narrandera, a new and promising locality, was crushed at Barmedman, for a yield of 51 oz. 13 dwt., equal to nearly 2 oz. 13 dwt. per ton. Prospecting was carried on at Temora during the year under Government supervision. Seventy shafts were sunk, varying in depth from

7 feet to 152 feet, the aggregate depth about 4,000 feet. In most of the shafts slight traces of gold were found, but although the ground was also tested, in such cases by driving, gold in payable quantity was not discovered.

In the Cobar district the Warden reports:—At Cudgellico the Griggs Gold-mining Co. has stopped work, owing to some dispute amongst the claimholders. Up to the time of stopping 186½ tons of quartz had been crushed for a yield of 94 oz. 6 dwts. 12 grs. of gold.

In the Albert district the Warden and Mining Registrar reports:—In the Milparinka division the rainfall for 1885 was exceptionally heavy, whereby the mining industry has been benefited, the miners being enabled to clear off all their accumulated heaps of wash-dirt; it also led to the opening up of a deep lead at Billygoat Hill, Mount Brown, by McKenzie and party, who struck payable gold at a depth of 55 feet, the wash being 18 inches thick, and averaging 2 oz. per load. Three other parties found the lead at greater depths, and obtained payable gold, average yield from 1 oz. to 2 oz. per load. Several other shafts were sunk along the course of the lead, which was found to be dipping towards the west so rapidly that at 210 feet no bottom could be touched, but water of excellent quality was found, and the quantity was so great that it could not be overcome by the miners' ordinary appliances, consequently work was suspended, and some of the claims have been abandoned. The yield from the claims on this lead has averaged about 1½ oz. per load, and several nuggets have been found weighing from 1 dwt. to 3 oz. At the One-mile, Mount Brown, the lead of gold that was found under the cement has been picked up again 400 yards further to the south, and two parties are on payable gold at a depth of 56 feet, the yield in one case being 4¼ oz. to the load. One puddling machine has been steadily at work upon surface dirt, and has realized 1½ dwt. per ton. At Good Friday the gold is found in patches from the surface to a depth of 18 feet, but the few parties working these have been only moderately successful. At the Reefs on Warratta Creek, the Wittabreena Co.'s crushing machine has been intermittently at work, the yield being ½ oz. per ton. Some prospecting is being done on other lines of reef with promise of success, gold being seen freely in the quartz. At Tiboburra the puddling machines have been steadily at work, and have averaged about 1½ dwt. per ton. Nuggetty Gully still continues to support a few miners. The yield of gold in this division during the year is estimated at 2,100 oz. In the Wilcannia division several parties were prospecting for gold during the year, but their operations were restricted to a limited area, as they had to depend on the station tanks for water.

In the Tumut and Adelong district the Wardens and Mining Registrars report:—In the Gundagai division there was a larger area being prospected during the year than for some time past, and there are some indications of a revival in gold-mining. Some large ventures—notably the Great Victoria at Tarrabandra, the Bongongolong at Burra, and another company at Mitta Mitta, are about commencing operations. In the Queanbeyan division the difficulty of extracting the gold from the stone in Blatchford's mine at Captain's Flat by the ordinary process has been found by assay to be due to the presence of silver and lead in paying quantities, and a Pacific water-jacket smelter is now being erected for the purpose of treating the ore by smelting. The furnace is expected to be in blast shortly, and the assay furnace is nearly completed. Montgomery and party raised from their mine 924 tons of stone, which yielded 239 oz. of gold. During the last six months of the year work was suspended owing to want of water. In the Tumbarumba division the sluicing at the Burra Company's claim has paid moderately well, but the other sluicing claims have scarcely paid wages. The Isabella Reef, at Ouric, has been steadily worked with improving prospects; the stone contains an appreciable quantity of silver. As far as known 1,560 oz. of gold was sent from this division during the year, besides 1,341 oz. of bullion from the Isabella Reef, worth 28s. per oz. At Kiandra there are five companies at work, but want of water caused some of them to suspend sluicing operations, and has seriously retarded all mining works. The past year was the worst for water during the past 20 years. At the New Chum Hill Claim work was carried on almost continuously, the yield being 1,065 oz. 19 dwt. 1 gr. This company intends to build a dam at the Three-mile and to increase the dimensions of their race in order to provide for working two nozzles. At the Nine-mile claim hydraulic sluicing was carried on for 238 hours, yielding a return of over 40 oz. of gold; total yield at Kiandra, about 1,773 oz. The report of the Inspector of Mines contains some interesting information concerning the Kiandra Gold-field. In the Adelong division the great Victorian Company stopped work in the early part and did not start again till late in the year, consequently the quantity of stone crushed was less by 1,000 tons than the previous year. Some prospecting was done during the year which resulted in the discovery of some gold-bearing leaders. The tributors in the Curragong Mine crushed 192½ tons of quartz for a yield of 430 oz. 11 dwt.; from Gibraltar Hill, 32 tons crushed yielded 72 oz. 12 dwt.; from Mount Ardrah 120 tons crushed, yielded 216 oz. 17 dwt.; from Tarcutta one parcel of 11 tons yielded 50 oz. 2 dwt. The quartz-reefs have been pierced to a depth of 1,000 feet in three different places. Amongst the alluvial mines a good deal of work has been done, especially on Shepard's lease, with satisfactory results; the monthly yields varied from 320 oz. to 350 oz.

3,030 tons of quartz crushed in the division yielded 2,568 oz. 2 dwt., and 5,253 oz. 2 dwt. 18 gr. were won from alluvium; total yield for the division, 7,821 oz. 4 dwt. 18 gr., were won from alluvium, and at Reedy Flat 616 oz. At Yarrara the Rangatira Company during the year crushed 700 tons for a yield of 800 oz.; depth of shaft, 208 feet; deepest level, 200 feet; width of reef, 15 inches; 50 oz. obtained from alluvium. In the Albury division there was very little mining in old workings. There were three new finds—one at Black Range, another at Splitters' Creek, the third at Hawk's View Estate; both the latter in private property. The Soudan Company at Splitters' Creek have erected first-class machinery, and are busy crushing stone taken from a face 20 feet wide, there being no defined reef to a depth of 45 feet. The stone is estimated to yield 10 dwt. per ton right through. The find at Hawk's View is in old ground and appears likely to turn out well. Weyland and party's claim at Black Range was discovered in November. They obtained some 15 oz. of gold almost on the surface.

In the Southern District the Wardens and Mining Registrars report:—In the Braidwood division 700 oz. of gold was won from alluvium at Major's Creek; 25 tons of quartz from the Risc and Shine Mine yielded 36 ozs. of gold, and 27 cwt. of mundic produced 3 oz. 16 dwt. of gold; 5 tons of refuse mundic tailings from Darguc's Reef were treated, from which 11 oz. 3 dwt. of gold were smelted. At Little River, owing to the drought, alluvial mining was restricted to river-bed workings. In quartz-mining the Daydream Company raised 174 tons from above water level, and crushed 74 tons for a yield of 92 oz. 10 dwt. From the adjoining mine a trial crushing of 6 tons gave 52 oz. The yield at Little River for the year was alluvium, 900 oz.; quartz, 144 oz. 10 dwts. At Nerriga a large quantity of wash-dirt is stacked waiting for water to sluice—yield from alluvium for the year, 500 oz. In the Nowra division the Homeward Bound mine has furnished nearly the whole of the gold won, the yield being from 1 to 7 oz. per ton, the quantity crushed being 851 tons, and the yield 2,410 oz. of gold. There is still a large quantity of stone ready to crush which is estimated to contain 3 oz. to the ton. The stone is obtained from a large cavern near the top of the hill, 200 or 300 feet above the water. This Company would have crushed more but for the scarcity of water. The Pioneer Company crushed 95 tons for 77 oz. The Pinnacle Company, 20 tons for 5 oz. The Seek and Find Company, 95 tons for 7 oz. 6 dwts. Total, 1,061 tons for 2,502 oz. 16 dwt. Work has been resumed at the shaft which was being sunk at the junction of the Shoalhaven and Kangaroo Rivers, and the bottoming of it is awaited with some anxiety. Mr. Moss has been boring on the Nine-mile Beach, near Coolangatta, and has obtained some coarse gold, but the boring has been stopped by a quicksand 4 or 5 feet below the surface; it is now proposed to sink a shaft, lining it with pine boxes. In the Araluen division the severe drought interfered with mining operations; some of the claims frequently could not be worked for want of water. The quantity of gold won from alluvium was 4,962 oz., and from 247½ tons of quartz crushed the yield was 219 oz. 7 dwts., from 26 cwt. of pyrites 4 oz. 14 dwts. of gold; yield for the division, 5,187 oz. 9 dwts. At Eurobodalla 480 oz. was won from alluvium. Moruya, yield from alluvium 421 oz. 9 dwt. 4 gr. In the Wagonga division scarcity of water has prevented the crushing of stone to some extent. Another reef has been discovered half-a-mile from the Belle of Australia line and was being tested but had not been proved. At Nelson Creek, Tanja, a reef and some alluvium containing fair prospects have been discovered. At Tin Pot, on the Turon River, fair prospects have been obtained from a quartz-reef. At Montreal very rich stone or rather specimens have been taken from a shaft.

In the Hunter and Macleay Districts the Wardens and Mining Registrars report:—The Copeland gold-field has been gradually declining till it is supposed to have reached the lowest point. The causes are, in the first place the drought, which has prevented the crushing machines from working, except at intervals, when a passing shower gave a temporary supply of water; in the second place, want of capital seriously militates against the systematic and only mode of profitably working this field. At present the miners simply pick out the richest shoots of gold, leaving the poorer stone behind; this is a most expensive mode of working and destroys the value of the mine, but miners without capital cannot afford to break down the whole face of quartz and cart it to the machine. It is estimated that only seventy miners were working during the year, and the value of the gold won was £3,498 17s. 6d. At the Rainbow machine 480 tons of tailings were treated merely by the ordinary battery appliances, and a yield of 5 dwt. per ton obtained. From this it may be inferred that a considerable quantity of gold has been lost on this field. Again, 50 tons of refuse stone crushed yielded 10 dwt. of gold per ton. These facts indicate the careless way in which the claims have been worked, and may to some extent account for the want of success attending the Companies who owned them. The Centennial and Baal Gammon Co. continue to push forward its tunnel at the two creeks to cut the old Centennial Reef. This reef paid handsomely till work had to be discontinued owing to the impossibility of keeping down the water. It was decided to cut the tunnel for the purpose of draining the ground and working, at a less expensive and more effective mode of working the reef than erecting pumping machinery at the summit of the hill. The tunnel is now 671 feet into the hill, and it is expected the reef will be cut in another 100 feet. The Boramel Reefs have been worked with just sufficient labour to keep them going. None of the stone has yielded

yielded less than 4 oz. per ton in crushings of 15 to 20 tons, but as the nearest battery is 8 miles distant over mountainous country the cost of carting is too great to leave a profit even on such a yield. At the Bowman the only Company at work is now on good stone. The quantity of stone crushed in this division was 1,333½ tons, and the yield 1,007 oz. 5 dwt. 2 gr. Two claims were worked in the Bulladelah division on the Coolongolook Reefs; from one a large quantity of stone was sent to Sydney for treatment. The Warden does not know the result, but he saw gold in every piece of stone he picked up. At the other a large amount of work has been done in retimbering the shaft and getting rid of the water.

In the Peel and Uralla district the Wardens and Mining Registrars report:—At Fuller's Reef, in the Scone division, 205 tons of quartz was crushed by Williams and party for a yield of 196 oz. of gold. At 400 feet from the surface stone has recently been found which yields 1 oz. per ton. One or two new reefs have recently been discovered, the stone from which looks remarkably well. 94 tons of quartz from the Boozer's Reef yielded 100 oz. The total quantity of stone crushed at Moonam Brook was 325 tons, yielding 315 oz. of gold. At Stewart Brook 300 tons of quartz raised and crushed yielded an average of 1 oz. per ton. In the Nundle division a very decided improvement in quartz-mining was observable during the year; several mines are being worked vigorously, and some are paying. Alluvial mining has been almost at a standstill for want of water. Rich gold has lately been found at Spring Gully, near the Hanging Rock, the depth of sinking being 40 feet. An assay of ore from the Mount Pleasant copper-mine showed that it contained gold at the rate of 12 dwt. to the ton. The gold won in this division during the year was 2,647 oz. At the Marquis of Lorne mine, 126 tons of quartz crushed yielded 259 oz. 15 dwt. of gold. From the Princess Louise mine, 300 tons crushed yielded 100 oz. At Mount Pleasant 2,500 tons of cement crushed yielded 179 oz. 15 dwt. 7 gr. From alluvium 2,107 oz. 9 dwt. 17 gr. was obtained. In the Armidale division the small yield of gold is attributed to the dry season, to want of machinery, and the paucity of capital. The Eleanor G. M. Co. crushed 2,340 tons of quartz for a yield of 1,499 oz. 1 dwt. 22 gr. of gold. The Isabella Co. have raised 250 tons of quartz ready for crushing, but work has been suspended owing to defective machinery. At the rush to Tilbuster, now named the Duval Gold-field, about 6 miles northerly from Armidale, good prospects were obtained in shallow ground near Sandy Creek, and in the bed of the creek over 100 men are at work and appear disposed to give the place a fair trial. No very rich finds have been reported, though it is alleged gold is now found in payable quantities. It is difficult to ascertain the quantity of gold won in the division, but as far as reported the quantity is about 2,760 oz. In the Uralla division the yield of gold was 1,148 oz.; want of water restricted mining operations and especially sluicing. In the Barraba division most of the miners were idle during a great part of the year owing to scarcity of water; Fletcher and party were breaking down good-looking quartz; and Duke and party struck rich stone in Opossum Gully; 181 oz. 9 dwt. 16 gr. was obtained from alluvium, and 51 oz. 8 dwt. 12 gr. from quartz during the year. In the Bingera division mining operations were almost suspended owing to the limited rainfall. At Bobby Whitlow some of the reefs are showing good stone. The yield from quartz was 400 oz., and from alluvium 100 oz. In the Glen Innes division there has been an increase in the production of gold caused by the settlement of about 60 Chinese on the old gold-fields at Oban, in consequence of their inability to procure employment on the Vegetable Creek tin-fields. Under the Act to further amend the Mining Act a special lease has been applied for, and capital to the extent of £3,000 is being expended in cutting through a granite bar, for the purpose of draining a flat with a view to working the underlying deposit of gold. At Glen Elgin also a special lease has been applied for and capital is being expended in working a portion of a river-bed. All the gold found in this division contains a large percentage of silver.

In the New England district the Warden and Mining Registrars report:—In the Tenterfield division a steam engine has been employed at Boonoo Boonoo in pumping, by means of which some new land has been successfully worked, and another steam engine is being erected, and will possibly open up a large extent of ground which formerly could not be worked in consequence of the underground water. At Timbarra extension machinery is being erected on the Surface Hill Mine, to test by crushing the hard granite and the dykes of decomposed granite in which the gold is found. Ground and hydraulic sluicing paid well on this mine so long as water was available. Mr. Horton is working a similar deposit at Poverty Point by crushing, with satisfactory results. This stone is obtained from a quarry at the side of a hill; the yield brings 9 or 10 dwt. per ton. About 500 oz. has been won from the reefs at Pretty Gully during the year. At Solferino some very rich specimens were found; 300 lb. treated at the Mint yielded 78 oz. 10 dwt.; numerous other parcels have been found during the year. From alluvium 135 oz. 4 dwt. was won, and 251 oz. 18 dwt. from quartz. At Dalmorton about 150 oz. has been won during the year.

In the Clarence and Richmond district the Warden and Mining Registrars report:—In consequence of the drought very little work was carried on in the district. At Nana Creek 46 tons, crushed for Cooper and party, gave 60 oz. From the Advance Australia Mine some rich specimens have been

been obtained; 8 tons crushed yielded 2 oz. 7 dwt. 12 gr. From the Nymboi Mine 40 ton crushed gave 48 oz. Some alluvial gold has been found in the vicinity of the Little Nymboi River, the depth of the deposit varying from 2 to 14 feet. The prospectors obtained 3 oz. of shotty gold as the result of two men's work for five days; 407½ tons of quartz were crushed for 333 oz. 11 dwt. 9 gr.

The following information has been kindly furnished by R. Hunt, Esq., F.G.S., the Deputy-Master of the Royal Mint.

QUANTITIES of gold, the produce of New South Wales, received into the Royal Mint, Sydney, during 1884 and 1885 compared.

District.	Division.	1885.	1884.	Increase.	Decrease.
		oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Bathurst	Bathurst	761.47	1,567.60	.....	806.13
	Carcoar	10,358.26	11,950.03	.....	1,591.77
	Orange	4,352.78	4,556.03	.....	203.25
	Trunkay Creek	31.11	6.29	24.82	.....
	Tuena	60.72	169.51	.....	108.79
	Mount M'Donald	5.76	224.37	.....	218.61
Tambaroora and Turon	Hill End	4,940.55	6,112.91	.....	1,163.36
	Tambaroora	363.80	809.26	.....	445.46
	Sofala	486.28	4,374.84	.....	3,888.56
	Stoney Creek	79.52	.....	79.52	.....
Mudgee	Mudgee	3,334.26	1,832.63	1,501.63	.....
	Gulgong	201.36	1,660.85	.....	1,459.49
	Hargraves	4.77	787.44	.....	782.67
	Wellington	12.10	40.41	.....	28.31
Lachlan	Parkes	5,619.94	4,766.77	883.17	.....
	Forbes				
	Grenfell	377.47	386.86	.....	9.39
	Young	162.92	1,076.86	.....	913.94
	Cootamundra	6,170.19	14,221.74	.....	8,051.55
	Temora				
Albert	Wilcannia	1,536.17	2,031.84	.....	495.67
Southern	Goulburn	106.55	67.79	38.76	.....
	Braidwood	1,076.03	5,961.98	.....	4,885.95
	Araluen	89.25	916.71	.....	827.46
	Shoalhaven	1,743.28	419.57	1,293.71	.....
	Nerrigundah	419.78	362.47	57.31	.....
	Bermagui	43.97	103.86	.....	69.89
	Adelong	6,725.02	10,895.71	.....	4,170.69
	Tumut	40.70	791.80	.....	751.10
	Tumbarumba	1,238.15	1,148.69	89.46	.....
	Wagga Wagga	895.15	67.60	827.55	.....
Peel and Uralla	Gundagai	78.21	141.63	.....	63.42
	Cooma .....	.....	169.08	.....	169.08
	Kandra	467.98	847.45	.....	379.47
	Armidale	4.68	19.05	.....	14.37
	Rocky River	84.95	53.36	31.59	.....
	Nundle	186.16	235.31	.....	49.15
	Tamworth	419.96	343.08	76.88	.....
	Bingera	538.41	1,233.17	.....	694.76
	Copeland	1,069.82	2,916.21	.....	1,846.39
	Hunter and Macleay	608.55	591.11	17.44	.....
Clarence and Richmond	Grafton	488.37	690.96	.....	202.59
New England	Tenterfield .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Localities unknown .....	.....	28,766.96	20,349.85	18,417.11	.....
Total		93,990.36	104,932.68	23,338.95	34,281.27

SUMMARY.

District.	1884.	1885.
	oz.	oz.
Bathurst	18,473.83	15,570.10
Tambaroora and Turon	11,297.01	5,879.15
Mudgee	4,321.33	3,552.49
Lachlan	20,452.33	12,360.52
Albert	2,031.84	1,536.17
Southern	7,862.38	3,478.86
Tumut and Adelong	14,061.96	9,445.21
Peel and Uralla	1,883.97	1,234.16
Hunter and Macleay	2,916.21	1,069.82
Clarence and Richmond	591.11	608.55
New England	690.96	488.37
Localities unknown	20,349.85	38,766.96
	104,932.68	93,990.36

From the above statement it appears that the quantity of gold sent to the Mint in 1885 was less by 10,942.32 oz. than the quantity sent in 1884.

The

The following table is compiled from information furnished by the Collector of Customs :—

EXPORT OF GOLD—1885.

Gold.		Quartz Tailings and Pyrites.		Total.	
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
oz. dwt. gr. 18,478 11 1	£71,539.	{ Tailings, 1,965 pkgs. Pyrites, 661 cwt.	{ £7,901 £3,225 }	oz. dwt. gr. 21,260 1 1	£82,665.

The quantity of gold sent to the Mint, added to the quantity exported, was 115,250·41, valued at £423,467 6s. 11d.; but deducting from the gold exported the portion thereof which the Deputy Master of the Mint reports has been included in the return of gold received at the Mint, the quantity of gold won during 1885 appears to be 103,736·36 oz., valued at £378,665 0s. 3d., which, as compared with the output of 1884, shows a decrease of 3,462·64 oz.

According to the returns furnished by the Mining Registrars the output of gold for the year would appear to be less by 10,474 oz. than the quantity sent to the Mint, and less by more than 20,000 oz. than the quantity of gold won as shown by the Mint and Customs' returns.

RETURN of Gold for 1885 from Mint and Mining Registrars compared :—

District.	Mint.	Mining Registrars.	Excess.	Deficiency.
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Bathurst	15,570	16,157	.....	587
Tambaroora and Turon	5,879	9,374	.....	3,495
Mudgee	3,552	6,402	.....	2,850
Lachlan	12,361	16,616	.....	4,255
Albert	1,536	1,712	.....	176
Southern	3,479	11,331	.....	7,852
Tumut and Adelong	9,445	12,294	.....	2,849
Peel and Uralla	1,234	6,490	.....	5,256
Hunter and Macleay	1,070	1,017	53	.....
Clarence and Richmond	609	988	.....	379
New England	488	1,135	.....	647
Localities unknown.....	38,767	.....	38,767	.....
			38,820	28,346
			28,346	
The quantity sent to the Mint exceeds the returns by the Mining Registrars by ..			10,474	

The return furnished by the Mining Registrars of the gold won in 1884 and 1885 respectively shows that the output for the latter year is less by 29,071oz. than the output for the former year. I regret to say this indicates the very defective character of these returns, due no doubt in a great measure to the reluctance on the part of the miners to furnish accurate returns, but I fear to some extent attributable to want of care or zeal on the part of some of the Registrars.

MINING Registrars' Returns of Gold for 1884 and 1885, compared :—

District.	1884.	1885.	Increase.	Decrease.
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Bathurst	19,825	16,157	.....	3,668
Tambaroora and Turon	12,981	9,374	.....	3,607
Mudgee	12,912	6,402	.....	6,510
Lachlan	20,412	16,616	.....	3,796
Albert	2,527	1,712	.....	815
Southern	10,149	11,331	1,182	.....
Tumut and Adelong	18,520	12,294	.....	6,226
Peel and Uralla	8,649	6,490	.....	2,159
Hunter and Macleay	4,555	1,017	.....	3,538
Clarence and Richmond	952	988	36	.....
New England	1,105	1,135	30	.....
			1,248	30,319
Less increase .....			.....	1,248
Decrease in yield for 1885 .....			.....	29,071

The following table shows the results obtained from the treatment of certain parcels of alluvium during 1885 compared with the results obtained in 1884. The very small proportion of the alluvium treated during the year which is included in these tables deprives them of the value for purposes of comparison which they would otherwise serve. Of course I am aware that it would not be possible in some cases

cases to furnish a return of the quantity treated, but there are a large number of mines in respect to which such information could be supplied if the officers would use their influence with the owners. Such a table, if full, would convey a better idea of the value of the deposits in any given district than any number of pages of written matter.

COMPARATIVE statement of Average Yields from Alluvial Mines for 1884-85.

1884.				1885.			
District.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Yield of Gold.	District.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Yield of Gold.
	Tons.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.		Tons.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.
Mudgee	3,500	0 0 7 12	51 18 8	Mudgee	184	0 10 12 52	90 10 0
Lachlan	1,218	0 5 13 57	339 14 0	Lachlan	25,636	0 8 15 16	4,855 10 12
Tumut and Adelong	171,651	0 0 2 65	948 0 0	Peel and Uralla	2,600	0 1 10 51	179 15 7
Albert	125	0 1 4 24	7 7 2	Albert	10,741	0 1 9 86	758 0 0
	176,494	0 0 3 66	1,346 19 10		39,061	0 2 21 92	5,690 1 19

The following table showing the yields obtained from certain parcels of quartz crushed is highly satisfactory as regards the average yield, but unfortunately the quantity of quartz treated, included in the return, is very much smaller than last year. The returns from the Bathurst district include a very small quantity of quartz; this is probably due partly to the drought and partly to the attention devoted to the search for and testing of the numerous silver lodes in the Bathurst district, and it may be to some extent due to deficiency in the returns collected by the Mining Registrars.

COMPARATIVE Statement of average yields from Quartz Mines for 1884-5.

1884.				1885.			
District.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Yield of Gold.	District.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Yield of Gold.
	Tons cwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.		Tons cwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.
Bathurst	30,130 10 0	0 6 13 59	9,892 15 7	Bathurst	6,012 0 0	0 15 2 02	4,534 7 17
Tambaroora and Turon	2,365 0 0	1 9 23 34	3,544 5 0	Tambaroora and Turon	2,972 0 0	1 1 9 13	3,177 3 12
Lachlan	9,181 0 0	0 14 4 10	6,505 5 14	Lachlan	8,592 10 0	1 2 19 83	9,300 12 0
Southern	321 0 0	0 13 11 73	216 10 0	Southern	1,467 2 0	2 0 12 07	2,971 2 0
Tumut and Adelong	6,683 9 0	0 18 6 16	6,104 19 2	Tumut and Adelong	3,066 0 0	0 17 23 18	3,562 14 0
Peel and Uralla	1,605 0 0	0 11 2 57	891 7 12	Peel and Uralla	530 0 0	0 15 16 56	422 17 0
Hunter and Macleay	1,546 0 0	1 19 18 27	3,673 11 0	Hunter and Macleay	1,333 10 0	0 15 6 16	1,617 5 2
Clarence and Richmond	452 10 0	0 18 3 18	410 4 21	Clarence and Richmond	407 10 0	0 16 8 91	333 11 0
New England	152 0 0	0 12 0 94	91 10 0	New England	112 2 1	2 7 5 07	264 13 0
Albert	71 0 0	0 13 19 60	68 16 0	Albert	50 0 0	0 11 4 30	23 0 0
Mudgee	246 0 0	0 8 13 2 93	2,182 0 0	Mudgee	2,210 10 0	1 0 5 77	2,237 2 5
	52,757 9 0	0 14 9 51	32,979 4 6		27,662 4 1	1 0 12 02	23,355 7 21

The number of miners engaged, more or less, regularly in gold-mining during 1885, is returned by the Mining Registrars at 5,911 (which is some 600 less than in 1884); of these 5,031 were Europeans and 880 Chinese; 4,009 were engaged in alluvial mining and 1,902 in quartz.

Taking the quantity of gold won and dividing it by the number of miners employed, we obtain the following results:—Dividing the quantity of gold as returned by the Mining Registrars the result is 14.13 ounces per man, valued at £51 4s. 4.15d. for the year. Dividing the quantity of gold sent to the Mint and exported the result is 17.55 ounces, valued at £64 1s. 2.65d., representing according to this mode of estimating the average earnings of each man for the year.

During the year the department has caused the following assays for gold to be made by Mr. C. Watt, the Government Analyst:—

GOLD.

Locality.	Description.	Per ton.		Per cent	
		Gold.	Silver.	Lead	Copper.
		oz. dwt.	oz. dwt.		
Abererombie Ranges	Red ferruginous stone from 25 miles from Tuena	0 4	30 4½	25.86	
Armidale	Sand (tailings) from Hillgrove	0 5½			
"	"	0 4½			
Adelong	Grey quartz containing gold and galena	27 17½	10 15½		
"	Quartz, with zinc blende and iron pyrites from Kurrajong mine ..	31 8½	3 5		
Bombala	Ferruginous quartz	34 4	10 4		
Burratorang	Ferruginous quartzite and earthy ironstone	0 9½	86 1½		
"	Quartz containing galena	0 3	84 18½		
"	Ferruginous quartz with zinc blende	0 3	45 14½		
"	Ferruginous quartz and clay rubble	0 3	31 16		
"	Quartz and quartz rubble	0 2	238 9		
Braidwood	Quartz with galena and pyrites from Little River	10 18	23 7		
"	Quartz with mispickel	38 13	3 10½		
"	Mispickel and quartz	0 4	1 12½		
Binda	Quartz and galena	0 4	135 11		
Binalong	Porous ferruginous quartz from 1 mile west of	0 3			
Bathurst	Mispickel and quartz from near Yetholme	0 4			
"	Pyritous quartz from near Yetholme	0 3			
"	Ferruginous quartz from Clare Creek	12 14½	3 12		

Locality.	Description.	Per ton.		Per cent.	
		Gold.	Silver.	Lead.	Copper.
		oz. dwt.	oz. dwt.		
Brewarrina	Ferruginous quartz with galena and carbonate of lead	0 3	25 6		
Bingera	Felspathic quartz with galena and pyrites and gold	61 13	15 2		
Bongongolong	Quartz, veins in quartz, porphyry and a little iron pyrites, from Jerusalem Creek.	1 12	1 12½		
"	" from 70 feet level	4 18	0 16		
Bundanoon	Mispickel	0 5			
Bowman River	Quartz, with free gold, calcite, pyrites, and black slate, from falls of Bowman River	6 18½			
Capertee	Stibnite, from Razorback, 18 miles from Capertee	1 18	1 1½		
"	Stibnite, with a little quartz, from 15 miles from Capertee	2 14½			
Carcoar	Ferruginous limestone, from near Carcoar	0 4	8 3		
"	Iron pyrites and quartz veinstone, from Carcoar	0 9½	1 2		
Cooma	Metallic lead (weight 13 oz.) smelted from 10 lbs. of the above	4 18	4 7		
"	Crushed carbonate of lead from Michalago	1 2½	7 10	67.0	
Clarence Heads	Pyritous quartz, with free gold from near Clarence Heads	6 5	1 1½		
Dubbo	Quartz with a little galena and pyrites, 25 miles from Dubbo	0 16½	3 5		
Deepwater	Zinc blende with copper and iron pyrites	1 4½	76 15		
Dungowan	Ferruginous jasper and copper ore, from Mount Pleasant	0 12½			
"	" with green carbonate of copper, from 2 chains N.N.W. of Mount Pleasant	0 3			
"	Ferruginous gossan, from Mount Pleasant	0 3			
Glen Innes	Quartz with iron pyrites, from Ben Lomond	0 3			
Goulburn	Porous iron ore with pyrites, from 4 miles from Goulburn	nil.			
Gundagai	Quartz containing mispickel	2 19½	1 1½		
Green Swamp	Porous quartz veinstone	0 19½	9 6½		
"	" crown iron ore	nil.			
Gordon	Yellow felspathic rock	0 4	7 15		
Gundaroo	Slaty quartz	8 0	0 16		
Ironbarks	Iron and copper pyrites in carbonate of lime	4 9½	2 9		
Locksley	Iron pyrites and quartz, from 2 miles from Goulburn	1 10½	0 13		
"	Porous ferruginous quartz and pyrites	0 3			
Molonglo	Red ironstone, from reef 12 feet wide	0 4	5 19½		
Mitchell	Quartz veinstone, from Clear Creek	0 8	8 11½		
"	Ferruginous claystone with quartz and pyrites	0 5			
Macleay Heads	Pyritous quartz, from 7 miles north of	0 3	9 16		
Mudgee	Ferruginous claystone	0 3	23 5½		
Molong	Earthy carbonate of copper, from 10 miles west of	0 3	6 10½		
Mount Forest	Crushed sample, from about 20 miles north-west of Wellesley	9 2½	0 13		
Mount Forest	Crushed sample from about 20 miles N.W. of Wellesley	0 19	1 0		
Nundle	Crushed quartz and iron and copper pyrites	10 5½	1 15		
Native Dog Creek	Ferruginous quartz	0 9½	273 11½		
O'Connell	Brown iron ore from Stoney Creek	0 8	3 18		
"	Silicious ironstone from about 6 miles from O'Connell	0 5	40 0		
Orange	Chlorite rock with quartz and iron pyrites from 10 miles from Orange, on Cargo Road.	1 4½	0 14½		
"	Quartzite with copper pyrites and green carbonate of copper, from Copper Hill.	0 16	1 18		
"	Iron ore in schist, from Lewis Ponds Creek, near Orange	0 15	5 13		
"	Yellowish clay and quartz from 20-ft. level	1 6½	9 6½		
"	Ferruginous claystone, with quartz veinstone, containing arsenate of iron, from Lewis Ponds Creek	0 9½	5 14½		
Oberon	Ferruginous quartz from 2 miles from	4 1½	1 7		
"	Crystals of iron pyrites in clay slate	0 3			
"	Ferruginous quartz veinstone, showing free gold	1 14	2 17		
Queanbeyan	Ferruginous quartz, with iron pyrites	0 19½	10 9		
Rockley	Ferruginous quartzose schist from Back Creek	0 7½			
"	Quartzose schist with greenish ferruginous veins	2 19½	645 5½		
"	Quartz and claystone	5 3½	788 15		
"	Ferruginous mica schist	0 4			
"	Porous quartz in claystone	0 9½	131 9½		
Roedy Flat	Ferruginous quartz	5 6			
Snowy River	Quartz containing much iron pyrites and showing gold freely, from a vein 1 inch thick	270 16	7 3		
"	Quartz containing much iron pyrites and showing gold freely from a vein 1 inch thick	156 3½	4 2½		
"	Crushed ferruginous quartz with a little pyrites	17 19½	2 9		
Scone	Quartz and mispickel	10 6	0 14		
Silverton	Ferruginous quartz containing galena from 10 miles N. of Silverton	0 3	8 3		
Sunny Corner	Pyrites and quartz from near	0 10½			
"	Quartz containing pyrites and blende from a vein 9 feet thick	0 8½	6 2		
"	Whitish claystone with cavities containing quartz crystals from 3½ miles N.E. of	0 3	18 10		
Solferino	Crushed quartz containing a little pyrites from Band of Hope reef	1 19½			
Tenterfield	Claystone with veins of fahlerz and galena from Severn River	0 10½	44 13		
Tarana	Quartz with mispickel	0 16			
Tuona	Porous gossan from Maguire's 20-acre lease, Coastguard's Mount	0 3	88 4		
Upper Hunter	Crushed pyrites from Stewart's Brook Crushing Machine	43 1	7 5½		
Wiseman's Creek	Yellow ferruginous claystone	1 6	167 14½		
"	"	0 6½	7 2		
"	Ferruginous lode stuff	0 3	13 12		
"	" with sulphide of lead, copper, and carbonate of copper	0 19½	133 13		
Williams River	Crushed pyritous quartz (apparently concentrated)	4 13½	1 10½		
Wattle Flat	Porous ferruginous quartz showing free gold	3 11½			
"	"	6 2			
Wagonga	Massive iron pyrites in ferruginous quartz veinstone, from 3 miles S.W. of Wagonga	3 5½	0 16		
Wellington	Copper and iron pyrites in quartzose claystone	0 4½	1 12½		

COAL.

The output of coal for 1885 exceeds that of 1884 in quantity by 129,754 tons, and in value by £37,135 13s. 8d., and, of course, largely exceeds that of any previous year. There is a considerable increase in the export of coal to Foreign Ports, and also in the Home consumption, but the export to Colonial Ports is a shade less than that of 1884. The growth of our coal trade is most satisfactory, and indicates the necessity for making provision for meeting the gradually increasing demand which will probably, in the near future, reach very large proportions. The average price per ton last year was about 2d. per ton less than the preceding year, and about 7d. per ton less than the average price since 1858.

By the aid of the Diamond Drills a considerable amount of useful work has been done during 1885 in proving the coal-seams in various localities. The aggregate thickness of the coal-seams bored through during the year was 257 feet 4½ inches, as compared with 156 feet bored through in 1884.

The Warden at Dubbo reports that although little progress has been made during 1885 in proving the coal-seams in that locality there is reason to believe operations will be commenced in earnest at an early date. Mr. Coghlan, who tested the land by means of the diamond drill, has abandoned his holdings on account of the seams therein not being sufficiently thick to pay for working. The Dubbo coal-mine at Ballimore, on the Talbragar River, consists of 980 acres, on which 3 shafts have been sunk—No. 1, 98 feet deep, No. 2, 130 feet, No. 3, 207 feet; these shafts are a quarter of a mile apart. The same seams of coal have been cut in each, the largest seams being 5 feet 10 inches thick, the others 2 feet, 3 feet 6 inches, and 3 feet 8 inches respectively. These seams have small bands running through them. About 50 tons of coal have been raised from No. 1 shaft, of which 25 tons have been tested by the Railway Department, and proved satisfactory. Operations have been temporarily suspended pending arrangements for laying a line of railway to connect the mine with the Great Western Railway. The Warden reports that there is a general impression that there is plenty of coal in the division, but all attempts to open up the deposits have been abandoned. The search for coal at Rocky Mouth, on the Clarence River, has not been abandoned. Nothing has yet been done towards opening up the coal-seams in the Vegetable Creek district, but if the silver lodes in that locality be extensively worked a demand for the coal may arise. In consequence of a sample of coal from near Gunnedah sent to this department for analysis proving to be of excellent quality, Mr. Geological-Surveyor David was sent to report upon the seam from which it was taken, in order that, if found to be of workable thickness, the Crown Lands in the vicinity might be reserved from sale. Mr. David found that two seams of coal, one 6 feet 4 inches thick, and the other about 7 feet thick, had been discovered at depths of 72 feet and 93 feet respectively below the surface, while sinking wells on Mr. J. Prior's selection and on Mr. J. Darcey's selection, about 5 miles from the railway line. The coal is of excellent quality for steam, household, and gas purposes, and as it occurs so near the railway line, and about 120 miles beyond the nearest colliery now working, it will prove of great advantage to the Railway service on the Great Northern Line north of Murrurundi.

From the following statement it will be seen that there has been an increase in output and value in each of the three coal districts, but the increase in the output was proportionately larger in the Western than in the other districts, while the decrease in price was greater in that district than in any other. In the Northern district the average price in 1885 was 9s. 9.29d. per ton, as compared with 9s. 10.16d. in 1884. In the Western district the average price per ton was 4s. 11.15d. in 1885, as compared with 5s. 5.22d. in 1884. In the Southern district the average price per ton was 10s. 1.9d. in 1885, as compared with 10s. 4d. in 1884.

QUANTITY and value of Coal raised from the opening of the Coal-seams to 1857 inclusive:—

Year.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.	Year.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.
Prior to		£ s. d.	£			£ s. d.	£
1829	50,000	0 10 0	25,000	1844	23,118	0 10 8.34	12,363
1829	780	0 10 1.23	394	1845	22,324	0 7 10.27	8,769
1830	4,000	0 9 0.00	1,800	1846	38,965	0 7 0.46	13,714
1831	5,000	0 8 0.00	2,000	1847	40,732	0 6 9.01	13,750
1832	7,143	0 7 0.00	2,503	1848	45,447	0 6 3.38	14,275
1833	6,812	0 7 6.73	2,575	1849	48,516	0 6 0.45	14,617
1834	8,490	0 8 10.00	3,750	1850	71,216	0 6 6.77	23,375
1835	12,392	0 8 10.19	5,483	1851	67,610	0 7 6.51	25,546
1836	12,646	0 9 1.06	5,747	1852	67,404	0 10 11.33	36,885
1837	16,083	0 9 8.81	5,828	1853	96,809	0 16 1.51	78,059
1838	17,220	0 9 9.05	8,399	1854	116,642	1 0 5.63	119,380
1839	21,283	0 9 9.73	10,441	1855	137,076	0 12 11.96	89,032
1840	30,256	0 10 10.86	16,498	1856	189,960	0 12 4.06	117,906
1841	34,811	0 12 0.00	20,905	1857	210,434	0 14 0.97	148,158
1842	39,900	0 12 0.00	23,940				
1843	25,862	0 12 6.54	16,222		1,468,961	0 11 10.72	869,391

TABLE showing the quantities and average value per ton of Coal exported to Intercolonial and Foreign Ports respectively, the quantity of Coal consumed in this Colony, and the average price per ton of the total output of the Collieries, from 1858 to 1885, inclusive:—

Years.	Exports to Intercolonial Ports			Exports to Foreign Ports.			Total Exports.			Home consumption.	Total Output and Value.		
	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.		Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.
	Tons.	£ s. d.	£	Tons.	£ s. d.	£	Tons.	£ s. d.	£	Tons.	Tons.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1858	101,488	0 15 1-67	76,824	12,030	1 0 1-35	12,132	113,527	0 15 8-05	88,956	102,670	216,397	0 14 11-84	162,162 0 0
1859	120,580	0 14 6-07	94,312	44,349	0 17 5-27	38,072	178,935	0 15 8-49	192,984	184,273	308,218	0 13 3-14	204,371 0 0
1860	140,183	0 14 10-35	104,471	93,694	0 16 11-10	79,290	233,877	0 15 8-57	183,761	134,085	368,962	0 12 3-36	220,493 0 0
1861	157,278	0 15 2-25	119,433	50,502	0 16 5-37	41,532	207,780	0 15 5-92	160,963	134,287	342,067	0 12 0-52	218,920 0 0
1862	195,427	0 15 0-55	147,019	113,355	0 17 4-34	93,403	308,782	0 15 10-75	245,422	167,740	476,522	0 12 9-73	305,234 0 0
1863	213,909	0 13 8-40	146,532	84,120	0 17 6-10	73,649	298,038	0 14 9-30	220,181	135,851	433,889	0 10 10-66	230,230 0 0
1864	233,530	0 10 3-74	146,100	88,927	0 14 10-90	66,239	372,469	0 11 4-01	212,488	176,546	549,012	0 9 10-10	270,171 0 0
1865	292,664	0 9 11-83	146,120	90,304	0 15 0-79	68,029	382,968	0 11 2-20	214,158	202,550	585,626	0 9 4-43	274,308 0 0
1866	344,194	0 9 2-98	150,175	190,711	0 14 4-53	141,413	540,905	0 11 1-37	300,588	233,333	774,238	0 8 4-44	324,040 0 0
1867	312,101	0 9 4-35	140,111	101,256	0 13 3-47	107,148	473,357	0 10 8-40	253,259	296,655	770,012	0 8 10-79	342,665 0 0
1868	329,052	0 9 5-76	155,975	218,234	0 12 5-29	136,226	548,036	0 10 7-06	292,201	406,105	954,231	0 8 0-08	417,809 0 0
1869	340,406	0 8 9-07	149,039	255,037	0 11 8-81	149,136	595,533	0 10 0-16	298,195	324,221	910,774	0 7 6-82	346,146 0 0
1870	385,504	0 8 6-02	142,050	212,825	0 10 3-57	125,025	678,389	0 9 3-07	267,381	290,175	868,564	0 7 3-54	316,836 0 0
1871	375,891	0 8 6-01	162,407	186,533	0 10 1-22	94,220	665,429	0 9 0-95	256,800	333,355	898,784	0 7 0-47	316,340 0 0
1872	394,062	0 8 8-11	170,917	275,058	0 9 11-46	136,914	669,110	0 9 2-42	307,861	343,316	1,012,426	0 7 0-92	396,198 0 0
1873	425,937	0 12 0-32	272,110	347,142	0 14 7-59	253,970	773,079	0 13 7-32	526,039	419,783	1,192,862	0 11 1-94	665,747 0 0
1874	467,533	0 13 8-30	320,119	405,442	0 15 4-76	312,128	873,025	0 14 5-81	632,247	431,587	1,304,012	0 12 1-37	700,224 0 0
1875	518,853	0 13 7-77	354,074	409,154	0 15 6-64	317,409	927,007	0 14 5-84	671,483	402,722	1,320,729	0 12 3-89	803,420 17 2
1876	542,062	0 13 8-45	372,045	325,865	0 15 6-46	253,166	868,817	0 14 4-70	625,211	451,101	1,319,019	0 12 2-06	868,998 5 6
1877	563,757	0 13 8-64	386,740	351,970	0 14 10-81	262,237	915,727	0 14 2-08	648,977	528,544	1,444,271	0 11 10-74	858,998 8 2
1878	623,323	0 13 8-77	427,054	383,097	0 14 7-09	230,452	1,006,420	0 14 0-93	708,406	569,077	1,575,497	0 11 8-25	920,936 7 4
1879	621,037	0 13 6-75	421,198	370,962	0 14 6-13	273,509	995,049	0 13 11-05	694,707	585,332	1,583,331	0 12 0-12	956,878 13 3
1880	550,672	0 11 2-07	309,004	202,634	0 11 5-70	116,295	733,356	0 11 3-48	425,200	712,824	1,466,180	0 8 6-36	615,336 11 7
1881	657,135	0 7 9-34	255,572	372,709	0 8 8-29	161,958	1,020,844	0 8 1-30	417,530	739,753	1,769,597	0 6 9-55	603,248 6 8
1882	760,220	0 9 9-54	272,334	501,319	0 10 11-50	274,030	1,361,546	0 10 3-09	647,033	847,737	2,102,232	0 11 11-97	948,965 0 0
1883	855,704	0 10 5-75	448,256	650,741	0 11 7-34	351,306	1,512,445	0 10 11-65	829,602	1,009,012	2,521,457	0 9 0-40	1,201,941 12 11
1884	994,087	0 10 8-65	532,038	696,076	0 11 5-14	398,107	1,690,783	0 11 0-15	931,045	1,068,346	2,749,109	0 9 5-71	1,303,070 19 11
1885	991,924	0 10 7-13	525,443	764,432	0 11 6-52	441,220	1,756,356	0 11 0-00	906,603	1,122,607	2,878,963	0 9 3-72	1,340,212 13 7
	12,521,634	0 11 3-41	7,005,199	7,906,951	0 12 10-62	5,094,543	20,423,685	0 11 10-85	12,159,742	12,294,688	32,723,274	0 9 10-66	16,180,113 0 1

COMPARATIVE Statement of Output of Coal in the Northern, Western, and Southern Districts.

	1881.		1882.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
Output, Northern District	1,352,472 2 0	£ s. d. 437,269 18 2	1,569,517 0 0	£ s. d. 715,937 3 6
Increase as compared with previous year	273,462 13 0	.....	217,044 18 0	278,667 5 4
Decrease do. do. ....	.....	22,103 6 8	.....	.....
Output, Western District	163,842 4 0	47,659 18 6	197,630 0 0	62,915 1 2
Increase as compared with previous year	16,882 4 0	5,379 11 9	33,796 16 0	15,255 2 8
Decrease do. do. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Output, Southern District	258,910 0 0	118,318 9 0	342,126 0 0	170,113 8 0
Increase as compared with previous year	18,699 0 0	4,635 9 0	83,216 0 0	51,794 19 0
Decrease do. do. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....

	1883.		1884.		1885.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
Output, Northern District	1,899,619 16 0	£ s. d. 928,026 13 5	2,055,342 10 3	£ s. d. 1,011,933 13 3	7,211,372 13 0	£ s. d. 1,032,904 13 4
Increase as compared with previous years.	330,102 16 0	212,089 9 11	155,722 14 3	83,907 0 2	58,030 2 1	20,970 19 0
Decrease do. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Output, Western District	232,418 3 0	77,780 18 6	273,823 14 0	74,161 9 7	311,762 16 0	76,836 13 3
Increase as compared with previous year.	34,779 3 0	14,865 17 4	41,405 11 0	.....	37,939 2 0	2,675 3 8
Decrease do. ....	.....	.....	.....	3,619 8 11	.....	.....
Output, Southern District	389,419 2 0	196,134 1 0	419,942 9 0	216,931 16 9	453,727 15 3	230,471 7 0
Increase as compared with previous year.	47,293 2 0	26,020 13 0	30,523 7 0	20,847 15 9	33,785 6 3	13,489 10 3
Decrease do. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

The number of coal and shale mines under inspection during 1885 was 38 in the Northern District, 15 in the Southern District, and 14 in the Western District—total, 67, and 11 opening out while in 1884 the number was 64 under inspection and 22 opening out. Two collieries were worked out and abandoned, and work suspended in one.

During the year there were 51 accidents in collieries; of these, 11 were fatal, and 40 non-fatal.

During the year the Department caused the following analyses to be made:—

COAL.

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Analysis.	Coke %	Sulphur %	Specific Gravity.
Blackheath.....	Coal from a new seam at Blackheath.	<div>Hygroscopic moisture 2.30</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 20.17</div> <div>Fixed carbon.. ... 60.76</div> <div>Ash..... 16.77</div> <div>100.00</div>	77.58	0.439	1.40
Do	Do from do.....	<div>Hygroscopic moisture 2.75</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 27.15</div> <div>Fixed carbon..... 63.86</div> <div>Ash..... 6.24</div> <div>100.00</div>	70.10	0.70	1.32
Cockle Creek ...	Bituminous coal from surface seam, 6 feet 11 inches thick Northumberland Coal Co.'s land ..	<div>Hygroscopic moisture 2.12</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 31.24</div> <div>Fixed carbon ... 55.13</div> <div>Ash 11.51</div> <div>100.00</div>			
Do	Bituminous coal from No. 1 seam, 5 feet 8 inches thick, 310 feet deep, from do.....	<div>Hygroscopic moisture 2.60</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 24.88</div> <div>Fixed carbon..... 55.84</div> <div>Ash 16.68</div> <div>100.00</div>	75.52	0.49	1.360
Do	Bituminous coal from No. 2 seam, 8 feet thick, 684 feet deep, from do	<div>Hygroscopic moisture 1.89</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 30.52</div> <div>Fixed carbon..... 52.31</div> <div>Ash 15.28</div> <div>100.00</div>		0.42	1.358
Clarence Siding	Bituminous coal from Clarence Siding, Great Western Railway Line	<div>Hygroscopic moisture 3.60</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 27.15</div> <div>Fixed carbon. 61.00</div> <div>Ash..... 8.25</div> <div>100.00</div>	69.25	1.44	1.298
Lake Macquarie	Bituminous coal from the Great Northern Coal Co.'s Mine	<div>Hygroscopic moisture 2.98</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 34.02</div> <div>Fixed carbon 53.57</div> <div>Ash 9.43</div> <div>100.00</div>	63.0	0.39	1.38
Do	Coal from a new seam on the Quigley Estate, Lake Macquarie.....	<div>Moisture..... 2.65</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 29.38</div> <div>Fixed carbon 50.67</div> <div>Ash 17.10</div> <div>Sulphur 0.20</div> <div>100.00</div>	67.77	...	1.40
Do	Do from do.....	<div>Moisture 3.15</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 38.05</div> <div>Fixed carbon 65.11</div> <div>Ash 8.43</div> <div>Sulphur 0.26</div> <div>100.00</div>	68.54	...	1.33
Do	Do from do.....	<div>Moisture..... 3.30</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 30.00</div> <div>Fixed carbon 57.72</div> <div>Ash 8.43</div> <div>Sulphur ... 0.55</div> <div>100.00</div>	66.15	...	1.35
Mittagong	Bituminous coal, approaching anthracite from Mittagong.	<div>Hygroscopic moisture 4.14</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 5.26</div> <div>Fixed carbon 76.54</div> <div>Ash ... 14.06</div> <div>100.00</div>	...	0.24	1.52
Shoalhaven ...	Bituminous coal from head of Clyde River	<div>Moisture 3.20</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 28.98</div> <div>Fixed carbon..... 59.88</div> <div>Ash 7.94</div> <div>100.00</div>	67.82	1.43	1.313

COAL—continued.

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Complete Analysis.	Coke %	Sulphur %	Specific Gravity.
Shoalhaven.....	Bituminous Coal from head of Clyde River	Moisture 85 Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 32·15 Fixed carbon 56·18 Ash..... 10·82 <hr/> 100·00	67·0	1·63	1·302
Do	Do	Moisture 75 Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 30·37 Fixed carbon..... 45·64 Ash 28·24 <hr/> 100·00	68·88	1·28	1·359
Do	Do	Moisture 1·60 Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 32·30 Fixed carbon..... 59·22 Ash 6·88 <hr/> 100·00	66·10	1·21	1·21
Walcha	Cannel coal from a seam 4 ft. thick, from between Tam- worth and Bendemeer, Wal- cha District.	Hygroscopic moisture 1·55 Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 54·15 Fixed carbon..... 17·20 Ash..... 27·10 <hr/> 100·00	...	...	1·325

For further information concerning the composition of the coals of this Colony, see the report of Mr. W. A. Dixon, F.C.S., F.I.C., &c., &c., in the Annual Report of this Department for the year 1880.

SHALE.

The discovery of kerosene shale in various parts of the Colony has not so far led to the opening up of any new mines. The New South Wales Shale and Oil Company at Hartley, and the Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company at Joadga Creek, are the only Companies working this mineral. The latter Company made large additions to their works during the year. The quantity of shale raised during the year was less than the preceding year, but the price per ton was higher than any year since 1878.

The following table shows the quantity and value of Kerosene Shale produced during the years 1865 to 1885.

Year.	Quantity.	Average price per ton.	Total Value.
	Tons.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1865	570	4 2 5·47	2,250 0 0
1866	2,770	2 18 10·48	8,150 0 0
1867	4,079	3 14 9·21	15,249 0 0
1868	16,952	2 17 7·11	48,816 0 0
1869	7,500	2 10 0·00	18,750 0 0
1870	8,580	3 4 3·18	27,570 0 0
1871	14,700	2 6 3·91	34,050 0 0
1872	11,040	2 11 11·91	28,700 0 0
1873	17,850	2 16 6·55	50,475 0 0
1874	12,100	2 6 1·48	27,300 0 0
1875	6,197	2 10 2·22	15,500 0 0
1876	15,998	3 0 0·00	47,994 0 0
1877	18,963	2 9 0·81	46,524 0 0
1878	24,371	2 6 11·40	57,211 0 0
1879	32,519	2 1 1·96	66,930 10 0
1880	19,201	2 6 7·03	44,724 15 0
1881	27,894	1 9 2·59	40,748 0 0
1882	48,065	1 15 0·00	84,114 0 0
1883	49,250	1 16 10·77	90,861 10 0
1884	31,618	2 5 7·86	72,176 0 0
1885	27,462	2 8 11·62	67,239 0 0
	397,679	2 5 0·39	895,436 15 0

The following samples, sent to the Department, have been analyzed during the year :—

SHALE.

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Analysis.	Specific Gravity.
Capertee	Kerosene shale from Capertee	<div>Hygroscopic moisture..... 15</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c..... 81.91</div> <div>Fixed carbon 5.04</div> <div>Ash 12.90</div> <div>100.00</div>	1.060
Do	Kerosene shale from Capertee.....	<div>Hygroscopic moisture..... 1.00</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c..... 64.76</div> <div>Fixed carbon 17.24</div> <div>Ash 17.00</div> <div>100.00</div>	1.174
Mount Victoria	Kerosene shale from Capertee.....	<div>Hygroscopic moisture 45</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c..... 66.94</div> <div>Fixed carbon 12.41</div> <div>Ash 20.20</div> <div>100.00</div>	1.157
Mudgee	Kerosene shale from near Mudgee ...	<div>Hygroscopic moisture..... 38</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c. 63.37</div> <div>Fixed carbon 9.51</div> <div>Ash 26.74</div> <div>100.00</div>	1.152
Shoalhaven.....	<div>Kerosene shale from head of Clyde</div> <div>River.....</div>	<div>Hygroscopic moisture..... 0.02</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c..... 44.98</div> <div>Fixed carbon 13.20</div> <div>Ash 41.80</div> <div>100.00</div>	1.412
Wolgan River ...	<div>Kerosene shale from the Wolgan</div> <div>River, 1,400 feet below the Rail-</div> <div>way at Wallerawang</div>	<div>Hygroscopic moisture 11</div> <div>Volatile hydrocarbons, &c..... 63.53</div> <div>Fixed carbon 10.30</div> <div>Ash 26.06</div> <div>100.00</div>	1.061

The following samples of Lignite, from Merimbula, have been analyzed during the year :—

LIGNITE.

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Analysis.	Specific Gravity.	Sulphur
Merimbula	Lignite from Merimbula	<div>Hygroscopic moisture..... 19.40</div> <div>Loss on ignition 37.43</div> <div>Fixed carbon 32.84</div> <div>Ash 10.33</div> <div>100.00</div>	...	6.94
Do	<div>Lignite from middle seam, 3 feet</div> <div>6 inches thick, from Merimbula</div>	<div>Hygroscopic moisture... 25.46</div> <div>Volatile at red heat..... 22.22</div> <div>Fixed carbon 29.14</div> <div>Ash 23.18</div> <div>100.00</div>		

TIN.

The export of tin during 1885 was much less than that of the preceding year, but the export of tin ore was considerably larger. The value of our exports under this head is smaller than any year since 1880. The decrease appears to be due mainly to the drought, but also in part to the fact that this branch of mining has not recovered from the depression caused by the low price of tin, and in part to the fact that many of the shallow deposits in the older fields are exhausted, and that the deeper deposits and the lodes have not yet been developed. In the Bendemeer division, at Watson's Creek and Giant's Den, there is a probability of tin-mining being ultimately carried on with success. The Perseverance Co. raised 5 tons of tin ore valued at £287. The other Companies in that locality have been engaged on preliminary work during the year. The discovery of stream-tin in the Bendemeer division has been reported, but the deposit was not worked on account of the scarcity of water. The insufficiency of water for sluicing purposes seriously reduced the output of tin ore in the Maryland and Wilson's Downfall mines. The value of the output in these localities was £15,550.

In the Glen Innes division the output of tin ore in 1885 exceeded that of 1884 by more than 400 tons. This increase was pretty evenly distributed between the shallow, deep, and lode workings, and was mainly due to the more abundant rainfall of the year, and the advance in the price of tin in the Home market. Capital and labour were freely expended in prospecting the deep ground underlying the basalt; but in many instances the result has been disheartening, not even a trace of tin ore being found. As some compensation for these repeated failures, the continuation of the famous Wesley lead has been discovered by Messrs. Bailey and party, at a depth of 140 feet, and proved to extend a considerable distance. The lead is about 40 feet wide, between abrupt walls of granite. In lode-mining: A large amount of money was expended in the effort to establish this branch of mining, but the result has not been satisfactory, as it is reported that, notwithstanding the promising surface indications that are to be met with in various parts of the district, no lodes have yet been proved to be of a permanent character. In the Ottery mine near Tent Hill, the lodes are found from 4 to 8 feet in width, but the stone is of poor quality, rarely exceeding 3 per cent. of black tin. The Dutchman and Torrington lodes are reported to be much richer, but not so regular in formation. Several parcels of 100 tons from these mines are said to have yielded 20 per cent. of black tin. A much larger output of ore from lodes is anticipated, and a very complete reducing plant has been erected. The output of ore in this division is reported to be as follows:—

	tons.	cwt.	qr.
Vegetable Creek—Deep Leads.....	945	7	2
Lode.....	352	2	3
Shallow	1,184	14	3
Glen Innes—Shallow workings.....	160	0	0
Total.....	2,642	5	0

which, at £53 per ton, gives a value of £140,039 5s.

The Manager of the Tent Hill Smelting Works reports a total of 1,328 tons 18 cwt. 3 qr. 2 lb. of tin ore received for reduction during the year, and that the quantity of refined tin sent away was 885 tons 18 cwt 1 qr. 17 lb. Of the ore raised in the district, 110 tons were forwarded to Brisbane for smelting. During the year a new discovery (known as the Racecourse Lead) was made. It seems to follow the imperfectly defined dividing range between the Mole and Severn Rivers. The wash-dirt in this lead is white, while the next furrow south of it carries red iron-stained drift-sand only. This is very apparent in some spots where the lead is worked—the red and white wash-dirt standing side by side with only an inch of neutral tint between them. The ore on the Racecourse lead is pure oxide, assaying 75 per cent. streamed in a box. That in the red drift and red wash-dirt in the southern furrow is cleaned by hydraulic pressure; when taken from the sluice-box, it rarely assays higher than 72 per cent.—The Willoughby cleaner brings it up to 75 per cent. The report of the Mining Registrar at Emmaville contains a large amount of detail information concerning the principal mines in his division.

Some complaints were made during the year that the Regulations made under the Mining Act Further Amendment Act were not satisfactory, in so far as they imposed a royalty upon the mineral won. It was also found that such Regulations operated prejudicially to the miners who were working as tributors. They have therefore been repealed, the royalty abolished, and the rent increased from 2s. per acre to 5s. per acre, the same as is charged on Crown lands.

TABLE

TABLE showing the quantity and value of Tin exported from, and the produce of, the Colony of New South Wales, since the opening of the Tin-fields in 1872.

Year.	Ingots.		Ore.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons cwt.	£ s. d.	Tons cwt.	£ s. d.	Tons cwt.	£ s. d.
1872	47 0	6,482 0 0	849 0	41,387 0 0	896 0	47,819 0 0
1873	911 0	107,795 0 0	3,660 0	226,641 0 0	4,571 0	334,436 0 0
1874	4,101 0	366,189 0 0	2,118 0	118,133 0 0	6,219 0	484,322 0 0
1875	6,058 0	476,168 0 0	2,022 0	86,143 0 0	8,080 0	561,311 0 0
1876	5,449 0	379,318 0 0	1,509 0	60,320 0 0	6,958 0	439,638 0 0
1877	7,230 0	477,952 0 0	824 0	30,588 0 0	8,054 0	508,540 0 0
1878	6,085 0	362,072 0 0	1,125 0	33,750 0 0	7,210 0	395,822 0 0
1879	5,107 2	343,075 0 0	813 15	29,274 0 0	5,920 17	372,349 0 0
1880	5,476 6	440,615 0 0	682 6	30,722 9 0	6,158 12	471,337 0 0
1881	7,590 17½	686,511 0 0	609 6	37,492 0 0	8,200 3½	724,003 0 0
1882	8,059 0	800,571 0 0	611 0	32,890 0 0	8,670 0	833,461 0 0
1883	8,680 1	802,867 0 0	445 4	21,685 0 0	9,125 5	824,552 0 0
1884	6,315 16	506,726 0 0	349 13	14,861 0 0	6,665 9	521,587 0 0
1885	4,667 18	390,458 0 0	534 18	25,168 0 0	5,192 16	415,626 0 0
	75,768 0½	6,145,799 0 0	16,153 2	789,004 0 0	91,921 2½	6,934,803 0 0

TIN.

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Metallic Tin %	
Emmaville	Oxide of tin in crystals scattered through coarse crystals of quartz and mica, from the Gulf	69·30	
„	„ „ „ „ „ „	70·50	
„	Fine washed sand containing quartz, zircons, limonite, spinel, titanite iron, and cassiterite from Y Waterholes	4·05	
Gumble	Earthy blue and green carbonates of copper, and brown earthy lode stuff, from Gumble, near Molong	25·50	Copper. 14·85
„	Brown earthy lode stuff, with a little carbonate of copper, from Gumble, near Molong	38·9	Silver. 6oz. 10½dwt
Marool Creek	Stream tin drift from foot of a range of hills at Broken Dam, Merool Creek	52·3	
Oban	Black sand containing tin-stone, limonite, spinel, &c., from near Oban, New England	63·70	
Tenterfield	Tin-stone in lode stuff from 7½ miles from Tenterfield, on the road to Ballandore	40·35	
Tingha	Black tin and iron sand with a little quartz from about 10 miles north of Tingha	44·50	

COPPER.

The low price of copper has had a most depressing effect upon this branch of mining—in fact all but the very best mines may be said to have suspended work in consequence, and numerous promising ventures have been for the present at any rate abandoned. The quantity of copper exported in 1885 is certainly less than during 1883 and 1884, but with the exception of those two years it is larger than the export of any previous year. The value of the copper sent away is, however, less than for any year since 1879, and considerably less than the decennial average.

TABLE

TABLE showing the quantity and value of Copper, the produce of the Colony, exported from the Colony of New South Wales, from 1858 to 1885.

Year.	Ingots.		Ore and Regulus.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons cwt.	£	Tons cwt.	£	Tons cwt.	£
1858 .....	.....	.....	58 0	1,400	58 0	1,400
1859	30 0	578	.....	.....	30 0	578
1860 .....	.....	.....	43 0	1,535	43 0	1,535
1861 .....	.....	.....	144 0	3,390	144 0	3,390
1862 .....	.....	.....	213 0	5,742	213 0	5,742
1863	23 0	1,680	114 0	420	137 0	2,100
1864	54 0	5,230	.....	.....	54 0	5,230
1865	247 0	15,820	22 0	545	269 0	16,365
1866	255 0	18,905	23 0	1,885	278 0	20,790
1867	393 0	30,189	0 2	5	393 0	30,194
1868	644 0	23,297	172 0	4,000	816 0	27,297
1869	1,980 0	74,605	104 0	2,070	2,084 0	76,675
1870	994 0	65,671	6 0	60	1,000 0	65,731
1871	1,350 0	87,579	94 0	1,297	1,444 0	88,876
1872	1,035 0	92,736	417 0	13,152	1,452 0	105,888
1873	2,795 0	237,412	51 0	1,690	2,846 0	239,102
1874	3,638 0	311,519	522 0	13,621	4,160 0	325,140
1875	3,520 0	297,334	157 0	4,356	3,677 0	301,690
1876	3,106 0	243,142	169 0	6,836	3,275 0	249,978
1877	4,153 0	307,181	360 0	17,045	4,513 0	324,226
1878	4,383 0	337,409	236 0	7,749	5,219 0	345,158
1879	4,106 15	256,437	36 7	915	4,143 2	257,352
1880	5,262 10	359,260	131 18½	4,799	5,394 8½	364,059
1881	5,361 0	350,087	132 16	4,975	5,493 16	355,062
1882	4,805 3	321,887	93 1	2,840	4,958 4	324,727
1883	8,872 17	574,497	84 10	2,704	8,957 7	577,201
1884	7,286 6	415,601	18 18	578	7,305 4	416,179
1885	5,745 5	264,905	0 15	15	5,746 0	264,920
Total...	70,699 16	4,692,961	3,403 7½	103,624	74,103 1½	4,796,585

The Wardens and Mining Registrars report:—The Burruga copper-mine was working all the year. 150 men were employed. There are four smelting furnaces and refining furnaces connected with this mine. The lode is as rich, if not richer than ever; width of lode, 6 feet; the shaft is 228 feet deep; the deepest level, 125 feet; 4,215 tons of ore raised produced 440 tons of fine copper, valued at £22,500. The low price of copper deters capitalists from working the numerous rich lodes in the Carcoar division. Work was suspended at the Frogmore mine, in the Burrowa division, at the end of January, 1885, in consequence of the low price of copper. Prior to suspension of work 60 tons of ore was raised from a depth of 300 feet, which yielded 2 cwt. 1 qr. of copper per ton. The Coopera Curraba copper-mine, at Nowendoc, in the Walcha division, has started three shafts. The main shaft, 45 feet deep, is sunk on a lode which, at bottom of the shaft, is 4 feet 6 inches wide and well defined, the ore having improved from 8 per cent. to 14 per cent. Another shaft is sunk 12 feet on a lode 14 feet wide, which looks well. At the Belara copper-mine, in the Wellington division, 1,000 tons of ore have been raised, which produced 640 tons of regulus. The depth of the shaft is 160 feet; deepest level, 140 feet; width of lode, 8 inches to 8 feet. The Girilambone mine and the Great Central mine were not worked in consequence of the low price of copper. For the same reason work was suspended at the new Mount Hope mine, after having raised 3,795 tons of ore, which produced 635 tons of fine copper. Notwithstanding the low price of copper, the Great Cobar mine employs 500 men and boys. The deepest shaft is 564 feet; the deepest level, 420 feet; the width of the lode, from 2 to 50 feet. The ores consist of carbonates, oxides, and sulphides. The quantity of ore raised during the year was 23,300 tons, which produced, when smelted, 2,135 tons of copper, valued at £106,750.

The Nymagee mine, which is about 50 miles south-east of Cobar, employs 350 men and boys; depth of shaft, 528 feet; deepest level, 516 feet; width of lode, 4 to 12 feet. The quantity of ore raised during the year was 15,773 tons, which produced 1,804 tons of fine copper, valued at £80,000. The ores consist of sulphuret and carbonates, the average percentage of copper being 11·42.

The

The following assays have been made during the year :—

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Copper.	Per ton.	
			Gold.	Silver.
		Percent	oz. dwt.	oz. dwt.
Barrier Range	Ferruginous quartz, with red oxide and green carbonate of copper	27.40	...	...
"	Oxide of iron, with sulphide and carbonate of copper	31.05	...	...
"	Carbonate and sulphide of copper, in quartz, from 12 miles N.E. of Mount Gipps	25.60	...	...
"	"	22.40	...	...
"	Iron ore and green carbonate of copper from ditto	26.51	...	...
"	Sulphide, oxide, and carbonate of copper, from near Mount Gipps	43.95	...	1 12½
"	Grey sulphide and green carbonate of copper	4.66	...	...
"	Red oxide and carbonate of copper, from 12 miles S.W. of Pinnacles	26.80	...	...
"	Red oxide and carbonate of copper	3.40	...	...
Burrowa	Ironstone and sulphide of copper, from parish Harden	10.90	...	2 9
Binalong	Carbonate of copper in red hematite	1.05	...	...
Braidwood	Porous green carbonate of copper	42.45	...	29 8
Condobolin	Red oxide and green carbonate of copper, in quartz veinstone, from Melrose Road	10.60	...	1 12½
"	Ferruginous quartz, with green and blue carbonate of copper	3.75	...	...
Ennawille	Fahlerz, from Little Plant	31.50	...	...
Glen Innes	Carbonate of copper and iron ore	31.25	...	...
Gumble	Earthy blue and green carbonate of copper, in brown earthy lode stuff, from Gumble, near Molong	14.85	...	6 10½
Ironbarks	Copper pyrites and oxide of iron and copper, from Boreell, near Ironbarks	20.10	...	...
Kiama	Porphyritic diorite, with native copper, from near Kiama	42.00	...	...
Rockley	Gossan with green carbonate of copper, from about 10 miles from Rockley	17.85	...	...
Tucua	Carbonate of copper and lead	20.30	...	22 17
"	"	38.60	...	...
Wellington	Iron ore, with oxide and green carbonate of copper, from Garryowen	30.60	...	...

SILVER AND LEAD.

The export of fine silver during 1885 largely exceeds that of any previous year. The excess over the export of 1884 was in quantity 700,513 oz. 15 dwt., and in value £139,407. If, however, the export of ore (that is to say silver and lead ore) be taken with the silver the value of the output of our silver mines in 1885 exceeds that of 1884 by only £5,093. It must of course be borne in mind that sufficient time has not yet elapsed since the first opening of our silver-mines to allow of any large number of them being brought into full operation, but we may fairly anticipate a large increase during 1886. The Inspector of Mines says the so-called quartz-reefs, which are in reality gossan lodes, at Captain's Flat, in the Queanbeyan district, are several feet in width, and can be traced a considerable distance. These lodes contain carbonate of lead, sulphate of lead, galena, chloride of silver, and various copper and iron ores, and they will at a depth become silver or copper lodes. At the time of his inspection the principal mine was Montgomery's, situate on a range about 500 feet above the western bank of the Molonglo River. The lode has been sunk upon to a depth of 70 feet, but on the 40-feet level the lode has been worked for 230 feet in length, and from 10 to 20 feet in width. The crushing stuff, out of which the gold is extracted, consists of very small quartz-veins, &c., &c. 1,633 tons of this stuff have been crushed, and 360 oz. of gold obtained therefrom. The gold contains a high percentage of silver. The lode is soft, and is worked without explosives. About ¼ of a mile south from Montgomery's is Blatchford's mine, which is in similar formation, from which some thousands of tons of stuff have been taken. The country from Molonglo Plains to Captain's Flat appears to be highly metalliferous. Several new discoveries of silver have been made throughout the Colony. A very promising lode was opened about 12 miles from Newbridge, on the road to Rockley. The Warden and Mining Registrar in the Glen Innes division report:—Though eighteen months have elapsed since the discovery of the silver lode at Little Plant Creek, no work has been done on any of the land taken up, except the Prospectors, to test the value of the lode. An association has been formed to work this land. They have employed sixteen miners upon the land, with a result that has every appearance of returning a profit upon the outlay. Some 525 feet of sinking and 25 feet of driving have been done. One shaft has been sunk 104 feet, but at that depth the water was too heavy to be kept down by hand. Two shafts were then sunk on higher ground to a depth of 90 feet; and on driving to test the lode it was found to be in one place 14 feet wide, assaying 55 oz. to the ton, and at another place, some distance away, the lode was 6 feet wide, with an average of 75 oz. per ton. The principal silver-bearing ore is fahlerz, associated with galena. Machinery to treat the ore cannot be placed on the ground till a road, which is being formed, has been completed. At Pye's Creek the silver-bearing lodes have assumed an importance beyond the promise of their opening, and indications seem to warrant the miners' belief in their permanent productiveness and value. A considerable number of claims have been taken up, and assays from various trial shafts give very satisfactory and encouraging results. The ore in

Hamilton's

Hamilton's (one of the principal mines) is fahlerz, picked samples assaying as high as 3,000 oz. of silver per ton. Mason's lode consists of carbonate and sulphide of lead, some of which assay as high as 310 oz. of silver per ton. The Sunny Corner consists of sulphide of lead, and assays up to 100 oz. per ton. The field is an extensive one, and prospecting is being vigorously carried on. In the Burrow mine a shaft has been sunk about 40 feet. The reef continues to carry good ore all the way. The lode is about 7 ft. wide. About 12 tons of the ore was being sent to Melbourne for treatment. Doolin and party have a lode 5 feet wide, an assay of which gave 72 oz. per ton. To the north of the Burrow the lode is about 7 ft. wide, with well-defined walls, and the ore seems very rich. In the Bathurst district the Wardens and Mining Registrars report:—During the year a large area of silver-bearing country was opened up, which is supposed to extend from Parr's Range, near the Turon, by Sunny Corner, Tarana, Wiseman's Creek, Essington, and continues south towards Peelwood. At Back Creek, near Rockley, very rich silver ore has been found; the ore is also rich in gold; this find is quite distinct from the line of country referred to above. The Warden considers the lodes near Peelwood, known as Hydes and M'Guire's, are equal to any in the district. These lodes have been sunk upon to a depth of 100 feet, where the width is upwards of 13 feet, and every appearance of being permanent. Good prospects have been obtained along the lode at Wiseman's Creek as far south as the old Essington copper-mine. At Mitchell, the Sunny Corner mine, consisting of 205 acres, upon which £40,000 has been expended on furnaces and appliances for treating the ore locally, employs about 512 men; deepest level, 120 feet deep; total output of ore, 25,000 tons; yield of silver during the year was 20 tons 8 cwt. 0 qr. 24 lb.; estimated value, £160,000; the gold contained in the silver from this mine brings the value up to 5s. per oz. The Silver King Company leases 80 acres; employs sixty-five men; deepest level 60 feet; have raised 15,000 tons of ore ready for treating. One furnace, Gafford and Hogue patent, has been erected, and one is in course of erection. A start has been made with one smelter, and 500 lbs. of silver run out. The furnaces and dams when complete will cost about £7,000. The Nevada Company commenced smelting, but owing to the refractory character of the ore operations were suspended, but have been resumed. The Mitchell Company have erected at a cost of £2,000 a smelter, Icke patent, for the purpose of treating ores for the public. This furnace works well, but the colonial-made bricks will not stand the great heat. A number of other Companies are engaged in prospecting works. On the Great Western and Victoria mines fine gossan has been found. Limestone is plentiful in the district. At Green Swamp several shafts have been sunk on lodes showing indications of silver. Within 2 miles of the Burrage copper-mine a lease was taken up for silver-mining; two lodes run through the ground underlying towards each other. No. 1 shaft has been sunk on the western lode 90 ft., No. 2 shaft on the eastern lode 70 ft. deep. The assays from these lodes give 20 to 40 oz. of silver per ton, 7 to 30 per cent. of lead, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ dwt. of gold. At the South Wiseman's Creek mine preparations are being made to work the silver lodes in a systematic manner. Some of the assays are said to indicate that the ores in this mine are very rich. Very little work has been done on the silver lodes in the Tuena division. In the Southern District some silver-bearing lodes were discovered at Burragorang and near Towrang in the Berrima division during the year. The ores have not yet been tested, except by assay. As regards the deposits at Towrang, no results are yet known, but from the character of the country there is reason to believe payable ores will be found there. The ores from the lodes at Burragorang are said to have assayed from 60 to 2,000 oz. per ton. At Guy's silver-mine, at Moruya, the lode is 2 feet wide, is rich in gold, but the ore is difficult to treat. 10 tons are to be sent to Germany for treatment by way of test. In the New England district the silver-mines at Boorook have suspended work. The lodes have not, in the opinion of the Warden, been thoroughly tested. Only two leases have been worked, and they have not been developed to any great extent (the deepest shaft is 300 feet), though large quantities of silver ore have been obtained from these mines, and a considerable quantity of silver extracted. In the Albert district immense progress has been made in the Silvertown division during the year. Smelting operations have been commenced under great disadvantages, the district being destitute of fuel and sparsely supplied with water. At the Pinnacles a considerable quantity of ore was smelted, it is said with satisfactory results, but owing to scarcity of water the furnaces were cooled down some months back, and have not been in blast since. The quantity of ore raised was 2,000 tons, valued at £16,000; three tons sold realized £56 7s.; 514 tons smelted yielded 16,234 oz. of silver. The Barrier Ranges Company erected one smelter, which was running about five months, giving every satisfaction. During some weeks over 150 tons of ore were treated, the average yield of silver since starting being about 12,000 oz. of silver per week; but, in consequence of the inferior quality of the bone-dust supplied, the refining process could not keep pace with the smelting, and the Company have therefore been sending the silver lead in bars to Melbourne for final treatment. Another smelter of larger size has been erected and started since the beginning of 1886. The Barrier Ranges Company have during the year worked and prospected several of their properties, more particularly the Day Dream (which was turned over to a separate Company during the year), the Apollyon, and the Gipsy Girl. From the Day Dream 4,000 tons of ore was raised, valued at £3,000; the silver

smelted from 1,800 tons of ore was valued at £54,000. Several shafts were sunk varying from 80 feet to 147 feet vertical; the deepest level was 420 feet; on the underlie the width of the lode varied from 1 foot to 12 feet. From the Apollyon 30 tons of ore, valued at £1,000, was raised. Depth of shaft, 357 feet; deepest level, 275 feet; width of lode, 1 foot to 10 feet. From the Gipsy Girl 500 tons of ore was raised, valued at £5,000. Depths of shafts, 90 feet and 140 feet; deepest level, 148 feet; width of lode, 1 foot to 5 feet. At the Broken Hill work was pushed on steadily during the year. The Broken Hill Company have nearly 2 miles in length of the lode which is visible on the surface, in some places projecting fully 50 feet above the surface. Nine shafts have been sunk to depths varying from 30 feet to 212 feet, the width of the lode being 20 feet. The lode has been tested in various places to depths varying from 100 feet to 212 feet. Recently a cross-cut into the lode discovered ore of extraordinary richness. It has been penetrated 14 feet without reaching the other wall of the lode. Chlorides are distinctly visible in the ore, the whole bulk of which is estimated to yield 1,000 oz. per ton. The quantity of ore in the mine appears almost unlimited, and some idea of its value may be gathered from the fact that bulk sample of 48 tons sent to Melbourne for treatment realized £7,442 12s. 11d. The work done during the year has been purely preparatory, no ore having been stoped out, yet the manager's report shows that 3,000 tons of ore was raised, which is valued at £42,866 (the actual returns obtained generally exceed the estimates of value). Preparations were being made for the erection of two large smelters. The Umberumberka mine was worked and thoroughly developed during the year with satisfactory results. 916 tons of first-quality ore and 400 tons of second-quality were raised, valued at £26,588. Depth of shaft, 305 ft.; deepest level, 254 ft.; width of lode, 4 ft. The Treasure turned out some remarkably rich ore. During the year 11 tons of first-quality and 30 tons of second-quality ores were raised, and are still on the mine, valued at £12,500. Depth of shaft, 175 ft.; deepest level, 175 ft.; width of lode, 6 to 18 inches. From the Maybell South mine, near Thackaringa, 100 tons of ore, valued at £5,000, was raised during the year. Depth of shaft, 158 ft.; deepest level, 158 ft.; width of lode, 3 inches to 2 ft. From the Maybell North mine, near Mount Gipps Station, 50 tons of ore, valued at £5,000, was raised. Depth of shafts, 60 ft. and 40 ft.; deepest level, 60 ft.; width of lode, 2 to 10 inches. From the Christmas mine, near Purnamoota, 18 tons of ore was raised, valued at £2,546. Of this, 11 tons 16 cwt. was sold for £526 15s. 6d. Depth of shaft, 111 feet; deepest level, 75 feet; width of lode, 6 inches to 2 feet. From the Mount Gipps mine, near Purnamoota, 200 tons of ore was raised, valued at £2,126 (22½ tons sold for £710 9s. 10d). Depth of shaft, 115 ft.; deepest level, 57 ft.; width of lode, 2½ ft. From Ellis mine, at Purnamoota, 12 tons of ore was raised, valued at £1,200. Depth of shaft, 80 ft.; width of lode, 1 to 3 ft. From Terrible Dick mine, 15 tons 9 cwt. 25 lb. of ore was raised, valued at £1,006. Depth of shaft, 55 ft. and 85 ft.; width of lode, 2½ to 3 ft. From the Purnamoota mine 21 tons of ore was raised, valued at £840. From the Bird-in-hand mine 20 tons of second-quality ore was raised, valued at £200 (21 cwt. sold for £72, and 5 cwt. smelted realized £9). Depth of shaft, 100 ft.; deepest level, 60 feet; width of lode, 3 ft. From the Pluck-up mine 19 cwt of ore raised, which produced 691 oz. and 2 gr. of silver, valued, £126 5s. 10d. Depth of shaft, 84 feet; deepest level, 72 ft.; width of lode, 8 inches to 2 feet. All over the field small chloride veins are being worked by miners; these veins are generally not more than 2 or 3 inches thick, but exceedingly rich. The various mines extend over an area of about 80 miles by 30 miles. The population of the field is fully 5,000, of whom 2,000 reside in Silverton. The Warden considers the permanence of the field is firmly established. The Customs Officer at Silverton has furnished to the Warden the following figures concerning the quantity and value of silver and ore sent away :—

Refined Silver.....	47,521 oz.	value	£9,503
Silver Lead	190½ tons.	„	£25,650
Ore	1,623½ tons.	„	£73,128
			£108,281

The following assays have been made during the year :—

SILVER.

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Per ton.		Per cent.	
		Silver.	Gold.	Lead.	Copper.
		oz. dwt.	oz. dwt.		
Abercrombie Ranges	Carbonate of lead, from 25 miles from Tuena	52 5	.....	88.32	...
„	Carbonate of copper	19 12	.....	...	35.85
„	Blue and green „	14 14	.....	...	21.35
„	„ „ „	22 17	.....	...	31.90
„	„ „ „	16 6½	.....	...	15.80
„	Ferruginous lode-stuff with copper ore	22 1	.....	...	17.72
„	Red ferruginous lode-stuff with carbonate of lead	30 4½	0 4	25.86	...

SILVER—continued.

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Per ton.		Per cent.	
		Silver.	Gold.	Lead.	Copper.
		oz. dwt.	oz. dwt.		
Bolivia.....	Copper and arsenical pyrites and quartzose veinstone, from Pye's Creek.....	68 12			
"	Quartz and fahlerz, from ditto	1,238 1			
"	Altered claystone with garnets and pyrites, from ditto	155 3			
"	Quartz and claystone with fahlerz, from ditto ..	116 10			
"	Galena and quartz, from ditto.....	40 16½			
"	Greenish quartzite containing carbonate of copper, from right bank of Mole River, near Bolivia.....	10 12			
"	Earthy carbonate of lead, from Bolivia District	4,240 2½			
"	"	5,281 10½			
"	Galena, from about three miles north of Prospecting Claim, Pye's Creek.....	180 17½			
"	Galena, zinc blende, and copper pyrites, from about 3 miles north of Prospecting Claim, Pye's Creek.....	39 4			
"	Crushed ferruginous lode stuff, lode 7 feet wide, depth 10 feet ..	74 6			
"	Claystone with zinc blende, copper, and iron pyrites, and a little galena, from about 3 miles north of Prospecting Claim, Pye's Creek.....	10 12			
"	Quartzite with galena and pyrites, from Block 433, depth 25 feet ..	10 12			
"	Iron pyrites and galena, from Block 434, depth 48 feet 6 inches ...	31 17			
"	Crushed sample of quartz, galena, &c., from half a mile west from Cave's silver mines.....	242 19			
"	Zinc blende and pyrites, from Block 434, depth 50 feet.....	26 19			
"	Carbonate and oxide of lead, from Pye's Creek.....	113 10			
"	Oxide of lead, "	35 8½			
"	Ferruginous quartz and galena and pyrites, from Pye's Creek	44 18			
"	Ferruginous quartz, from Burnt Yards, Pye's Creek ..	19 1			
"	Galena, from Block 434, from main lode in "	112 5½			
"	Zinc blende and copper pyrites, from "	17 19			
"	Grey quartzite with zinc blende and pyrites, from Block 434, depth 44 feet, Pye's Creek.....	15 10½			
"	Quartz with galena, blende, and pyrites, from Block 473, Pye's Creek.....	25 6			
"	Ferruginous quartz and metallic bismuth, from 14-acre block, adjoining Hamilton and party's lease, Pye's Creek.....	35 10½			
"	Ferruginous quartz and metallic bismuth and carbonate of copper, from 40-acre block, adjoining Hamilton and party's lease, Pye's Creek.....	200 18			
"	Ferruginous sand and galena and a little carbonate of copper, from Pye's Creek.....	166 12			
"	Crushed ferruginous quartz, from Pye's Creek	2,273 12			
Burrangorang	Brecciated quartz and clay, from Silver Peak	369 2½			
"	Porous ferruginous quartz, from "	26 9			
"	Ferruginous clay and quartz ..	1,936 10	0 16		
"	Gossan and ferruginous quartz, from Silver Peak.....	478 11½	0 16		
"	Gossan and ferruginous quartz, from "	20 8	16 0		
"	Ferruginous quartzite and earthy ironstone	86 1½	0 9½		
"	Ferruginous quartz	30 9½			
"	Quartz with galena, from 12 miles from	12 10			
"	Quartz containing galena	84 18½	0 3		
"	Ferruginous quartz with zinc blende and galena ..	45 4½	0 3		
"	Ferruginous quartz, from Hanging Wall	18 15			
"	Ferruginous quartz and clay rubble ..	31 0½	0 3		
"	Quartz and galena, from Paddy's Peak, 10 miles east of Silver Peak ..	18 15			
"	Quartz and quartz rubble.....	238 9	0 2		
Braidwood	Porous green carbonate of copper	29 8			42.45
"	Quartz with galena and pyrites, from Little River	23 7	10 8½		
"	Copper and iron pyrites, from between Braidwood and Bungendore ..	20 8			1.85
"	Quartz and pyrites, from 10 miles south of Major's Creek	33 4			
"	Galena, from Shoalhaven River, 12 miles from Braidwood.....	35 2			
Bathurst	Crushed quartz, from Lewis Ponds Creek, 27 miles from Bathurst, depth 18 feet.....	13 17½	2 9		
Back Creek	Ferruginous quartz containing galena.....	34 6	4 1½		
Binda	Quartz and galena	135 11			
Bombala	Ferruginous quartz	10 4	34 14		
Condobolin.....	Galena and carbonate of lead and a little carbonate of copper, from Melrose Road.....	70 4½		60.0	
Crudine	Sulphide and carbonate of lead	41 18			
Cooma	Galena, from 5 miles from	30 4			
"	Metallic lead (smelted from carbonate of lead), from Mickalago ...	14 7	4 18		
Deepwater	Ferruginous claystone with copper and iron pyrites ..	31 0½			12.3
"	Quartz with black oxide of iron and copper and iron pyrites.....	10 12			14.35
"	Arsenical pyrites and quartz	10 12			
"	Galena and quartz, from Cadell's, Deepwater, 10-mile station	300 10½			
"	Quartz with pyrites and galena, from "	16 6½			
"	Ferruginous quartzite and pyrites, from about 10 miles from do.	17 19			
"	Ferruginous quartz and galena, from top of range at the head of Deepwater River.....	28 11½			
"	Quartz and arsenical pyrites, from " ..	86 3			
"	Blende with a little pyrites and felspathic clay, from parish Parkes, county Gough.....	27 7			
"	Blende with copper pyrites, from parish Parkes, county Gough ..	11 8			
"	Galena, zinc, blende, and iron pyrites and quartz, from Deepwater River.....	61 10			
"	Ochreous carbonate of lead	173 2½			

SILVER—continued.

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Per ton.		Per cent.	
		Silver	Gold.	Lead.	Copper
Emmaville	Pyritous lode stuff, from Pye's Creek, north-east of Emmaville.....	oz. dwt. 75 19	oz. dwt.		
"	Galena and arsenical pyrites, in felspar and quartz veinstone.....	11 8½			
"	Fahlerz, from Webb's lode	333 11½			
"	"	178 7½			
"	Galena and pyrites, from Webb's lode	283 7½			
"	Yellow ferruginous claystone, from near Webb's lode	31 17			
"	Galena in felspar veinstone.....	13 1			
"	Claystone, containing fahlerz, pyrites, and galena, from near Webb's lode.	212 6½			
"	Fahlerz, from Little Plant	534 2			
"	Fahlerz, from " . Analysis:—				
	Metallic copper	31·500			
	" antimony	18·130			
	" zinc.....	6·140			
	" iron	6·440			
	" lead	630			
	" silver	1·635			
	Sulphur.....	26·180			
	Insoluble	7·200			
	Traces of arsenic, gold, &c.....	2·095			
		100·00			
"	Massive galena with a little mispickel and arseniate of iron, from M.L. 1,012, 6 miles south of Emmaville.	31 17			
"	Quartz and mispickel, and a little galena and fahlerz, from 5 miles south of Little Plant.	80 1			
"	Quartz and galena and a little mispickel and fahlerz, depth 10 feet	63 14			
Goulburn	Quartz and galena, from Goulburn district	62 1			
"	Porous ferruginous quartz, from Narrangarill	18 15½			
"	Galena and ferruginous quartz	9 16			
Gordon	Galena and arsenical pyrites, from parish Gordon, county Gough...	21 4½			
"	Galena with iron and arsenical pyrites, from "	42 9			
Glen Innes	Quartz and porphyry with galena and mispickel, from 20 miles north of Glen Innes.	12 5			
Green Swamp.....	Porous brown iron ore, from 30-feet level.....	12 10½	0 10½		
Locksley	Porous quartz with galena, carbonate of lead, and sulphide of copper, from Slate Creek.	10 12			
Larry's Hill	Soft earthy iron ore and quartz	15 10½			
Lawson	Ferruginous quartz with galena, from 2 miles north of Judd's Creek	10 6½			
Mole River.....	Ferruginous quartzite with pyrites	20 8			
Molonglo	Magnesian clay, from Captain's Flat	15 10			
"	Carbonate of lead, from "	67 9	0 6½		
"	Ferruginous quartz and pyrites	46 4½	0 6½		
"	Carbonate and sulphide of lead, from Montgomery's mine, Captain's Flat.	68 12			
"	Ferruginous sulphate of baryta and protoxide of lead from Captain's Flat.	10 12			
Mann River	Claystone with fahlerz, from about 8 miles from Mann River	64 10			
"	Quartz and mispickel and pyrites	13 1			
Murrurundi	Ferruginous quartz with galena, from	12 5			
Mudgee	Ferruginous claystone	23 5½	0 3		
Molong	Earthy carbonate of copper, from 10 miles west of Molong	10 14			19·35
"	"	26 19			6·60
"	"	10 8½			
Mitchell	Iron pyrites in quartz and claystone, from 8 feet level	18 15½			
Nowra	Carbonate of lead, from Nowra Ranges.....	26 18½			
Newbridge	Porous ferruginous quartz and slate	8 3			
Native Dog Creek	Copper pyrites, zinc blende, &c., in quartz, veinstone, and clay, depth 12 feet, from 15 miles S.W. of Rockley.	10 18			
Nambucca	Blende, galena and pyrites, and a little quartz.	57 3			
"	Gossan, with galena and pyrites and blende.....	28 11½			
"	Quartz, with "	31 16			
"	Gossan, with galena and blende	80 16			
Ophir	Cubical iron pyrites.....	17 12			
O'Connell	Siliceous ironstone, from 6 miles from O'Connell.....	40 0	0 5		
"	Yellow claystone, from "	13 1			
Orange	Schist, containing zinc, blende, and galena, from 30 miles north of Orange.	101 5	0 3		
Oberon	Quartz and copper pyrites, from Blackman's Creek.....	52 5			
Peelwood.....	Compact carbonate of lead and a little carbonate of copper.....	11 8			
"	Soft ironstone, with carbonate of lead, from	15 18			
"	Ferruginous quartz and earthy iron ore from One Tree Hill	15 10½			
"	Carbonate of lead.....	52 16			
"	Ferruginous lode stuff, with carbonate of lead.. ..	29 8			
Palmer's Oakley...	Ferruginous gossan	15 10			
Queandong	Gossan with galena and carbonate of lead, from Snowy River.....	27 15			
Queanbeyan.....	Quartz and galena.....	28 11½			
Rockley	Quartzose schist with greenish ferruginous vein, from Back Creek.	645 5½	219 21		
"	Slaty ferruginous quartz, from New Sewell's Creek	12 12½			
"	Small vein containing galena, and carbonate of lead and copper, from New Sewell's Creek.	16 17½			
"	Quartz and claystone, from near Rockley	788 18	5 3½		
"	Porous quartz veinstone in claystone, from Rockley	131 9½	0 9½		

SILVER—continued.

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Per ton.		Per cent.	
		Silver.	Gold.	Lead.	Copper.
Rockley	Porous quartz veinstone, from Back Creek	oz. dwt. 199 15	oz. dwt. 0 6½		
"	"	98 9½	0 6		
"	Ferruginous	608 1½	4 8		
Snowy River	Ferruginous carbonate of lead with carbonate of copper and protoxide of lead, from near Mount Trooper	208 12½		51.98	
"	Galena and ferruginous carbonate of lead, from Mount Trooper	20 8			
Sunny Corner	Whitish claystone with cavities filled with quartz crystals	18 10	0 3		
Tuena	Porous micaceous earthy ironstone, from Costigan's Mount	16 6½			
"	Porous ferruginous quartz	14 14			
"	Carbonate of copper and lead, from near Tuena	22 17			20.3
"	Carbonate of lead, from near Tuena	41 13		63.84	
"	Gossan, with carbonate of lead	69 8		33.70	
"	Porous ironstone and carbonate of lead, from between Tuena and Cowra	17 19½			
"	"				
"	Ferruginous clay and carbonate of lead, from Costigan's Mount	31 17			
"	Ferruginous quartz and carbonate of copper, from	27 15			
"	Ferruginous clay and carbonate of lead	16 16½			
"	Porous gossan	88 4	0 3		
"	Porous siliceous ironstone from Costigan's Mount	31 17	0 8		
"	Ferruginous lode-stuff, with carbonate of lead from Maguire's lease	43 5½	0 3		
Trunkey	Galena and copper pyrites	16 4½			
Tarrago	Earthy carbonate of lead	196 16			
Tenterfield	Claystone, with thin veins of fahlerz, from Severn River	44 13	0 10½		
"	Fahlerz and galena, from	192 14½			
Ten-mile	Quartzite, containing iron and copper pyrites, from the Ten-mile, parish of Park, county Clive	20 2½			
"	Quartzite with fahlerz and pyrites, from the Ten-mile, parish of Park, county Clive	474 9½			
Tingha	Quartz with galena and zinc blend, from 10 miles south-west of Tingha	11 8½			
Wiseman's Creek	Yellow ferruginous claystone	167 14½	1 6		
"	Yellow ferruginous argillaceous lode stuff	13 12	0 3		
"	Greenish-yellow ochre with sulphide of lead and copper	138 13	0 19½		
"	Soft ironstone and quartz	16 7			
"	Granular quartz and porous iron ore from 2 miles from ditto	10 13			
"	"	15 10			
"	Ferruginous claystone	33 9½			
"	Green carbonate and red oxide of copper	15 2			
"	Porous iron ore and carbonate of lead	8 11½			
"	Quartz with galena	9 16			
Wellington	Quartz with sulphide and carbonate of copper	22 12			
Weddin Mountain	Ferruginous quartz with carbonate of lead and copper	17 3		38.12	
Waverley	Ferruginous quartz with galena, from Waverley silver-mines, New England	37 0			
Young	Ferruginous quartz and carbonate of lead	20 8	0 4		

LEAD.

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Lead.	Per Ton.	
			Silver.	Gold.
Abercrombie Ranges	Carbonate of lead, from about 25 miles from Tuena	Per centage. 38.32	oz. dwt. 52 5	oz. dwt.
Bathurst	Ferruginous carbonate of lead, from	25.86	30 4½	0 4
"	"	43.63	7 7	
Barrier Range	from Bathurst. " from Macquarie River, 30 miles			
"	Gossan and carbonate of lead, from 2 miles S.W. of South Broken Hill	17.93	19 12	
"	Ferruginous carbonate of lead	34.56	6 10½	
"	"	44.5	9 16	
"	Fine-grained galena with ferruginous quartz	57.9	26 9	
"	Galena with oxide of iron, copper pyrites, and a little carbonate of copper and lead	57.0	104 10	
Brewarrina	Fine-grained galena	75.8	25 9½	
"	Coarse-grained "	74.7	29 8	
Condobolin	Galena and carbonate of lead and a little carbonate of copper, from Melrose Road	60.2	70 4½	
Kiandra	Crushed sample of galena, &c.	52.6	8 13½	
Snowy River	Ferruginous carbonate of lead with a little carbonate of copper and protoxide of lead, from near Mount Trooper, Snowy River	51.98	208 12½	
Tuena	Carbonate of lead, from near Tuena	63.84	41 13	
"	Gossan with carbonate of lead	33.7	69 8	
Weddin Mountain	Ferruginous quartz with carbonate of lead and copper	38.12	17 3	

Iron.

The Esk Bank Iron Works made during the year bars and rails to the value of £23,972 14s. 9d., and castings to the value of £1,820 5s. The number of men and boys employed at these works was 180.

The quantity and value of iron exported during the year was 141 tons 14 cwt., valued at £1,288, and oxide of iron, 449 tons 19 cwt., valued at £1,569.

The

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The following analysis was made during the year :—

IRON.

Locality.	Description.	Analysis.										
Port Stephens	Magnetic iron ore from Port Stephens	<table><tr><td>Peroxide of iron.....</td><td>% 53.44</td></tr><tr><td>Protoxide „</td><td>6.40</td></tr><tr><td>Alumina</td><td>10.38</td></tr><tr><td>Gangue.....</td><td>25.80</td></tr><tr><td>Moisture, trace of Mg. &c.</td><td>...</td></tr></table>	Peroxide of iron.....	% 53.44	Protoxide „	6.40	Alumina	10.38	Gangue.....	25.80	Moisture, trace of Mg. &c.
Peroxide of iron.....	% 53.44											
Protoxide „	6.40											
Alumina	10.38											
Gangue.....	25.80											
Moisture, trace of Mg. &c.											

ANTIMONY.

The output of antimony during the year was considerably less than during 1884, which is mainly due to the low price in the Home market. The Eleanor Company, in the Armidale division, reports that during 1885 they raised 28 tons of ore, valued at £196. If the price should improve the output would be largely increased, as the deposits are said to be inexhaustible.

The following assays were made during the year :—

ANTIMONY.

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Per cent.	Per ton.	
		Antimony.	Gold.	Silver.
Armidale	Sulphide and oxide of antimony and a little quartz	46.9	oz. dt.	oz. dt.
Bingera	Do do do	38.18		
Bellinger River	Oxide of antimony	73.19		
Capertee	Oxide and sulphide of antimony in brecciated veinstone	9.58		
„	Sulphide of antimony from Razorback, 18 miles from Capertee	59.73	1 18	1 1½
„	Do do with quartz	6.34		
„	Do do do	58.48	2 14½	
Nerriga	Quartz with sulphide of antimony	22.43		
Peelwood	Oxide and sulphide of antimony from Hunt's Creek	23.44		
Rocky River	Oxide and sulphide of antimony from Rocky River, New England	11.6		

ASBESTOS, BISMUTH, MANGANESE, COBALT, ZINC, &c.

No details have been reported respecting the working of these minerals during 1885, due no doubt to the very limited extent to which they have been worked.

The following assays have been made during the year :—

BISMUTH.

Locality.	Description.	Per cent.	Silver per ton.
Deepwater	Ferruginous quartz and metallic bismuth from 40-acre block adjoining Hamilton and party's lease, Pye's Creek.	66.8	oz. dt. 35 8½
„	Ferruginous quartz and metallic bismuth and carbonate of copper from do.	3.9	200 18
„	Ferruginous sand and galena and a little carbonate of copper from do ...	13.3	166 12

MANGANESE.

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Peroxide of Manganese %	Sesqui-oxide of Cobalt %	Metallic Nickel %
Bathurst	Porous earthy oxide of manganese from 20 miles from Bathurst	65.10	0.415	trace.
„	Black oxide of manganese from Fontana Reef, near Bathurst	91.55		
„	Do do from parish of Bringelet	63.90		
„	Do do do	60.35		
„	Do do do	52.50		
Glanmire	Oxide of manganese from Glanmire	63.70		
„	Do do from 20-feet lead	71.97		
Gulgong	Oxide and silicate manganese from do.	48.40		
Norfolk Island	Manganese oxide from near Gulgong.	62.05	0.63	
„	Oxide of iron and manganese in concretionary nodules from Phillip Island, 3 miles south of Norfolk Island	5.28	2.01	
Rockley	Manganese oxide from 5 miles from Rockley	42.60		
Tamworth	Manganese oxide from ranges near Tamworth	17.20		

COBALT AND NICKEL.

Locality.	Description.	Sesquioxide of Cobalt.	Metallic Nickel.
Bungonia	Manganese oxide and quartz grit, from near Bungonia	per cent.	per cent.
Barrier Range	Decomposed ferruginous rock, with joints filled with oxide of manganese and cobalt.	3·13	0·39
Boro	Quartzite with manganese oxide in cavities.....	1·95	3·05
Capertee	Ironstone grit, containing manganese oxide, from 10 miles from Capertee, on Mudgee Road.	2·10	
Goulburn	Manganese oxide in sandstone, from 4 miles from Goulburn	1·66	0·35
		1·21	1·32

ZINC.

Locality.	Description.	Metallic Zinc. Per cent.	Per Ton.	
			Silver.	Gold.
Deepwater	Blend from No. 1 Reef, from prospecting claim, parish Parkes, county Gough, Deepwater District.	20·05		

SLATES.

The Australian Slate Company, at South Gundagai, were still working with energy. They lately opened a deposit of roofing slate, said to be of superior quality. None of the other Companies have been reported as working in 1885.

DIAMONDS.

The Australia Diamond Company, at Bingera, during the year, curtailed their operations to merely testing their claim. The last washing of eighty-seven loads yielded 1,134 diamonds, weighing 209 carats. The other diamond-mines at Bingera suspended operations, partly, perhaps, in consequence of the drought. Deposits of diamondiferous wash have been found in the Tingha division, and some very good samples of diamonds have been obtained. One parcel, consisting of 285 diamonds, weighing 104½ carats, from Mr. W. Brown's Crown Jewel diamond-mine, was purchased for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. Of these stones 280 ranged from ⅓ to 1 carat each in weight, and five from 1 to 1½ carat. They varied in colour from pale straw yellow to clear crystals of "first water." The miners experience some difficulty in finding a satisfactory market for the produce of these mines, which somewhat retards their operations. Four diamonds, weighing from 1 to 1½ carat each, were purchased from Mr. Brown's mine for use in the diamond-drills.

BARYTES.

Twelve tons of barytes, reported to have been raised from the old alluvial workings at Coloola Creek, valued at £43 2s. 9d.

MISCELLANEOUS ANALYSES.

The following analyses were made during the year :—

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Analysis.
Norfolk Island.....	Volcanic tuff from Phillip Island 3 miles south of Norfolk Island.....	Moisture..... 10·73
		Combined water..... 4·08
		Lime..... 1·06
		Oxide of iron..... 27·95
		Organic matter..... ·32
		Phosphoric acid..... ·05
		Insoluble siliceous matter..... 54·81
		Loss and undetermined..... 1·00
		100·00
Norfolk Island.....	Volcanic ash from Anson's Bay, Norfolk Island.....	Moisture..... 21·20
		Gangue (insoluble in acids)..... 47·45
		Peroxide of iron..... 11·75
		Alumina..... 15·30
		Lime..... 1·80
		Magnesia..... 1·89
		Phosphoric oxide..... trace.
		Undetermined, &c..... ·61
		100·00

MISCELLANEOUS ANALYSES—continued.

Locality.	Description of Mineral.	Analysis.
Norfolk Island.....	Compact coral rock from water-level, Emily Bay.....	Hygroscopic moisture..... 0.22 Carbonate of lime..... 86.65 Carbonate of magnesia..... 8.72 Oxide of iron and alumina..... 1.10 Silica..... .90 Phosphoric acid (P ₂ O ₅)..... trace Alkalies and undetermined..... 2.41 100.00
Port Stephens.....	Pitchstone.....	Loss on ignition..... 8.18 Silica..... 73.45 Alumina..... 13.25 Ferric oxide..... .95 Lime..... 2.85 Magnesia..... .52 Alkalies, &c..... .80 100.00
Yalgogan.....	Saliferous substance from soil excavated for a tank	Sulphurate of lime..... 54.13 Chloride of sodium..... 27.44 Carbonate of lime..... 12.39 * Undetermined..... 6.04 100.00

* Consisting of moisture, alumina, oxide of iron, water of hydration, alkaline, carbonates, and nitrates.

WATER.

Well-water from Silverton :—

Total solid matter in solution	40.5 grains per gallon
Which loses on ignition	1.5 " "
Contained chlorine	22.4 " "
Free ammonia	0.12 parts per million
Aluminoid or organic ammonia.....	0.13 " "

This water shows no signs of nitrates, and contains a little sulphate of calcium in solution; but the major part of the solids are present chiefly as chlorides, being those of sodium and magnesium. The smallness of the sample has precluded a more detailed examination, but enough has been done to show it a fairly good well-water. The quantity of aluminoid, ammonia, and chlorine would condemn a water in England, but here the chlorine counts for very little in a well-water, so much of the soil of the Colony being more or less salt; and water is seldom seen here containing less than '1 per million of aluminoid. Poisonous metals were proved to be absent.

Water from soakage, Barrier Range :—

Total solid matter in solution.....	3.75 grains per gallon
Which loses on ignition	1.48 " "
Contained chlorine	1.30 " "
Free ammonia.....	0.02 parts per million
Aluminoid ammonia	0.32 " "

This sample contains a trace of sulphuretted hydrogen (and therefore the water cannot contain any poisonous metals), and the water has a slightly nauseous taste and smell. For this reason, and from the high rate of aluminoid, it would be unadvisable to use this water for alimentary purposes if other can be obtained; but, if it has to be so used, the use should be preceded by boiling.

On the other hand, this water is much better suited for washing or for use in boilers than the previous well-water, on account of the smaller quantity of solids in solution.

Water from Sodawater Spring, Rock Flat, 10 miles east of Cooma :—

Total Solids.	Soluble Solids.	Insoluble Solids.	Chlorine.	Equivalent in Common Salt.
134.02	59.96	74.06	29.51	48.60

APPEARANCE.—Slightly turbid.

REMARKS.—This water was found to contain carbonic acid, and when heated had a slightly sweetish odour. The insoluble solids consist of carbonate and sulphate of lime, silica, and some carbonate of iron. The soluble solid matter consists chiefly of chloride and carbonate of soda. The total solids may be regarded as somewhat excessive in considering its adaptability for domestic purposes. Although a very hard water, much of the hardness may be removed by boiling.

From bank of Sodawater Creek, Rock Flat, 10 miles east of Cooma :—

Total Solids.	Soluble Solids.	Insoluble Solids.	Chlorine.	Equivalent in Common Salt.
133·98	62·77	71·21	14·78	24·35

APPEARANCE.—Turbid suspended matter.

REMARKS.—This sample also contained a good deal of free carbonic acid, and in many respects is similar in composition to the previous water. It has, however, only half the amount of chloride of sodium, and is still a very hard water. The residue left on evaporation did not blacken when heated in a platinum basin, showing a comparative absence of organic matter. No attempts were made to estimate the amount of organic matter, owing to the manner in which the samples here were submitted to analysis.

Water from spring, near Mittagong, on the property of the Mittagong Land Company :—

Total fixed residue.	Chlorine.	Sulphuric Acid.	Ferrous Oxide.
11·2 grains per gallon.	2·67 per gallon.	1·55 per gallon.	1·5 per gallon

REMARKS.—No exception can be taken to this water on account of the total fixed matter it contains. The quantity of iron, however, is excessive, and if used for drinking in some cases would be injurious. As the sample was received in a jar which seemed to have been previously used, and did not appear to be clean, it was not thought advisable to examine for organic impurities.

Water from a spring on the Mittagong Coal and Iron Company's Estate, Fitzroy :—

No objection can be taken to this water on account of the total fixed matter it contains. The water fairly corresponds to the previous sample, and is remarkably free from organic impurity. The same objection, however, applies with this case as with the previous sample, namely, that the amount of iron is excessive ; and should the supply prove valuable, the iron could be removed by running the water into tanks and adding a small quantity of lime or charcoal.

The sample, when received, contained a good deal of suspended matter, which was due chiefly to iron, and was probably deposited since the water was drawn.

Water from Avoca Station, near Wentworth :—

The water was clear, but contained a considerable amount of suspended matter. The taste was strongly saline, and on analysis gave the following :—

Saline ammonia	·018 parts per 100,000
Organic ammonia	·016 " "
Chlorine	189 grains per gallon
Total solid matter	1,504 " "

With such a large amount of saline matter the water is unfit either for stock or domestic purposes.

In conclusion, I have much pleasure in submitting the following summary of the mineral products up to the end of 1885, the value of which exceeds sixty-six and three-quarter millions sterling :—

SUMMARY.

	Quantity.	Value.	Total Value.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Quantity and value of gold prior to 1st January, 1885	9,569,653·01 oz.	35,724,179 5 0	
Quantity and value of gold raised in 1885.....	103,736·36 "	378,665 0 3	
Totals.....	9,673,389·37 oz.	36,102,844 5 3	36,102,844 5 3
Quantity and value of silver raised prior to 1st January, 1885.....	936,122·57 oz.	223,697 0 0	
Quantity and value of silver raised in 1885.....	794,173·80 "	159,187 0 0	
Totals.....	1,730,296·37 oz.	382,884 0 0	382,884 0 0
Quantity and value of coal raised prior to 1st January, 1885.....	31,261,326·74 tons	15,709,291 19 2	
Quantity and value of coal raised in 1885.....	2,878,863·23 "	1,340,212 13 7	
Totals.....	34,140,189·97 tons	17,049,504 12 9	17,049,504 12 9
Quantity and value of shale raised prior to 1st January, 1885.....	370,217 tons	828,198 5 0	
Quantity and value of shale raised in 1885.....	27,462 "	67,239 0 0	
Totals.....	3 97,679 tons	895,437 5 0	895,437 5 0
Quantity and value of tin exported prior to 1st January, 1885	Ingots 71,110 tons 2½ cwt. }	6,519,177 0 0	
Quantity and value of tin exported in 1885.....	Ore and Regulus 15,618 " 4 " }		
	Ingots 4,657 " 18 " }	415,626 0 0	
	Ore and Regulus 534 " 18 " }		
Totals.....		6,934,803 0 0	6,934,803 0 0
Quantity and value of copper exported prior to 1st January, 1885	Ingots 64,953 tons 16 cwt. }	4,531,665 0 0	
Quantity and value of copper exported in 1885	Ore and Regulus 3,402 " 3½ " }		
	Ingots 5,745 " 5 " }	264,920 0 0	
	Ore 0 " 15 " }		
Totals.....		4,796,585 0 0	4,796,585 0 0

SUMMARY—continued.

	Quantity.	Value.	Total Value.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Quantity and value of iron made prior to 1st January, 1885.....	25,569 tons 13 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lb.	206,060 11 6	
Quantity and value of iron made during 1885.....	4,175 „ 15 „ 3 „ 19 „	25,792 19 9	
Totals.....		231,853 11 3	231,853 11 3
Quantity and value of antimony exported prior to 1st January, 1885.....	Metal..... 366 tons 3½ cwt. }	57,921 0 0	
Quantity and value of antimony exported in 1885.....	Ore and Regulus 2,615 „ 9 „ }	4,296 0 0	
	Metal 5 „ 0 „ }		
	Ore 287 „ 15 „ }		
Totals.....		62,217 0 0	62,217 0 0
Quantity and value of asbestos exported prior to 1st January, 1885.....	19 tons 18 cwt.	398 0 0	
Quantity and value of asbestos exported in 1885.....	6 „ 0 „	90 0 0	
Totals.....	25 tons 18 cwt.	488 0 0	488 0 0
Quantity and value of bismuth exported prior to 1st January, 1885.....	33 tons 5½ cwt.	6,310 14 0	
Quantity and value of bismuth exported in 1885.....	14 „ 3½ „	3,700 0 0	
Totals.....	47 tons 9 cwt.	10,010 14 0	10,010 14 0
Quantity and value of silver lead exported prior to 1st January, 1885.....	Ore... 9,507 tons 7 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb.	249,400 0 0	
Quantity and value of silver lead exported in 1885.....	Ore .. 2,095 „ 16 „ 0 „ 0 „ }	107,626 0 0	
	Metal 190 „ 8 „ 0 „ 0 „ }		
Totals.....		357,026 0 0	357,026 0 0
Value of sundry minerals exported prior to 1st January, 1885.....		12,286 0 0	
Value of sundry minerals exported in 1885.....		7,820 0 0	
Totals.....		20,106 0 0	20,106 0 0
			£66,843,759 8 3

Department of Mines,
Sydney, 3rd May, 1886.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary for Mines.

TABLE showing approximately the number of Miners employed in Gold-mining, the quantity of Gold won, the area of ground worked, and the value of Machinery in the Colony of New South Wales, during the year 1885.

(Compiled from Mining Registrars' Reports.)

District and Division.	Alluvial Miners.		Quartz Miners.		Total Miners.	Quantity of Gold.			Price of Gold per oz.		Value of Gold won.	Alluvial ground worked.	Quartz-reefs proved to be Auriferous.	Value of Machinery.
	Europeans.	Chinese.	Europeans.	Chinese.		Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.	From.	To.				
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.	s.	s.	£ s. d.	sq. miles.		£	
FEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—														
Urella Division	111	20	..	..	131	1,147 16 23	.....	1,147 16 23	74/	70/	4,306 7 11	8	....	....
Armidale .....	..	..	100	..	100	.....	1,597 4 0	1,597 4 0	..	..	5,939 10 0	..	....	....
Nundle	80	45	40	..	165	2,107 10 18	359 15 0	2,467 5 15	74/	74/	9,175 14 11	10	..	4,000
Walcha	25	..	25	..	50	25 0 0	..	25 0 0	72/6	73/	90 12 6	..	3	3,000
Bingera	75	15	20	..	110	400 0 0	190 0 0	590 0 0	63/	73/6	1,800 0 0	..	..	800
Barraba	29	..	16	1	46	181 9 16	51 8 12	232 18 4	72/	78/	835 2 0	8	4	600
Scone .....	..	..	55	..	55	..	220 0 0	220 0 0	60/	69/	520 0 0	20	30	1,000
Glen Innes Division	20	60	..	..	80	300 0 0	.....	300 0 0	72/	73/	1,057 10 0	..	..	....
	340	140	256	1	737	4,161 17 9	2,328 7 12	6,490 4 21	63/	78/	22,804 17 4	46	37	9,400
MIDGEE DISTRICT—														
Gulgong Division	292	..	..	..	292	1,017 0 0	.....	1,017 0 0	75/	73/	3,020 9 0	..	....	....
Mudgee	55	10	..	..	65	3,148 0 0	.....	3,148 0 0	75/	77/6	12,001 15 0	..	..	800
Tomingley .....	..	..	55	..	55	2,144 2 5	2,144 2 5	2,144 2 5	70/	79/	7,933 2 11	4	2	5,500
Hargraves	40	81	8	..	133	.....	93 0 0	93 0 0	70/	78/6	361 0 0	..	..	1,550
	396	91	63	..	550	4,165 0 0	2,237 2 5	6,402 2 5	70/	79/	24,216 0 11	4	2	7,850
BATHURST DISTRICT—														
Carcoar Division	20	..	120	..	140	.....	9,073 6 7	9,073 6 7	65/	80/	31,756 11 0	..	..	20,000
Mount McDonald Division	6	..	57	..	63	1,200 0 0	2,709 11 8	3,909 11 8	65/	78/6	13,908 15 0	2	0	10,600
Trunking Division	54	9	67	..	130	257 15 0	460 17 5	718 12 5	75/6	77/6	2,784 8 6	20	27	9,142
Mitchell .....	..	20	10	..	30	500 0 0	1,100 0 0	1,600 0 0	47/6	62/6	4,000 0 0	..	4	1,000
Tucua	12	20	20	..	52	300 0 0	100 10 0	400 10 0	74/	76/6	1,621 10 3	10	8	2,000
Oberon	10	..	30	..	40	.....	90 0 0	90 0 0	62/	..	352 0 0	..	..	750
Rockley	6	10	..	..	16	225 0 0	.....	225 0 0	70/	72/	810 0 0	20	..	250
Burruga	6	..	..	..	6	60 0 0	.....	60 0 0	73/6	74/	222 0 0	..	..	..
Cowra	3	..	..	..	3	80 0 0	.....	80 0 0	77/	80/	320 0 0	..	..	..
	117	59	304	..	480	2,622 15 0	13,534 4 20	16,156 19 20	62/	80/	65,775 10 9	52	48	43,612
LACILAN DISTRICT—														
Young Division	150	12	100	..	262	505 14 23	.....	505 14 23	77/	77/6	1,353 12 10	5	5	..
Grenfell	23	..	24	..	47	25 13 0	190 2 0	215 16 0	70/6	77/	328 2 8	20	20	2,060
Barnedman Division	2	..	80	..	82	.....	1,798 4 0	1,798 4 0	72/	82/	7,000 0 0	4	..	13,150
Temora	200	25	50	..	275	4,522 0 0	1,700 0 0	6,222 0 0	16/6	78/6	24,110 5 0	30	10	4,000
Parkes	70	..	109	..	179	120 17 12	5,777 11 0	5,907 8 12	76/	..	22,152 16 10	15	25	5,850
Murrumburrah	50	..	40	..	90	252 8 4	..	252 8 4	72/6	77/	971 1 9	100	7	7,000
Forbes .....	..	..	..	..	..	1,200 3 12	1,200 3 12	1,200 3 12	65/	75/	4,200 16 0	..	..	3,000
Junee .....	..	..	20	..	20	65 12 5	85 16 0	151 7 5	77/10	79/6	586 13 9	..	1	950
Canowindra	12	..	28	..	40	80 0 0	303 0 0	383 0 0	72/	78/	1,308 15 0	..	10	2,200
	607	37	451	..	1,095	6,761 9 8	9,854 12 0	16,616 1 8	65/	82/	68,172 8 10	174	78	38,210
TIMUT AND ADELONG DISTRICT—														
Gundagai Division .....	..	..	100	..	100	Quantity of gold not known.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,500
Tarcutta .....	..	..	14	..	14	93 2 0	98 2 0	191 4 0	67/6	78/6	302 7 4	6	1	400
Adelong	110	4	147	..	261	5,253 2 13	2,568 2 0	7,821 4 13	75/	80/	30,307 6 0	40	53	65,000
Yarrara	6	5	25	..	36	20 0 0	800 0 0	820 0 0	68/	76/6	3,017 10 0	9	20	4,000
Albury	3	..	20	..	23	27 0 0	96 10 0	123 10 0	77/	79/	451 13 0	6	8	1,400
Timut	34	1	..	..	35	1,012 0 16	.....	1,012 0 16	73/	77/6	3,795 2 0	..	..	..
Reedy Flat	60	4	3	..	67	616 0 0	.....	616 0 0	77/6	..	2,367 9 0	..	..	..
Kiandra	75	24	..	..	99	1,773 0 0	.....	1,773 0 0	72/6	74/6	6,560 2 0	..	..	..
Nimblebeile	6	..	15	..	21	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,600
	204	38	324	..	566	8,781 3 10	3,562 14 0	12,293 17 10	67/6	80/	46,921 0 4	61	82	75,800
SOUTHERN DISTRICT—														
Bombala Division	20	80	..	..	100	180 15 7	.....	180 15 7	77/5	..	698 11 9	..	..	..
Braidwood	72	3	..	..	75	700 0 0	700 0 0	700 0 0	70/	..	2,568 6 5	..	..	..
Major's Creek Division	50	..	10	..	60	266 0 0	48 0 0	314 0 0	74/	70/	1,169 13 0	..	15	1,485
Little River	65	60	10	..	135	900 0 0	144 10 0	1,044 10 0	77/6	78/	4,046 11 0	32	44	2,640
Araluen	235	48	5	..	288	4,962 0 0	225 9 0	5,187 9 0	68/	70/6	10,971 13 0	..	..	24,480
Nerriga	40	8	..	..	48	500 0 0	..	500 0 0	76/6	77/6	1,917 10 0	..	..	..
Nerrigundah	38	75	..	..	113	460 0 0	..	460 0 0	80/	80/6	1,920 0 0	13	2	..
Nowra .....	..	..	57	..	57	.....	2,502 16 0	2,502 16 0	65/	65/6	8,161 12 0	1	..	4,100
Moruya	50	..	..	..	50	421 9 4	421 9 4	421 9 4	77/	77/6	1,633 10 0	7	..	1,000
Wagonga	30	5	60	..	95	Quantity of gold not known.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,800
	600	279	142	..	1,021	8,410 4 11	2,920 15 0	11,380 19 11	65/	80/6	42,137 7 8	53	61	39,005
CLARENCE AND RICHMOND DISTRICT—														
Grafton Division	6	..	10	..	16	.....	644 17 23	644 17 23	69/6	72/6	2,318 8 4	..	2	..
Nada Creek	6	..	10	..	16	10 0 0	333 11 9	343 11 9	70/	72/	1,203 9 9	..	45	6,500
	12	..	20	..	32	10 0 0	678 9 8	688 9 8	69/6	72/6	3,521 18 1	..	47	6,500
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT—														
Dalmorton Division	14	8	7	..	29	120 0 0	27 15 0	147 15 0	72/	75/	626 1 3	308	65	600
Solferino	14	3	16	..	33	135 4 0	251 18 0	387 2 0	68/	74/	1,350 0 0	2	6	50
Boorook	48	..	8	..	56	466 0 0	34 0 0	500 0 0	70/	..	1,750 0 0	..	..	1,380
Tenterfield	14	..	..	..	14	100 0 0	.....	100 0 0	70/	..	350 0 0	..	..	..
	90	11	31	..	132	821 4 0	313 13 0	1,134 17 0	68/	75/	3,076 1 3	310	71	2,030
TAMBAROORA AND TIRON DISTRICT—														
Sofala Division	80	120	120	..	320	2,015 0 20	1,800 0 0	3,815 0 20	75/	77/	14,306 8 1	20	40	5,500
Hill End	50	50	100	..	200	1,363 9 10	2,540 1 0	3,903 10 10	74/	77/3	16,036 0 0	20	30	75,000
Ironbarks	131	17	10	..	158	1,046 11 12	87 11 0	1,134 2 12	74/	78/	4,809 13 8	20	30	8,850
Wellington	10	20	..	..	30	521 10 10	.....	521 10 10	72/	75/	1,955 9 2	..	..	12,000
	271	207	230	..	708	4,946 12 13	4,427 12 0	9,374 4 13	72/	78/	35,607 10 9	80	100	90,850
ALBERT DISTRICT—														
Mount Browne Division	403	17	10	..	430	1,682 0 0	30 0 0	1,712 0 0	70/	79/	6,748 18 0	100	4	3,800
HUNTER AND MACLEAY DISTRICT—														
Copeland Division .....	..	..	70	..	70	.....	1,017 5 2	1,017 5 2	67/	74/	3,438 17 6	..	..	4,330

Summary.

(Compiled from Mining Registrars' Reports.)

TABLE showing approximately the number of miners employed in Gold-mining, the quantity of Gold won, the area of Ground worked, and the value of Machinery, in the Colony of New South Wales, during 1885:—

District and Division.	Alluvial Miners.		Quartz Miners.		Total Miners.	Quantity of Gold.			Price of Gold per oz.		Value of Gold won.	Alluvial ground worked	Quartz-reefs proved to be auriferous.	Value of Machinery
	Europeans.	Chinese.	Europeans.	Chinese.		Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.	From	To.				
Poel and Uralla.....	No. 340	No. 140	No. 256	No. 1	No. 737	oz dwt gr. 4,161 17 9	oz dwt gr. 2,328 7 12	oz dwt gr. 6,490 4 21	s. 63/-	s. 72/-	£ s d 23,804 17 4	Sq miles 46	37	£ 9,400
Mudgee.....	396	91	63	..	550	4,165 0 0	2,237 2 5	6,402 2 5	70/-	79/-	24,216 6 11	4	2	7,550
Bathurst.....	117	59	304	..	480	2,622 15 0	13,534 4 20	16,156 19 20	62/-	80/-	55,776 10 9	52	48	43,642
Lachlan.....	607	37	451	..	1,095	6,761 9 8	9,354 12 0	16,616 1 3	65/-	82/-	63,172 3 10	174	78	38,210
Tumut and Adelong.....	294	38	324	..	656	8,731 3 10	3,562 14 0	12,293 17 10	67/8	80/-	46,921 0 4	61	32	75,800
Southern.....	600	279	142	..	1,021	8,410 4 11	2,920 15 0	11,230 19 11	65/-	80/6	42,137 7 8	53	61	30,005
Clarence and Richmond.....	12	..	20	..	32	10 0 0	978 9 8	983 9 8	69/6	72/6	3,621 18 1	....	47	6,600
New England.....	90	11	31	..	132	821 4 0	313 13 0	1,134 17 0	68/-	75/-	3,076 1 3	310	71	2,030
Tambaroora and Turon.....	271	207	230	..	708	4,046 12 13	4,427 12 0	9,374 4 13	72/-	75/-	35,607 10 9	60	100	90,350
Albert.....	403	17	10	..	430	1,082 0 0	30 0 0	1,712 0 0	70/-	79/-	6,743 18 0	100	4	8,890
Hunter and Macleay.....	..	..	70	..	70	.....	1,017 5 2	1,017 5 2	67/-	74/-	3,498 17 6	....	...	4,330
	3,130	879	1,901	1	5,911	42,312 6 3	41,294 14 23	83,517 1 2	62/-	82/-	309,330 12 5	860	520	330,007

TABLE showing approximately the number of Miners employed in mining for minerals other than Gold, Coal, or Shale, at some of the principal mines, the quantity of minerals won during the year 1885, and the value of same, and the value of Plant.

Locality.	Miners employed.	Quantities.					Value.		Value of machinery.		Remarks.
		Copper.	Tin.	Iron.	Silver.	Silver lead.					
		Tons.	Tons. cwt. qr. lb.	Tons. cwt. qr. lb.	Tons.	Tons.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	Smelted.
Cobar	850	3,939	.....	.....	.....	.....	186,750	0 0	100,000	0 0	
Burrage	150	440	.....	.....	.....	.....	22,500	0 0	5,000	0 0	„
	1,000	4,379					209,250	0 0	105,000	0 0	
Glen Innes	80	.....	160 0 0 0	.....	.....	.....	8,480	0 0	.....	
Emmaville	1,078	.....	2,505 5 2 26	.....	.....	.....	140,296	1 0	.....	
Wilson's Downfall	300	.....	311 0 0 0	.....	.....	.....	15,550	0 0	250	0 0	
Bendemeer	37	.....	5 0 0 0	.....	.....	.....	287	0 0	3,000	0 0	
Tingha	1,900	.....	1,834 0 0 0	.....	.....	.....	88,032	0 0	5,047	0 0	
	3,395	.....	4,815 5 2 26				252,645	1 0	8,297	0 0	
Lithgow	180	.....		4,175 15 3 19	.....	.....	25,792	19 9	.....	
Mitchell	590	.....			20-9	.....	164,200	0 0	47,000	0 0	
Silverton	339	.....				11,443	179,081	0 0	21,125	0 0	

TABLE showing approximately the Machinery employed in Gold and Tin Mining during the year 1885.

District and Division.	Quartz.						Alluvial.									
	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Crushing, &c.						Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, &c.									
	No.	Aggregate horse-power.	Crushing-machines.	Stamp-heads.	Whims and pulleys.	Water-wheels.	No.	Aggregate horse-power.	Puddling-machines.	Whips.	Quicksilver in compound cradles.	Sluices and toms.	Water-wheels.	Hydraulic-hoses.	Pumps.	Sluice-boxes.
BATHURST DISTRICT—																
Mount McDonald Division.....	3	95	3													
Trunkley.....	4	35	4 15	2			1									
Mitchell.....	2	20	2 10													
Tucna.....	4	22		2												
Oberon.....	1	12	1 10													
Rockley.....	1	8	1													
TAMBAROORA AND TURON DISTRICT—																
Sofala Division.....	3	60	3 35									5				
Hill End.....	2	20														
Ironbarks.....	1	12	1				3	134	3							
Wellington.....	2	58	2 35				2									
LACHLAN DISTRICT—																
Grenfell Division.....	2	16					2		2							
Barmedman.....	3	25														
Parkes.....	4	63	35													
Murrumburrah Division.....	4	28	4													
Junee.....	1	12	10													
Canowindra.....	2	35	2 20						1							

Gold and Tin Mining Machinery—continued.

District and Division.	Quartz.							Alluvial.															
	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Crushing, &c.		Crushing-machines.	Stamp-heads.	Whims and pulleys.	Water-wheels.	Derricks.	Whips.	Steam-engines employed in Winding, Pumping, &c.		Puddling-machines.	Whims and pulleys.	Whips.	Quicksilver in compound cradles.	Sluices and toms.	Water-wheels.	Hydraulic-hoses.	Pumps.	Sluice-boxes.	Derricks.	Stamp-heads.	Boring-machines.	
	No.	Aggregate horse-power.							No.	Aggregate horse-power.													
SOUTHERN DISTRICT—																							
Major's Creek Division	4	40	4	15	1			1	5	5	5												
Little River	2	16	2	10													6						
Araluen	2	12	2	10					7								9	1	17	20			
Eurobodalla	1	6																					
Nowra	4	70	4	40																			
Moruya	1	16	1	10																			
Wagonga	3	37	3	26																			
TUMUT AND ADELONG DISTRICT—																							
Gundagai Division	4	48		40																			
Adelong	6	145		35	3			3	74							3		2					
Yarrara								2	20		2											21	
Albury	1	8	1	4				1	25		2												
Nimitybelle Division	1	8	1																				
PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—																							
Nundle Division	4	40		31	3			1	10		1											4	
Bingera	1			1				1	10														
Barraba	2	20		2	16																		
Scone	2	15		2	15																		
Bendemeer	3	38																					
Tingha								3			4							1				5	
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT—																							
Dalmorton Division	2	8		2	22																		
Solferino	1			5																			
Boorook	3	34		3	20																		
Tenterfield	1	6																					
Wilson's Downfall Division								1	8														
HUNTER AND MACLEAY DISTRICT—																							
Dungog Division								2	25													15	
CLARENCE AND RICHMOND DISTRICT—																							
Nana Creek Division	2	30		2	30																		
MUDGEES DISTRICT—																							
Mudgee Division	1	14		1	10																		
Tomingley	3	32		3	40																		
Hargraves	3	18		3														2					
ALBERT DISTRICT—																							
Mount Browne Division	1	18		1	12						13												

Department of Mines,
Sydney, 3rd May, 1886.

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary for Mines.

WARDENS' AND MINING REGISTRARS' REPORTS.

BATHURST DISTRICT—TRUNKY, TUENA, BURRAGA, ROCKLEY, MOUNT M'DONALD, BATHURST, OBERON,
AND MITCHELL DIVISIONS.

(*Mr. Warden T. A. Smith, P.M., Trunkey.*)

I AM glad to be able to report, for your information, that, notwithstanding the dryness of the past year, a very large quantity of gold, silver, and copper has been won by this district. Unfortunately there has been no alluvial mining worth mentioning. Although the rainfall was, up to 1st instant, $24\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the creeks and rivers never flowed for more than a few days at a time, consequently sluicing has been impossible.

Quartz-mining has also been neglected. Early in the year many of the miners rushed from the quartz districts to Silvertown and Sunny Corner. I do not think they benefited by the change.

During the year a very large area of silver-bearing country has been opened. There can be no doubt but that a belt of silver country extends from Parr's Range, near the Turon, by Sunny Corner, Tarana, Wiseman's Creek, Essington, and continues south towards Peelwood. At Back Creek, near Rockley, very rich silver ore has been found; the ore is also rich in gold. This find is quite distinct from the line referred to above.

I am of opinion that the lodes known as Hyde's and M'Guire's are equal to any in the district, and I cannot conceive any reason why these properties have not attracted the notice of experts and men of capital. These properties are near Peelwood, and about 40 miles from Newbridge railway station, Western line. The roads are excellent from Newbridge to the mines via Trunkey and Tuena. Carriage probably would not exceed 40s. a ton each way. Shafts are sunk in each of these properties, which are $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles apart, to a depth of 100 feet. The lodes are upwards of 13 feet thick at the bottom, and are A shaped. The walls are clean, and have every appearance of being permanent. The assays of small lots ($1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.) have given returns equal to any other mines in the division.

Some years ago a large area of land was taken up at Wiseman's Creek, between Brewonglo and Rockley, for copper-mining. Some leases, known locally as North Wiseman's, were worked, but the venture was not remunerative. Some persons sent for assay samples taken from the heaps of refuse about the shafts, and got good returns for silver. This caused fresh excitement. A large number of leases were applied for, and good prospects obtained along the line as far south as the old Essington copper-mine. A village was quickly formed at the junction of Wiseman's Creek. I hope that when the next report is written furnaces will be working profitably at these mines.

I will now give you particulars in detail of the most prosperous mining in the division.

Sunny Corner, or, as it is called by the postal department, Mitchell, is about 16 miles from the Rydal railway station, Western line, and 8 miles from Piper's Flat, on the Mudgee line, but all traffic is between Mitchell and Rydal. There are thirteen mining Companies on this field, the first in importance being the Sunny Corner Silver-mining Company. The area of land held by this Company is 205 acres, leased from the Crown. This was the first Company to erect furnaces to treat silver ores in the Colony, and have expended £40,000 on furnaces and appliances to enable them to treat the ores locally. About 512 men are employed. The total yield of silver during the year has been 20 tons 8 cwt. 0 qr. 24 lb., of an estimated value of £160,000. The shares in this Company are 20s., and 12s. 6d. has been returned in dividends. The Silver King is the next Company of importance. It is to the south of the Sunny Corner mine, and adjoining. Its area is 80 acres, leased from the Crown. Sixty-five men are employed on this property, and 15,000 tons of ore have been raised ready for treatment. Two furnaces are in course of erection. In fact, one has made a start, and run out 500 lb. of silver. The furnaces, when completed, will cost about £6,000, and the dams fully £1,000 more. I have no doubt this Company will, during 1886, send away silver by the ton, as the Sunny Corner Company has done.

The Silver Queen Company has an area of 80 acres, 40 being leased from the Crown, and employs sixty-eight men. The 40 acres of freehold is being cleared and surveyed for sale as a village site.

The Nevada, being a Company formed to work two 20-acre leases of Crown Lands, machinery was erected to the value of £5,000, but when smelting began it was found that the ore contained large percentage of refractory metals, and the whole thing nearly collapsed. The mine is, however, being worked again, and I hope the difficulty has been overcome.

The Great Western Company holds an area of 60 acres under lease, and employs twelve men prospecting.

The Mitchell has 140 acres under lease. Upon this property is erected a public smelter, the cost being about £2,000, Mr. Ickee being the owner. This furnace works well as long as the bricks last, but unfortunately the Colonial-made bricks will not bear the great heat, and are worn out in forty-eight hours. Forty men are employed on this property.

There are nine other Companies, viz.—

- Honest John, employing four men.
- General Gordon, six men; area 60 acres.
- Silver Star, four men; area 40 acres.
- Cornstalk, four men; area 40 acres.
- Silver Hill, six men; area 60 acres.
- Ton Kin, eleven men; area 20 acres.
- Central, six men; area 20 acres.
- Garland's, four men; area 20 acres.
- Bulldog, six men; area 60 acres.

Upon these properties a great deal of prospecting has been done, and prospects are reported fair.

Two hundred and twenty-two applications have been lodged for mineral leases during the last year, the area being 8,247 acres. A large proportion of these applications are for land at Parr's Range, 9 miles

miles north-west of Mitchell. Fortunately, if silver ore is found, there is plenty of limestone of excellent quality near at hand. It is from Purley's quarry in this neighbourhood that the Sunny Corner Company gets the limestone it uses.

Eighteen gold-lease applications have also been lodged at Mitchell during 1885 for an area of 120 acres.

Shepherd & Hurley and Murray & Co have done a great deal of work. Cook & Co. were satisfied with their prospects, and erected a small battery. The trial crushing of 400 tons of stone gave 292 oz. gold. Among the gullies and hills a great many have been prospecting and fossicking, but only 800 oz. of gold have been sold locally.

The population of the field is about 3,500 persons.

The village has among its buildings a public school, two churches, a hospital, post and telegraph office, two banks, and police quarters, usually called the court-house. Coaches run regularly to and from Rydal, also to and from Bathurst. The only drawback to the place seems to me to be the want of pure water for domestic purposes.

The extract herewith, taken from the *Tribune*, gives more particulars than I can. Please use it:—

SUNNY CORNER SILVER MINES—The Silver King Smelting Furnaces.

(From our Special Reporter.)

The two smelting furnaces on the Silver King mine, one of which was started on Wednesday last, and has since worked faultlessly, were built by Hudson Bros., Limited, and erected by Messrs. Gafford and Hogue, the patentees. Their capacity is from 20 to 25 tons per day each, and they are known as water-jacket smelters. The water-jacket principle has in them a new, or rather an extended, application. The term water-jacket is applied to outer and inner sheets of iron, around which cold water circulates for the purpose of keeping the plates of the furnace cool, thereby preventing injury by the tremendous heat necessary for melting the ore. It is customary to have these water-jackets only carried to a height of 4 ft. 6 in. from the bottom of the furnace, and above that height the furnace is usually encircled with brickwork. In the new smelters the jackets are continued right up to the feeding-hole, and it is claimed that by the adoption of this principle a furnace can be kept continuously at work for three years. It is a noticeable fact that the Sunny Corner smelters have to be shut down at intervals to have the brickwork renewed. The public smelter recently erected at Sunny Corner, because of the extended application of brickwork without water-jackets at all, may be described as a partial success. I was informed that this furnace had never had a longer run than five days without relining the interior with bricks, and I was given to understand that the average run was not more than three days. The explanation is very simple: a heat that is sufficient to melt the ore is also sufficient to consume the bricks; in fact the ironstone in the ore feeds on the silica in the bricks. Various kinds of bricks have been tried, but none so far used have stood the fierce heat of the furnace capable of putting through an unusually large quantity of ore in twenty-four hours. Hence every few days the furnace has to be shut down to be rebricked, and thus it is that the public smelter has not yet put through the 500 tons of ore which the owners purchased from the Sunny Corner mine to commence operations. I believe the extended water-jacket principle has been extensively used for copper-smelting in the United States, but never, to the knowledge of Messrs. Gafford and Hogue, applied to the smelting of silver ores. In nearly all respects the smelters resemble in the process of treatment of the ore those erected by the Sunny Corner Company. The new smelters are, however, a vast improvement in respect to the discharge of fumes. These are diminished very effectually by the application of live steam in the funnel. This deadens the fumes and drives a great deal of the lead and arsenic contained in them back into the furnace. The value of this invention is immeasurable. The Sunny Corner Company, in a praiseworthy effort to carry the fumes off a great distance, and to extract the bullion in their transit, expended about £3,000 in the construction of nearly half a mile of immense fluming; yet the anticipated success has not been attained. Either the fluming—big as it is—or the chimney at the terminus, is of insufficient capacity to carry away these poisonous fumes. That they are deadly poisonous I have abundant evidence. Much of the ore contains 2 per cent. of arsenic, and 100 tons of ore smelted a day means the distribution of 2 tons of pure arsenic. Arsenical fumes are bad, but lead poisoning is infinitely worse. In smelting large quantities of lead are used, much of which goes away in fumes, killing all the vegetation in the vicinity of their distribution, and, I have reason to believe, seriously affecting the health of those brought into close contact with the poisonous matter. The public smelter is the worst in this respect, and the sight of a man feeding the furnace with his mouth covered made me suspect that it was only a matter of time when such work would kill the strongest man alive, and that it was also only a matter of time when these furnaces would, in the interests of public health, have to receive the attention of the Government.

The water used by the Silver King smelters is forced from a dam about a mile distant, and delivered into a reservoir capable of holding some 20,000 gallons, from which it gravitates into the furnace jackets. When it has reached a certain degree of heat, it is discharged into three large wooden tanks, and is thence pumped back into the large body of cold water in the reservoir, and, excepting that lost by evaporation, is used again and again. There is fully three months' supply in the dam.

The composition of the ore so varies that samples are constantly being taken for analysis preparatory to fluxing, the most refractory substance in the ore being alumina. The flux is almost exactly the same as used in the Sunny Corner smelters, as the ore is from the same lode. It consists of various proportions of lead, limestone, coke, and slag to each barrow of ore.

The contract accepted by the patentees was for the erection of two of these smelters, with all the necessary driving, pumping, blowing, and refining machinery, and other accessories, for £5,800, and to run all the works for thirty days after starting. Besides the two smelters, they have erected an engine, 14-horse nominal, by Tangye Brothers, of Birmingham; two 25-horse power boilers, made by Hudson Brothers, Limited; a powerful blower, by Baker, of America; a Tangye pump, capable of raising 5,000 gallons an hour; stone-breakers, refining laboratory, and other necessary smaller appliances.

After running the furnaces one month they will be handed over to Mr. Anderson, a smelter of American experience, and more recently engaged at the Sunny Corner works. The refinery is under the charge of Mr. R. Mynott, who has been for some fifteen years engaged as a silver refiner in the most famous silver-mines of America. In an interesting interview with that gentleman on silver-mines of America, I learned for the first time that it was not an infrequent occurrence for the refineries on the Comstock and other fabulously rich mines to be closed down because there was no Newcastle (N.S.W.) coal available. It was prized so much above any other coal that it was the practice to await its arrival rather than use any other. He is an enthusiast in his work, and thinks New South Wales the richest country in the world in minerals. Mr. G. H. Cossins, the recently appointed assayer of the Company, brings for application many years' experience gained at silver, copper, and gold mines in England, South Australia, and Victoria.

The wonderfully successful working of one of the smelters has already been described, and now the result of the treatment of the bullion in the refining department after they are enriched up to 600 oz. to the ton by the furnaces, is alone awaited.

Tuena.—Only about 110 men are just now working here, and with the exception of two parties, M'Guire and Unsworth, are seeking for gold. M'Pherson's venture, erecting a battery at Scrubby Rush, was not remunerative; there were too many interested parties. The Company soon collapsed, but close by this property another Company has been formed with a fair capital. I hope it may pull through. At Bombah, which is north, but across the Abercrombie River, from Scrubby Rush, good alluvial has been worked, but the deposit is of limited extent. Only 512 oz. of gold have been sold locally. This represents not more than one-third of what has been obtained. Thirty-three mining-lease applications for 870 acres have been lodged at Tuena this year; also applications for twenty-one gold leases, area 110 acres. Value of machinery on the field, £2,300.

Burrage.—This mine has been kept working all the year. Although the price of copper is so low, 150 men are employed. The value of the furnaces, &c., here is £6,000. The value of the copper sold during 1885 was £22,500.

Oboron.—

Oberon.—This field was apparently dead for several years, but during the past year a party of working men left Burrage to prospect the old reefs, and found what they considered payable stone. They erected a small battery, and have had a trial crushing that returned them £350. These men are quite satisfied. At Oberon 753 acres of Crown lands have been applied for as mineral leases, also 25 acres as gold leases.

Rockley.—Applications have been lodged at this office for ninety-six mineral leases, representing 3,518 acres of land, and one gold lease of $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres. I firmly believe that during 1886 furnaces will be erected in several localities in this district for treating silver ores, and that good returns will follow, more particularly at Back Creek.

Bathurst.—Only three gold lease applications have been lodged at this office, being for 22 acres of land, near the old Napoleon Reef, at Glanmire. 14 mineral lease applications have been lodged during same period for 300 acres at Yetholme. About 159 men are working as miners.

Mount M'Donald.—A great falling off has taken place upon this field, both in the number of men working and the return of gold. Only 100 men are now regularly at work. The return of gold obtained has been about 4,000 oz., but of this quantity fully one-fourth has been got by recrushing the tailings. Only 33 oz. of alluvial gold was got during the year. The principal returns are as under:—

	No. of tons.	oz.	dwt.	gr.
Grant's	190	396	19	4
Butcher's	143	452	16	8
M'Court's	109	147	9	16
Eureka	709	693	8	1
Adclong	58	127	1	23
Balmoral	88	243	13	4
Jonathan	96	236	11	14
Woman's	98	204	11	13
From sand .....	.....	1,014	6	14

Nine applications for gold leases were lodged for the year; 101 miners' rights issued; also twenty business licenses. The population of the village is 500 persons. The value of the machinery on the field is £12,000.

Trunkey.—For the want of water everything has been at a standstill. The Bathurst Company's lease has been retaken, and is being worked.

Wilson's property at Pine Ridge has given two or three good crushings, but the country has slipped, and fully 5,000 tons of dirt has fallen into the mine, almost destroying the property. Several leases have been applied for both for gold and other minerals. The value of the machinery on the field is £10,000.

Recapitulation.

Value of Silver from Sunny Corner	£150,000
" Gold	3,000
" " Tuena	2,000
" Copper " Burrage	22,500
" Gold " Bathurst	4,000
" " " Mount M'Donald	15,000
" " " Trunkey	2,932
.....	£199,432
Total men employed Sunny Corner	768
" Tuena	111
" Burrage	150
" Oberon	33
" Rockley	97
" Bathurst	159
" Mount M'Donald	101
" Trunkey	136
.....	1,555
Mineral Leases applied for	390
Gold	60
.....	450
.....	13,693
.....	296
.....	13,989

N.B.—The value of the gold given in this paper is below the quantity won. When I could not get actual returns, I refused to take sums guessed at.

BATHURST DISTRICT—ORANGE DIVISION.

(Mr. Warden J. T. Lane, P.M., Orange.)

ALTHOUGH the expectations of a year ago have not been realized, the circumstances surrounding our gold-fields are by no means discouraging. The perseverance manifested by the "stickers" in the different localities is an evidence of a hope we trust will some day be fully realized. This circumstance is fraught with importance, seeing there must be a something to warrant the confidence thus evinced.

The parent gold-field in the Australias—Ophir—continues to attract interest. The Bluff Amalgamated Gold-mining Company is proceeding with operations which must result in developing that spot upon which so many have been speculating for years past—The Bluff. In sinking the different shafts good gold has been procured. They are down 80 feet, and expect to meet the tunnel in about 250 feet. The distance from No. 2 to No. 3 shaft is about 100 feet. About 200 yards from the above workings the Company have sunk and logged a shaft 60 feet deep, and have some 4 feet of quartz ready for stoping, which will average 9 dwt. to the ton. The engine and battery are in good order. On the whole the prospects are encouraging. The crushing, which is soon to take place, is looked forward to with considerable interest.

There are two men working at the Belmore—now Lady Mary—with prospects of success. They have a large quantity of stone to grass which is thought will well pay to put through a battery.

The Little Belmore (Mr. Spencer's) has struck a vein, and taken out some nice specimens.

At Lucas' Gully tenders are invited for putting in a tunnel 200 feet. This is considered a promising claim.

The alluvial miners are making a living, but we hear of no startling finds.

Lucknow continues its even course towards that position which it is destined some day to reach, under the able and indefatigable management of Mr. Newman. The "bonanzas" continue to be blown out of their long resting places, and the ores which are sent home yield a satisfactory return. I will not go into figures, as reports of the operations appear in the papers from time to time. The discovery *re* the cost of treating these ores in Germany will be a great consideration.

The Frederick Valley Gold-mining Company has nearly completed the erection of the machinery. The diamond-drill is down some 240 feet in pure serpentine, and they hope to go 800 feet ere they stop.

The Great Extended and other claims at the Forest reefs continue operations with varied degrees of success. The Old Lumpy lead shaft is down some 200 feet, and they are procuring payable gold amongst fossil nuts, leaves, woods, &c., &c. On the whole the prospects are not without encouraging features.

There is nothing that I know of being done in the mining world in other directions in my division of the district.

BATHURST DISTRICT—CARCOAR DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden Connelly, P.M., Carcoar.*)

I HAVE the honor to forward my annual report of the Carcoar Division of the Bathurst Mining District.

The yield of gold for the past two years, as shown by the escort returns, was—

							oz.	dwt.	gr.
1884	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,040	3	14
1885	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,073	6	3
							2,966 17 11		

Showing a decrease of 2,966 oz. 17 dwt. 11 gr. on the returns of the previous year, which I attribute mainly to the want of water for mining purposes, and the absence of any fresh enterprise in mining pursuits.

The low price of copper deters capitalists from working the numerous rich lodes of that metal known to exist in this locality, and there seems at present no prospect of an early revival.

A rumour during the past year that silver had been discovered in the Black Hill ranges, about 3 miles south of the Galley Swamp gold-field, has not been confirmed, although it seems not improbable, from the geological formation of the country, that at no distant date important mineral discoveries will be made in that locality.

BATHURST DISTRICT—BATHURST DIVISION.

(*H. H. Hutchinson, Mining Registrar.*)

I BEG to forward my annual report for the Bathurst portion of the Bathurst Mining District for the year 1885.

At Green Swamp several shafts have been sunk on lodes showing indications of silver, but the results have not given sufficient inducement for investing any quantity of capital, and at present there is little, if anything, doing there.

At Blackman's Swamp, near Limekilns, Sinclair and party are working on a rich gold leader, which, though small (from 1 inch to 6 inches), has given some high returns, the last crushing of 5 tons yielding 51 oz. Several other parties are preparing to work leases in this vicinity.

Prospecting continues on Winburndale Creek; and at old Fontana and Napoleon reefs a few miners are at work.

During the year I have received fourteen applications for mineral, and four applications for gold leases, and have issued 160 miners' rights, thirty-nine mineral licenses, and eighty-nine business licenses, the issue of so many of the latter being occasioned by the rush that set in during September to Wiseman's Creek, situated within the Rockley division of the Bathurst mining district.

BATHURST DISTRICT—CARCOAR DIVISION.

(*W. B. Warner, Mining Registrar.*)

THE year now closed has been an uneventful one in this district. No new finds of any importance have been reported, and some of the old mines show signs of exhaustion, notably that of Brown's Creek, which for many years has occupied the premier position among the mines of the district. About 1,500 oz. of gold was obtained in 1885 from this mine, but owing to the smallness of the yield per ton, the amount of labour required, the cost of fuel, &c., the proprietors have for some years received very little benefit from the working of the mine, the labouring men, of whom about seventy are in constant employment, having the lion's share of the produce. The Company are now threatened with an action in the Supreme Court by a neighbouring landowner for injury to his land, and it is generally believed that the mine will be closed, and the plant removed to a distant mine. This will be a serious loss to the locality, not only to the labouring classes, but to the farmers, shopkeepers, and carriers.

The Church and School Estate in this division is still practically closed to the miner. Only those leases taken up before the passing of the new Act, some years since, are working, as no new ground can be leased, no matter how rich the appearances are. For a long time past all our candidates for parliamentary honors make hustings promises that they will do their best to have all Church and School Lands put on the same footing as Crown Lands, so far as the miner is concerned. Nothing, however, has hitherto come of these promises; and, although I frequently receive inquiries from persons anxious to mine on the estate, I can only refer them to the officer in charge, and there the matter ends. The general opinion here is that if the Church and School Lands were thrown open to the miner a large increase of population and wealth would be the result to Carcoar.

At the present time the Gally Swamp gold field is the most constant and payable in my division. There are two small crushing plants which work occasionally, and every now and then nice cakes of gold brought into the local banks prove that both they and the mines are working profitably.

There

There has been a considerable falling off in the quantity of gold raised in any division during the year, as shown in the following table, compiled from the escort returns:—

						oz.	dwt.	gr.
1882	...	...	...	...	...	6,599	4	2
1883	...	...	...	...	...	9,817	16	12
1884	...	...	...	...	...	12,040	3	14
1885	...	...	...	...	...	9,073	6	3

The year thus shows a decreased yield of about 3,000 oz., compared with 1884. This may be accounted for in several ways. The dry weather, which for so great a portion of the year prevented sluicing and crushing operations, had much to do with it. Another reason may be found in the fact that a good many miners left their usual work to labour as navvies on the new railway now in progress from Blayney via Carcoar to Cowra, but the principal reason is, I believe, to be found in the fact that no new mines are working to take the place of those that year by year become exhausted on the Church and School Estate.

Considerable interest was felt in this district at the result of an action lately heard in the Supreme Court, viz., that of Lomax v. Jarvis. Defendant is the owner of several water-rights, which run from Flyer's Creek to some alluvial claims of his which are worked by sluicing, after which the water is again turned into the creek. Plaintiff, who has an extensive grazing estate lower down the creek, sued the defendant for destroying the water, and rendering it unfit for the use of his family and stock, and won his case, thus establishing a legal precedence of vast importance to all persons engaged in mining operations throughout the Colony.

In copper practically nothing is doing, the late low prices offering no inducement either to work old mines or to prospect for new ones.

During the year I sold ninety-two miners' rights and nine mineral licences.

BATHURST DISTRICT—TRUNKY DIVISION.

(*W. T. Lee, Mining Registrar.*)

I NOTE with much pleasure the increased yield of gold this year, being over 400 ounces in excess of 1884. The New Bathurst Gold-mining Company's, Limited, works are progressing in a very satisfactory manner. The shaft is to be sunk vertically to a depth of 550 feet, of which they are now down about 52 feet. This property, formerly known as Wilson's Reef, is likely to prove very valuable, as in the old workings at 500 feet, when the water took possession, the stone was constantly improving. Unfortunately, adequate provision had not been made to overpower the inrush of water, which caused stoppage of works.

Since the erection of steam power at Pine Ridge things have very materially improved there. The rainfall (for which I am indebted to J. Ryan, Esq., licensed surveyor) was 24.62, nearly the same as 1884, but quite insufficient to start sluicing-works. During the last six months a good many mines have been working at Pharo's Point, on northern bank of the Abercrombie River, some obtaining nice gold. The works at Trap Rock Hill referred to in my last were not a success. The miners have left the district. Silver occupies a large share of attention, and on the Tuena side likely to be a great success.

During the year I have issued 104 miners' rights, twenty-six business licenses, and six mineral licences.

BATHURST DISTRICT—TUENA DIVISION.

(*M. Jones, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to report ancient mining in this division of the Bathurst mining district for the year 1885 that I have received thirty-three mineral lease applications for an area of 830 acres, and twenty-one gold lease applications for an area of 143 acres. A great rush has taken place this year for silver, nearly all the mineral lease applications being for silver, but up to this date very little work has been done on any of the land taken up; and the same may be said of the gold leases, very little as yet having been done towards proving the value of any of the reefs. And in alluvial gold-mining 1885 has been the worst year for a long period, there not having been any water through the whole year for sluicing purposes, this causing the yield of gold to be very small. I have sold 111 miners' rights, eighteen mineral licenses, and seven business licenses for the year.

BATHURST DISTRICT—COWRA DIVISION.

(*W. G. B. Smith, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith my returns for the past year. I regret to state that mining in my portion of the Bathurst division is almost at a standstill. The main reason for this is owing to the scarcity of water. The number of miners' rights issued during the year amounted to twenty-eight. Most of the holders of these have interests in leases.

BATHURST DISTRICT—ROCKLEY DIVISION.

(*T. C. Cromie, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to herewith enclose you my annual report for 1885, from which you will see that, with the exception of the silver rush at Wiseman's Creek, during the months of August and September last, mining in general has been dull.

During the year 1885 I have issued ninety-seven miners' rights, 100 business licenses, and thirty-four mineral licenses, a large increase on the previous year, owing to the excitement at Wiseman's Creek.

During 1885, ninety-eight applications were received here for mineral leases, representing 3,573 acres, and one gold-mining lease of 4½ acres. The mining revenue from all sources amounted to nearly £1,500.

Gold-mining is at a standstill, owing to the continued dry seasons.

Alluvial-mining is almost defunct, as, there being no water for sluicing purposes, plenty of payable ground in this division is now deserted. Cow Flat and South Apsley copper-mines are still idle, and until copper rises in price are likely to remain so. As a Warden's Clerk has been appointed for Burranga since April last, that copper-mine is no longer connected with Rockley. I have been unable to obtain any reliable information as to the yield of silver at Wiseman's Creek. In the South Wiseman's Creek Silver-mining Company a tunnel is now being driven into the hill, and preparations are being made to work the ground in a systematic manner. It is said that some of the silver ore obtained from this land has been very rich when analyzed.

The

The new mining township of Glenburn has been surveyed at Wiseman's Creek. One hotel has been erected there, in addition to one on private property. About 100 allotments have been occupied, and buildings erected there. James Russell, Esq., a well-known mining prospector, has informed me that he has raised over 12 tons of a new mineral in this Colony, at the old alluvial diggings, in Caloola Creek, called "Barytes," which he values at £43 2s. 9d. He seems most hopeful that it will be found in payable quantities about Caloola. I wish to add that the greater part of all the mineral leases was for silver, one for manganese, three for tin, and two for wolfram.

BATHURST DISTRICT—MITCHELL DIVISION.

(T. G. Wright, Mining Registrar.)

DURING the past year there has been a vast improvement at this place in the silver-mining industry. Seven furnaces have been erected on the Sunny Corner mine for treating silver ores, which have turned out a great success. Over 20 tons of silver has been taken from this mine during the past twelve months, with a percentage of gold, making the value five shillings per ounce. This Company alone has £40,000 worth of machinery on the mine. Some thousands of pounds have been expended in making roads and erecting dams for the use of the mine. The prospects of this mine are really good.

The Silver King has erected two furnaces, which ran for a short time with very satisfactory results, but had to stop, owing to the scarcity of water. There is about £7,000 worth of machinery on this mine. The percentage of gold is more in this mine than the Sunny Corner. The prospects of this mine are really good.

The Nevada Silver-mining Company have erected one furnace on their mine, and run for a short time, when it was found the ore could not be treated, and were obliged to stop. The stopping of this mine put a great lull on the place in general. One furnace was erected on the land belonging to the Great Mitchell Silver-mining Company, on a different principle to the other furnaces, at this place, which ran very well for a short time, but owing to the bricks not being of good quality, and would not stand the great heat, the furnace is now idle, the cost of which was about £2,000.

224 mineral leases were applied for during the past year, containing an area of 6,388 acres. Some fine gossan has been found on a great many of them, especially the Great Western and the Victoria, which are adjoining the Sunny Corner and Silver King mines. Also at Bulldog Range and Parr's Range, the latter being 10 miles in a north-western direction from Sunny Corner.

There were eighteen applications for gold-mining leases during the past year, containing an area of 120 acres. There is not a great deal being done with them, the best claim being Cook and party's, at Dark Corner. They have a reef 3 feet 6 inches wide, at a depth of 100 feet, and easily worked. There were 1,500 tons crushed from this reef, yielding over one 1,000 oz. of gold.

During the past year there were 518 miners' rights, 128 business licenses, and 112 mineral licenses issued at this office.

The population of this place is about 4,000, but the want of water is felt very much for domestic uses, the people depending wholly on the water caught from their houses.

BATHURST DISTRICT—MOUNT M'DONALD DIVISION.

(G. A. Gunning, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to submit my annual report for the year ending 31st December, 1885, and regret that the gross yield shows a loss of 1,905 oz. 14 dwt. 21 gr. as compared with that of 1884. The total yield for 1885 is 3,909 oz. 11 dwt. 8 gr., against 5,815 oz. 6 dwt. 5 gr. obtained during the previous year. The decrease may be accounted for by several of the claims that were producing good return in 1884 ceasing operations owing to hardness of ground.

There have been 1,642 tons of stone crushed for 2,861 oz. 7 dwt. 17 gr., giving an average of 1 oz. 14 dwt. per ton, which is a slight increase in the average per ton for last year.

The Selection and Balmoral batteries have been recrushing the tailings with very satisfactory results, 1,014 oz. 14 dwts. being obtained from this source, but I cannot obtain the quantity of sand recrushed.

33 oz. 17 dwt. 3 gr. of alluvial gold has been purchased by Messrs. Fox Bros., storekeepers, during the year. This gold is the result of sluicing in the bed of the Lachlan River.

I have issued 101 miners' rights and twenty business licenses and received nine gold lease applications during the year.

The following are the yields from some of the principal claims:—

	No. of Tons.	oz.	dwt.	gr.
Grant's.....	190	396	10	14
Butcher's.....	143	452	6	8
M'Court's.....	109	147	9	16
Eureka.....	709	893	8	1
Adelong.....	58	127	1	23
Balmoral Tribute.....	88	243	13	14
Jonathan.....	96	236	11	14
Woman's.....	98	204	11	13

It is a great pity a Company is not formed to test the field at a depth. Several good claims have stopped work at a depth of about 150 feet, ground being hard the cost of raising has proved too expensive for the means of the working miner. It is the opinion of experienced miners there must be good reefs to be met with at a depth.

BATHURST DISTRICT—BURRAGA DIVISION.

(J. A. Goddard, Mining Registrar.)

BURRAGA COPPER-MINE is not so flourishing as it was a couple of years back, owing to the low price of copper.

From information received, the mine is as rich, if not richer than ever it was. There are at the present time 150 men employed, one 12-horse power engine, four furnaces, and one refinery furnace. The furnaces are about a mile from the mine; a small tram-line is laid between, and horses are employed to truck the ore for smelting.

Within

Within a couple of miles of the copper-mine there is a lease taken up for silver. Particulars herewith, as ascertained—

Two lodes run through the ground underlaying towards each other.

No. 1 shaft, on western lode, underlay to the east, 90 feet sunk on underlay.

No. 2 shaft, on eastern lode, underlay west, 70 feet sunk on underlay.

No. 3 shaft, vertical, to drain the other shafts, 60 feet deep; no lode yet.

Bearings, north and south.

Assay of minerals—From 20 to 40 oz. of fine silver, from 7 to 30 per cent. of lead, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ dwt. of gold.

BATHURST DISTRICT—OBERON DIVISION.

(*J. O'Connor, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to forward you my annual report on mining matters in Oberon district, from which you will see that mining is improving. There has been erected within the last six months, at Blackman's Old Reef, near Oberon, a 12-horse power crushing machine, working ten stamper-heads, and has been working for the last two months, and crushed 140 tons of quartz, which yielded 90 ounces of gold. There are twenty-two men in this Company, and all are sanguine of its turning out good. They are now below the water-level, and the vein carries more gold as they go down. There are several other parties working about the same place, but have not had a crushing. 758 acres of land applied for at this office during the year under mineral leases to mine for silver, 25 acres for gold-mining leases, and 20 acres under the Mining Board Regulations. I anticipate a much larger yield from this field during 1886, as there are several claims with good stone in sight.

TAMBAROORA AND TURON DISTRICT—WELLINGTON AND IRONBARKS DIVISIONS.

(*Mr. Warden R. Hare, P.M., Wellington.*)

I HAVE the honor to forward you the annual report for the Ironbarks Division of the Tambaroora and Turon mining district for the year 1885. As I only entered on my duties as Warden on the 5th January, I have had to trust to others for the requisite information. In quartz-mining I can report little progress during the last twelve months, as most of the Ironbarks reefers have either been prospecting various reefs or otherwise sinking to catch the gold at greater depths, notably Messrs. Liddell, who have just struck a really good reef in one of the newly sunk shafts, at 90 feet deep. It is probable a revival in quartz-mining may take place. Many of the old reefs have been lately taken up by strong parties with a determination to test the value of each, as deep sinking has never been tried. At present it seems likely that some of them should succeed. Capital is certainly wanted, and as there is a prospect of its being introduced in this gold-field, the prospects of the coming year seem brighter than many preceding ones. Scott's machine of twelve head of stampers still remains, is in good order, and at present is sufficient for all purposes. In alluvial mining the amount of gold obtained is small, but the dry weather for the last three years has driven most of the alluvial miners to other parts, but with favourable seasons the Ironbarks would probably return twice the amount of gold now produced. There have been also two Companies at work at the Mookerawa Junction, on the Macquarie River, viz.:—The New Macquarie River Syndicate Gold-mining Company, which till now has been employed in cutting races and opening the mine, the prospects of which look very cheering. The plant consists of one locomotive boiler 100-horse power, and two large pumps capable of throwing 70,000 gallons per hour. At present ten hands are only employed. The other Company is at present at a standstill, but expect to start again shortly. This, named the Macquarie River Gold-mining Company, has a capital plant, and as gold is known to be in the claim in large quantities the prospects of the mine, notwithstanding drawbacks, are good. With regard to gold returns, it is almost impossible to get as correct an account as is desirable, as the banks in Wellington and Orange are continually purchasing from the Ironbarks miners; however, the returns from the stores at Ironbarks show the purchase of 1,134 oz. 2 dwt. 12 gr. for the past year. At Spring Creek, on the Macquarie River, a nugget of gold weighing 62 oz. was unearthed by a miner named James Bell, and sold to one of the banks in Orange. One or two other lots were also disposed of. The locality is supposed to be either or near the same place. Number of miners' rights issued, 158; of business licenses, 26; of gold leases applied for, 5.

TAMBAROORA AND TURON DISTRICT—HILL END DIVISION.

(*Hy. S. Hawkins, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of the Honorable Minister of Mines, the following report on mining matters in connection with Hill End Division of Tambaroora and Turon gold-fields for the year 1885:—

I regret that I have no fresh discoveries to mention for the last year. Not more than twelve claims have been in proper working. Alluvial digging has been at almost a standstill on account of the dryness of the season. Most of the alluvial digging is done by Chinese.

Quartz.—Carver and party, on the Scandinavian Hill, had to knock off work on account of water.

Schobert and party, adjoining, are similarly situated.

Myers and Northy, at Specimen Gully, still raising stone, but the yield has not come up to expectations.

A number of crushings have been made from other claims during the year, none of which are worthy of note.

Hawkins Hill Gold-mining Company is now under management of Mr. J. W. Marshall. A new line of reef was tried about November, the stone being fair. Most of the claims have been on tribute for the last six months, none of which turned out anything rich. The Company is in possession of good machinery at Tambaroora.

Hancock and party, at Dirt Holes, had a good crushing at the beginning of the year, the stone giving 1 oz. and 5 dwt. to the ton. Through strength of water a Tangye pump had to be erected. The last crushing below water-level was not up to anticipations, 92 tons yielding 72 oz.

Christie and Crombie, on Independent Reef, are still raising passable stone.

Canton

Canton Tributors had a crushing of 65 tons, yielding 50 oz., which does not pay, they having the expense of a Tangye pump; gold is patchy.

Red Hill Gold-mining Company has been idle during the year, and is now under management of Mr. Charlton.

Escort of gold for the year is:—

	oz.	dwt.	gr.
Quartz	2,540	1	0
Alluvial	1,863	9	10
Total.....	3,903	10	10

Decrease on last year of 3,300 oz.

Gold-mining leases applied for	11
Extended claims	22
Water-races	21
Ordinary claims	13
Miners' rights	304
Business licenses	10
Mineral licenses	4

TAMBAROORA AND TURON DISTRICT—SOFALA DIVISION.

(M. Fagan, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to submit my report, as Mining Registrar of the Sofala Division of the Tambaroora and Turon Mining District, for the year 1885:—

Spring Creek (Tribute) Company, near Sofala.—Originally a party of thirteen men, afterwards reduced to eight men; have during the short time at work raised about 96 tons of quartz and 21 oz. of gold. The present depth of the shaft is 284 ft., and the deepest level 275 ft. Another party is formed to try the mine at a greater depth (twelve men in the party.) On the ground is a superior 25-h.p. engine, with powerful battery, pumps, and winding gear complete, valued at £2,000.

Wattle Flat.

Solitary Reef Gold-mining Company—(Tribute).—This party of seven men have during the past twelve months raised and crushed about 450 tons of quartz, averaging nearly 7 dwt. per ton. The shaft is sunk to a depth of 400 ft., and the principal working has been on the lower levels—the deepest 370 ft. They are now crushing a large quantity of stone. On the ground there is a powerful engine, with battery, and winding gear, and pumps, at intervals employed in crushing for the public.

Caledonian, Surface Hill.—This wide reef (average 6 ft.), formerly in the hands of the above Company, is now out of work. It is generally believed that with a steam plant on the ground, and a heavy battery of ten stampers in the hands of a party of working men, this reef would prove highly remunerative.

Old Surface Hill.—The small veins in this ground are worked by small scattered parties of two or three men, occasionally having a crushing of a few tons of quartz at Davidson's engine, near the locality; the greater part of the gold is obtained by hand washing and crushing.

Davidson's crushing plant of 12-h.p. engine, with four heads of stampers, engaged in crushing small lots of stone from Surface Hill, O.K., and Whelan's Hill, prospecting parties on the Black Creek, Wattle Flat, and valued at £1,000.

O.K. Line of Reefs.—The only ground being worked on this line is the Frenchman's lease, with a party of four men; been working two veins (about 4 in.) near the surface, averaging 2 oz. per ton, and now about to crush a quantity of stone from the previous workings, at a depth of about 100 ft. on the underlay.

Erskine Flat Gold-mining Company.—Extended claim of 10 acres on the immediate south bank of the Turon River, 1 mile distant from Sofala. Worked many years back; average depth of ground, (33) thirty-three feet; stripping off, 27 ft., leaving about 6 ft. of wash-dirt. Under the present Company the ground has been worked by horse power, but has been in abeyance for nearly six months, on account of the heavy influx of water; about to erect 8-h.p. steam-engine for pumping and box-slucing; will employ (12) twelve men day and night continuously; expect to be in full work in about two months; gold already won, 263 oz.

Box Ridge.—Cole and party of twelve men, owners of the Homeward Bound and Anthony Trollope veins of 2 and 5 acres respectively, have been working latterly on the Homeward Bound, at a depth of 160 feet, on a vein varying from 4 inches to a foot in width. They have raised and crushed about 250 tons, yielding from 5 dwt. to 1 oz. per ton, and bearing gold of a superior quality, realizing as high as £3 19s. 6d. per oz. The party at present are sinking a perpendicular shaft. On the ground is erected a 10-h.p. engine, driving two batteries of five heads each, with pumping and winding gear attached, and valued at £1,000, the same being rented at £1 per week.

Quart-pot Reef, Limekilns.—Several leases have been applied for upon this line of reef. On the 4th December last Sinclair and Co. had a trial crushing of 10 tons of quartz from this claim, which yielded 5 oz. 11 dwt. per ton.

At the Crudine, Palmer's Oakley, Wattle Flat, and Upper Turon there have been several parties of fossickers at work in the various old workings, from whom I have been unable to obtain any information as to the amount of gold won, but it is supposed that the greater number of them have made fair wages during the year. The dry season has prevented anything like a fair trial of sluicing work in this division during the year. The following results have been obtained from several small parcels of quartz raised from various reefs on Wattle Flat during the year:—

		oz.	dwt.	gr.	
Dunleavy and Company	140 tons of quartz	43	10	0	Surface to 80 feet
Ellis and Company	90 "	77	8	0	" 10 feet
Grice and Company	29 "	48	14	0	" 20 feet
Prince and Company	7 "	16	1	0	" 20 feet
Gillard and Company	4 "	2	2	0	" 4 feet
Longford and Company	16 "	6	19	0	" 18 feet
Total	386	194	14	0	

The following amount of gold from all sources has been transmitted from this division by Gold Escort and other means during the year 1885, viz. :—

	oz.	dwt.	gr.
For quarter ended 31st March	514	19	23
For quarter ended 30th June.....	601	5	10
For quarter ended 30th September	759	16	0
For quarter ended 31st December.....	456	8	1
Total by Gold Escort	2,332	9	10
By other means during the year	1,482	11	10
Total	3,815	0	20

Market value of same, £14,306 8s. 1½d.

Miners' rights issued during the year	421
Business licenses " "	19
Mineral licenses " "	31

Thirteen applications for gold-mining leases and twenty for mineral leases have been received by me during the year.

TAMBAROORA AND TURON DISTRICT—IRONBARKS DIVISION.

(*P. Healy, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to forward my annual report of the Ironbarks Division of Tambaroora and Turon Mining District for the year 1885.

In quartz-mining I can report little progress during the past twelve months, as most of our Ironbarks reefers have either been prospecting various reefs or otherwise sinking to catch the gold at greater depths, notably, Messrs. Liddell and Nicholson, who have just struck a really good reef, in one of the newly sunk shafts, at 90 feet deep. I would say a revival in quartz-mining seems to be about taking place. Many of the old reefs, viz., the Monks, the Beehive, the Poorman's, and the famed Perseverance, have been lately taken up by strong parties, with a determination to test the value of each. As deep sinking has never been tried, at present it seems more than likely that something should succeed. Certain it is we want capital, and as it seems about being introduced on this gold-field, I perhaps may say the prospects of this coming year seem brighter than many preceding it.

Scott's machine of twelve-head of stampers, driven by a 12-h.p. power engine, still remains; the owner has it now in capital order, and I would say it is at present sufficient for all purposes. In alluvial mining the amount of gold obtained from such a large and extensive field seems exceedingly small; but for the last three years the continued dry weather has driven most of the alluvial miners to other parts, and for the limited number of miners employed now in this industry I would say the Ironbarks will compare favourably with other gold-fields of the Colony, and would with favourable seasons return twice the amount of gold now produced. There have been also two Companies at work at the Mookerawa Junction, on the Macquarie River, viz., the New Macquarie River Syndicate Gold-mining Co., which till now has been employed in cutting races and opening the mine; hands are being put on, and prospects look very cheering. The plant consists of one locomotive boiler 100-h.p., and two large pumps capable of throwing 70,000 gallons per hour. At present ten hands are only employed; room will be made for many more should prospects remain as good as at present. The other Company is now at a standstill, but expect to start again in a short time. This, named the Macquarie River Gold-mining Company, has a capital plant, and as gold is known to be in the claim in large quantities, the prospects of the mine, notwithstanding the many drawbacks, are exceedingly good. There is also another extensive steam-power plant, that was introduced by J. H. Rowland, in the interests of a London Company. The machinery is peculiar and intricate, and deserving the attention of gold-miners. Great difficulties had to be overcome, as part of the machinery lost, in transit from the Cape, had to be sent for to England. The claim is at Martin's Flat, on the Macquarie River, and I believe everything connected with the machinery works smoothly. The Company waits another pump to commence work, when great things are expected. With regard to gold returns for the past year, it is almost impossible to get as correct an account as I could wish, as the banks in Wellington and Orange are continually purchasing from our miners. However, the returns from the stores at Ironbarks show the purchase of 1,134 oz. 2 dwt. 12 gr. for the past year. At Spring Creek, on the Macquarie River, near Burrendong, a nugget of gold weighing 62 oz. was unearthed by a miner named James Bell, and sold to one of the banks in Orange. One or two other lots were also disposed of; the locality known or rather supposed to be from about the same place. Number of miners' rights issued, 158; number of business licenses, 26; number of gold leases applied for, 5.

TAMBAROORA AND TURON DISTRICT—WELLINGTON DIVISION.

(*W. Carson, Mining Registrar.*)

HEREWITH I have the honor to forward my annual report upon the mining industry in the Wellington Division of the Tambaroora and Turon Mining District for the year 1885.

There has been a marked improvement in mining matter as compared with the preceding year, as will be seen by the accompanying returns. During the year the Belara copper-mine, at Goolma, has been at work, at which thirty men have been employed, the result being that 1,000 tons of ore have been raised; and on the Macquarie River two sluicing claims have been at work continuously. I regret, however, to state that the only quartz-crushing machines in my division (two in number) have been idle, but from what cause I am unable to ascertain. I did not hear of any new discoveries during the year. From inquiry made I find that the amount of gold won was 521 oz. 10 dwt. 19 gr. I may add that nineteen miners' rights and five mineral licenses were granted, and one mineral lease was applied for during the year.

MUDGEES DISTRICT—GULGONG DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden Snape, P.M., Gulgong.*)

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of the Honorable Minister for Mines, my report for the year 1885.

It

It will be observed with regret by those interested in the advancement of this portion of the Colony that the golden yield has fallen off considerably, contrasting with the published yields of last and previous years. The quantity of gold won from all parts of the Mudgee Mining District shows in the aggregate a diminution of the precious metal to the extent of 1,500 oz. The falling off in the yield presented here may be ascribed; in my opinion, to the drought of last year—indeed I may observe the droughts of the previous seven or eight years—affecting very seriously and to an alarming extent every producing interest—the mining, agricultural, and the pastoral. The result of this state of things is that several of our best and most intelligent miners have for the want of water been compelled to abandon for a time mining operations and follow other pursuits elsewhere. A general feeling of depression pervades this community at the present time, arising from the unexpected closing and winding up of some of the large mining properties. In the month of August last apparently everything in connection with mining was progressing in a satisfactory manner, when it was rumoured that some of the mine holders were unable to pay their men's wages. Legal proceedings were resorted to, which, unfortunately, terminated disastrously to some of the claim-holders. The mines—at least some of them—have passed into other hands. If they should succeed in striking any of the leads Gulgong may again become a stirring township. It is to be hoped that the fortunate proprietors of the Nil Desperandum and Britannia mines will succeed in their undertakings, then those requiring work will meet with ready and prompt employment at remunerative rates. The claims on the Black Lead are not progressing as satisfactorily as could be desired. Sweeney and party have not bottomed yet; they appear sanguine of success. In regard to the other claims, Hutton and Mato have not yet struck the reef they have been in search of for the last two years. Nothing daunted, they still persevere, and intend persevering in their arduous undertaking for an indefinite period. There are other claims at work, but nothing deserving of special note has occurred. The Nil Desperandum, late the White Horse claim, and now the property of Mr. Thompson, of Gulgong, who has, I have been given to understand, floated it into a Company, promises speedily to recoup the fortunate owners. It is without doubt a most valuable property. The engine is 30-h.p., with 16-inch cylinder, 4-foot stove and boiler. The whole of the mining plant, formerly the property of a Melbourne syndicate, is most complete in every respect. Twenty men are employed, on wages at the rate of 8s. 4d. a day. Depth of shaft, 200 feet, 10-inch lift of pump. 80 feet of solid rock had to be excavated before the wash was reached. Up to 17th December, 1885, the owners had expended £521. At the 200-foot level a main drive has been put in, which will extend probably some considerable distance. While this was being carried out a seam of preg or wash-dirt was cut, which is calculated will turn out several thousand loads of payable dirt, thus materially enhancing the value of the Nil Desperandum mine.

No. 2 Mayes and party, No. 2 Stott's Paddock.—This claim has since commencing operations been a paying one. The depth of the shaft is 136 feet; length of drive, 42 feet. Four men are employed on the ground. Average yield of gold per load, from 8 to 9 dwts. Only one shaft at work at present. 184 loads of wash-dirt has been raised, yielding 96 oz. and 16 dwt. This claim is situated in Stott's Paddock, at the Canadian.

Previous to bringing this report to a close I beg to state that the quantity of gold transmitted to Sydney by the Gulgong and Mudgee banks amounts as follows, viz:—Gulgong, 1,017 oz. 2 dwt. 4 gr.; Mudgee, 3,148 oz. 2 dwt. 13 gr.

The following miners' rights, business licenses, &c., have been issued during the year 1885:—

<i>Gulgong.</i>	
Miners' rights	292
Business licenses	18
Gold-mining leases	3
Mineral licenses	9
<i>Mudgee.</i>	
Miners' rights	150
Business licenses	10
Gold-mining leases	1
Mineral licenses	7
Mineral leases	6

MUDGEE DISTRICT—DUBBO DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden W. S. Caswell, P.M., Dubbo*)

I HAVE the honor to forward my second annual report for the Dubbo Division of the Mudgee Gold-mining District. It would be more proper perhaps to call it the fifth annual report, as Mr. Warden Browne had forwarded three reports previous to my taking charge of the district.

Nothing has occurred during the year to damp the most sanguine expectations as to the future development of the mining resources of this large district.

Although the coal Companies and owners of coal-measures have made little progress there are indications that coal-mining in earnest will be commenced at an early date, and I enclose herewith printed and written information of the prospects of some of these interests.

The copper mining Company have suspended operations at Girilambone on account of the low price of this metal in all the markets of the world.

Mining affairs have certainly improved at Tomingley gold-field, as shown by the returns. In 1883 the gold won from quartz reefs, for there are no alluvial workings, amounted, in round numbers, to about £7,000; in 1884 to the same amount; and in 1885, with the small number of fifty-five miners, the value won increased to about eight thousand pounds (£8,000). No doubt much of this success must be attributed to the splendid returns Moore, Mooney, and party (mentioned in my last annual report) obtained from their stone raised from No. 1 North Myall and spare ground—666 ounces of gold from 300 tons of stone.

The population of Tomingley, including Myall, which is only a name given by the miners to the extension of the reefs, remains steady—rather on the increase. It was estimated in 1883 to number 200; in 1884, 200; in 1885, 210; whilst the average attendance of children in attendance at the Public School has risen from 33 in 1884 to 43 in 1885. There are still two public-houses and two stores doing a fair amount of business. There is a butcher and a baker.

The

The water supply for mining purposes is ample at present, though I believe the machines ran short during the spring. The supply for domestic purposes is not what it should be, and travelling stock are much inconvenienced. The promised Government tank has not been constructed.

There are two crushing machines at Tomingley, though only one has worked during the year. The Star United crushed 1,166 tons of stone for 888 oz. of gold. There is a third machine at Myall, which has won 1,551 oz. from 1,050 tons of stone. The prospects of the miners may be judged from the returns of the different claims during the year 1885.

Tomingley Prospecting Claim.—Eight men's ground, with a width of reef of 4 feet, have crushed 68 tons of stone for 16 oz. 16 dwt. 6 gr.

No. 1 North.—Rix and party, four men's ground, with reef 4 feet wide, have crushed 58 tons for 23 oz. 11 dwt. 12 gr.

No. 2 North.—Six men's ground, have crushed 367 tons for 367 oz. 4 dwt., the reef being 3 feet wide.

No. 3 North.—Berry and party, four men's ground, 10-feet reef, have obtained, from 193 tons, 69 oz. 4 dwt.

Myall Prospectors Claim.—Eight men's ground, with a width of reef 2 feet; 129 tons of stone, 36 oz. 8 dwt. 12 gr. Golding and party.

No. 1 South.—Petersen and party, three men's ground, width of reef, 2 feet; 25 tons of stone, 4 oz. 6 dwt. 12 gr. of gold.

Spare Ground.—Quirk and party, four men; reef, 6 feet; obtained from 51 tons, 10 oz. 10 dwt.

No. 1 North and Spare Ground.—Moore, Mooney, and party, twelve men, 1,050 tons of stone, 1,551 oz. of gold, from reef 5 feet wide.

No. 2 North.—Ring and party, four men, 27 tons of stone, 19 oz. 19 dwt. 11 gr. of gold.

No. 2 Block Claim.—Four men, Horl and party, 185 tons, 77 oz. 17 dwt.

Sundry claims.—63 tons, 20 oz. 6 dwt.

It will of course be understood that the labour in the claims was intermittent, and that the crushing machines not fully employed.

I venture to assert that the reefs are thicker and the average of crushings are greater than any other place in New South Wales, and such as would in Victoria yield large returns to big Companies.

Mining Registrar Quinn, deceased, has been succeeded by Constable Farquharson, an intelligent, painstaking officer.

The return of miners' rights issued at Dubbo and Tomingley number 156—138 at Dubbo, and 18 at Tomingley. As there are only fifty-five men working at Tomingley, it is almost unaccountable what became of the men holding these rights. I am informed miners' rights are now used by persons moving about the country to prevent obstruction by runholders. Thirteen business licenses have been issued.

I enclose also table of machinery.

TABLE showing Crushing Machines employed in Dubbo Subdivision of Mudgee Gold-mining District for year 1885.

District Subdivision.	Steam-engines Employed.		Crushing Machines.	Stamp-heads.	Stone in Tons Crushed.	Yield.	Remarks.
	Name.	Horse-power.					
	Australian Star United	12	1	10	1,160	oz. dwt. gr 888 2 5	To value of about £8,000.
	Tomingley Quartz Crushing Co.....	20	1	10	Nil.	.....
	Myall.....	25	1	20	1,050	1,256 0 0	

In concluding my report I must add that I think there is little to discourage our mining population, and much cause to be hopeful for the future.

NOTE.—There is a slight discrepancy between mill returns and claim returns which I cannot correct, but it is unimportant.—W.S.C.

THE DUBBO COAL-MINES.

The Dubbo coal-mines, situate at Baltimore, were first discovered in 1880, by Mr. F. H. Burslem and Mr. A. Hamilton. These gentlemen, together with a Mr. Samuel Marsden, took up the land under a mineral lease, and subsequently, in the same year, Mr. R. Nancarrow joined in, and work was carried on for a while under the mineral lease regulations; but this was found to be a very expensive way of working the mine, so it was resolved to convert the mineral lease into a mineral conditional purchase. The area at this time was only 120 acres; but after the conversion alluded to the Company increased the area to 300 acres, and as operations became extended more land was required, and eventually the area was enlarged to 980 acres, which takes in the whole of the Baltimore Mountain. The Company then deemed it unnecessary to go outside the mountain, or to extend their possessions further than the outcrops of coal, which are exclusively confined to the mountain, and inside the area of land secured. Mr. R. Nancarrow was appointed manager in 1881, and is still the Company's manager in Dubbo. Mr. T. Meldrum, of Sydney, is the legal manager.

The Dubbo coal-mines are situated about 13 miles from the Great Western Railway, in a north-easterly direction. The property has a frontage of about 1 mile to the Talbragar River, and comprises 980 acres, held under a M.C.P., and is formed into a Company of 80,000 shares of £1 each, which are now fully paid up. The above property is about 18 miles from Dubbo, in an easterly direction.

On this property three shafts have been sunk—No. 1 to a depth of 89 feet; No. 2, 130 feet; No. 3, 207 feet—in a triangular direction from each other, and about a quarter of a mile apart. The same seams of coal have been cut in each of these shafts, the largest seams being 5 feet 10 inches thick, with smaller seams, 2 feet, 3 feet 6 inches, and 3 feet 8 inches respectively. Each of these seams have small bands running through them varying from the eighth to the half of an inch in thickness. At the 74-feet level in No. 1 shaft a tunnel has been put in about 40 feet, and driven on the coal. From this tunnel about 50 tons of coal was taken. About 25 tons were brought to Dubbo, and given to the Railway Department to be tested. The mail train from Dubbo to Nevertire was run with the coal, also the mail train from Dubbo to Bathurst. The coal proved to be equal to the requirements of the engineers, and the Government then sent a practical man from Sydney to test the coal. The test proved very satisfactory,—indeed, so much so, that the Government asked the Company to supply them with the coal from the Dubbo coal-mines.

Besides coal, there is on the property a large outcrop of fireclay of a first-class quality, 15 feet in thickness; also large crops of ironstone and limestone. The ironstone is of a very rich quality, and to be found in almost endless quantities.

The works are in the side of an abrupt hill, which is undoubtedly carboniferous in character, carbonaceous fossils being found plentifully. The strata are almost perfectly horizontal, and composed of, first, large capping of sandstone, followed by numerous bands of shale, fireclay, ironstone, and coal. At present the work is stopped, pending arrangements to be made for the laying of a light railway to connect the Great Western Railway with the mine, a distance of about 13 miles. The country the line would pass through is almost level, and there are no engineering difficulties to contend with. Several small Companies have been formed, and have taken up land in different directions around the Dubbo Coal-mining Company's property, but up to the present they have not found anything worth speaking of. They may find coal on those properties by sinking to a great depth. On Spicer's Creek, about 6 miles from the Dubbo coal-mine, a seam is opened out about 5 feet in thickness, with only one small band. No doubt this seam would be a workable one when opened out farther away from the creek. It is right in the creek, where opened, and soddened with water. We believe some 800 acres of land have been secured at this place for the purpose of working this seam. The Spicer Creek seam is the only one that we have seen outside of the Dubbo Coal-mining Company's property that would likely be a payable one. The Messrs. Yeo Bros., at Elong Elong, have taken up a quantity of land for coal, and it is believed they have a fair show of success, but are too far away. Their property is about 10 miles in an easterly direction from the Dubbo Coal-mining Company, therefore 10 miles further away from the nearest point of railway. No doubt their property will become valuable in time.

At a place called Barbegal some land was taken up for coal by the Dubbo Coal-mining Company, but the indications did not warrant any further outlay.

A bore with the diamond drill was put down 492 feet by the Government, half a mile from Dubbo. At that distance they cut a small seam of coal, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. This bore has been abandoned, indications not being sufficient to warrant a further expenditure.

At present a diamond drill, owned by Mr. J. Coghlan, is boring for coal about 5 miles from Dubbo. The hole is now down about 700 feet, and no coal has as yet been found. We are of opinion that no coal will be found in payable quantities west of the Dubbo coal-mines, for the reason that the dip to west is so great at the Baltimore Mountain.

In conclusion, we may state that the Dubbo coal-mines are in the centre of one of the largest ironbark forests in the Colony, from which at the present time all the timber for railway purposes is taken; but no timber is allowed to be cut on the Company's land. A ranger is kept there for the purpose of protecting it, the timber being very valuable. There is a never-failing supply of good water on the property. By sinking to a further depth we believe that much better seams of coal will be found. There is little doubt that the seams already cut are merely the upper seams, and that vast treasures of coal beneath have yet to be reached. The Dubbo coal-mine is one of the best properties, as a coal-mine, out of Newcastle, and all it requires is the railway to make it a success, and also to materially increase the prosperity of the town and district of Dubbo.

MUDGEES DISTRICT—GULGONG DIVISION.

(*H. De Boos, Mining Registrar.*)

No work of any consequence has been done on this gold-field during the past twelve months. The stoppage of the works at Rouse's Paddock, Scully's Prospecting Reserve, and the White Horse Extended Claim, has had a very depressing influence on mining industry in this district. The closing of these extensive works has been a serious drawback to the mining population, as it threw a number of men out of employment, and what was harder still, many of them had to go without their wages in consequence of the alleged insolvency of the Companies employing them.

The Moonlight Lead.—This Company appears to have ceased working for some time. The engine has been removed, and the claim has, I believe, reverted to the original leaseholders.

Scully's Prospecting Reserve has remained untouched for more than a year, nor is there anything to denote that the proprietors intend starting the works again.

The White Horse Extended Claim has again changed hands, and is now at work, and seems likely to prosper.

The Canadian Gold-mining Company has done very little this year. It has had a good many difficulties to contend with, and its operations have been hampered by the want of funds. It is the intention of the present shareholders to increase the capital, and put the Company on a better footing.

The claim known as the "Britannia," near Home Rule has been idle for some months. The Company after erecting expensive machinery, and sinking to within a few feet of the bottom, suddenly stopped work. The property was sold at auction, and bought by a local speculator, who is about forming a fresh Company, and starting to work again as soon as possible.

At the old Gulgong reef nothing of any consequence has been done during the past year.

Towards the end of the year some stir was made over the report that silver and copper had been found in the neighbourhood of Mundooran and at Bungiboema. Some mineral tracts have been taken up, and the ground is now being prospected, but the result has not yet been made known.

In all the other portions of the Gulgong Division mining matters have not much changed. There are still a number of men scattered over the field earning fair wages, and in some cases doing well; but the drought which has prevailed for the last few years has rendered prospecting almost impossible, and consequently no new country has been opened up, and miners have been compelled to take up some other mode of earning a living.

During the past year three gold-mining leases have been applied for. 292 miners' rights and eighteen business licenses have been issued from this office.

The amount of gold sent through the banks during the same period was 1,017 ounces.

MUDGEES DISTRICT—MUDGEES DIVISION.

(*R. H. Acheson, Mining Registrar.*)

I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Honorable the Minister for Mines, my report for the year 1885, upon the mining industry in the Mudgees Division of the Mudgees Mining District.

During 1885, as in the preceding year, mining here has not been very extensively or successfully pursued.

The scarcity of water, I understand, is yet urged as the principal bar to success. From the quantity of gold purchased by the Mudgees banks (3,148 oz.), and the number of miners' rights issued in my office, viz. 150, matters rest at much the same condition generally as at the end of 1884. Mullamuddy, the Merroo, Merrendee, and Grattai still continue to be the only places in the division which the diggers frequent, all of which localities were in earlier days great mining centres.

The

The most important gold workings in the division are carried on by the Rhobardah Gold-mining Company, near Cudgegong. This property, I understand, is held by Mr. Thomas Chappell upon tribute. He has erected a 10-stamp battery, driven by a 14-horse power engine, and constructed an excellent dray-road, 3 miles in length, from the crushing plant, situated on the Cudgegong River, to the top of the hill, some 700 feet high, where the quartz is raised, at one place from a shaft 70 feet deep, and at another from a tunnel following a vein of a width of from 18 to 24 inches. I understand, with regret, that the anticipations of the recent crushings, the quantity of which I have not ascertained, were not realized; the result, however, was payable, and Mr. Chappell is still sanguine of ultimate success.

Convenient also to Cudgegong are the works of the Cheshire Copper-mining Company. This Company suspended operations during 1885 but have within the last few days let the mine upon tribute to a Mr. Jenkins, late of Mount Hope and Cobar.

A lease of 80 acres was applied for during the year at Appletree Flat, by Mr. Edward Clarke, of Mudgee, for silver-mining. The work thereon, so far, is only of a preliminary nature.

I regret that this report does not represent a more interesting state of mining affairs in the district.

MUDGEE DISTRICT—HARGRAVES DIVISION.

(*T. O'Brien, Mining Registrar.*)

In submitting my report, anent mining pursuits in this division for the year 1885, I regret to state that mining matters have been almost at a standstill during that period; but as regards alluvial mining, the want of water for milling, sluicing, or cradling, &c., has totally crippled this industry during the whole of the year. In regard to quartz-mining, I may state that only one of the many leases existing in this division, namely, that of Bond and party, has been worked, who have expended a considerable sum for machinery and labour on their claim, and are still persevering to develop their mine.

None of the other leases have spent one shilling in labour or otherwise on their holdings. Leases (which, beyond a doubt, is the pick of the locality) held in this manner debar the *bona fide* miner from prospecting the ground. I think the lessees should be compelled to comply with the labour clause; and if they should refuse to do so their title should be cancelled. This would give others who are willing an opportunity of testing the ground.

There is very little prospect of any material improvement in mining pursuits until such time as we have a regular rainfall, as without water nothing can be done in this division. I may also state that I sold 138 miner's rights, and fourteen business licenses during the year, being a considerable increase on the previous year.

MUDGEE DISTRICT—TOMINGLEY DIVISION.

(*James Farquharson, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to submit my report for the year 1885. I took office on the 16th April, 1885, which will account for the few miners' rights issued from this office, the miners having been supplied from Dubbo and elsewhere, there being no Mining Registrar at Tomingley.

The prospects of the field are fairly good, and a considerable amount of work has been done during the past year.

There has not been any new discovery; the miners being engaged on the lines previously worked. There are several parties working at Tomingley with fair results.

The Star battery of ten stamp-heads has crushed during the past year for various owners 1,160 tons of quartz for a yield of 888 oz. 2 dwt. 5 gr.

The Dubbo Company's battery of ten stamp-heads has been idle all through the year. Mooney and party at the Myall have erected a 20 stamp-head battery during the past year. Since this battery started they have crushed 1,050 tons of quartz for a yield of 1,256 oz. of gold, which has paid the shareholders handsomely.

There are several other claims being worked at the Myall, but up to the present they cannot be said to have paid.

It is said that a (5) five-head battery is shortly to be erected at the Ten-mile Ridges, but at present the place is deserted.

There has not been any alluvial find discovered.

Work has been completed on (2) two sections reserved for prospecting from Prospecting Vote, but with no results. Work will be started shortly upon the third section, from which a little gold has been obtained by previous prospectors.

The population of Tomingley and Myall, inclusive of men, women, and children, is 210. There has been an average attendance at the Public School of forty-three for the past year.

I am happy to state that there have been no accidents during the past year.

Total yield of gold for the year	Oz.	dwt.	gr.
Estimated value	2,144	2	5
	£7,933	2	11½

Miners' rights issued during the year	18
Business licenses	10
Mineral licenses	Nil.
Gold-mining leases	Nil.

LACHLAN DISTRICT—FORBES, PARKES, AND GRENFELL DIVISIONS.

(*Mr. Warden Sharpe, P.M., Forbes.*)

I HAVE the honor to submit for the information of the Honorable the Minister for Mines, my report on the mining carried on in the Forbes Division of the Lachlan Mining District during the past year.

2. I regret to have to state that I am unable to report that the mining industry has improved during the past year, although a fair amount of prospecting has been done in various parts of the district,

no

no discoveries of any importance have been made. Great hopes were entertained that a reef which was discovered near the Tichbourne, by Messrs. M'Millan and party, and from which the first two or three crushings were very good, the stone yielding as high as 11 ounces to the ton for some 20 tons, would prove very rich and extensive, but although the claim has been profitable to the prospectors, at the present time the gold appears to be exhausted. At Parkes some very handsome returns have been obtained from a reef which appears to be a leader from that known as the Buchanan. Several claims are working on this shoot of gold, which has proved rich and extensive, and their history should be a great encouragement to prospectors, as the reef is situated right in the centre of ground that had been worked for years and abandoned, I am informed over and over again, and yet rich stone in quantity was close at hand. Parkes is the only place in my district where much mining is being carried on, and where any number of miners are at work. At the end of my report I annex a return showing the quantity of gold won from the various reefs at Parkes during the past year, and also a return of the alluvial gold. The number of men working on the old alluvial leads is, as nearly as I can ascertain, seventy; on the reefs, 110.

At Forbes and in its neighbourhood a few claims are at work, but I am afraid the returns so far are not very satisfactory. At the Bald Hills a great deal of money has been expended in labour and expensive machinery on the land known as the "British Standard" mine, but the Company had to be wound up, and the leases are now in the hands of some Sydney capitalists, who seem sanguine that they will fare better than their predecessors. From what I can gather from miners who have worked on this lead, it is patchy, sometimes payable, and even rich, at other times very poor; in fact it is just the sort of mine to encourage the owners of it to persevere in the hope of better wash being discovered. A good many permits have been applied for for areas on the reef known as Strickland's which is situated about 8 miles from Forbes, on the road to Parkes; but I do not think any work is being carried on at the present time, on account of want of a crushing plant. These reefs are large, but poor; and it would not pay to carry the stone some 12 or 13 miles for a possible yield of 7 or 8 pennyweights per ton.

At Grenfell a few claims are working, and it seems strange that more prospecting is not being carried on on reefs that have yielded payable stone to a considerable depth, and that would appear to be permanent to experienced miners. My attention has been drawn to an article published some time ago in the Grenfell local paper, at the request of the Progress Committee at Grenfell, and written by an experienced miner, who gives a clear and concise account of some of the reefs in this district. He states that they extend over a distance of nearly 3 miles, and mentions the Young O'Brien, the Prussian, the Victory, the Homeward Bound, Wilson's, the Lucknow, the Britannia, the Enterprise, the Victory, the O'Brien's, Result, the Welcome, the Band of Hope, Lawson's, and the Golden Point, as having been developed to a certain extent. Besides these may be added several parallel reefs of minor importance, which go to enhance the value of the respective claims in which they are included.

The most valuable of the reefs mined are O'Brien's, Homeward Bound, the Lucknow, the Britannia, and the Enterprise. From these mines gold to the value of £100,000, £80,000, £50,000, and £30,000 respectively has been won, it might be said, by small parties of miners. These returns are a sufficient guarantee that capital should be expended in further prospecting, and it seems strange that these reefs do not attract more attention. O'Brien's reef, now known as the Consols, is mentioned as the most important in the district, and the writer thinks it will be a great source of wealth when opened up at the deeper level. During the working of this mine by the Company a "fault," or in digging phraseology, a "break," occurred at or about the 400-foot level. The reef at this point gave out and no further trace of stone was discovered, notwithstanding that the main or engine shaft was sunk at a great cost to a further depth of 300 or more feet. This disheartened the shareholders, and the mine was sold, and has since been worked by several parties of tributors at the shallow levels, with varied success. The writer goes on to remark that at Grenfell, as in other places, one discovery of payable gold below where the level mining has stopped at, would give it a great impetus, and capital would be as easy to obtain as it is now difficult.

In alluvial there is very little doing in this division. Under date of the 21st December last, the Mining Registrar reports that seven claims, two men in each, have been taken up on the main lead, the prospects being 3 dwt. from five loads. There are between fifty and sixty miners in and about Grenfell, and during the year 158 miners' rights were issued.

Cargo.

The Mining Registrar for this division reports that there is only one mine at work at Cargo, viz., the Ironclad, whose crushing of 90 tons gave 154 oz. of gold. In the neighbourhood of Canowindra different parties are at work on the reefs known as the Queen of the Ranges and the Blue Jacket, and on a reef in Stockyard Gully, which varies in width from 18 inches to 2 feet, but there is a great deal of mineral in the stone which requires special treatment. At Bony's Rocks, Mellon and party are working a claim on the London Reef with payable results, a crushing of 13 tons yielding 32 oz. 11 dwt. of gold, and this is expected to continue. During the past year a crushing battery has been erected at Canowindra, which should encourage the miners to give the reefs in this neighbourhood a thorough trial. In this division the Mining Registrar reports that the yield of gold for the past year has been 363 oz., 303 oz. of gold having been obtained from 343 tons of stone crushed, the balance being alluvial. In 1884 the total yield was only 45 oz. During the year 1885, eleven gold-mining leases were applied for, of which three have been refused; 101 miners' rights were issued, 3 business licenses, and 1 mineral license.

In conclusion, I may be permitted to state that although at the present time mining is in a very depressed state in this district, still I have no doubt that new discoveries will be made in gold, silver, copper, and other minerals from time to time of more or less importance. At least that has been the case during the few years this district has been under my charge. There are several localities, at Eugowra, near Parkes, and at Melrose, for instance, where there are indications of copper lodes which have only been prospected to a slight extent, but which would have capital expended on the land at once if the value of the mineral was not so low. I have omitted to mention that at Forbes, on the south lead, a party of miners are at work on what is known as the Madman's reef. They appear to have great confidence in their mine, which is shared by others, as several leases have been taken up on either end of what may be called the prospector's lease. The difficulty to be got over is the want of a crushing plant, the nearest being at Parkes, 20 miles distant; however, if the prospects are good enough, no doubt capital will be forthcoming. Several leases for silver and tin have been taken up at Manildra, about 14 miles from Molong; and I am informed that shares in these leases have been sold for a very large amount. I have also

also omitted to state that prospecting for alluvial and quartz gold has been carried on during the past year with Government aid at Scrubby Plain, near Parkes, and on Miller's reef, on Bartley's Creek, but up to the present time nothing payable has been discovered.

RETURN of Gold won during the year ending December 31st, 1885, from quartz reefs in the Parkes Division of the Lachlan Mining District.

Name of Reef.	Owner.	Quantity.	Average yield per ton.		
		tons	oz.	dwt.	gr.
Buchanan	Hazellhurst	300	4	0	0
"	Quayle & Co.	750	4	0	0
Magpie	M'Millan & Co.	220	3	0	0
Buchanan	Jansen & Co.	70	0	15	0
Bonnie Dundee	Drummond & Co.	118	1	0	0
"	Nolan	110	0	8	0
Bushman's	Murray & Co.	40	3	10	0
Opossum	Fitzgerald	100	0	10	0
Scrubby Plain	Miller & Co.	200	0	10	0
Dayspring	Griffiths & Co.	100	0	12	0
Buchanan	Stewart	30	2	0	0
"	Ritchie	30	1	0	0
Caledonian	Nash	90	0	10	0
Carragong	Pepper	30	0	10	0
Six-mile	Coulson	20	2	0	0
Sundries .....	.....	355	0	3	0
		2,653			

Number of tons crushed 2,653

Yield of gold..... 5,518 ounces.

LACHLAN DISTRICT—YOUNG DIVISION.

(Mr. Warden Robinson, P.M., Young.)

I HAVE the honor to make my report for the year ending 31st December, 1885.

The town and district of Young since first settlement have never before been so prosperous; nor have gold-mining interests ever been at a lower ebb. Notwithstanding this, our future prospects have not been for years past so hopeful as at present.

During the year we issued from this office 399 miners' rights, including seventy taken out at Murrumburrah, thirty-four business licenses, of which four are credited to Murrumburrah, one mineral license, two mineral leases of 40 acres each, and sixteen gold-mining leases comprising an area of 199 acres. As compared with the preceding year, the records of the office show decreases in the issue of miners' rights to the extent of 120, business licenses thirteen, mineral licenses twelve, and an increase of six gold-mining leases. In this item the acreage is greater by 105 acres 1 rood than the acreage leased in 1884. The gold won in 1884 amounted to 1,367 oz. 9 dwt. 21 gr., of the value (say) £5,323 14s. 7d. For 1885, taken from the most reliable sources, the gold won may be put down at 505 oz. 14 dwt. 23 gr., valued at £1,953 12s. 10d., showing a decrease of 861 oz. 14 dwt. 22 gr., of the value of £3,370 1s. 9d. For two or three years past those interested in mining have entertained very sanguine hopes anent the new ground at 'Possum Flat. The old Burrangong Company, who tested their leaseholds last year, have arranged with a Melbourne syndicate, represented by Messrs. Evans and Beeston, to carry forward the works on a very extensive scale. The New Burrangong Gold-mining Co. (now so named) begins with a capital of £17,000, in 35,000 shares of 10s. each. A large and complete plant is already on the ground, the erection of which is under the superintendence of Mr. W. R. Thomas, a gentleman of large and varied experience in every detail of mining operations. Between the old and new Companies £7,500 have, up to date, been spent on the mine. The area belonging to the Company is 42 acres. At present there are fourteen men employed in sinking a third shaft and erecting machinery. It is anticipated that the whole plant will be in working order by the end of the month. These works when finished will be about the most complete of their kind in the Colony. In my last annual report I gave a full description of the ground and works then erected, depth of sinking, &c. It is new ground, and the wash-dirt is reached at a depth of 80 feet, with a heavy underground flow of water. The yield of gold obtained by the old Company was splendid; and, in the opinion of disinterested experts, the prospects of the new Company are equal to the best claims that have been worked on the old Lambing Flat diggings. A still greater stride has been made in the direction of fresh enterprise in the Young District by the new Cunnigar Quartz-mining Company.

The property is known as the Old Marshal McMahon Reef, distant some 13 miles from Murrumburrah. The lode is laid bare, very prominent and well defined. The average width of the lode is about 4 feet. Fully 20,000 tons of quartz is visible and ready for stoping; besides, there are 1,200 tons to surface, estimated to yield 2 oz. of gold and from 2 oz. to 10 oz. of silver to the ton. The shaft is 212 feet deep. The machinery consists of complete winding gear and pumping plant. The furnace or smelter is known as the "Campbell Probert Smelter," which is the only plant of the kind that has as yet been erected in New South Wales. The machinery puts through 20 tons of quartz daily, and saves 90 per cent. of the gold and silver. The Company holds 29 acres, upon which, during the year, it expended £12,000.

At present over 100 men are employed, and the number will be largely increased almost immediately, as an extensive addition to the machinery is now in course of erection.

At

At Blind Creek, Murrumburrah, there are still about 100 diggers at work making fair wages. Wombat and Little Wombat.—The few that are engaged on these places get excellent returns when water is available. The Sherlock quartz-claims are not worked, and for the present have fallen out of notice.

LACHLAN DISTRICT—TEMORA AND BARMEDMAN DIVISIONS.

(*Mr. Warden Baker, P.M., Temora.*)

I do myself the honor to submit my annual report for 1885 concerning the several mining divisions under my charge. The Mining Registrars have furnished reports for their several divisions respectively, and as these reports are from efficient officers I need not repeat the information furnished by them. My report, therefore, will be much shorter than it would otherwise have been.

Temora.

Population.—A very palpable decrease in the number of the population of this division has been going on for several years past, and I regret to say continued during the year 1885. By way of showing this I give the—

Number of Miners' Rights issued at Temora	
In year 1883	989
„ 1884	752
„ 1885	516

I also give the number of—

Miners' Rights issued	
In January, 1883	669
In January, 1884	529
In January, 1885	335
In January, 1886	253

It will be seen that in 1884 there was a decrease of 237 and in the year 1885 a decrease of 236, as against the years 1883 and 1884 respectively, making a falling off of 473 in 1885, as against 1883. It will also be seen that of the miners' rights issued in the years named more than two-thirds of those documents were issued during the month of January of those years respectively. I have given the number thus issued in January because they are very useful in estimating the number of miners on the field at the close of one and at the commencement of the next year. By this rule I roughly estimate the number of miners in and about Temora, including Sebastopol, to be from 350 to 400, including say about a dozen Chinamen. In 1884 there were issued 167 and in 1885 111 business licenses, showing a decrease for the year of fifty-six. It should not, however, be understood that these reductions in numbers of miners' rights and business licenses correctly indicate the actual decrease either of miners or of business people. Many persons hold miners' rights in order to legally hold the land on which they reside. Some also hold business licenses simply to legally hold a business and residence area, and in proportion as these holdings are converted into freeholds there will be a decrease in the number of such documents issued, they not being necessary to hold freehold land. In some of these cases the holders, although residing and doing business at Temora, do not consider a miner's right or business license necessary. But these cases are not very numerous, and the falling off as shown above, clearly indicates a great decrease in the population of Temora.

Still the town and neighbourhood, both in appearance and in fact, show palpable signs of improvement and permanency. The "rush" of population to this district consequent upon the discovery of gold in large and paying quantities, and the feverish excitement it produced, in 1880, caused hotels, stores, and other business places to be erected sufficient to meet roughly the requirements of a population then estimated, by Mr. Warden Sharpe, at some 12,000 persons. In a few months the population fell to some 5,000, and the decrease has been going on ever since. Many of the buildings have been removed, especially at Upper and Lower Temora, and some of those that remain are not now occupied, consequently it could hardly be expected that new business places would be erected for some time to come. And yet, in face of these things, the town and district show very marked signs of improvement. The old "Bark Humpys," which were remarkable both for their number and their ugliness, are almost things of the past. A few remain, but the greater part have disappeared, and in their places are neat weatherboard cottages, standing in the midst of fairly well-cultivated garden-plots. In one case bark has given way to stone and brick cottages. Several business places are of stone and brick. Then just outside the town boundary there are quite a number of 2-acre blocks which have been taken up on which are erected cheery and comfortable homesteads. Newly-planted vineyards and orchards are now seen on all sides, and, despite the dry weather, the plants are thriving. The soil is of an excellent quality, and, if I am not mistaken, in some few years these plantations, surrounded as they are and will be by ornamental trees and other floral decorations, will be a marked and very agreeable feature in the landscape of the district. And then, too, just outside what is known as the "population boundary" the land is occupied largely by *bona fide* selectors, who are fast converting the wild bush into comfortable-looking farms, the produce from which they find a fair market for in Temora; while these farmers, on the other hand, are good and substantial customers to the Temora storekeepers.

As far as I can judge, the present inhabitants of Temora are for the greater part of them beginning to regard it as their home, and are surrounding themselves with such home comforts as are fairly within their reach. A flour mill has been erected. The buildings are of brick, and are substantial; and I understand the mill is now being worked with fair success. A brickyard has been opened about half a mile outside the town boundary, by Messrs. Dutz and Hickey, who are manufacturing really excellent bricks. Other industries, too, are just being started, and what is notable about them is that they appear to be the outgrowth of a settled state of things rather than the result of blind and feverish excitement.

Just

Just before the close of the year a pastoral, agricultural, and horticultural association was very successfully established. The members include the leading pastoralists, farmers, and business men of the district, and the society has been promised very liberal support, not only by local men, but also by large Sydney firms interested in these industries.

For many years gold-mining will be a large factor in the prosperity of this district, but other industries will grow, and, if properly dealt with, will be prosperous, and quite sufficient to support Temora as a central inland town, even if gold-mining were to entirely cease, which is not at all likely for many years to come.

Yield of Gold.—The Gold Receiver at Temora has furnished me with the following return showing that for the year 1885 he received gold, for transmission, amounting to 7,865 oz. 15 dwt. 12 gr.

RETURN showing the quantities of Gold received by the Gold Receiver at Temora for transmission by Gold Escort during the year 1885 :—

Dates.		Quantities.		
1885.		oz.	dwt.	gr.
27	January	524	8	12
24	February	592	8	10
24	March	616	11	23
21	April	375	13	11
19	May	661	2	1
16	June	798	7	0
14	July	548	11	6
11	August	647	0	18
8	September	1,051	16	15
6	October	601	3	3
3	November	544	1	12
1	December	511	8	8
29	December	393	7	20
Total per year		7,865	15	9

By the kindness and courtesy of the officers of the Bank of New South Wales and the A.J.S. Bank at Temora, I have been furnished with information which enables me to give the following table :—

STATEMENT showing the quantity of Gold passed through the Bank of N.S.W. and the A.J.S. Bank at Temora during the year 1885.

Place from whence it came.	From Alluvium.			From Quartz.			Total.		
	oz.	dwt.	gr.	oz.	dwt.	gr.	oz.	dwt.	gr.
Temora	4,353	2	7	1,161	19	0	5,515	1	7
Barnedman				1,718	11	19	1,718	11	19
Sebastopol				539	13	21	539	13	21
Cowawbee, &c.				70	15	4	70	15	4
	4,353	2	7	3,490	19	2	7,844	2	3

Maximum price of gold, £3 18s. per oz.; minimum price, £3 16s. 6d. per oz.; average price, £3 17s. 6d. These prices are for the gold purchased right out, without reference to the Mint returns. In cases where the banks made advances pending assay at the Mint the price eventually paid was the actual value of the gold at the standard price less the bank charges. This value would of course vary, according to the fineness of the gold. I understand, however, that taking the quantity as given above, at 7,844 oz., at an average price, £3 17s. 6d. per oz., the result, £30,395 10s., would be a fairly correct estimate of the value of gold sent from Temora during the year 1885.

These returns include the gold produced at Temora, Barnedman, Sebastopol, and Cowawbee. Of the total quantity shown, 5,515 oz. 1 dwt. 7 gr. was Temora gold, of which 4,353 oz. 2 dwt. 7 gr. was from alluvium and 1,161 oz. 19 dwt. from quartz.

There is a discrepancy between the bank returns and that of the Gold Receiver. The former makes the gold for the year 7,844 oz. 2 dwt. 3 gr., while the latter makes it 7,865 oz. 15 dwt. 9 gr., that is to say, the Gold Receiver makes the gold for the year 21 oz. 13 dwt. 6 gr. more than the banks make it. I do not know how the difference comes, but give the figures as given to me. Possibly the difference is the amount of dirt there was in the gold when handed to the Gold Receiver, which dirt would be removed in refining, and of course not included in the quantity given by the banks.

For the purpose of comparison I continue the table of gold sent from Temora by escort :—

Years.	Weight of Gold.		
	oz.	dwt.	gr.
1881	29,652	14	4
1882	33,348	0	7
1883	17,347	8	6
1884	14,381	16	1
1885	7,865	15	9

The

The average price of gold in 1885 was higher than in 1884 by 1s. 6d. per oz.

Nuggets.—I have not been able to obtain a complete list of the nuggets gotten on this field during the year. The following, however, are among the number—13 oz., 4 oz., 11 oz., 19 oz., 5 oz., 9 oz., and 50 oz.

One party obtained a patch of about a dozen nuggets varying in size from about 2 oz. up to about 20 oz. each. I cannot give the exact number, nor their exact weight. I saw them, and am now giving a rough estimate from memory; the whole would certainly be quite 250 oz. The largest quantity of gold found in one patch was, however, gotten at Upper Temora, part of which I had the honor to purchase for the Department, for the Indian and Colonial Exhibition, consisting of three specimens, containing 308.35 oz. by specific gravity test, which, at £4 per oz., amounted to £1,233 8s. I have seen several larger specimens, but having regard to size and beauty combined, I never saw anything to equal one of those specimens.

The nuggetty country at Temora is not confined to any particular part of the lead or leads. Some of the nuggets before mentioned were found at Upper Temora, others at Lower Temora, and others at various intervening places, altogether stretching over some 3 miles of country.

Prospecting.—Out of the Prospecting Vote for 1885 Temora was apportioned £500, of which £444 10s. was expended in prospecting this district under the supervision of Mr. Thomas Eyre, as Inspector of Prospectors at Temora; and I may say that his salary is not included in the £444 10s. mentioned above; that sum was paid to the working miners actually engaged in prospecting. They received £1 per week each, on the understanding that if they found gold it would be their own, and if they found payable ground they would be entitled to a good-sized claim. Some forty men, in parties some of four and others of six men, were engaged, who sank about seventy shafts, varying in depth from 7 feet to 152 feet, making an aggregate of about 4,000 feet sunk, without obtaining anything like payable ground. In most of the shafts slight traces of gold were found, and in some instances the prospects raised hopes that the party obtaining them were on the verge of something payable. These hopes, however, were not realized, and the parties one by one ceased to work, until the whole work was abandoned without discovering gold in sufficient quantities to pay. I may say the prospecting sites were in the first instance selected by the prospectors and their friends; these sites were then inspected by the Prospecting Board, viz., Mr. Under Secretary Wood, Mr. Geological Surveyor Wilkinson, and Mr. Inspector of Mines Slee, in company of the Warden of the district, and in every instance the selected sites were approved of by the gentlemen named. They were all near Temora, varying in distance from 1 mile to say 8 miles, and were generally to the east, south, and north of Temora. There was a little done westerly, but not much. It is generally thought that although none of the prospecting parties were successful in discovering payable ground, they all did fair, honest work. As a matter of course these failures are discouraging, but they ought not to be accepted as final. This district is a very "patchy" one. It is not an uncommon occurrence for parties to find large "patches" of gold, and then work on for months without getting enough to pay for the candles consumed by them, and then come on another patch. Take the case of Buckley's famous Nuggetty claim, at Lower Temora. Buckley has been exceedingly fortunate, and yet the adjoining claim has been worked eleven months, and the gold obtained has paid the party £15 per man for the eleven months—not quite seven shillings a week per man. In the case, too, of the Mother Shipton claim, it was abandoned as being too poor to pay, lay idle for some months; another party went into it, and in a few weeks obtained a patch of gold realizing, as I am informed, over £2,000. Other instances of a like character could be given, all of which tend to show that although the prospectors lately employed failed in getting payable quantities of gold, still it is quite possible that such paying quantities exist even in the neighbourhood prospected by them.

The figures as to the yield of gold for 1885 show that while Temora proper yielded for the year 5,515 oz. 1 dwt. 7 gr., of that quantity 4,353 oz. 2 dwt. 7 gr. (nearly four-fifths of the whole) was obtained from the alluvial workings; but for all that I am pleased to note that the yields from quartz were considered fairly satisfactory for the amount of work done. The owners of quartz mines here are now showing hopeful confidence in their holdings. This confidence, too, has a solid basis of fact to rest upon. During the year the S. A. Company's battery (the only one in the district) crushed 1,556 tons of quartz, which yielded 1,171 oz. of retorted gold, over 15 dwt. to the ton. Now, considering the lodes are fairly large, and in easy country, such a yield ought to yield large profit. But there is far too much cost in working them. Take the South Australian Company—the most economically worked mine in the district—its crushing plant is more than a mile from the mine, and the expense of handling and removing the stone from the "face" in the mine to the battery would, if saved, be a fair margin of profit. It is placed in a bucket below, raised to the top, tilted into the "paddock," then shovelled into a dray and conveyed thereon to the crushing machine, tilted on the stage, and then shovelled into the stamper-box. Now, I have seen mines, and many such, too, where nearly the whole of those expenses are saved. The stone is put into a truck in the mine, is raised to the surface, when the truck reaches the surface it is landed on rails, upon which it runs—say about 100 yards—to the hopper at the battery, into which the stone is tipped, and then finds its way into the stamper-box without further handling until after the stone is crushed. Of course, a mining Company has a right to manage its own business in its own way, and I hope my remarks will not be regarded as unkind criticism—they are certainly not so intended. The present manager and his predecessor both have had to deal with things as they found them, and work upon the lines laid down by those who preceded them. Nevertheless, the hard facts remain, that under present arrangements considerable expenses are incurred, which, under a better system, could be saved; and these remarks apply, but with greater force, to all the other quartz-mines in the district of Temora, because, in addition to the waste just pointed out, the mines (other than the S.A. mine) have to pay a high price for crushing their stone. It would be injudicious to rush up expensive machinery before a mine had been sufficiently proved to justify it, and no doubt prudence in this respect has had much to do in retarding the erection of such machinery, &c., at Temora, as are required for the economical working of her quartz-lodes. The development of "reefing districts" is, as a rule, slow work. Temora has not yet proved herself to be a "reefing district," but it is pleasing to note she is improving in this respect.

During the year the Warden's Clerk received eleven applications for gold-mining leases, covering an aggregate area of 58½ acres.

Barnedman.

Barmedman.—In dealing with Temora I have in part dealt with this district. From a mining point of view, Barmedman is wholly a reefing district. No alluvial containing sufficient gold to pay for working has been found in the district. I am indebted to Mr. William Forbes for information contained in the following table:—

STATEMENT showing the quantity of Quartz crushed, the yield of Gold therefrom, &c., from the several mines at Barmedman, during the year 1885:—

Name of Company or Mine.	Depth of workings from surface in feet.	Quantity of quartz crushed.	Total yield of gold.	Average yield of gold.	Remarks.
B.U.G.M. Co.	10 to 80	Tons. cwt. 1,556 0	oz. dwt. gr. 634 0 0	oz. dwt. gr. 0 8 3	
Hunted to Death.....	"	63 0	34 0 0	0 10 19	
Little Ada.....	"	65 0	60 17 0	0 13 17	
Fiery Cross.....	"	474 0	363 0 0	0 15 7	
Barrett's Reef.....	"	65 0	170 2 0	2 12 8	
Spare Ground.....	"	43 0	10 11 0	0 4 21	
Jackson's.....	"	146 0	115 11 0	0 15 23	
Black Angel.....	"	20 0	13 4 0	0 13 4	
No. N. Phoenix.....	"	6 0	2 6 0	0 7 16	
Phoenix P.O.....	90	96 0	203 17 0	2 2 11	
No. 2 Ada.....	"	104 0	95 14 0	0 18 9	
Ada.....	80 to sur.	36 0	13 15 0	0 7 15	
Italian.....	"	18 0	11 14 0	0 13 0	
Willemina.....	"	10 0	2 3 0	0 4 7	
Cowawbee.....	"	19 10	51 13 0	2 12 23	
B.U.G.M. Co.	"	6 0	9 0 0	1 10 0	Spare ground.
No. 1 S. Barrett's.....	"	14 0	6 7 0	0 9 1	
		2,741 10	1,797 14 0		

Thus, 2,741 tons gave 1,797 oz. of gold, being an aggregate average from all the mines in the division for the year of 13·11 dwt. of gold per ton of quartz.

The above returns include 51 oz. 13 dwt. of gold from 19 tons 10 cwt. of quartz, brought from Cowawbee, about 45 miles from Temora, lying near Coolaman, between June Junction and Narrandera. I am not sure in what mining district Coolaman is, nor have I any personal knowledge of it, but I am informed it is nearer to Barmedman than to any other mining centre, and that it is likely country for quartz-reefing, a theory which the above yield (being within a fraction of 2 oz. 13 dwt. per ton) would appear to support.

The Barmedman field felt the dry season very severely. The only crushing machine in the division was idle several months of the year for want of fresh water for steaming purposes. This, as a matter of course, very seriously interfered with the development of the field.

During the year three applications for gold-mining leases were received by the Warden's Clerk, comprising an area of 11 acres of land. The Mining Registrar issued, during the year, 121 miners' rights, 36 business licenses, and 4 mineral licenses, and he estimates the number of miners on the field at 82.

On the whole the prospects of Barmedman are encouraging, and great hopes are entertained that the present year will tell a better tale than the last, especially as to the Phoenix and Hard to Find Reefs. Barmedman, as well as Temora, begins to assume the appearance of permanent settlement, and much that I have said about garden, homestead, and farm cultivation about Temora applies to Barmedman.

Clarendon Division.

This division embraces—Muttama, June, Wantiool, and Sebastopol. Sebastopol is partly dealt with in my remarks about Temora, and is further dealt with by the Mining Registrar. Very little work was done in that locality during the year, partly for the want of water, partly owing to litigation, and partly because some of the shareholders went into mining to a much greater extent than their finances justified. These resulted in a partial collapse of the district. It is, however, beginning to look up again, but there is great room for improvement. Muttama I have not been able to visit during the year. Quartz-mining, I understand, has been suspended for the time being. A little alluvial mining is going on, but to what extent I cannot say.

Wantiool is an old mining district, is situated about 8 miles from June Junction. Gold is being obtained both from alluvium and from quartz. I had occasion to visit it twice during the year. The alluvial mining is on a very small scale, is conducted in a very primitive fashion, and is very much on freehold land. The quartz-mining presents a more hopeful outlook. Mr. Geo. Dobbys, of June, has erected a small battery, constructed new dams, and greatly improved the old one. The lode is from 2 feet to 3 feet 6 inches thick, is in good working country, and Mr. Dobbys informed me that a trial crushing had yielded 21 dwt. of gold to the ton of quartz. Supposing the quartz crushed to be a fair sample of the whole, the mine should pay large profits.

Two cases have been brought under my notice in which valuable mines have been locked up by injunctions for indefinite periods. In one case an injunction has been hanging over a valuable claim and locking it up for more than three years, pending the settlement of an equity suit. In the other case, that of the Homeward Bound mine, at Sebastopol, an injunction was issued on the 6th November last, closing up this mine, also pending the settlement of an equity suit. This has thrown a large number of miners and others out of profitable employment, and been otherwise injurious to the district; and there is no knowing when these almost interminable suits will be so far settled as to allow these valuable mines to be worked. In referring to this matter, I do so with all becoming respect and reverence for the Courts and their distinguished Honors the Judges presiding over them; but I think if it were pointed out what serious inconveniences arise from the locking of these mines and that the rights of the suitors could be equally well protected by allowing them to be worked under a manager and receiver appointed by and responsible to the Court, I say if these things were pointed out to His Honor the Primary Judge of the Equity Court he would, I think, probably allow the mines to be worked, and would protect the suitors in the manner I have indicated.

LACHLAN DISTRICT—PARKES DIVISION.

(W. C. Weston, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to submit my yearly report for the Parkes Division of the Lachlan Gold-field extended, and, as I anticipated in my last report, have to state that this has been the most prosperous for the past ten years. In fact quartz-mining has gone ahead rapidly, and alluvial-mining is almost a thing of the past.

When I state that the banks have, during 1885, bought 6,015 oz. 16 dwt. 14 gr. of gold, valued at £3 15s. per oz., amounting in the aggregate to £22,661 17s. 2d. as against 2,929 oz. 8 dwt. 18 gr., at the same price per oz., amounting to £10,980 7s. 9d., it will be at once apparent that we have made a rapid stride in our prosperity and may fairly claim to be one of the most prosperous gold-fields in the Colony of New South Wales.

Everything at this present time as regards quartz-mining is in a prosperous way, the only drawback being the want of water in the Company's dam. This, however, is owing to the drought. If we had received the usual quantity of rain the stampers would not now be idle, as they have been for the last two months. There is any amount of quartz at grass to crush, and when rain does come the stampers will be heard again. In the meanwhile the Company are excavating the tank larger by taking out some 2,000 yards of dirt. This, when once filled, will, it is hoped, last all the year with the showers we may expect.

Hazelhurst's claim is just as good as ever; so also is Quayle and party's. All along the line the ground has been taken up, and is being worked. The Bushman's Hill is also being well worked, and Murray and party are getting excellent stone; their last crushing was 2½ oz. to the load.

At the Eight-mile Cunningham's claim looked well; their last crushing went over 2 oz. George White, next to Cunningham's, has a large paddock of good stone, and there are scores of other parties working and prospecting, all of whom get a little gold.

During the year 1885 468 miners' rights have been issued against 323, in 1884, a large increase, probably owing in a slight measure to the rush in the early part of the year to the Bachelors' Paddock.

Thirteen business licenses were issued, and two mineral licenses. Three applications for gold-mining leases were received, also four applications for mineral licenses, and 123 claims registered.

As regards the Government prospectus, I have no information. If they had struck anything of course it would soon be known, and would be at once reported to you.

I am glad, however, to be able to send such a favourable report.

Enclosed please find tables of returns, &c.

RETURN of Gold purchased by the banks at Parkes during the year ended 31st December, 1885.

Name of Bank.	Quarters.	Quantities.		Totals.	
		oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.
Commercial Banking Company	31st March	859 13 13			
	30th June	735 16 8			
	30th September	98 15 15			
	31st December	884 2 12	2,578 8 0		
Australasian Joint Stock Bank	31st March	1,965 15 7			
	30th June	173 16 7			
	30th September	1,209 6 19			
	31st December	118 10 5	3,467 8 14		
Total .....	.. .. .	.....	6,045 16 14		

Valued at £3 15s. per ounce. £22,661 17s. 2d.

RETURN of Quartz crushed and quantity of Gold obtained therefrom in the Parkes Division of the Western Gold-field during 1885.

Name of Company.	No. of Men.	Where obtained.	Tons crushed.	Average Yield.		Total Yield.	Depth of Sinking.	Thickness of Reef.
				oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.			
Manson and Company	4	Currajong	48	0 6 0	14 8 0	140	1 6	
Pepper and Company	2	"	34	0 9 12	16 3 0	72	1 3	
Griffiths and Company	3	Dayspring	105	0 11 0	57 15 0	90	1 6	
Murray and Company	5	Bushman's	56	3 10 0	98 0 0	40	1 0	
Cunningham and Company	3	Eight-mile	30	2 0 0	60 0 0	40	1 0	
Hazelhurst	5	Buchanan's	390	4 0 0	1,460 0 0	120	2 0	
Quayle and Company	6	"	691	4 0 0	2,764 0 0	170	2 0	
Medlyn and Company	3	Bonnie Dundee	270	0 7 0	94 10 0	60	1 0	
McMillan and Company .....	..	Scrubby Plains	220	3 0 0	660 0 0	100	1 3	
Jansen and Company	2	Buchanan's	70	0 15 0	52 10 0	100	2 0	
Drummond and Company	3	Bonnie Dundee	118	1 0 0	118 0 0	80	1 0	
Nolan and Company	2	"	110	0 8 0	44 0 0	70	2 0	
Fitzgerald and Company	2	Opossum	100	0 10 0	50 0 0	70	2 0	
Miller and Company	4	Scrubby Plains	200	0 10 0	100 0 0	100	2 0	
Stewart and Company	2	Buchanan's	30	2 0 0	60 0 0	100	0 4	
Ritchie and Company	2	"	30	1 0 0	30 0 0	100	1 0	
Nash and Company	2	Caledonia	90	0 10 0	45 0 0	50	1 0	
Sundry crushings .....	...	.....	355	0 3 0	53 5 0			
Total	48	.....	2,947	1 19 6	5,777 11 0			

RETURN of men engaged prospecting on the Parkes Division of the Western Gold-field on the 31st day of December, 1885.

Names of Parties.	No of Men.	Where working
W. Woods and Company.....	2	Sinking for Dayspring Reef
Rock and Company.....	2	do. do.
Sawyer and Company.....	2	do. do.
Hale and Company.....	6	Raising quartz near Parkes.
Mobbsy and Company.....	3	Driving for reef below Bushman's
Barnett and Company.....	2	Sinking for above-named reef.
E. Connelly and Company.....	2	Sinking east of Murray's claim, Bushman's.
Kidney and Company.....	2	Sinking west of Murray's claim, Bushman's.
Thos. Lee and Company.....	2	Driving in M'Gee's Paddock, near Parkes.
Bloomfield and Company.....	2	Sinking in M'Gee's Paddock
Monahan and Company.....	2	Sinking and driving at the Caledonia Reef.
Cardwell and Company.....	2	Prospecting for reef at head of Reed's Gully.
Harvey and Company.....	2	Prospecting for reef at Opossum.
King and Company.....	2	Sinking and driving near Parkes.
Cooper and Company.....	3	do. do. do.
Davis and Company.....	3	Prospecting, head of McGuiggan's.
Shaw and Company.....	6	Prospecting north of Davis and Company's claim.
Miller and Company.....	2	Prospecting for reef at Tichbourne.
S. Crago and Company.....	3	Sinking in Opossum Gully for reef
Anderson and Company.....	4	do. do. do.
Sewell and Company.....	3	do. do. do.
Tolhurst and Company.....	4	Driving for reef, 8 miles north of Parkes.
Total.....	61	

RETURN of men employed on the alluvial leads in the Parkes Division of the Western Gold-fields, some prospecting, others washing the dirt by hand.

Name of Lead.	No. of Men.	Remarks.
Great Northern.....	2	The sinking in these leads is from 18 to 100 feet.
South Bushman's.....	4	The men keep no record of the quantity of gold obtained.
Tarcaway.....	10	
London.....	3	
Frenchman's.....	5	Prospecting junction of Reid's Gully and No Mistake.
Fulton's Party.....	4	
Welcome.....	1	
Reid's Gully.....	4	
No Mistake.....	2	
Shallow Rush.....	4	
Well-trie'd.....	2	
Nibblers.....	2	
Wapping Butcher.....	2	
Government Prospecting Party.....	...	
Knox and Company.....	4	
Lachrane and Company.....	6	
Gunter and Company.....	3	
Francis and Company.....	4	
Roach and Company.....	4	
Wane and Company.....	4	Sinking near Muller's Lookout.
Total.....	70	

LACHLAN DISTRICT—FORBES DIVISION.

(E. A. T. Pery, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to submit my report for the Forbes Division of the Lachlan Mining District for 1885. The amount of gold won in this division last year was 1,200 oz. 3 dwt. 12 gr., showing an increase of about 465 oz. over the amount won in 1884.

The British Standard Gold-mining Company, at Bald Hills, have been at work throughout the year, but I am not aware that they have met with much success; still, as their lead is reported patchy, it is not improbable that the proprietors may yet be recouped for their heavy outlay in machinery, &c.

Prospecting to a small extent, has been carried on in the Parkes direction during the past year, with, I am afraid, little success.

Snow and party, who have lately applied for a lease of 25 acres on the old Britannia reef, about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from Forbes, appear confident of ultimate success. They report having timbered, centered, and cleaned up the old perpendicular shaft for 100 feet, and having put in a cross-cut 15 feet; also that they have cut a reef 3 feet wide, and driven 5 feet on same. They state that gold can be seen freely, and in consequence several other leases have been applied for in same locality. Should this party be enabled to "rise" a crushing plant, I fancy that their energy would be richly rewarded.

Copper.—I have nothing to report, and owing to my recent arrival in the district am unable to afford other statistical information.

Miners' rights issued during the year.....	281
Business licenses " ".....	17
Mineral " ".....	17

LACHLAN

LACHLAN DISTRICT—GRENFELL DIVISION.

(W. H. Hazelton, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of the Honorable the Minister for Mines, my report for the year 1885, for the Grenfell Division of the Lachlan Mining District. I regret that I have no new discoveries to report. During the latter part of November and early part of December a party of three miners sunk a shaft on the old main lead for alluvial, near the eastern boundary of the town. They obtained about 4 dwt. to the ton. There are now about fourteen miners at work on the lead, the majority of whom say they are getting a little gold. This is obtained from the abandoned ground which was left at the first of the rush in 1866. The miners say it will pay wages if water can be obtained convenient. At One-mile Gully one alluvial claim is worked by two miners. They inform me that they are preparing to wash the dirt by ground-sluices if they can get a sufficient supply of water during the next winter. At Quondong Gully one party of miners are at work in an alluvial claim. During the latter part of the year they washed about 30 tons, which gave a return of 4 dwt. to the ton. At Seven-mile Gully one party of miners are at work in an alluvial claim. They have washed during the year about 30 tons which gave a return of 9 dwt. to the ton. This party say that during the first part of the year they were unable to wash, but latterly they have made provision for storing water by erecting a dam, and that they will be well provided for in the future. At Two-mile Gully nothing in the way of mining has been done during the year.

In quartz-mining the Enterprise, 2-acre lease, Pettet and party, still keeps up its reputation, and is looked upon at the best mining property in the division. From 83 tons of stone crushed during the year a return of 1 oz. 14 dwt. to the ton was obtained. At the present time there is about 40 tons ready for crushing, which the shareholders expect will give about the same return. Lawson's reef, Hinchcliffe and party.—This claim deserves special mention. It has been worked by the present shareholders for the last six years, and has given very good returns. No stone has been crushed during the year. There is at grass about 60 tons. This will yield about 1 oz. 10 dwt. to the ton. The shareholders arrive at this estimate from prospects obtained while raising the stone.

The Homewardbound Reef, Mathews and party.—About 47 tons crushed during the year, which gave a return of 14 dwt. to the ton; and there is at grass about 180 tons, which the shareholders expect will yield about the same.

The following quartz-claims are now prospecting, viz.:—No. 1 North Enterprise, the Lucknow, Young O'Brien, and Prussian.

In my report for 1884 I mentioned the Consols (O'Brien's Reef), which had been leased by Fitch and Sons. From this lease there is nothing to report in the way of gold-mining. I believe it is the intention of the shareholders to dispose of half the lease by making it into a local Company. The small return of gold for the year can only be attributed to the delay in getting stone crushed. The crushing machine having only worked about one month during the year, there is at the present time between 300 and 400 tons of stone now ready for crushing. Had this been crushed it would have added considerably to the return. In my report for 1884 I mentioned five leases which embrace quartz, sand or tailings. One of them has been refused, and no work has been done on the others. I have nothing to report about silver, copper, or tin—there are no mines working in this division.

LACHLAN DISTRICT—YOUNG DIVISION.

(W. C. Rodgerson, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honour to submit my report for 1885 upon the state and progress of mining in this district. This industry from a variety of adverse circumstances has been considerably retarded. The principal cause of this has been no doubt a lack of enterprise in providing the necessary machinery requisite for carrying on mining operations on a large scale. Within the past few months, however, the presence and co-operation of Victorian capitalists has infused new life and energy in the direction of gold-mining, and with the appliances now on the ground great expectations are formed as to the future prospects of this important industry. The immediate result of this hopeful state of affairs has been the formation of two Companies, viz., the New Burrangong Gold-mining Company and the Cunningham Quartz-mining Company, both of which are now starting with every indication of a prosperous future. In addition to the above, several gold-mining leases have been recently applied for, and there is every reason to believe that during the present year there will be a great revival of mining throughout the district.

The New Burrangong consists of 42 acres, and is situated on Burrangong Creek, about 3 miles in a northerly direction from the town of Young. About fourteen men are at present employed in the erection of machinery. One 15-h.p. engine and one 12-h.p. engine, and all necessary pumps, rope, &c., are on the ground, and it is expected that in the course of a few days everything will be in readiness for a start. A shaft has been sunk to a depth of 50 feet, and the wash-dirt is expected to be reached at about 80 feet. In a month's time twenty-five men will be employed. This mine is about 800 feet from any old workings and is in charge of Mr. W. R. Thomas, an experienced miner.

The Cunningham Quartz-mining Company hold 29 acres at the old Marshal M'Mahon Reef, about 19 miles from Murrumburrah. Over 100 men are employed at this mine, and operations are being carried on with vigour on a large scale. The plant is being supplemented, and the number of men will shortly be largely increased. The average width of the lode is about 4 feet. About 1,200 tons are now on the surface, estimated to yield over 2 oz. of gold to the ton.

I am indebted to the Managers of the Bank of New South Wales here and at Murrumburrah, also of the Union Bank here, and Commercial Bank, Murrumburrah, for the following figures *re* quantity and value of gold purchased during last year:—

	Oz. dwt. gr.	Value. £ s. d.
Young	253 6 19	982 11 1
Murrumburrah	252 8 4	971 1 9
	505 14 23	1,953 12 10

Price per oz. from £3 17s. to £3 17s. 6d.

Miners'

Miners' rights issued at Young	329	} 399
Do. Murrumburrah	70	
Business licenses at Young	30	} 34
Do. Murrumburrah.....	4	
Mineral licenses, Young		1
Acreage.		
Gold-mining lease applications	16	199
Mineral lease do	2	40

LACHLAN DISTRICT, TEMORA DIVISION.

(James Davoren, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to submit the following as my report of mining in the Temora Division of the Lachlan Mining District for the year 1885, which shows a falling off in the return of the yield of gold for this division from 1884 of 5,111 oz., the total yield for the year being 6,222 oz., as against 11,333 for the year 1884.

After most careful inquiry I find there were about 25,000 loads of wash-dirt puddled at the different puddling machines at Temora, which gave a yield of about 4,500 oz. of gold, or an average of 3 dwt. 14 gr. to the load, the principal part of which was obtained from headings in old claims and blocks taken up on the verge of the old lead.

In October last Denis Buckley and party took up some ground, comprising party of his old Nuggetty claim with some outside ground, from which they obtained good returns, having got one nugget weighing 50 oz. and several smaller ones. Several other claims have been taken up adjoining Buckley's, in most of which gold was obtained, but none of them have yet proved payable.

Quartz—The South Australian Company.—This Company has during the year crushed 1,516 tons for themselves, which gave a yield of 1,131 oz., and 40 tons for the public, which gave an oz. to the ton. The Company have a 12-horse power engine with a battery of 10 heads of stampers, and employed an average of fifteen miners during the year.

The Mother Skipton Claim.—This claim was not worked from April to August, when it was applied for as an abandoned claim by Allen and party, who obtained some very rich specimens, three of which were purchased by Mr. Warden Baker for the Government for £1,233 8s., which, with other gold obtained since September (the shareholders inform me) realized, a sum of £4,300, together with some very rich specimens they have still in hand. The reef is now 2 feet thick, having increased 4 inches since those rich specimens were obtained. The reef underlies to the east 1 foot in 7; the hanging and foot walls are diorite.

The present shareholders say this claim was never properly worked. The shaft is only 90 feet deep. The £4,300 worth of gold obtained since September was got from a winze 20 feet deep by 15 feet along the course of the reef. There are only six men at work in the claim.

The Homestead Bound (now La Mascotte).—This claim is situated about 10 miles south-west of Temora, and was about seven months ago let on tribute by Captain Tucker to Ponting and party. The tributors took out 115 tons of stone, 90 tons of which were crushed, which gave a yield of 156 oz. of gold, but before the expiration of the term granted to the tributors the working of the claim was stopped, under an injunction issued by the Supreme Court in the cause of "Dembicki v. Tucker," which is still in force. Captain Tucker has erected machinery consisting of a 16-horse power engine, with fifteen heads of stampers, and also erected a dam and secured water-rights. He has also made application for a lease of 12 acres adjoining the claim.

The Evening Star, Sebastopol.—This reef is about 12 miles south-west of Temora, and is looked upon as the most permanent and one of the most valuable mining properties in the district. 650 tons of stone were crushed from this claim, which gave an average of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to the ton. The quality of the stone is much improved of late. The shoot of gold in the reef is 9 feet wide, and is visible 45 feet along the reef. There are only two men at present employed in this claim, who have about 150 tons of stone to grass, which is estimated to yield over an oz. to the ton. The stone is easily got out. The reef runs north and south—dips to the west 1 foot in 4. The hanging-wall is slate, the foot-wall sandstone. This reef is likely to give large returns for the year 1886.

Deutscher's Paddock.—Twenty men took a lease for ten years of 40 acres of land of Mr. Deutscher's Red Hill farm. They commenced work in November, and struck the reef at a depth of 98 feet on the 12th December; they cut through the reef, which is about 3 feet thick, and followed it on the underlie for 25 feet. There are about 29 tons of stone to grass, containing various minerals, but I can make no estimate of the probable yield.

Some of the most promising reefs in Temora are not at work at present, being under applications for lease—such as Rich's Reef, the Shamrock, &c. But these will no doubt be profitably worked in the near future.

I am aware that several parcels of gold have during the year been sold in Sydney and Melbourne for which this field cannot receive credit in these returns.

I have during the year issued 516 miners' rights, showing a decrease of 236 from 1884, and 111 business licenses, being fifty-six less than was issued in 1884. The cause of the decrease in business licenses is, many of the allotments in Temora which were held under business licenses have been purchased. Of the miners' rights I estimate that about 289 were taken out by parties engaged in and about alluvial mining, twenty by Chinamen, and the remainder by parties engaged in or holding interests in quartz claims allotments and residence areas.

Taking the extent of auriferous country about Temora into consideration, the excellent average given by the reefs tested, and the primitive mode of working, I have no doubt but my next report of the reefs will be more encouraging, as several capitalists have been lately acquiring mining interests in the district.

Owing to many of the puddlers and miners not returning immediately after the holidays, the size of the district, and the difficulty of collecting reliable information, I have been unable to furnish my report earlier.

LACHLAN

LACHLAN DISTRICT—BARMEDMAN DIVISION.

(W. Forbes, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of the Honorable the Minister for Mines, my annual report of the Barmedman Gold-field, in the Lachlan District, for the year 1885.

The aspect of mining affairs on this field is somewhat more promising than it was in 1884. The mineral development has been retarded by the absence of capital and machinery in private claims, and the prospects of miners have been at times gloomy in the extreme.

During the past year there has been a re-action, owing to the repeated discoveries of payable gold in reefs supposed to be almost valueless, viz., to miners with limited means.

The crushings from such claims have far exceeded anticipations, but in many cases the actual width of stone has been much inferior to that of the reefs, which merely yielded from 5 to 20 dwt. per ton.

Payable stone has been frequently obtained in the claims abandoned by Jackson's Gold-mining Company, and the present tributors have obtained remarkable results by driving at the 79-foot level from the engine shaft.

In No. 2 North Ada several excellent crushings have been obtained by tracing the leaders, which have been of various widths, varying from a few inches to many feet. The reefs on the Ada Hill have been disturbed (from the surface) down to the depth of 80 feet, and the result has been that by testing the ground several discoveries have been made.

The raising of the lifts by the Barmedman United Gold-mining Company has prevented miners from testing the 120-foot ground; and the Fiery Cross shareholders have been employed from the level of 90 feet to the surface.

This claim has yielded within a fraction of £9,000 worth of gold during the last three and a half years. The raising of the lifts affects the Hunted to Death reef, and the occasional stoppage of the Company's battery has been severely felt by miners in the private claims.

The manager of the Barmedman Company has been raising stone from the 80-foot level up to within a few feet of the surface.

At the Black Angel, in a new shaft, the reef was cut at a depth of 40 feet, and another found by driving. The average width of stone is about 15 inches. There is a visible improvement at the Hard to Find, where two additional parties of miners are on payable gold.

Some of the reefs are narrow, but they yield large returns per ton.

The discovery of the lost Hard to Find has encouraged miners to further efforts.

They are at present working at the 90-foot level, and on the verge of the water. In the course of time pumping gear will be required.

At the Phoenix stone has been stoped out from the level of 110 feet up to 30 feet.

The water is a decided hindrance to the development of this claim, which has nevertheless given a large yield per ton. There are two reefs in this claim, and the wider reef gives an inferior yield to that from which such excellent returns have been obtained.

So far as can be at present ascertained, there is but little chance of raising the richest stone to advantage in the outside claims without the aid of pumping engines.

There has been a discovery of stream tin in alluvial workings, but the want of water and the absence of outside capital have left the matter in *stutu quo*.

There have been 121 miners' rights, thirty-six business licenses, and four mineral licenses issued during the past year.

Three gold-mining leases, comprising an area of 11 acres of ground, have also been applied for. There are betwixt eighty and ninety mines employed on the field. Owing to the want of water for crushing purposes, and the discoveries at Silverton and Sunny Corner, the population has seriously diminished.

LACHLAN DISTRICT—MURRUMBURRAH DIVISION.

(C. Outliffe, Mining Registrar.)

FOR the information of the Honorable the Minister for Mines, I have the honor to report that the gold-mining interest in the Murrumburrah Division has been, during the past year at a very low ebb, arising partly from want of water, as very little has fallen since January, 1885, in the district. The number of miners' rights sold has been seventy, and of business licenses, four.

The gold won, as shown by the banks return, amounted to 252 oz. 8 dwt. 4 gr., representing a money value of £971 1s. 9d.

The price of gold has been from £3 12s. 6d. to £3 17s., the latter being the ruling price.

LACHLAN DISTRICT—JUNEE DIVISION.

(Alfred Elliott, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of the Honorable the Minister for Mines, my report for the past year (1885) upon the Junee Division of the Lachlan Mining District and in doing so I regret to say that mining operations have not been carried on to a very great extent, owing principally to the scarcity of water.

During the year, thirty-eight miners' rights and two business licenses were issued, and nine applications for gold-mining leases were received. Nearly the whole of the land applied for in these applications was afterwards found to be on a conditional purchase belonging to William M'Nickle, who objected to the leases being granted, which led to an investigation being held before Mr. Warden Baker, the result of which has not yet been made known. The miners, however, have applied to the Minister for the excision of about 60 acres from the conditional purchase before mentioned for mining purposes. Should their request be granted, no doubt mining matters will look up.

Some

Some few months ago Mr. George Dobbys erected quartz-crushing machinery at a cost of £950. Several crushings (in all about 77 tons) have been made, yielding on an average 1 oz. 2 dwt. 6½ gr. per ton. Mr. Dobbys has also been to some considerable expense in constructing a large dam for the conservation of water.

There are at present about twenty miners at work.

Altogether about £586 13s. 9d. worth of gold has been won during the year.

LACHLAN DISTRICT—CANOWINDRA DIVISION.

(*Wm. Cook, Mining Registrar.*)

DURING the year 1885 there has been a decided improvement in mining matters in this division, the yield of gold for the year being 363 oz., against 45 oz. for the previous year, 303 oz. having been obtained from 343 tons of stone crushed, the remaining 60 oz. being obtained from old alluvial workings at Cargo and Gum Flat. During the year eleven gold-mining leases have been applied for, three of which have been refused. 101 miners' rights, three business licenses, and one mineral license have been issued.

The Ironclad, Cargo, after having been a long time idle, resumed work during the year. 90 tons of stone were crushed for a return of 154 oz. of gold. As work will now be carried on steadily a good return is looked forward to for the current year. This is the only quartz claim at present working at Cargo, but as other leases have been granted work will shortly be commenced in them.

The Queen of the Ranges, Canowindra.—46 tons of stone from this claim gave a return of 15 oz. which is considered by the shareholders to be payable. The claim is now idle, having been applied for as a gold-mining lease.

Blue Jacket, Belmore.—127 tons of stone has been crushed from this claim for a yield of 58 oz. of gold. As the reef is from 3 feet to 4 feet in width, and the stone easily worked, this return should be payable.

McNab and party have taken up an extended claim on an abandoned reef at Stockyard Gully, known as Shannon's Reef. A trial crushing of 4 tons gave a return of 2 oz. 15 dwt., which is payable. Four leases have since been pegged out on this line of reef, besides an ordinary claim. Several parcels of stone from this reef assayed in Bathurst showed an average of from 13 to 40 oz. to the ton, but owing to the presence of a large amount of mineral in the stone, saving the gold is a matter of very great difficulty with ordinary crushing appliances.

Boney's Rocks.—Mellon and party are working a claim on the old London Reef with payable results—14 tons of quartz crushed gave a return of 32 oz. 11 dwt. As the ground is now well opened up a good return will no doubt be obtained during the current year. An extended claim of 4 men's ground is also being worked on this line by Hadley and party, who expects to cut the reef before long.

Alluvial.—Several shafts have been sunk in the neighbourhood of Belmore, but nothing beyond a few colours have been found.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—ARALUEN, BRAIDWOOD, LITTLE RIVER, MAJOR'S CREEK, AND NERRIGA DIVISIONS.

(*Mr. Warden Aldcorn, P.M., Braidwood.*)

MINING operations in the above divisions of the Southern District for the year 1885 have been very much retarded from the same cause as was stated in my last report, viz., want of water. The rainfall during the past year has been exceptionally small, and this having been the case as regards the three or four preceding years, all the usual sources of water supply for the miners engaged in ground-sluicing were quite dried up. Thus, the greater number of the men were obliged to look out for other employment, and betook themselves to the railway lines as labourers. This remark is applicable to all the divisions except Araluen. There the dry weather has not been altogether a disadvantage, as it has permitted of the almost uninterrupted working of the half-dozen stripping claims in the bed of the river; although, even as regards these, on several occasions, it was found necessary to pump water for washing—a necessity which I believe never before arose in the division. The results, so far as these claims are concerned, may be regarded as satisfactory; for, although the amount of gold produced is considerably less than in some previous years, the facts have to be taken into account that not unfrequently the parties have come on old worked ground, necessitating extra labour and no little loss of time. About 5,000 oz. have been won in Araluen for the year.

The quantity from all the other divisions is very small compared with years when a fair supply of water was obtainable, and it is only a wonder that even so much as about 2,500 oz. have been got from these, at one time, very productive gold-fields.

There is nothing to report as to fresh discoveries.

Some small attempts have been made to work the reefs at Little River, but want of sufficient capital has brought operations to a standstill. Several trial crushings of stone carted about 20 miles to a machine gave very fair results, and some parties talk of getting machinery on the ground. I fear, however, that not much will result from the small and spasmodic efforts to develop this gold-field which are from time to time made. A quantity of valuable machinery to which I referred in my last report has remained there unused up to the present time.

Nothing has been done as to other minerals. I mentioned in my last report that some prospecting was being done for copper and silver in the neighbourhood of the Shoalhaven River. Several specimens were tested, but the result was not encouraging.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—MORUYA DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden Maunsell, P.M., Moruya.*)

I HAVE the honor to report that gold and silver mining operations in that portion of the Southern district which is under my charge have not increased since the date of my last report, owing to the continuance of a severe drought.

A few new gold-mining leases have been applied for, and at Tanja, I am informed, some fair specimens of quartz have been obtained.

There are several prospecting parties at work in various parts, but I have not heard that any of them have found payable gold.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—NOWRA DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden Lovegrove, P.M., Nowra.*)

I AM able this year to report more activity in gold-mining, though the increase of energy is more due to mother nature than to the mine-owners. It is evident to me that there was a persistent belief at Yalwal that because payable gold was got at a certain height therefore it must be more payable lower down. Nothing has yet occurred to prove this; the facts are all the other way at present. The Homeward Bound gold-mining lease of 5 acres has furnished nearly the whole gold return for the year, progressing from 1 oz. to 7 oz. per ton, and falling to 3 oz. or thereabouts. They still have a large quantity to crush, and will probably average 3 oz. per ton for it. The working is a large cavern near the top of the hill, 200 or 300 feet above the water. This company would have crushed more but for their purchase of the battery and the short supply of water, which causes together induced them to throw the battery idle, lay down waterpipes, repair gear, and generally get ready for the stone that was being continuously broken down. They will now be able to proceed without let or hindrance, and have upwards of 200 tons of stone commencing to go through.

Pioneer.—The Pioneer lease is now executed, and the men are at work, but it is too early to say anything except that they have been invariably payable in the past, and will, I hope, be so in the future.

Star.—The Star people have left their lower tunnel, and have come up to the level of the Homeward Bound and Pioneer, and expect to strike their stone shortly. Applications have been made all round, but probably rather by speculators, who will avail themselves of the next twelve months trying to float, &c., &c., on the strength of the Homeward Bound.

The Pinnacle battery has crushed two small lots unfavourably, and the owners of the stone blame a too generous supply of water for the result. The shaft which was abandoned at the junction of the Shoalhaven and Kangaroo Rivers has been resumed with capital at its back, and I am awaiting news of the bottoming the drift. There has been a great delay through the necessity of sinking through an enormous boulder of sandstone grit. The copper shaft, which was abandoned for want of funds, is now being prospected for silver by Captain Reynolds. There is one matter which I may as well allude to. On the 9-mile Beach reserve, near Coolangatta, is a 10-acre permit for Mr. Moss and others to prospect for gold. Mr. Moss has been boring, and informs me that he is stopped by a quicksand after boring 4 or 5 feet. I am afraid there is a want of will or a want of engineering knowledge about this matter, as the difficulty does not seem one that should take much time or consideration. He has shown me some coarse gold in a vial, taken from the bore, but as they are not at work, and have nothing to show on the ground, I have not paid a visit to the locality. They intend to put down pine boxes to line a shaft in order to get through the quicksand.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—BERRIMA DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden F. R. Wilshire, P.M., Berrima.*)

I HAVE the honor to report, for your information, that during the past twelve months little or no change has taken place in the mining interests of this district—indeed, I may say that, with the exception of the discovery of silver-bearing country near Towrang, in the district of Goulburn, no change whatever has occurred worth recognition. Herein I of course make no reference to the discovery also of silver-bearing lodes at Burratorang, as, although the applications have passed through my hands (as the nearest Warden's office, &c.), that locality is not within the area assigned to my charge as Warden; and beyond the fact of some of the applications to mine for silver there (twenty in all) having been lodged with me, I know nothing at all of the matter or vicinity, geologically or otherwise. I learn, however, from various sources, that some really promising discoveries of silver lodes, varying, it is said, in assay from 60 to 2,000 oz. to the ton, have been made at Burratorang, and that there is some prospect of successful mining operations in respect to that mineral being established in that locality.

With regard to the discovery of silver-bearing rocks at Towrang, I cannot at present say more than that a number of mining leases have been applied for there by various persons, some of whom have opened up and tested the quartz (or more properly perhaps) felspar reefs there, with results more or less encouraging, but up to the present time I have not heard of any assay giving a profitable result; and your communication of the 31st ultimo, furnishing me with results of certain assays of samples of the Towrang ores recently made at the Department of Mines, tends to confirm this fact. The locality, however, geologically, is of a decidedly mineral-bearing character, and there is every reason to expect that payable ores will yet be struck in that neighbourhood. Having already furnished you with a special report upon the silver find at Towrang, it is perhaps scarcely necessary to say more upon it here.

With regard to the shale and coal-mining operations of the district, there is really no change worth reporting. The Joadja Shale and Mineral Oil Company are still extending and enlarging their operations, and the firm is now one of the most important of its kind in the Colony.

The Erith and Berrima collieries are still at work, but the output from either is merely nominal, and I have no statistics concerning them. Considering the large and extensive area of coal-bearing formation in this district, and the great saving that would accrue to the country in the working of the already considerable and rapidly extending Southern Railways by obtaining the coal required in this locality, it seems strange that no effort appears to have been yet made by that Department or much encouragement offered for the production of a coal in this neighbourhood suitable for such purposes. That such a coal does exist here, and in unlimited quantities, is a fact thoroughly believed in by many persons who have given the subject attention. At present all, or nearly all, the coal used on the Great Southern Line is obtained at and conveyed either from Newcastle or Bowenfels, the mail trains using principally the former, owing to its less percentage of ash. The day cannot, however, be far distant when all this must cease, and the local coal finds its natural place on the southern locomotives, and thus give a great and much-needed stimulus to the full development of the valuable and extensive coal deposits of this district.

SOUTHERN

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—BOMBALA AND COOMA DIVISIONS.

(Mr. Warden Giles, P.M., Bombala.)

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of the Honorable the Minister for Mines, my report for the year 1885, upon the Cooma and Bombala Divisions of the Tumut and Adelong and Southern Mining Districts, of which I am Warden, and which embrace the following gold-fields, viz.:—Kiandra, Crackenback, Snowy River, Collinton, Nimitybelle, Delegate, and Towomba.

As previously instructed, I presume the Mining Registrars and Wardens' Clerks in my division, and who are stationed at Kiandra, Cooma, Nimitybelle, Bombala, and Eden, have already furnished their reports for the past year, giving detailed accounts of the various workings, proceeds, &c., also the number of miners' rights, business and mineral licenses issued within their respective divisions to the 31st December last.

At Kiandra there are five Companies at work. The gold won on this field during the past year amounted to about 1,900 ounces.

There were ninety-nine miners' rights issued by the Mining Registrar, but a number of rights held by miners were obtained in other districts.

The continued scarcity of water, the supply of which is reported to have been the worst for many years, has compelled some of the claim holders to temporarily suspend sluicing operations.

The want of sufficient water supply has seriously retarded the progress of this gold-field, otherwise the results would doubtless have been more favourable.

The Kiandra Gold-mining Company, at their New Chum Hill claim, have obtained a yield of about 1,200 ounces of gold. This Company intend to raise the dam at 3 miles, and increase the dimensions of their race in order to permit of the working of two nozzles in the claim.

At the 8-mile claim hydraulic sluicing was carried on for some time.

At the 9-mile claim hydraulic sluicing was carried on for 238 hours, yielding a return of over 40 ounces of gold. The manager reports that the scarcity of water experienced during the past year has been greater than that known for over twenty years.

At the 4- and 15-mile claims hydraulic sluicing was carried on, yielding but medium returns.

Some fresh applications for gold-mining leases have been lodged.

The mining population may be estimated at 300, consisting of Europeans and Chinese.

Nimitybelle Gold-field.

Mining operations on this gold-field have been at a standstill during the past year, mainly owing to the continued drought.

Collinton Gold-field.

Little or no progress has been made in gold-mining operations on this field during the past year. Some mineral leases have been applied for.

Delegate and Towomba Gold-fields.

There has not been any favourable progress made in gold-mining during 1885, on these gold-fields, although a migratory population has been maintained thereon, consisting mainly of Chinese.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—YASS DIVISION.

(Mr. Warden Fisher, Yass.)

I HAVE the honor to state that during the year 1885 nothing worthy of report has occurred in the Yass Division of the Southern Mining District.

Only three miners' rights and one mineral license were issued by the Mining Registrar at Yass during the past year.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—BRADWOOD DIVISION.

(C. Oslear, Mining Registrar.)

THE mining industry here during the past year has made little progress, it being chiefly attributable to the continued dry seasons and the want of investment of capital to develop same. This necessitates the miners seeking employment in other spheres of life, and consequently little or no prospecting is done. There is little doubt that plenty of gold exists, but it requires machinery to work same with any success. Two or three claims have been worked, but the reports have not been very favourable.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—ARALUEN DIVISION.

(E. F. Carlile, Mining Registrar.)

THE continued severity of the drought during 1885 has interfered materially with the working of the mines in this division. Some of the stripping claims have frequently had to discontinue washing for want of water, while the ground-sluicers have been idle nearly all the year. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the reports I have gathered show an out-turn of gold won during the year of 5,187 oz. 9 dwt., viz., 4,962 oz. alluvial, and 225 oz. 9 dwt. quartz and pyrites, valued at £19,971 13s. 6d., which is an increase of 362 oz. 15 dwt. over the previous year. Some of the claims have occasionally had good washings, thus adding to the general yield; besides which two or three fresh pieces of ground have been opened.

The only quartz-mining has been at Bell's Creek, where also a small quantity of pyrites has been treated; the returns from both are given in the tabular forms.

The outlook for the coming year is fairly prosperous. If favoured with moderate rains, the result will no doubt equal, if not exceed, those of the past year.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—MAJOR'S CREEK DIVISION.

(John Heazlett, Mining Registrar.)

In drawing up this my statistical report for the year ending the 31st December, 1885, I am reluctantly compelled to be more brief than what I have been with previous reports, and that, too, for the reason that I have very little material to work upon. Twelve months ago I had hoped that the continuous dry seasons of the past five years were at an end, but in this was mistaken, as the year 1885 has been the driest we have had for the past six years. I have never known the miners at Long Flat to be forced to leave it owing to the want of water until last year; and the Major's Creek has been in a similar condition as regards water; and I believe that for a considerable time past half a dozen miners could not be found at work on Crown lands and private property included, and even those few not permanently, and in many places enough water could not be found for prospecting purposes. It is not, therefore, at all surprising that the yield of gold for the past year has fallen off to about one-half of the quantity won during the previous year.

It may be as well to state that about 47 ounces of gold included in the tabular form herewith was sold at either Braidwood or Sydney, and may therefore be included in other reports; but as a set off against this, I am quite certain that a quantity of gold produced here has been disposed of abroad, the exact quantity I am unable to state, further than one party, who has been doing fairly well, has sold nearly the whole of what they obtained at either Braidwood or Sydney.

In quartz-mining very little has been done. 25 tons taken from the Rise and Shine reef, at Red Hill, and crushed at the Enterprise battery, yielded 36 oz. gold; and 1 ton 7 cwt. of mundic (pyrites) from same mine gave a return of 3 oz. 16 dwt. gold. The mode of treating the pyrites was as follows, viz.,—first, cleaning the pyrites from sand, &c.; second, roasting; third, grinding, then amalgamating, the grinding having been done in a Chilian mill.

Mr. R. Carter, whose mining experience extends back to over thirty years, has treated 5 tons of mundic tailings or refuse from Dargue's old reef, at Spring Creek, and from which he obtained 11 oz. 3 dwt. smelted gold, which he considered very satisfactory, so much so that he has made arrangements with the agent for private land to work up a large pile of similar stuff. The mine from which these tailings came has been abandoned for some time. Mr. Carter's method of treating the pyrites is somewhat similar to what I have already stated, but being able to extract the copper from the gold he is in a position to know what gold he has without waiting for the Mint returns. If he uses chemicals he is not likely to lead me into his secrets regarding them.

Some years ago I forwarded to the Department of Mines samples of refuse, after treatment of the pyrites, from Dargue's mine, and fully intended obtaining a sample of the mundic from Mr. Carter with the view of sending it to the Mines, but have been disappointed, as he has not cleaned any since the 5 tons of which I have already spoken.

I have one sample of mundic stone from the Rise and Shine, and intended to have obtained another coming on towards Christmas, and in this have been balked, consequent on the owners having stopped work soon after, and the reason is, so far as I know, in consequence of the small return from the 1 ton and 7 cwt. mundic.

What is known as the Snob's reef, at Big Hill, has been abandoned by Mr. J. H. Blatchford, after having held it over three years, with a view to forming a Company. It is now owned by Mr. Wm. Ben-nison, of Braidwood.

Last year I sold only thirty-one miners' rights as against forty during the previous year. Having experienced five years dry weather, a few had to abandon their claims, those who, having expensive dams and water-races, have held on to their titles being confident that when rainy seasons set in they may do well, and for this purpose secured the miner's right.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—LITTLE RIVER DIVISION.

(P. J. Galway, Mining Registrar.)

I do myself the honor, in furnishing my annual report for 1885, to express regret that the unprecedented drought in this division for the past year has prevented any improvement in mining matters. No rain has fallen in this division since my last report, with the exception of some slight showers during the last month, and those very partial.

The alluvial workings have consequently been confined to the river bed, and even there the water has ceased to run, and many claims are idle, the pumps being unable to contend with the under-current.

The European miners have to seek work on the different public works until a more favourable change takes place; and, as many have expended large sums of money on water-races ranging in length from 1 to 6 miles, should suitable seasons set in, I hope for a large increase in the mining population.

In quartz-mining an improvement has taken place. The Day Dawn Company have raised 174 tons of stone from above the water-level (26 feet from surface), and crushed 74 tons, which yielded 92 oz. 10 dwt., or 1 oz. 5 dwt. per ton, and are making arrangements for procuring pumping machinery and also crushing plant, the expense of sending stone to the nearest battery working being £2 per ton, including fees for crushing.

The adjoining claims have sunk 33 feet, and driven a tail-race 3 chains in length to keep down the surface water to that level, and are also procuring pumping gear to contend with the water, which is very heavy in the shaft. From this claim a trial crushing of 6 tons gave 52 oz. There are about 10 tons at grass, and some 30 tons ready to be broken down, waiting the erection of crushing machinery, the erection of which would give new life to quartz-mining in this division.

No work has been done by the Homeward Bound Company since the granting of their leases in the latter part of 1884. The Company hold four claims, each of 10 acres, and have a complete plant of pumping, winding, and crushing machinery.

One hundred and twenty-two miners' rights and seven business licenses were issued during the year.

SOUTHERN

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—NERRIGA DIVISION.

(P. J. Galway, Mining Registrar.)

THE mining carried on in this division is very limited in extent.

Several freshes, caused by thunderstorms, at the head of the Shoalhaven River have driven the miners working in the bed of the river from their claims, and, this division being no exception to the continued dryness, miners are forced to seek other work for a time.

Large quantities of wash-dirt are accumulated at several washing-places waiting a water supply in the races.

Twenty-eight miners' rights and five mineral licenses were issued during the year.

A 25-acre alluvial lease has been applied for situated at Sailors' Gully.

If a sufficient supply of water can be obtained, it is generally supposed that the claims will pay a fair dividend to the shareholders.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—EUROBODALLA AND NERRIGUNDAH DIVISIONS.

(H. J. Lea, Acting Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to report that there has been very little progress in this division during the last twelve months. There are a few European miners about Nerrigundah, who make a living by fossicking in the old ground. There are also a number of Chinese miners working about the old ground at Nerrigundah and the district. I am of opinion that they obtain a fair quantity of gold, but there is no way of finding out the quantity obtained by them; they will not give any information. The Bumbo reef is idle at the present time, but there are a few miners seeking for reefs in that direction.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—BOMBALA DIVISION.

(W. A. Dovers, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor herein to tender my report as Mining Registrar of this district. I regret to say that the mining industry here has much deteriorated even within the last twelve months. The drought which for the past two years has necessarily hindered mining operations and research seems to have been, and to be, at its worst. I have gathered from a good many interested parties that they look forward to a break-up of the dry weather to commence operations again.

There has been a slight renewal of inclination amongst the miners, and amongst new-comers also, to prospect for gold among and around the old claims along the Little Plain River. I have inspected one or two of the spots worked upon (situated for the most part on private land), but can see nothing to indicate a possible discovery of payable gold.

The old difficulty of compelling the Chinese to take out miners' rights still exists. I intend, if possible, to obviate this.

The amount of gold purchased by the banks in the district during the year is 180 oz. 15 dwt. 7 gr., at a price of £698 11s. 9d., as against 332 oz. 16 dwt. 6 gr., of the value of £1,278 7s. 11d., for the year 1884.

There were fourteen business licenses, one miner's right and three mineral licenses issued during the past year, as against sixteen business licenses, twelve miners' rights, and three mineral licenses issued for the year 1884.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—WAGONGA DIVISION.

(A. M. Smith, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to forward my report for the year 1885 on the progress of mining in this division.

Wagonga.

At the North Head, on the Belle of Australia line of reef, mining in three claims is actively prosecuted—the stone hard and difficult to sink upon. In December last a trial crushing of 27 tons from No. 2 North yielded 17 oz. 10 dwt. The reef averages 3 ft. in width. Scarcity of water has prevented stone being crushed, otherwise I should have been in a position to give a better account of the prospects expected to be realized on a large scale. The intention of claimholders is to convert permits into leases with a view of forming a No-Liability Company, and erecting machinery close to the ground now being worked, where water has never been known to fail. Another reef, about half a mile distant from the above-named reef, showing gold, is at present being tested in a claim of 4 acres applied for to lease. Until the shaft is down 100 feet no reliable opinion can be formed of the prospects of this lately discovered reef. The scarcity of water which for months has prevailed prevented creek claims from being worked, compelling many diggers to seek employment on the roads fencing and cutting timber.

Mount Dromedary.

There has been during the last quarter a considerable increase in the number of reefers on the mountain, several claims being efficiently worked. The veins are narrow, carrying gold from 1 to 2 oz. to the ton, and where boulders are not met with the driving is easy, the ground being friable. Claimholders appear to be satisfied, and there being two batteries close by the workings crushing can be secured on suitable terms.

Tanja.

Near Nelson's Creek, where gold in small quantities has at different times been obtained from alluvial, is likely to prove more permanent than hitherto, reports leading to that belief. A reef said to show inducements for investment is now being tested, two leases of 5 acres each having been applied for, while other parties are at work on ordinary quartz-claims. The distance from here to Tanja (40 miles) makes it difficult to report accurately upon the exact nature and results of workings in that quarter.

Tin-pot.

Tin-pot.

In the parish of Cadgee, on the river Tuross, which has been an alluvial diggings for many years, and may be considered a continuation of the Nerrigundah gold-field. This portion is now deserted as regards alluvial. Fair prospects of gold having been obtained from a quartz-reef, a few claims are now being worked, reefers from here who have visited the ground consider the prospects of payable gold encouraging; beyond this I can give no report.

Montreal.

Very rich stone, or, more properly expressed, specimens of gold-bearing quartz, taken from a reef called the Progress and Poverty, situated about 4 miles westward from Montreal, has been the occasion of some speculation. At present two claims of 4 acres each have been applied for to lease. An extended claim for five men and a few ordinary claims are at work. As yet no stone has been crushed, but should the stone from the reef turn out anything like the specimens exhibited it would be safe to estimate the yield at over 50 ounces to the ton. At present there is no crushing plant nearer than Mount Dromedary, where trial crushings may be made, and, if satisfactory, Bermagui port is convenient to land machinery.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—MORUYA DIVISION.

(*H. N. Barton, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to forward my annual report for the year ending the 1st instant for my portion of the Moruya Division.

Mining operations show little or no improvement from the past year, and what prospects there were of an increasing yield in alluvial ground have been much retarded by the late severe drought.

Mr. Francis Guy, the enterprising owner of a lease at the Silver Mine, has lately sunk a new shaft, now down about 70 feet, on ore, with good walls, forming the width of reef—about 2 feet. Mr. Guy is sending 10 tons of quartz to Germany for treatment. A Company is talked about being formed. The ore is rich in gold and silver, but impregnated with iron pyrites, arsenic, sulphur, mundic, and other minerals.

The machinery on the ground is old, but good, and cost about £1,000. Sixteen miners have been at work, but now there are only half the number or less.

Mogo maintains a number of diggers, but the ground is very patchy. Two leases have been applied for on some old and abandoned ground—shaft now down about 60 feet. This was the shaft that gave out 12 dwt. to the ton at the rush some years ago, and there is not the slightest doubt that if capital were employed there are good reefs on this field that would pay well.

Application has been made to the Warden for time to procure machinery by the applicants for lease, and from the show of gold in the stone there is every prospect of a payable reef.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—GUNNING DIVISION.

(*J. F. Kenyon, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to forward my annual report for the year 1885, and I regret to state that mining matters in this district do not show any improvement upon the previous years, mining, in fact, of all kinds being quite at a standstill, and although some prospecting has been done during the year I have been unable to obtain any reliable information as to the quantity of gold obtained, but am of opinion that it was inconsiderable.

I have issued fifteen miners' rights and three mineral leases, comprising an area of 80 acres in all, during the year 1885, the latter being taken up for the purpose of mining for silver, and are situated near Goulburn. There has not been any machinery at work in this district during the past year, but, notwithstanding the very gloomy aspect mining matters bear at present in this district, I am still of opinion that there is a better future in store for us, and feel convinced that even now there are many known payable reefs lying idle for the want of capital or enterprise to work them, causes which I trust will disappear with the severe and prolonged droughts prevailing in the district for years past.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—BURROWA DIVISION.

(*J. R. McDonald, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to forward my annual report for the year ending 31 December, 1885, and regret to say that very little has been done in reference to gold-mining. Several miners' rights were issued during the year, but the holders of them wish to keep back the results of their searches. In one case only have I heard that gold was obtained, but I could not obtain information as to the locality.

The Frogmore Copper-mines have suspended operations since the end of January last on account of the low price given for copper. During that month 60 tons of ore were raised from a depth of 300 feet, and yielded an average of 2 cwt. 1 qr. per ton. There is no doubt of the richness of this mine, but the present owners prefer to let it remain unworked till copper brings a more remunerative price.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT—NOWRA DIVISION.

(*W. Lovegrove, Mining Registrar.*)

THE only mine which has been fully at work has been the Homeward Bound, 5-acre lease, which has been giving rich returns for the whole year, and continues to do so. Nearly the whole return of gold comes from that mine. The Eclipse has been engaged on their tunnel, which is, of course, dead work, and their battery, consequently, lies idle. There are signs of waking up on some of the other leases, but no fresh capital offering. My Warden's report is more detailed.

TUNUT

TUMUT AND ADELONG DISTRICT—TUMUT DIVISION.

(Mr. Warden Vyner, P.M., Tumut.)

I REGRET to have to report that the state of the mining industry in that portion of the Tumut and Adelong Mining District under my charge is still in a very depressed state.

It appears to me that all the payable places have been discovered and worked out; and though a good deal of prospecting has been carried on during the past year no favourable results have ensued.

The amounts of gold forwarded by escort and the reduction in the number of miners' rights issued in 1885, as compared with those in 1884, clearly show not only that the population specially engaged in mining pursuits has been reduced, but that those who still persist in carrying on that industry win considerably less gold per man than formerly.

No mining for metals other than gold is being carried on in the district at present.

TUMUT AND ADELONG DISTRICT—GUNDAGAI DIVISION.

(Mr. Warden H. Gordon, P.M., Gundagai.)

IN forwarding my annual report upon mining in this district, I regret that I am unable to bring under your notice any marked improvement in mining matters. Although the district bears the reputation of being a rich mineral country, it is surprising how little success has followed the prospector. From what I can learn, there is a larger area of ground being prospected at the present time than for some years past, and there are indications of a revival in gold-mining. Some large ventures are now well on towards development, notably the Great Victoria at Turrabandra, the Bongongolong at Burra, and another Company at Mitta Mitta are about commencing active operations, and I hope to report a satisfactory return from each of them. The Australian Slate Company at South Gundagai are still working with energy. They have lately opened a fresh deposit of roofing slate said to be of superior quality. There has been no crushing of any importance at any of the machines during the year. Many small parcels have been crushed, but they were all of a prospecting character.

TUMUT AND ADELONG DISTRICT—QUEANBEYAN DIVISION.

(Mr. Warden J. C. Woore, Queanbeyan.)

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of the Honorable the Minister for Mines, my report for the year 1885 upon the Queanbeyan Division of the Tumut and Adelong Mining District.

Captain's Flat.—I mentioned in my last year's report that at Blatchford's mine a difficulty had been encountered in treating the ore for gold by the ordinary process of crushing and amalgamating with mercury.

Upon assays being made it was found that the difficulty was caused by the presence of silver and lead in the ore in quantities considered payable.

Operations were consequently discontinued, and Mr. Blatchford visited Sunny Corner, and examined the smelting process adopted in that locality; and, believing it to be satisfactory, made arrangements with the patentees, Messrs. Kahlo and Dodd, for the erection of a furnace at Captain's Flat, and formed a Company of 60,000 £1 shares, paid up to 15s., to work the mine.

The furnace, commonly known as the "Pacific Water-jacket Smelter," was constructed at Mort's Engineering Works, and early in October last was forwarded to the mine, and is now being erected there. On visiting the locality yesterday Mr. Blatchford informed me that the furnace would be in blast in about a month from this date. An assaying furnace is also nearly completed; and a large dam has been constructed near the mine to increase the water supply, which hitherto has been precarious.

There are about thirty men now employed at this mine; but no gold or other metal has been obtained from it during the past year as the work has been entirely of a preparatory character.

During the first half of the year, Montgomery and party raised 924 tons of stone from their mine, which was crushed by Holtermann's machine, and yielded 239 ounces of gold. Work at this mine has been suspended during the last six months owing to insufficiency of water; but is now about to be resumed, the late rains having caused a freshet in the river.

A little work, in the way of prospecting for the lode, has been done on the leases held by the representatives of the late Mr. Holtermann.

A few miners have been working in a desultory way in the bed of the river, with, so far as I can learn, very moderate results.

Harkness and party have just bottomed a shaft about 9 feet deep on the flat above Holtermann's machine, and showed me about 2 dwt. of gold obtained from the bottom. The gold lies on the bed-rock. There is not any drift or wash-dirt, but merely a few boulders lying on the rock, and the prospect is not considered very promising.

Another party has commenced sinking on the flat just above Harkness's, but they do not seem very sanguine of success.

At Brindabella a tunnel has been driven 300 feet partly through a hill on the line of race intended to work Reid's ground-sluicing claim. This tunnel will have to be extended about 600 feet further to penetrate the hill, and complete the race. Six men have been employed at this work.

Mr. Reid informs me that he has not obtained any gold from his claim during the past year, excepting about 2 ounces by prospecting, owing to the want of water, and the race being unfinished, and that work has been delayed by disputes and litigation.

TUMUT AND ADELONG DISTRICT—ALBURY DIVISION.

(Mr. Warden Keightley, P.M., Albury.)

I HAVE the honor to report that very little mining has been carried on in my district during the past year in old workings. There have been three new shows opened up—one (Wealands and party) at Black Range, and the other two at Splitters Creek, some 7 miles from Albury, and the other at Hawksview Estate

8 miles from Albury. Both the latter are on private property. The Soudan Gold-mining Company, at Splitters Creek, have erected first-class machinery, and are busy crushing. The gold-bearing stone in this claim is taken out of a face 20 feet wide, there being no defined reef at 45 feet. The stone is calculated to yield 10 dwt. right through. The Hawksview find is in old workings, and has the appearance of turning out well.

Messrs. Wealands and party's claim is situated about $1\frac{1}{8}$ mile west from the Ethiopian claim at Black Range, and was discovered in November last. They obtained some 15 oz. of gold almost on the surface and are hard at work.

TUMUT AND ADELONG DISTRICT—TUMBARUMBA AND GERMANTON DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden J. F. Makinson, P.M., Tumbarumba.*)

I HAVE the honor to report as below of my division for 1885.

Mining has been dull during the year past, and no new finds of any importance have taken place. Two gold-mining leases have been taken up at Spencer's Creek, Paddy's River, but, although the lessees asserted that their stone was payable and in large quantities, they have not succeeded in inducing any capitalists to develop the ground. The Basaltic Gold-mining Company at Bald Hill has not yet arrived at paying results, though its manager anticipates a thorough success by the end of April next. A couple of new gold-mining leaseholders at Peep-o'-Day have raised 6 or 8 tons of 4-oz. quartz from small veins, which have been crushed at the Isabella Battery, but it is impossible yet to say whether stone in sufficient quantity can be raised. The sluicing at the Burra Company, property has paid moderately well, and at all the other sluicing places in this division scarcely wages has rewarded the miners' labour. At the Rang-atira Reef two good crushings have been had; since then the results have not been so encouraging. The Isabella Reef, at Ournie, has been steadily worked during the year, with somewhat brightening prospects; the stone here contains an appreciable quantity of silver. The gold sent away from this division during 1885 through known sources was only about 1,560 oz., and I do not think any large quantity has been sent away by private hands. However this does not include 1,341 oz. of bullion raised at and sent away from the Isabella Reef (Comstock), which was worth 28s. per oz.

TUMUT AND ADELONG MINING DISTRICT—ADELONG DIVISION.

(*J. James, Mining Registrar.*)

THE business transacted during the year consists in the issue of 261 miners' rights and six business licenses; the receipt of eight applications for gold-mining leases; conditional registrations, sixty-six; nine registrations in tenement register, and thirteen in unsurveyed tenement register.

The escort returns are as follows:—

	oz.	dwt.	gr.
Commercial Bank	6,520	19	3
New South Wales Bank	1,300	5	15
Total for the year	7,821	4	18

The crushing returns are as follow:—

	tons	cwt.	oz.	dwt.
Reefer battery	2,462	10	2,304	12
Perseverance battery.....	567	10	263	10
Totals	3,030	0	2,568	2

Issue of miners' rights compared:—

1884.	1885.	Decrease.
No.	No.	No.
383	261	122

Quantities of gold, the produce of this division, compared:—

1884.	1885.	Decrease.
oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.
10,725 4 16	7,821 4 18	2,903 19 22

Quantities of quartz crushed and yield compared:—

1884.	1885.	Decrease
tons cwt. qr.	tons cwt. qr.	tons cwt. qr.
6,308 9 0	3,030 0 0	3,278 9 0
oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.
5,762 9 11	2,568 2 0	3,194 7 11

Quantities of alluvial gold, the produce of this division, compared:—

1884.	1885.	Increase.
oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.
4,962 15 5	5,253 2 18	290 7 13

In all the principal mines in this division nothing has been done to develop them, either by sinking or driving.

The total output compared shows a decrease of 3,278 tons, a quantity less by about 1,000 tons crushed by the Great Victoria Gold-mining Company in 1884. This Company suspended work early in 1885, and subsequently their property was sold in Sydney. Of late the mine was again started under the management of Mr. A. W. Molneaux.

The Challenger Company's mine has a decrease of 213½ tons for the year. The expectations of the tributors, under the management of Mr. William Ellis, were not realized, and the contract was abandoned. The mine was idle a short time in consequence. Of late another party of tributors, under the management of Mr. T. H. Smith, have commenced work.

The

The Williams' Amalgamated, Victoria Hill, has been idle. On this property there is a steam-hauling engine and complete appliances. The diamond-drill formerly in use was removed.

The Perseverance Company's leases have been idle. Expensive machinery and appliances are erected on these holdings.

The stoppage of the Great Victoria Company's mine led many miners to remove from this field, and a few to remain and prospect.

In March last Evans and party discovered a payable bunch in an abandoned shaft at the Gap, Adelong. This incident made quite a stir, and about a mile of the line of reef was taken up in claims. The discovery of another bunch on the surface, half a mile north of Evans and party, caused other areas to be marked off in extension; and in August a prospecting protection area was taken up by Chesson and party, 3 miles distant from the latter find, in a southerly direction. A rush set in, and a gold-bearing leader was found and traced for 2 miles north from the prospectors. About this time a prospecting association, consisting principally of townsmen, was formed, and their operations were directed to surface trenching.

Nothing of a permanent and payable character transpired, and the successive rushes subsided. The two former had a short payable duration, and from the last the proof of the existence of fine gold for a long course, giving yields from 3 to 13 dwt. per ton, is now an established belief.

Evans and party, Anderson and party, and Chesson and party still retain their holdings. Each is down about 90 feet.

The shareholders of the Band of Hope quartz-mining tenement, Donkey Hill, have made wages during the past nine months.

At Hodge Brothers' leases, although work is carried on, nothing of any note is worth while recording.

The Prospecting Association have taken up an abandoned line of reef on Donkey Hill, and have named their tenement the Louisa. The work done is by contract. Up to date nothing payable has been discovered.

The tributors on the Curragong leases crushed 192½ tons, which yielded 430 oz. 11 dwt.

Gibraltar Hill contributed 32 tons for a yield of 72 oz. 12 dwt. to the Perkins Brothers. Several small lots were also treated belonging to different owners.

Cole and party, Mount Adrah, crushed 120 tons, which yielded 216 oz. 17 dwt. Five men are employed, and from present appearance the claim is alleged to have at least two years' work in sight.

From outlying places about 150 tons of quartz were reduced at the Reefer battery, and about 80 at the Perseverance battery. One parcel of 11 tons, from White and party, Tarcutta, yielded 50 oz. 2 dwt. At the Reefer battery 5 tons of tailings, from Armidale, were treated in Chilian mills, and 1 oz. 10 dwt. 12 gr. of gold were extracted.

From early times this field has experienced alternating periods of either elevating or depressing influences, and the year 1885 is one of the latter. Throughout, the main sources of supply were from the two principal lodes on the Victoria and Old hills. The average depth on these lines cannot be more than 600 feet on the bunches, although 1,000 feet have been pierced in three different places. The question arises, are these lines exhausted, and what remains untouched remains only for the fossicker? If the lodes be true, as reputed to be, then there is in the industry a prosperous future which capital and renewed energies may demonstrate.

Alluvial Mining.

During the year, at Mr. A. D. Shepard's leases good work has been done with satisfactory results. A large tract of land has been opened and blocked, and over a mile of the lease bored. Throughout the ground has been regular. Eighty-five hands are employed, men and boys, and work carried on in two shafts, and two shifts of men are engaged. The monthly yields have varied from 320 oz. to 350 oz. The lease has been a dividend-paying one to the owner.

Mr. A. D. Shepard has of late been making preparations to work his lease by a different system, viz., by hydraulic injector. The preparatory works, so far, have been blasting head-race, 100 yards in solid rock, and building a stone dam, 1,500 feet.

Mr. Travers Jones' tenements below having been worked out he is waiting to get a title to ground adjacent.

From other sources of supply the yields have been below the average. The want of water for sluicing purposes is one of the causes.

The total yield is slightly in excess of that noted in the previous year. This can be only accounted for and is owing to the larger yields from Mr. Shepard's lease.

From the business transacted, expectation of fresh sources of supply was rife; but the year has not opened out any such worthy of note.

TUMUT AND ADELONG DISTRICT—KLANDRA DIVISION.

(*W. D. Bailly, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to forward my report for 1885.

Mining matters in this division are very dull.

The number of miners' rights issued was 99, as compared with 136 for 1884. The gold won, exclusive of that won by the hydraulic companies, was 548. Hydraulic sluicing was carried on at the Four-mile and Fifteen-mile, with but poor returns, and at the Eight-mile with but medium returns. The manager of the Nine-mile Company reports that he had only 238 hours sluicing, giving a return of 40 oz. 10 dwt. of gold, and adds that it was the worst season for water experienced on that part of the field for the last twenty years. At New Chum Hill sluicing has been carried on almost continuously, with a return of 1,065 oz. 19 dwt. 1 gr. This Company purposes raising the dam at Three-mile, and enlarging the race from thence to the Pipe Lead dam, so as to enable them to work two nozzles in the claim.

One lease of 3 acres has been applied for.

TUMUT

TUMUT AND ADELONG DISTRICT—NARRARA DIVISION.

(J. K. Armstrong, Mining Registrar.)

UNDER the auspices of the new Rangatira Gold-mining Company, Limited, a very considerable amount of work has been done during the past year at the Rangatira quartz-mine. A 14-horse power portable engine, with pumping apparatus and winding gear, was first erected. Subsequently, on the quartz proving payable, a crushing plant, consisting of five stamp-heads, was added; and up to this time, with the one steam-engine, pumping, winding, and crushing have been carried on simultaneously, there being just about water enough for crushing obtained from the mine.

A most competent and extremely energetic manager has been for some time in charge of this mine, and I believe it is possible to make the venture a success. He is the man to do it.

The directors of the Company having come to the conclusion that with a larger plant better results would be obtained, are accordingly having a 35-horse power engine, with much larger pumping machinery, put up, and it is the intention in due time to make an addition of several more heads of stamps to the present battery.

The gold is not quite as good at the present level, as it was shallower, but no doubt at a greater depth, judging from appearances so far, results better than ever will be obtained.

The Minnie quartz-reef at Four-mile Creek, about two miles and a half from the Rangatira, is just about being started by the proprietors.

When formerly worked, this mine proved payable for a short time, under very disadvantageous circumstances as regards crushing the stone and saving the gold, and the general opinion appears to be that the property is now a good one.

Alluvial-mining has still further decreased. Nothing very good has at any time been found; but the want of water during these dry seasons is the principal cause of the falling off.

One or two prospectors are searching for tin between this and Jingellac, believing that some payable deposits are to be found; but there is nothing more to report at present on this subject.

TUMUT AND ADELONG DISTRICT—ALBERT DIVISION.

(C. A. Conley, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to report as follows:—

During the past year there has been a fair amount of work carried on, but with only indifferent results.

The Border Town Company (alluvial) have erected machinery at the Black Range, and have done a good deal of work, but, when in a fair way of testing ground, suddenly suspended operations. The ground occupied by this Company yielded payable gold twenty years ago, but was abandoned on account of the water being too strong; but with the machinery now on the ground it can be easily kept down. No doubt it will receive another trial this coming year, as the general opinion of miners who know the country is that the ground will pay if properly worked.

The quartz yields are as follows:—

Lawson and party, 6 tons for 8 oz.

Brooker and party, 10 tons for 13 oz. 9 dwt.

F. Wealands and party, 11 tons for 10 oz. 7 dwt.

Pye and party, 11 tons for 10 oz. 7 dwt.

Pye and party, 14 tons for 27 oz.

Goldsworthy Bros., 44 tons for 19 oz.

Ah Ham and party, 10 tons for 3 oz. 10 dwt.

F. Wealands, specimens, 5 oz.

During the year a very good show has been opened up by Messrs. Englehardt and party, on private property, at Splitter's Creek, some 4 miles west from Black Range, and a Company, "The Soudan," has been floated, and are erecting machinery on the ground. No defined reef has been struck, but the stone for a width of some 20 feet contains payable gold.

TUMUT AND ADELONG DISTRICT—TUMUT DIVISION.

(C. J. Lloyd, Mining Registrar.)

THE gold-mining in this district appears, from what information I can gather, to be wholly alluvial. Mining operations in the district are very slack.

Owing to the short time I have been in the district I am unable to give a very full report, but will endeavour to collect fuller information during the current year.

TUMUT AND ADELONG DISTRICT—GUNDAGAI DIVISION.

(C. W. Weekes, Mining Registrar.)

IN presenting my annual report for the year 1885 I am unable to note any marked improvement in mining matters. The several gold-mining Companies mentioned in my last report are still engaged in opening up their properties, but none of them are yet in a position to keep a crushing plant at work. The Great Victoria, at Tarrabandra, have erected a 20-head battery, and expect to be crushing regularly in a few weeks. At Bongongolong also a plant is to be erected in connection with T. Walters' lease at Burra. Some capitalists from Wagga Wagga have been tempted to take this affair in hand, and it promises very favourable returns.

Several large gold-bearing deposits, in the form of dykes, are known to exist near Gundagai, but they need more capital to prove their value than local speculators are willing to risk. If the Bongongolong Gold-mining Company proves a success a large area of similar country, extending for many miles, will be at once taken up and worked.

There are no alluvial workings in this district.

The number of miners' rights issued was 108; mineral licenses, 3; gold leases applied for was 6, aggregating 28 acres; mineral leases applied for was 3, total area 160 acres, all for slate.

TUMUT

TUMUT AND ADELONG DISTRICT—NIMITYBELLE DIVISION.

(G. W. Myers, Mining Registrar).

I REGRET to state that I have no improvement to report with regard to mining matters in this division during the year 1885. Only twenty-one miners' rights were sold during the year. An alluvial discovery has been made by a party of six men 16 miles from Nimitybelle. There are now about fifteen or twenty men on the ground, who, I am informed, are getting good payable gold.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—GLEN INNES DIVISION.

(Mr. Warden Martin, P.M., Glen Innes.)

THE year 1885 was on the whole a favourable one for the chief mining industry of my division, and the output of tin exceeded by more than 400 tons the quantity raised in the previous year.

This increase was pretty equally distributed over the shallow, deep, and lode workings, and was mainly due to the more abundant rainfall of the year, and the advance in prices in the Home market.

An average number of about 650 Chinese and 540 European miners were employed on tribute and wages.

Capital and labour have been freely expended in prospecting the deep ground underlying the basalt, but in very many instances the result has been most disheartening, not even a trace of tin being found.

As some compensation to the community for these repeated failures, it is pleasing to note that the continuation of the famous Wesley Lead has been dropped upon by Bailey and party at 140 feet, and proved to extend through Cunneen and Company's tribute for a considerable distance westerly.

The old waterway is here about 40 feet wide, with abrupt boundary walls of granite, and as there were no surface indications in the nearly level claim to guide the prospectors they were very fortunate, indeed, to bottom on so rich a deposit after about two years' persevering labour in sinking trial shafts.

Mr. Reid, of Tent Hill, who is largely engaged in that particular branch, writes me that—

"In tin-lode mining a vast amount of money has been expended in the effort to establish a profitable industry, but so far the result has been discouraging, for, notwithstanding the promising surface indications that are to be met with in many parts of the district, no lode has yet been proved to be of a permanent character. The Glen Smelting Company have had an average of fourteen men employed in raising tin-stone from the mine known as the "Ottery," near Tent Hill, where the lodes are found 4 to 8 feet in width. The stone is of a poor quality, rarely exceeding 3 per cent. of black tin.

"The Dutchman and Torrington lodes are reported to be much richer, but not so regular in formation. Several parcels of 100 tons from those mines are said to have yielded 20 per cent. of black tin.

"Four extensive stamp batteries, with all the requisite concentrating machinery, are now available for lode-tin miners, and as each plant has been erected in the vicinity of promising outcrops of lode-tin, there are reasonable hopes of a much larger output of ore from this source in the future."

The tin ore from all sources won during the twelve months was, as nearly as could be ascertained, as follows:—

	Tons cwt. qrs.		
Vegetable Creek—Deep leads.....	945	7	2
Lode.....	352	2	3
Shallow.....	1,184	14	3
Glen Innes—Shallow workings.....	160	0	0
Total.....	2,642	5	0

Which, at £53 per ton (the average price at the smelting works), gives a value of £140,039 5s.

The manager of the Tent Hill Smelting Works reports a total of 1,328 tons 18 cwt. 3 qr. 2 lb. tin ore received for reduction during the year, and that the quantity of refined metal forwarded by rail, via Glen Innes, to Newcastle was 885 tons 18 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lb.

All the ore raised and metal produced in the district was sent by rail to Newcastle, with the exception of 110 tons purchased by agents of the Berlimbah Smelting Company, of Brisbane, and forwarded to that establishment for reduction.

The rate of wages was unaltered from the previous year, and the supply of labour abundant.

SILVER.

Eighteen months have now passed since the mining community of Vegetable Creek were startled by the news that the massive weathered and lichen-covered dyke at Little Plant Creek was a silver-bearing lode of possibly great value; but the anxious desire which then set in to possess land on compass bearings north and south for miles on the supposed course of the lead has long since died out, without an attempt having been made by any of the applicants, other than the prospectors, to test the value of the claims they were so clamorous to obtain leases of. Upon portions 1, 2, 3 (originally taken up by Webb, Flannery, and Pomroy) alone has any work been done.

An association, known as Webb's Silver-mining Company, has been formed to work these amalgamated claims, and the manager reports to me as follows:—

"This Company have kept some 16 miners continually employed in developing the massive mineral dyke traversing their land, with a result that has every appearance of returning the Company a hundredfold upon their outlay. In the aggregate there have been some 525 feet of sinking and 25 feet of driving done.

"One shaft has been put down 104 feet, but at this depth the water made so rapidly that the available hand-power was found inadequate to its mastery, and in consequence it was abandoned in favour of workings upon higher ground. Here two shafts have been put down to a depth of 90 feet, and on driving to test the silver-bearing portion of the lode it was found to be in one case 14 feet wide, assaying 55 ounces to the ton; and in the other, some considerable distance away, it proved to be 6 feet wide, with an average result in silver of 75 ounces to the ton.

"The principal silver-bearing ore is fahlerz (antimony and copper) associated with galena.

"The gangue is metamorphic slate of a very hard nature, and where not rich in mineral is very difficult to shoot away.

"The country being of a precipitous nature for miles around, ingress to and egress from the Company's works is most difficult at present. As, however, some £400 is being expended by the Government in the formation of a road, the worst parts will be made somewhat passable; but an additional expenditure will have to be incurred in this work before machinery to treat the ore can be placed upon the ground."

At Pye's Creek the silver-bearing lodes have assumed an importance beyond the promise of their opening, and indications seem to warrant the miners' belief in their permanent productiveness and value.

A considerable number of claims have been taken up in the parishes of Wellington Vale and Annandale, and assays from various trial shafts give very satisfactory and encouraging results.

Amongst the most promising are Hamilton & Co's., W. Mason's, and the Sunny Corner.

The ore in Hamilton's block is fahlerz, assaying in picked samples as high as 3,000 oz. of silver ore per ton.

Mason's lode consists of carbonate and sulphide of lead, some of which assays as high as 310 oz. of silver to the ton.

The Sunny Corner ore consists of sulphide of lead, and gives by assay up to 100 oz. of silver.

The field is an extensive one, and prospecting is being vigorously carried on in different parts of it.

To meet anticipated wants, a township has been laid out in close proximity to the principal claims, and about 14 miles from the railway stations at Deepwater and Bolivia, on the Northern Line.

So satisfied are the miners of the value of their discoveries that they have already issued the prospectus of a smelting Company to reduce the ores on the spot; and it appears probable that the shares will all be taken locally.

Gold.

There was an increase in the production of this metal, caused entirely by the settlement of about sixty Chinese miners on the old gold-field at Oban.

These men, as the returns show, could not individually have earned ordinary wages in a place where the deposits are very evenly distributed, and there are no prizes, but want of employment had compelled them to leave Vegetable Creek, and they were glad to avail themselves of the certainty of a living in this poor man's country.

Under the special lease regulations capital has been attracted to this field in the hands of a Mr. Fapell, who has undertaken, at an estimated expense of £3,000, to cut through a granite bar, and thus drain of impeding water one of the sand flats peculiar to the place.

It is supposed that the underlying deposit of gold will afford a remunerative return when in this way laid bare.

The work is in progress, and from the nature of the rock is both difficult and costly.

At Glen Elgin the continued want of water had almost put a stop to the labours of the few miners who have made their homes on the ground and have been long resident there.

To this quarter also capital has been drawn under the special lease regulations, the Glen Elgin Sluicing Company having been formed to work 80 acres in the bed of the river, at a point very favourably situated for their contemplated operations.

Trial shafts have been sunk across a narrow neck of land through which it is intended to cut a race to drain the river into a lateral gully at a lower level, and the local manager is of opinion that there is sufficient gold in the overlying clay to pay for the sluicing necessary in clearing the channel.

As, however, the river water cannot be brought to the level necessary to effect this object, it has been decided to place powerful pumping machinery on the ground to do the work.

When this has been arranged the work of opening the race will be pushed forward vigorously, and as the clay and drift do contain gold it is probable that the manager's anticipations will be realized.

Irrespective of the labour employed by the special leaseholders, there have been about twenty Europeans and sixty Chinese prospecting and working claims on these two fields during the year.

No certain return of the amount of gold won could be obtained, but I would estimate it at 300 ounces.

As all the gold found in this division contains a large percentage of silver, its average price does not exceed £3 12s. 6d. per oz. on the ground. At this price its value would be £1,087 10s.

In addition to the amount of gold won, the Chinese at Oban have also raised about 25 tons of tin-ore on this the oldest tin-field in the Colonies; but, even taking this into account, the miners earnings have been much below the current rates of wages.

Copper.

A lode of this ore was discovered some years ago near the Grafton Road, about 18 miles from Glen Innes, but after sinking two trial shafts the discoverers abandoned the lease.

Bismuth.

Between thirty and forty men and boys are reported to be engaged at the Kingsgate mine, but I cannot give the amount of ore produced, as the manager states that he is not at liberty to furnish particulars.

However, as the returns of carriage by railway show that nearly 38 tons of ore were forwarded to Newcastle, it is reasonable to suppose that it was raised in this district, and principally from these mines. Little but prospecting is being done at the Glen Innes mine.

It is impossible to estimate the value of this ore, as the sale of the ore and metal appears to be in the hands of a ring in London, who sell and regulate the price irrespective of the amount produced.

Galena.

Although this ore is known to exist at Wellingrove, it is not being worked.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—BINGERA DIVISION

(Mr. Warden C. Lawson, P.M., Bingera.)

I HAVE the honor to transmit my annual report for the Bingera portion of the Peel and Uralla Mining District for the year 1885.

The

The past year has been most uneventful; mining operations almost suspended in consequence of the limited rainfall.

Copper.—All operations stopped.

Diamonds.—The Australian Diamond Co. have curtailed their workings, and are quietly testing their claims with a few hands. The results of the last washings are satisfactory. Eighty-seven loads yielded 1,184 diamonds, weighing 209 carats.

All other parties have suspended labour.

Gold.

But little doing; an odd shaft is now and then put down on the Cemetery Flat, with unsatisfactory results.

Bobby Whitlow.—Some of the reefs are showing good stone.

Upper Binger.—The place is almost deserted. The diamond drill, worked by private enterprise, put down three bores without discovering the expected deep reef, after which it was removed. The miners are returning to work some of the old claims.

Black Forest.—A shaft has been sunk some 250 feet, but operations are now suspended.

Barraba, Crow's Mountain.—Fletcher & Co. are breaking down good-looking quartz, and expect good results when they crush.

Tea-tree Creek.—Since the rainfall a few hands have returned to the alluvial.

Duke and party have struck rich stone in the claim adjoining Dyson's in Opossum Gully.

Some of the old claims—Reading's and Shamrock Reefs—are taken in hand by a Company, who intend to erect machinery and properly test the reefs. From information gathered, I consider I am justified in advising the gold returns from this district are probably less than they have been since it was declared a gold-field.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—TAMWORTH DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden Irving, P.M., Tamworth.*)

I HAVE the honor to report upon that portion of the mining district of Peel River and Uralla which is under my charge, for the year 1885, as follows:—

There has been no mining prosecuted in this part of the mining district worthy of note during 1885.

I am not aware of any gold claim that can be termed payable.

There are some leases for mining for tin and for manganese in the extreme north-eastern bounds of my district, but I do not hear of any ore being brought from these leased lands.

The number of miners' rights issued during 1885 was eight, and mineral licenses for same term of issue, four.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—SCONE DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden W. F. Parker, P.M., Scone.*)

I HAVE the honor to forward my third annual report upon the Scone Division of the Peel and Uralla Mining District under my charge. I am sorry that I cannot report any material improvement in the mining industry in this division, but I have great hopes that this year will be an improvement on the last.

Last week I visited Moonan Brook (the Denison) Diggings, distant from Scone about 40 miles in a north-easterly direction. At Moonan there is a 10-stamp battery worked by water-power, which, I am sorry to say, has only been partially worked during the past year. I found only eighteen miners working on quartz-reefing. I visited the Tunnel (Fuller's Reef), worked by E. Williams and party. I found that during last year 205 tons of stone had been raised and crushed, yielding a return of 196 oz. of gold. Mr. Williams showed me all through the tunnel, and I ascertained that the shareholders had made a recent discovery in No. 2 stope, 700 feet in the tunnel, at a depth of 400 feet from the surface. Mr. Williams informed me that a trial crushing of that stone had yielded 1 oz. of gold to the ton, and that himself and brother shareholders fully expect to receive a handsome return from same during the present year. I also learnt that one or two new reefs had been recently discovered, the stone of which looks remarkably well. 94 tons of stone was raised and crushed from the Boozer Reef, yielding 100 oz. of gold; the total quantity of stone crushed at Moonan, at Williams & Co's machine, being 325 tons, which yielded a total of 315 oz. of gold.

Stewart's Brook.—There are seventeen men working there, all on quartz-reefing. 300 tons of quartz had been crushed there during the past year, averaging about 1 ounce of gold to the ton. The total quantity of stone raised and crushed at Moonan and Stewart's Brook during 1885 being 625 tons, yielding 605 oz. of gold. I may state, for your information, that in consequence of the drought last year several of the miners, with their families, were compelled to leave the Denison for other fields. By to-day's mail train I forward you a small box of quartz specimens obtained from Moonan Brook (way-bill enclosed).

I may also state that at Stewart's Brook there is a first-class 5-stamp battery, also worked by water-power, which I regret to state is not kept constantly at work. The value of the gold raised in this division during last year is upwards of £2,000.

The Mining Registrar's report will inform you of the number of miners' rights and business licenses issued here during the past year.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—NUNDLE DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden Jones, P.M., Nundle.*)

I HAVE the honor to transmit you my annual report for the Nundle Division of the Peel and Uralla Mining District.

Reefs.

A very decided improvement has taken place in this branch of the mining industry during the year in this district. Seven leases were applied for, and are now being vigorously worked. The best paying at present is the John Bull, Bowling Alley Point. The reefs at the Hanging Rock will, I believe, upon being further

further tested, become good paying mines. Gold has now been found in the reefs east of the Serpentine, in the claim of McNeilly, and also in that of Tomlinson and Northmore. This should induce the energy and attention of the prospector to this locality. The Old Gladstone is again in full work, showing sufficiently encouraging prospects as to induce the shareholders to erect a steam-power engine to drive their crushing plant. The Brown Snake, after a determined prospect of thirteen months, is now showing good gold in a small leader. The Black Snake and the Lady Mary are also at work. In addition to reefs at work at Bowling Alley last year, there are two—the Lord Carrington and the Moonlight; the Marquis of Lorne, on the Peel River Estate—have done nothing since my last report but dead work, to cut the reef at a lower depth.

Alluvial.

During this year, as well as last, this class of mining has almost been in total suspension, and from the same cause—the want of water. When water was available the result was a good win of gold. Until that scheme on one occasion strongly recommended by Mr. Slee, and recently by Mr. Wilkinson, is carried out, namely, the bringing of a supply from Callaghan's Swamp, alluvial mining here will be of an uncertain character. It is the opinion of mining experts that a Company formed to carry out this work will receive handsome dividends in working land on their own account, and by the sale of their surplus water. The Mount Pleasant Cement Company have had many difficulties to contend with, and the result, I regret to add, was not a more payable one. The Mount Ephraim, from the want of water, had to totally suspend operations. Splendid gold has lately been found at Spring Gully, near the Hanging Rock, by Rackham and party, on their 3-acre lease, the depth of sinking being 40 feet. I purchased two pieces weighing 1 oz. 13 dwt.

Copper.

Owing to the low price of this metal, no work has been done on the Dungowan mines since my last report. The Mount Pleasant Company had an assay made upon ore in their claim, and found it contained gold at the rate of 12 dwt. to the ton. They now intend putting a few tons through the Marquis of Lorne machine for a further test. Should it realize as well as the assay this property will be as valuable as any in the district, and will start into activity mining operations at Dungowan.

The visit of Mr. C. S. Wilkinson, F.L.S., F.G.S., was the most interesting event of the year. He inspected nearly every claim and many of the old and abandoned workings, giving valuable instructions to the miners, and his exhaustive report will materially assist towards the development of the great mineral wealth of this district.

The gold won during the year was 2,647 oz. 5 dwt. 18 gr., an increase of 447 oz. upon the yield of 1884. I find great difficulty in arriving at a true estimate of the gold actually found, as many small parcels that would total a considerable amount are sold privately.

I believe this year will show a further progress.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—ARMIDALE DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden C. E. Smith, P.M., Armidale.*)

I BEG to submit my annual report for the portion of the Peel and Uralla Mining District under my charge for the year 1885.

During the past twelve months the yield of gold, owing to various circumstances, has been small, the dry season being alleged as an excuse for frequent applications for permission to suspend work, and want of proper machinery and capital has been stated is a great drawback to the full development of auriferous quartz-reefs. Quartz-crushing has been almost at a standstill, and, judging from the quantity operated on, a poor return is shown, yielding but little profit or encouragement to continue the work.

The Eleanor Gold-mining Company, at Hillgrove Falls, raised 2,320 tons of quartz, which yielded 1,499 oz. 1 dwt. 22 gr., valued at £5,514 19s. 3d.; and the directors report—"The yield for 1885 having been smaller than for 1884, while the expenses of raising the stone have been greater, the directors decided to add air compressors and rock drills to their plant, and having every confidence in their engineer and mining manager, Mr. J. D. Schuler, they instructed him to draw plans and specifications, which were entrusted to Messrs. Wayman and Kay, of Stawell (Victoria), to be carried into effect. This machinery was erected in time for it to be tried in December, and in January, 1886, it will be started at regular work. The directors believe that these drills will add largely to the output of stone, and eventually lead to the erection of additional stampers. Two whims have been erected, and will suffice for some time to come. Dams are in good order, and though the weather has been dry there has been no scarcity of water for all requirements. The directors anticipate a better result from the operations of 1886.

The Company employ from thirty to forty men; have a battery of ten stampers, with fixed and percussion tables; ten verdan basins; air-compressing machinery and rock drill, and use two whims. Have sunk two shafts, one 99 feet and the other 103 feet. Value of their plant, £3,500.

The Isabella Company, at Hillgrove Falls, have expended about £4,000 in machinery, dams, and mining operations, and have raised 250 tons of stone ready for crushing. The work has been at a standstill for some time, owing to defective machinery and other causes, and no gold has been won from this Company's mine. The directors expect work will be resumed shortly under the management of a mining engineer of considerable experience.

The new rush to Tilbuster, now named "The Duval Gold-field," about 6 miles northerly from Armidale, and close to the Glen Innes road, drew a considerable number of persons, and good prospects were obtained in shallow sinkings near Sandy Creek, and in the creek-bed fossickers obtained gold a few feet from the surface. Hopes were entertained that a payable lead would be discovered, and now 100 men are at work, and appear disposed to give this new gold-field a fair trial. No very rich finds have been reported; and it is alleged gold is now found in payable quantities, though the finders are reticent as to the amount obtained.

It is difficult to ascertain the quantity of gold that has been won, as a considerable proportion is said to be forwarded privately for sale to Sydney, where more satisfactory prices are procured. So far as the reports extend, about 2,760 oz. have been secured.

The

The Elenor Company report having raised 28 tons of antimony, valued at £196. When the market value of this mineral increases to such a rate as will leave a considerable margin for profit to mine-owners, no doubt employment to a large number of miners will be afforded, as the supply of antimony that is obtainable is said to be almost inexhaustible.

At Watson's Creek and Giant's Den tin-mining has been carried on with every prospect of ultimate success. The few Companies who hold mineral leases have only recently commenced operations, and the Perseverance Company is credited with having raised 5 tons, valued at £54 a ton.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—ARMIDALE DIVISION.

(C. L. C. Badham, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I find, on inquiry, about 1,597 oz. 4 dwt. of gold have been purchased by the local banks, &c., during the year 1885, representing a total value of about £5,989 10s. The return in question is principally derived from the Elenora Gold-mining Company's quartz-claim and the new Duval gold-field, commonly known as the Tilbuster Gold-field, which attracted attention at the close of the past year.

I anticipate the returns of gold will be much larger for the year 1886, owing to the enterprise of the shareholders of the Elenora mine having erected machinery and rock drills for the purpose of further developing their resources. At present there are about 100 men at work on what is known as the Tilbuster Gold-fields. Some of these, there is reason to believe, are doing very well, and others, it appears, are not making fair wages.

I regret I am unable to furnish even a rough estimate of the quantity of gold produced in this portion of the district, as a number of the local miners send their gold to Sydney direct, where they state they obtain a better price for the same than if they sold it on the spot.

During the past twelve months I find the number of miners' rights issued was 258; mineral licenses, 1; business licenses, 2; and that for gold-mining leases three were applied for, and no application was made for a mineral lease.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—NUNDLE DIVISION.

(E. W. Jones, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to forward you my annual report upon the Nundle Gold-field.

This field, on the whole, has shown a decided improvement upon the previous year, and I have reason to anticipate that it will continue, as the reefs in the district are now commanding much more attention.

I have issued out of my office :—

Miners' rights.....	173
Business licenses	9
Mineral license	1

I have registered twenty-three alluvial claims, two quartz claims, two machine sites, nine gold-mining leases applied for.

There were crushed at the Marquis of Lorne :—

	oz.	dwt.	gr.
126 tons, with the result	250	15	0
300 tons, the Princess Louise	100	0	0
426	359	15	0

or nearly 13 dwt. to the ton as the average. This small average arises through the 300 tons of poor stone crushed at the Princess Louise, by the owner, who did not expect to recover more than crushing expenses.

The value of the machinery now on the field is £4,000, of which £1,000 was placed this year.

The want of water retarded the alluvial mining greatly, but some of the river and creek claims were enabled to work to advantage.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—BARRABA DIVISION.

(K. T. Garland, Mining Registrar.)

DURING the past year I issued forty-six miners' rights and one business license. A number of miners left the district owing to the scarcity of water. Crow Mountain.—Messrs. Williams and party have left, and Messrs Fletcher, Myers and Hagan are now the only occupants of this hitherto rich locality. The old Try Again is idle. Messrs. Fletcher & Company have a large quantity of quartz stacked, and their battery at a standstill awaiting a supply of water.

Woods' Reef, or the Old and New England Gold-mining Company's Reef, is idle, and has been for the last four months, and the manager, Mr. Pender, has left the district.

Tea-tree Creek.—There are a few fossickers, who have been here for a number of years, making a fair living, but lately Messrs. Stephenson and Dukes have been prospecting for a Company known as the Barraba Pioneer Gold-mining Company, and, from what I can hear, with every prospect of success. Reading's Reef, for many years worked and proved to be payable, is under suspension awaiting machinery, &c.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—WALCHA DIVISION.

(E. Marriott, Mining Registrar.)

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your circular letter of the 16th November last, I have now the honor to forward herewith my report on the mining industry in this district for the year 1885.

2. From inquiries made, I regret to say there is no improvement on last year's report, owing to the continued dry weather and want of capital to develop the mines in this district.

3. Gold-mining.

See Appendices
4, 5, and 6.

3. Gold-mining.

1. *Glen Morrison*.—No work appears to have been done on these reefs during the part year.
2. *Tia River Reefs*.—Messrs. Mattheson and M'Intyre report as follows:—"This year we have been about forming a Company for the better working of the ground, as we have to contend with a good deal of water, which requires steam-power and pumps and other additional improvements. We expect the new Company will start work by the end of January, 1886.
3. *Nowendoc*.—Mr. Thomas Laurie reports:—"There is only a limited number of miners working at the present time, for various reasons, the dryness of the season causing a scarcity of water being one of the principal drawbacks. Those that are at work seem satisfied with their earnings, and mostly confined to alluvial workings; and one party is and has been driving into a high mountain under the basalt, having gone in about 200 ft., with a fair show of gold throughout, but not payable as yet.
- "The copper claims are still idle, and not likely to start, copper being of too low value in the market."

The writer, however, expresses his opinion that there is "plenty of gold in the locality, if looked for."

4. Mr. Henry Whitton has registered a prospecting protection area at Nowendoc, on the head of Nuggetty Gully and the Woolcrowe, now known as Mount Carrington, but not having as yet received any official report as to his prospects I cannot give any further particulars.

4. Copper-mining.

1. *Coopera Curraba Copper-mine, Nowendoc*.—Messrs. James Russell and William Cope, proprietors. Mr James Russell reports:—"The main shaft has been sunk to a depth of 45 feet; lode at bottom of shaft fully 4 feet 6 inches wide and well defined, which has improved in quality the last few feet from 8 to 14 per cent., which has every appearance of further improvement in sinking. No. 2 shaft, north of the main shaft, has been sunk about 22 feet with very fair prospects. The above shafts have been sunk on the course of the lode which underlie east with southern dip. No. 3 shaft, which is fully a quarter of a mile still further north, on a second lode, showing about 14 feet wide, with good indications, has not been opened out as yet; shaft about 12 feet deep."

2. Work has been suspended on this Company's claim owing to the working manager (Mr. James Russell) having met with an accident by the explosion of some blasting powder in his face; but work will be resumed as soon as a reaction takes place in the copper market.

5. No gold-mining leases, and only three mineral leases (copper), were applied for during the year.

6. The number of miners' rights, &c., issued was:—

Miners' rights	29
Business licenses	Nil.
Mineral licenses	Nil.

7. The quantity of gold purchased in the town amounts to about 25 oz. Local value, £3 12s. 6d. per ounce.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—URALLA DIVISION.

(A. M'Rae, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to furnish my annual report of this gold-field for the year 1885.

The mining operations, which are principally sluicing, have been very much restricted by the drought which has prevailed throughout the year, the rainfall being the least that has taken place for a long period.

The Long Tunnel Company has been persistently working, but up to the present with poor results.

The principal sluicing claims, Young's, Anderson's, Dewson's, & others, have been through lack of water comparatively unproductive.

No new find has been made, and under such adverse circumstances the yield of gold cannot compare favourably with other years. The amount of gold sold to the local bank, 1,047 oz. 16 dwt. 23 gr., and this, with other remaining in private hands and disposed of in other ways, about 100 oz., would make the amount of gold won 1,148 oz.

The recent rains have not benefited this field for mining purposes, and the miners are anxiously looking forward to the filling of their dams.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—GLEN INNES DIVISION.

(V. D. H. Besnard, Mining Registrar.)

HEREWITH I have the honor to transmit my annual report of Glen Innes Division of the Peel and Uralla Mining District.

The number of mineral licenses issued for 1885 amounts to 41, as against 35 for the previous year, and of miners' rights 85, the number granted in 1884 being 39. This increase is no doubt to be accounted for by the break up of the drought, which has enabled miners to prospect localities that for a long time before had been without water.

Two special gold-leases—one 80 acres at Glen Elgin, and another for 25 acres at Oban Creek—have been applied for; and three applications for old forfeited measured portions at Nuggetty Gully, Ward's Mistake, have been received, but in these cases a refund of the deposit money has been applied for.

One mineral lease was applied for in the parish of Bald Nob and refused; and two others, in the parish of Kingsgate (previously surveyed) have been taken up.

Although mining matters have improved slightly, so far as the sale of miners' rights, &c., is concerned, I do not anticipate any very great change for the better in the prospects of the district. I am glad, however, to state that the shareholders in the Glen Elgin claim have informed me that they are determined thoroughly

thoroughly to test the creek at that place, in which gold has long been known to exist; and they are already engaged in the work of diverting the water, so as to be enabled more effectually to deal with the deposits in the bed of the present stream.

In most cases it is extremely difficult to obtain accurate information; and in some interested persons refuse to give any about the yield of minerals on their leaseholds.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—BENDEMEER DIVISION.

(*L. H. Stumbles, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to report for your information that during the year ending December 31st, 1885, there have been eighteen applications for mineral leases received at this office, for the purpose of mining for tin, that being the only mineral at present worked in this district. There have been ten mineral licenses and six miners' rights issued from this office. The Perseverance Tin Company is the only one that has raised tin, which was disposed of at the rate of £54 per ton. This Company's ground shows excellent prospects. The Bendemeer Tin-mining Company have been testing their ground, making dams, races, and erecting machinery, the value of which is about £3,000. This Company expect to wash tin in the early part of next year.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—TINGHA DIVISION.

(*W. Norton, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to report that the mining industry has not recovered from its depressed state of 1884. The output for the past year falls short of that for 1884 by 558 tons. A good deal of work in connection with diamond mining has, I understand, been done in the parish of Mayo; and report states that large numbers of diamonds have been obtained, but as to this I cannot speak with any certainty. Recently land has been taken up in the remote south-west portion of the division for the purpose of working bismuth. If the specimen shown me is a fair sample of the reef it should turn out very well.

PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—BINGERA DIVISION.

(*Thomas Connolly, Mining Registrar.*)

MINING, generally, in this district has been unexceptionally dull. One cause is want of water, and the other so much ground locked up in leases at Upper Bingera, and no work done on them. The consequence is the small return of gold. I have issued 165 miners' rights, forty-two mineral licenses, and two business licenses for the year. Twenty-seven mineral and eleven gold-mining leases have been applied for, and the total amount of gold, as far as can be ascertained, is 500 ounces.

HUNTER AND MACLEAY DISTRICT—COPELAND DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden De Boos, P.M., Copeland.*)

No more unpleasant duty can fall to the lot of a gold-fields Warden than having to report upon twelve months of gradual but continuous decadence of the field of which he has the charge. Such, however, is the unpalatable task that is now before me, and look at it in any way that I will I cannot get away from the manifest certainty that the prosperity of the Copeland gold-field has been ebbing and ebbing during the last twelve months until now it is, let me hope, at dead low-water mark.

The causes of this decadence are not far to seek. In the first place, the drought which has prevailed during the past year has affected this district as seriously as if it had been situated in the arid country of the western interior instead of being, as it is, in the midst of the coast range where a fair rainfall is usually anticipated. Following, as it did, upon the droughts of two preceding years, both of which were severely felt here, the consequences have been much more serious than they would have been from any one casual dry year. The long absence of rain, with the prevalence of dry winds and the aid of a burning sun, have not merely parched the surface and evaporated the waterholes, but have actually had the effect of drying up the subsoil to such an extent that, except in one or two of the deepest mines, under-ground water is not to be met with. Thus, the Prince Charlie machine, and to some extent the Rainbow machines, which had hitherto been materially assisted in crushing by the under-ground water, raised for the use of the machine, have been deprived of this resource. Crushing has been thus at a standstill, except by fits and starts as a passing shower, heavier than ordinary, gave a temporary supply—only too temporary indeed, as it had to be used at once before soakage and evaporation swallowed up and dispersed it.

In the second place, the want of capital most seriously militates against the systematic and only profitable mode of working the field. I mentioned in my last annual report that the field was all but entirely dependent upon the energy, enterprise, and capital of persons resident thereon. These could not be expected to hold out against the discouragements they encountered. With no crushings to recruit the capital, it must of necessity become exhausted in time, whilst the energy would relax and the enterprise be deadened, as the means of carrying on gradually melted away. Thus, in the natural course of events, no outside capital coming in, and no inside capital developing itself, the men came to the end of their financial tether, and, disheartened and discouraged, one by one gave up the struggle. Again, miners working in this way—from hand to mouth as it may be termed—cannot afford to take the stone out on a face, as it comes, in the same way as a Company with capital and resources at its disposal would do, putting the whole of the stone through the batteries, and making up by quantity what may be lacking in quality. The raising, carting, and crushing is just the same for half-ounce as for two, four, or twenty ounce stone. Indeed, what with the expense of breaking the stone out, raising it to the surface by the costly and dilatory windlass method, carting to the machine, and then paying for crushing, the stone becomes so heavily handicapped that anything under 2 ounces to the ton will do very little more than pay expenses; and where the vein is narrow, as is usually the case when the stone is rich, even 3 ounces will barely pay expenses. To save the expense of raising, &c., poor stone the miners resort to the practice of breaking out only that stone which they consider to be payable, prospecting the underground workings until a shoot of gold is found and then following along that shoot so long as payable gold is seen in the stone. This is in every way a most

most unprofitable mode of working. It peacocks the mine, picking out the golden eyes, leaving behind a lot of poor stone that is never likely to be worked under the existing state of affairs, and putting the underground workings into a state of chaos, such as only a very heavy expenditure would set to rights should any successor to the present mineholder ever feel inclined to work the mine systematically. It is likewise a very expensive method of breaking out stone, since it can neither be got at so readily nor obtained in such quantities as when worked fairly on the face with plenty of room. But necessity has no law, and the miner, always hoping against hope, anticipates that every blow of the pick may possibly be bringing him nearer to that wonderful deposit that is to make his pile, and repay him for the many years of toil and hardship he has gone through to reach it. The days of astounding finds such as he dreams of have passed away, and they have now become mere matters of history, in so far as this field is concerned; and the miner must be content with matter of fact, and consider himself fortunate if he clears good wages with a small margin for future work, after paying all expenses.

Thus one by one the miners have fallen away, as their funds were exhausted or their hopes died out, and a greatly diminished body were left behind at Copeland to greet the arrival of Christmas.

It will be seen by the return I send you herewith that no very extraordinary crushings have taken place during the year, still they are so far encouraging as showing that a good field for mining labour exists here, if that labour were only judiciously employed, and the present exorbitant expenses attached to winning the gold from the stone after it has been raised were kept down to a reasonable amount. I have dwelt upon this point in former reports to such an extent that I fear I may be accused of unpleasant iteration if I dealt with it on the present occasion. Suffice it then to say that this field will never see palmy days until it is worked by large companies, with available capital, permanent water, and continuous crushing.

Even as it is, the return does not show out badly, considering the number of miners on the ground. I have gone carefully over the miners' rights issued during the past year, and I find that the number of actual working miners was only seventy, the remainder being persons not actual miners, but who take out miners' rights for the purpose of holding mining interests of different kinds. The total value of the gold produce here during the year was £3,498 17s. 6d., which, divided amongst the seventy miners, would give, within a few pence, £50 to each man—a very fair amount, considering the very erratic and intermittent way in which work is carried on.

Another fact worthy of consideration is that 480 tons of tailings were put through the Rainbow machine for a return of 5 dwt. to the ton. As this result was obtained with only the ordinary battery appliances, no extra trouble being taken with them, but the tailings being just run under the stampers, as in the case of a common crushing, and with only the usual plate and table, we can give a very fair surmise as to the quantity of gold that has been fairly washed away with the tailings in former crushings. Had some one of the many gold-saving appliances now in use been employed over this treatment of the tailings it is to be inferred that the yield of gold would have been very much larger. And further, it may be very reasonably calculated that had the stone been crushed in the first instance with due care, and with something more than the mere plates and tables to save the gold, the return to those who raised the quartz would have been very much larger than it was.

Then, again, fifty tons of refuse stone is collected and crushed, and returns half an ounce of gold to the ton. Something must be radically wrong in a system under which such an anomaly becomes possible. These two instances are sufficient to show the melancholy mismanagement in the working of this field, and of themselves to account for the present depression. With one or two exceptions, the companies which have been in existence here, and from which great things were anticipated, have been worked only in a careless, half-hearted way, that has ended, as was to be expected, in their coming to grief. Possibly they may have been victimised in the first instance, in the terms upon which they obtained possession of their property, and this, on being discovered, may have soured shareholders to such an extent as to cause them subsequently to look with disfavour upon the whole venture, so that they have first lagged over and then refused the payment of calls. The miners employed, receiving their wages irregularly, and doubtful as to their ultimate payment, have shirked work, and have given as little labour as possible for wages that might never be received; and so the end soon came—no returns from the mine, and collapse of the Company. This is the history of more than one Company during the past year.

It is refreshing to turn to the pleasing contrast to these Companies that is offered by the operations of the Centennial and Baal Gammon G.M. Co., which, with a perseverance that deserves the reward aimed at, continues to push forward its tunnel at the two creeks, to cut the old Centennial reef. This reef was a very handsomely paying one at the time when work had to be knocked off, owing to the impossibility of keeping down the water in the mine with the appliances then at hand. As the erection of the pumping machinery at the summit of the Centennial Hill, for the shaft is but a short distance from the summit, would have been very costly, and as pumping would have been a continuous expense, the Company determined to reach the reef by means of an adit from the two creeks, which would effectually drain the mine in the first instance, and in the second give any amount of quartz in the handiest position for being worked, that is, overhead. They have now got their tunnel 671 feet into the hill, and have given a contract for another 100 feet, which they hope will reach the reef. In a special report last year I gave you full particulars concerning, and as the Inspector of Mines has also reported at length upon it, it will be sufficient for me to say here that personally I have no doubt whatever as to the Company ultimately cutting the reef driven for; but I am afraid that they will have to go further in than they have calculated upon, since the probability is that the reef, when in firm, settled, and light country, will be found to be almost vertical.

The Prince Charlie Company have their property on Church and School Lands and therefore out of my jurisdiction. With the exception of a small crushing at the beginning of the year, most of which was refuse stone, it has been lying quite idle. It is a splendid property, with a well-defined reef averaging fully 30 in. in width, and the stone yielding from $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to 1 oz. to the ton. This Company has got into a most lamentable tangle, resulting in a deadlock, all of which might have been prevented had Church and School Land mines been brought under the operation of the Mining Act.

The Boranel reefs have been worked during the year with just sufficient labour to keep them going. None of the stone from this locality has given less than 4 oz. to the ton, on a crushing of 15 and 20 tons; but, as the nearest battery is at Kerriput, and as a very heavy mountainous country intervenes in the 8 miles which separates the mine from the battery, the expense of carting is too great to allow of even this yield to be payable. In the exercise of what I considered to be a just discretion I have allowed the two leases existing

existing here to be worked with half labour until provision for crushing can be made. I am given to understand that this will shortly be the case, as fresh blood has been brought into the Company. An offer has just been made for the purchase of the Kerriput machine, which has been idle for the last twelve months, and I am informed that there is a likelihood of its being accepted.

At Cobark and Kerriput nothing is doing, and at the Bowman only one lease is at work. I am happy to say, however, that the owners of this lease, who have stuck to their ground through great discouragement, are now upon good stone. Indeed it requires to be good to be in any way payable, since there is no crushing power at the Bowman, and the quartz has to be brought into Copeland to be dealt with.

Parties at the Little River have been working peaceably since the amalgamation of the rival and contending interests, but they have been getting no remarkable returns during the year. Reefs have been opened in two localities within a few miles of Dungog, but in neither has the stone proved of such a character as to justify a continuance of work.

The return appended will give you a history of the yield from each claim on this field that was crushed during the year. The number of miners' rights issued during the year was 130, as against 145 for 1884; the business licenses for 1885 were 5 for twelve months and 29 for six months, as against 11 for twelve months and 41 for six months during 1884. In the year just passed there were 9 applications for leases of auriferous tracts, viz: 4 for 2 acres, 4 for 3 acres, and 1 for 4 acres, as against 29 applications during 1884.

TABLE showing all the machinery at work and idle in the Copeland Division for the year ending 31st December, 1885.

QUARTZ-MINING.

Number.	Description of Machinery.	Number at work.	Aggregate Horse-power of Steam-engines.	Number idle.	Motive power.	Value.
1	Prince Charlie, 15-stamper battery	10	12	5	Steam	£ 1,500
2	Thomas' Machine, 10-stamper battery.....	10	12	...	Steam	500
3	Rainbow, 10-stamper battery.....	10	14	...	Steam	500
4	Hidden Treasure, 10-stamper battery	10	14	...	Steam	1,000
5	Kerriput Machine, 5-stamper battery ...	...	14	5	Water	300
6	Hidden Treasure N., pumping machinery	...	14	...	Steam	500
7	Cobark, Chilian mill .....	...	4	...	Water	30
						£4,330

PARTICULARS relating to Mines producing Gold during the year 1885.
Compiled from Companies' returns.

Name.	Greatest Depth.	Deepest level.	Width of lode.	Quartz crushed.	Yield.	Value.	Dip in vein.	Strike of vein.	Value of plant.	Remarks.
Prince Charlie	feet 205	feet 150	Inches. 12 to 48	Tons 94	oz. d. g. 90 7 0	£. s. d. 71 4 6	S. by E.	N.E. & S.W.	1,500	On C. and S. Lands; idle for last nine months.
Prince Patrick	90	00	12 to 36	34	10 7 0	36 4 6	S.E.	N.E. & S.W.	5	On C. and S. Lands; idle for the last nine months.
Mechanics	250	250	9	20	30 0 0	135 10 0	E.	N. & S.	10	30½ tons stone raised; 19½ not crushed.
Mountain Maid	512	420	6	39	65 14 0	229 12 0	S.	N.W. & S.E.	100	84 tons raised; 45 not crushed.
Mountain Maid No. 1 E.	270	260	6	84	172 0 0	562 0 0	S.	E. & W.	50	
Mountain Maid No. 2 E.	210	205	4 to 15	38	123 0 0	430 10 0	S.	E. & W.	50	
Hidden Treasure	401	401	24	31	31 7 0	110 0 0	W.	N. & S.	1,000	
Hidden Treasure N.	300	300	6	80	13 10 0	47 7 6	W.	N. & S.	500	52½ tons at grass, waiting crushing.
Hidden Treasure No. 1 S.	305	305	12	40	31 7 0	100 0 0	W.	N. & S.	50	
Welcome Stranger .....	...	...	...	11	35 0 0	122 10 0	...	...	25	4 tons remain to be crushed; work, more fossicking amongst surface leaders.
Lucky Hit	120	115	4 to 12	54	121 2 0	423 10 0	E.	N. & S.	10	
Lady Belmore	75	75	6	39	136 6 10	477 2 6	S.	E. & W.	10	
Golden Spur	400	350	8	64	22 0 0	77 0 0	S.	N.E. & S.W.	...	A shoot of golden stone taken out of an abandoned lease.
Homeward Bound	30	30	36	...	...	...	E.	N. & S.	10	12 tons of stone awaiting crushing.
Town and Country	46	46	5	17	17 15 14	62 4 6	E.	N. & S.	10	
Boranel P. C. Co.	225	220	32 to 50	...	...	...	S.	E. & W.	10	50 tons at grass waiting to be crushed.
Boranel No. 1.	130	130	18	...	...	...	S.	E. & W.	10	30 tons at grass awaiting crushing.
Notley .....	...	...	...	200	25 0 0	87 10 0	...	...	...	Parcel of headings and refuse quartz.
Hidden Treasure .....	...	...	...	5	0 11 21	2 2 0	...	...	...	Trial crushing of tailings.
Hidden Treasure .....	...	...	...	1	2 17 5	9 10 0	...	...	...	Parcel of pyritous blanketing.
Rainbow .....	...	...	...	480	120 0 0	420 0 0	...	...	...	Heap of tailings run through battery.
Rainbow .....	...	...	...	60	30 0 0	105 0 0	...	...	...	Refuse quartz from several mullock heaps being an average of nearly 15½ dwt. to the ton; or taking off the 766 tons of tons of refuse stuff of the last five lines, the average yield will be a little under 1½ oz. to the ton, being 567 tons for 838 oz. 16 dwt.
				1,233½	1,017 5 2	3,498 17 6				

HUNTER AND MACLEAY DISTRICT—BULLADELAH DIVISION.

(Mr. Warden C. H. Fawcett, P.M., Bulladelah.)

I do myself the honor to report that lately a good deal of work has been carried out at the Mountain Widow and Mountain Maid claims at the Coolongolook Reefs.

From the former a large quantity of stone was forwarded to Sydney, and although I have not ascertained how it turned out, I believe the result has been rather disappointing; nevertheless, I saw gold in every piece of stone I picked up when I visited the claim this month. At present a tunnel is being driven to an old shaft on the claim for the purpose of ventilation.

At the Mountain Maid much labour has been expended in substantially retimbering the shaft and getting rid of the water. When I visited it I heard that a Sydney capitalist proposes to erect ample machinery, and work it in conjunction with the Curreki, on condition that a certain quantity of stone to be sent to Sydney turns out favourably. If this takes place, I have no doubt but that other claims will be taken up when the machinery is on the ground.

HUNTER AND MACLEAY DISTRICT—DUNGOG DIVISION.

(C. G. Smith, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to report that I cannot obtain any information respecting the gold workings in this division, further than that very little gold has been got during the past year. Only three parties are now at work, under thirteen miners' rights issued for this year.

Two machines, of ten and five stampers, and valued at about £1,600, are still on the ground, but, as there has been no progressive improvement during the last two years, there seems to be little prospect of these workings becoming permanent, unless there be payable stone at a much greater depth than has yet been reached (about 260 feet), and sufficient capital be employed to raise it.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT—TENTERFIELD DIVISION.

(Mr. Warden J. B. Graham, P.M., Tenterfield.)

I do myself the honor to submit my annual report on the portion of the New England Mining District under my charge.

The continuation of the drought, which has now lasted for so long a period, has greatly retarded the mining industry in this district. In the gold-mines, Boonoo Boonoo, an old abandoned field is likely to again be worked. At present there is one steam-engine engaged in pumping, by means of which new land has been successfully worked. Another steam-engine is now in the course of erection on the main creek, and it is expected that good results will be obtained from ground previously unworked. As the gold on this field is distributed over a large area, and for a considerable distance in the creeks and gullies, the aid of machinery will probably open up a large field, which was previously impossible to work, in consequence of underground water, which can only be kept down by steam-power. There are at present about fourteen men engaged, but I anticipate that that number will be largely increased during the current year.

On the Timbarra gold-field, the Surface Hill Gold-mining Company's property, at Poverty Point, has changed hands, and extensive machinery is now in the course of erection for the treatment of the stone by crushing. If this should prove successful, it will be a great mine, and a large extent of auriferous country will be opened up. The gold is in the hard granite, and in dykes of decomposed granite, the quantity of gold-bearing stone is practically unlimited. Ground and hydraulic sluicing has been carried on in this mine for many years, and as long as there was water enough it always paid well. The present plan is to crush the stone, and a large stamper battery will be put in the ground for that purpose. It is expected that a much greater yield will be obtained by that process with a less supply of water. A very large expenditure of capital has been made on this mine, in carrying out a water scheme for hydraulic sluicing, but since the works have been completed there has been no water in the creeks or swamps, so that very little hydraulic sluicing has been done. Whenever the water could be used the results were satisfactory, showing that sufficient gold existed, if it could only be obtained. A short distance from this mine Mr. Thomas Horton is working on a gold-mining lease, situated at Poverty Point, on the same description of country. He has a battery with ten head of stampers at work, and the results as far as he has gone, are very satisfactory. The gold is contained in decomposed granite, with belts of quartz, and the stone now treated is obtained from a quarry in the side of the mountain. The yield is about 9 or 10 dwt. to the ton, and the supply of stone apparently inexhaustible and easily obtained.

At Tooloom the want of water has completely stopped alluvial mining, and there has been no work done in quartz-mining during the year. At Pretty Gully a little mining has been done. There are about forty men employed, and the yield for the year, as far as can be ascertained, has been about 500 oz.

At the Lunatic and Perseverance Reefs, nothing has been done during the year, but there is some probability of a fresh start being made. At Lionsville and Solferino some good stone has been obtained, and some very rich patches have been struck. I have not received the particulars of the yield for the year. The late good finds are likely to encourage the development of some of the reefs in the locality. At Malara a few men are still at work in alluvial.

At Dalmorton very little has been done during the year. The result of the crushings has not been satisfactory, and the want of water has seriously interfered with the alluvial mining. The total yield for the year has been about 150 oz.

Very little prospecting for gold has been done. To a great extent silver has engaged the attention of the miners in the neighbourhood.

At Boorook silver-mines, I regret to say, work has been suspended. This field, I am confident, has not yet had a fair trial. Only two small leases—one of 2 acres (Golden Age) and one of 4 acres, (Addison)—have been worked, and they have not been developed to any great extent. The deepest shaft is on the Golden Age, 300 feet. The only other workings are in the Addison, which is only 100 feet deep. Large quantities of silver ore have been obtained from these mines, and a large result of silver extracted.

Valuable

Valuable discoveries of silver ores have been made during the year at Pye's Creek, on the southern boundary of my district, and leases for nearly 5,000 acres of land have been applied for. The land is said to be, and has been taken up, as in the Emmaville District, under Mr. Warden Martin's charge.

Tin-mining has also suffered from the drought. At present, there being no other mining but alluvial, the want of water for sluicing purposes has seriously reduced the yield during the year. The value of ore won from the Maryland and Wilson's Downfall mine is from £15,000 or £16,000. About 200 men are engaged in mining.

Generally, although the last year does not show favourably with previous years, I am of opinion the mining industry will soon revive in the district. The promise of success at Poverty Point, the rapid development and discovery of silver, and the probable break-up of the long-standing drought, augur well for a better result for the current year.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT—EMMAVILLE DIVISION.

(*John M. Sheahan, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to furnish herewith my annual report of the Emmaville Division of the New England Mining District for the year ending 31st December, 1885.

The depression in mining, spoken of by my predecessor in his last report, still continues to a certain extent, although the outlook at the present time shows marked signs of improvement.

During the past year the increased development of the Y Waterhole lead, also the famous Rose Valley lead, and the great quantity of land taken up for silver-mining purposes, together with the high market price of tin betoken better things in store for this district than has been for some time past. The great drawback to the progress and development of the mineral resources of this district is the great delay in issuing leases for land that has been applied for. This is the great complaint with both the miner and the business people and if the leases could have been issued within a reasonable time for the land applied for during the year a very large number of miners would be employed prospecting and developing the different lodes in the district, and thereby locate population, if not the discovery of permanent rich mineral industries, as the surrounding country abounds in rich reefs of one kind or another.

Experts have expressed the opinion that the silver industry in this district will be equal to any other in the Colonies; and from the vast area containing minerals of all sorts it distinctly points a great future for the district if only one-tenth of the land applied for realizes expectations, and if it were possible for greater promptitude to be exercised in granting titles many persons who take up land would start at once and test their ground, instead of allowing their ardour to sink into indifference.

Y Waterholes.—This land, formerly Cadell & Mitchell's, and now held by Mr. A. Cadell, is situated about 2 miles from Emmaville, and is bounded on the east by mineral lease land held by J. Moore & Co., and on the west by the V. C. Tin-mining Co.'s mineral lease blocks 144 and 145, in the parish of Scone. A large flat of basaltic formation runs through the ground from east to west, varying in width from 10 to 30 chains. Under this basaltic formation lie a series of parallel broad furrows, the bottom (decomposed porphyry) being a succession of undulations, which seem to have formed a number of watercourses at tolerably regular intervals, wending about west 20° north. Possibly this flat seems to have been the first level piece of ground to catch the debris swept by flood-waters from the Tent Hill range which bounds it northerly and north-easterly. It is believed that the many leaders of tinstone becoming crushed and pulverized under the influence of the torrents of water which tore away the side of the range, were swept into this flat, and filled up the depressions in the then exposed bed-rock. That the drift-sands, clays, and other materials (which now overlie the wash-dirt and stream-tin ore) then accumulated to the depth of 30 to 50 feet, which may be considered the usual sinking there at present. That the ore was carried into the depressions or side furrows transversely seems probable, as on the northern side of each is found heavy and pure ore, and the sand-drift, with the lighter particles, is thrown against the southern side of the gutter, and when the drives are extended beyond the southern side and into the next parallel gutter good ore is found, again becoming inferior and mixed with much drift-sand as it in its turn was swept towards the southern side of the furrow. This occurs in each of the many undulating depressions I have mentioned, and each forms a small lead, of which a number have been, and still are, worked by parties of Europeans and Chinese respectively.

During the past year a new discovery was made at the western end of the property. This is known as the Racecourse lead, and is interesting, as it seems to follow the imperfectly defined dividing range between the Mole and Severn rivers. The wash-dirt in this lead is white, while the next furrow south of it carries red iron-stained drift-sand only. This is very apparent in some spots where the lead is worked, the red and white wash-dirts standing side by side with only an inch of neutral tint between them.

The ore in the Racecourse lead is pure oxide, assaying 75 per cent. streamed in a box. That in red drifts and red wash-dirt in the southern furrows is cleaned by hydraulic pressure; in its state when taken from the sluice-box rarely assays over 72 per cent. The Willoughby cleaner brings it up to 75 per cent. The proprietor of these mines has provided a large supply of water by the erection of dams, so that washing goes on constantly, even in times of extreme drought. Four of the eleven reservoirs will hold twelve months' supply without replenishing, and vary in area from 13 acres downwards, with a depth of from 8 to 9 feet at embankments. They are refreshed by every storm of rain through races cut for that purpose. Washing appliances with horse-gear are supplied to European tributors; the Chinese prefer their foot-pump, and provide their own. The two pumping engines are not used at present, nor is the winding engine, all dirt being raised by windlass and carted to the dams for treatment. A large area remains still to be worked, and all the ore raised is sold to local buyers.

The area of this property is 600 acres mineral conditional purchase. The yield of ore for the past year has been 232 tons 14 cwt. and 15 lbs., the number of men employed being 28 Europeans and 102 Chinese.

John Moore & Co.—This property adjoins that of Mr. Cadell, and is composed of surfacing and deep lead similar in character to that of that gentleman's. The greater portion of this land has been worked. The engine and centrifugal pump have been removed, the tributors, mostly Chinese, preferring to raise water by means of foot-pumps. The ore has to be dressed by means of a Willoughby machine to get rid of foreign matter.

The

The yield of ore from this property for the past year has been 115 tons 9 cwt. 3 qrs. and 20 lbs., the number of men employed being sixty-three Chinese and five Europeans. This, with the rest of Messrs. Moore & Co.'s properties, is under the management of Mr. Chandler.

The Vegetable Creek Tin-mining Company.—This ground has been prospected constantly by miners employed on wages by the Company, as well as by the numerous parties of tributors always at work at various points. The old Graveyard Creek mine has been worked profitably by a strong body of miners, both in the deep ground, where water rather impedes progress and requires careful timbering, and in the dry part of the lead, where the sinking is about 90 feet in depth (Carsley's party tribute), where single timber is used. Adjoining these, westerly, Curtain and party, having amalgamated with their neighbours, have been on very good wash-dirt during the past three months, and are still doing well. West of these the ground has been tried from time to time by several lots of prospectors, and it is believed good tin will yet be found. Going towards Kendy's selection, this Company, by providing 1,000 feet of 8-inch galvanized-iron piping, recently conveyed the water from their principal dams to command the large accumulations of tailings on the northern side of the lead now being worked to advantage by a large number of Chinese, who keep three boxes going when water is available.

Adjoining Carsley and party's ground a party of Chinese miners are working the continuation of the lead going towards the Y Waterholes, and are raising good wash-dirt. The water is pumped from the principal dams at Graveyard by engine and centrifugal pumps (already described).

At the Graveyard Creek three parties of Chinese are working with more or less success, but the ore requires careful cleaning, being inferior to that found in the deep lead. On the ridge dividing the Graveyard deep lead from that known as the Vegetable Creek deep lead, a party of Europeans are making good wages by working a patch of surfacing evidently fed by the numerous small leaders of tin ore visible in the porphyry formation on the dividing range before mentioned. This ridge was no doubt originally a mass of rich leaders which probably were the source of the rich deposits of disintegrated ore worked so many years in the Company's Old Graveyard lead before mentioned. The flow of the flood-water in past ages, apparently from north to south, was diverted into a westerly course, when arrested by the granite ridge formerly the southern boundary of the basaltic formations under which lie the sands and gravels of the Graveyard Creek deep lead. This theory is supported by the fact that the heavier and better class of ore is found on the northern side of the lead, the inferior with its admixtures, becoming gradually poorer when worked in a southerly direction. Between Graveyard Creek and Vegetable Creek lead is a large scope of country some small portions of which have been worked from time to time, but nothing rich has been found. Adjoining the old patch known as the Vegetable Creek Company's mine, from which some 2,000 tons of tin has been taken out of an area of about 5½ acres, Ferari and party have found a narrow gutter, seemingly one of the channels through which the deposit was fed. This may be the missing link between the 5½-acre patch and the spot where the lead was lost in former years, some 10 chains distant, but it may cut out at any time, as this channel is narrow and, at present, well defined. Horse-power wash-plant, boxes, &c., have been provided for this new find, the first washing being very satisfactory.

Rose Valley, Vegetable Creek Company.—At the Valley, adjoining the Wesley Company's property, a number of Chinese miners are at work making fair wages in and about the old shallow lead worked in former years by Europeans. Adjoining these a party of miners are trying to find the continuation of the lead which was worked by Skinner and party, and think they will be successful. The men employed by the Company are now engaged in proving the land near the northern boundary of portion 44, parish of Hamilton, where sufficient proofs have already been found of the presence of a lead to prove the value of surface indications. Whether anything payable be found or not, each confirmation of the correctness of a theory based on surface indications is valuable as a guide to future explorations. The number of men employed varies from six to fourteen in each party of tributors. These mines are supervised by Mr. Cadell, Managing Director, and are (with the exception of the men employed by the Company in prospecting) worked wholly on the tribute system. Many other parties have worked in various places at intervals during the year, and will no doubt be again working, but my remarks are confined to those now engaged. The Company have still the engine and plant described in preceding reports from this office. The total yield of tin from these properties during the year ending 31st December, 1885, was 113 tons 1 cwt. 3 qr. and 23 lb.

Wesley Tin-Mining Company.—This land has been worked during the year by several parties of tributors.

Proctor's Tribute.—Ten men have been working this property during the year, yielding 17 tons of ore.

Fox and Company's Tribute.—This party have done a great deal of dead work during the year. The broken nature of the country through which the lead passes in this land rendered it difficult and expensive to follow, besides having a large amount of water to contend against. The Glen Smelting Company has purchased this property, with the exception of one share, and are getting the mine into working order, making provision for more economical working, and from the rich faces of wash-dirt in sight ought soon to recoup themselves. 60 tons of ore have been raised from this mine during the past year.

Baily and party (tributors to Mr. John Lemon).—This party worked the shallow lead in their land to water-level. During the past year they have beaten the water, and have their mine opened out on the deep lead. They have their main drive running north from Fox and Company's boundary 350 feet. The width of lead in this drive averages about 30 feet of rich wash-dirt. They have a new washing plant almost completed and are about starting a new working shaft. A large yield of ore is anticipated from this mine.

Cunneen and party.—During the year the Glen Smelting Company purchased the tribute from its former holders, and have succeeded in striking the lead at a depth of 120 feet, close to the north-west line of Bradley & Company, disclosing rich wash-dirt. Work is being vigorously carried on opening out the mine, and, like the other claims on this lead, water has to be contended against.

Messrs. Cadell, Hart, and Reid.—Owing to the death of Mr. Flannery, prospecting on this land was suspended for a short time, but has now been resumed with its usual vigour. During the year several shafts have been bottomed, the deepest being 215 feet; but nothing of any importance has been discovered so far.

Chance Tin-mining Company.—This Company bottomed on tin during the year at a depth of 160 feet,

feet, worth about 50 lbs. to the load. Dams, washing appliances, &c., have been erected, and the mine is being prepared for work. The wash at present obtained does not resemble that in other claims on the Wesley lead. It is thought that the Company have not yet struck the main lead, the wash obtained being of a mullocky slate nature.

Barry & Co.—This party have been unsuccessful during the year. Prospecting has been vigorously carried on, but nothing payable has been obtained.

Kelly & party (tributors to Mr. H. Hammond).—Work has been carried on in this mine during the year, with just payable results only.

John Moore & Co. (portions 161, 548, and 549).—Prospecting has been carried on on the course of the supposed lead, but nothing payable has been struck.

Hall Brothers, Kangaroo Flat.—After prospecting and opening out this mine for about twelve months, it has been let on tribute. A great portion of the wash in this mine is composed of cement, and has to be manipulated by a battery to obtain the mineral. Steam puddles are also in use on this mine. The total yield of tin for the past year has been 58 tons 12 cwt. 2 qrs. and 4 lbs. Number of men employed—14 Europeans, 22 Chinamen.

Stormer and party.—This party still continues to prospect their land; but, up to the present, nothing payable has been discovered.

Foley and party.—During the year this land has been worked by a party of Chinese with payable results.

Hall Brothers, Sugarloaf.—A small party of Europeans have been working this land during the past year. The yield has been 4 tons 4 cwt. 3 qrs. and 20 lbs.

Moore & Co. (parish of Athol).—Prospecting has been carried on by means of a level drive into a basaltic hill for a distance of 530 feet during the year; but as yet nothing payable has been struck, the wash carrying a little mineral all the distance.

Basaltic Hill.—Mr. Bates has been prospecting this land for some months, but up to the present has obtained nothing payable.

Great Britain Tin-mining Company.—This mine has been reworked during the year by a party consisting of ninety Chinese and six Europeans; the yield of tin for the year being 152 tons.

Moore & Co., Vegetable Creek.—This is being worked by four different parties of Chinese tributors, the yield of ore for the year being 59 tons 12 lbs.

Andrews and O'Donnell, Baal Gamon, and Hall Bros., Vegetable Creek Mine.—These mines have been worked by Chinese tributors, the yield of tin from the latter (Hall Bros.) being 3 tons 15 cwt. 1 qr. and 24 lbs.

Moore & Co., Rothschild.—This mine has been worked by twenty-four Chinamen, the yield of tin for the year being 36 tons 6 cwt. and 24 lbs.

Hall Bros., Six-mile.—This land has been worked on the tribute system during the past year, the yield of tin being 12 tons 10 cwt. 3 qrs. and 4 lbs.

Grampian Hills.—A party of four Europeans have won 29 tons 15 cwt. and 15 lbs. of tin from this land during the past year.

Ruby Hill Company.—This property was formerly worked by Marks & Co., but is now in the hands of the Ruby Hill Company. The ground has been prospected under the supervision of Captain Bryant, with very promising results, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet of payable wash being in sight.

Dalkoath and Butler Tin-mining Company.—These mines have been under the supervision of Captain Bryant during the past year. The former is being prospected with excellent results. The Butler has been working for some time, and has several shafts of various depths sunk upon the lode, the adit level being 60 feet from the surface. A large quantity of stone has been raised from this lode during the year, and has yielded 30 tons of tin ore. The machinery consists of a 12-horse engine and 10-head battery and four buddles.

The Dutchman Tin-lode Mining Company.—This mine is still in charge of Mr. Knucky, and is worked on the tribute system, the Company providing engine, battery, and dressing plant. The yield of ore from this mine for the year has been 66 tons 2 cwt. 3 qrs. and 11 lbs. The stone crushed for the public yielded 27 tons 3 cwt. 2 qrs.

The Gulf Red Cross Reef.—Work on this claim was being extensively carried on on the occasion of my visit, and I am glad to be able to report that a new reef has been struck; it is over a foot thick, and almost pure tin. It is the intention of the proprietors to erect an engine and battery on the ground as this reef makes sufficient water to keep a battery going several days at a time.

The Gulf Lode.—On my visit to this mine work had been suspended, as the employes were engaged carting and crushing the stuff at the Company's Chilian mill. It was yielding nearly half tin to the ton of stone.

Brown's Gully.—The proprietors, on opening their ground at the lower end of the claim for the purpose of drainage, struck really good wash-dirt, which proves the lead of tin to extend a greater distance than they expected, thus increasing the value of the ground.

Torrington Tin-lode Company.—This mine is under the supervision of Mr. Hugh Marshall, and is worked on the tribute system. The Company have made great improvements to the machinery during the past year, by the addition of circular buddles and improved dressing appliances. The yield of tin for the year has been 45 tons.

The Glen Smelting Company, Tent Hill.—The manager, Mr. J. H. Reid, has kindly furnished me the output of ore from the above works, which is as follows:—

	Tons.	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Deep leads	631	16	1	18
Shallow workings	473	11	1	27
Lodes	183	16	3	10
Skeleton Creek	39	14	0	3

It will be noticed on comparing the above figures with those of last year that the output of ore from the shallow workings was largely in excess of that produced by the deep leads, which was accountable from the fact that wherever ore was easily obtainable the Chinese were in sufficient numbers to quickly exhaust the source of supply. During the past year a considerable falling off in the Chinese population has taken

taken place, and numbers of those remaining have been compelled to devote their attention to the deep basaltic country, which, as shown by the increased output from this source, has well recouped them for their labour. The Europeans have also been very successful in the basaltic formation known as Rose Valley, where Fox & Co., Bailey & Co., and Cunneen & Co. are now raising wash-dirt equal in richness to the once famous Wesley mine, and as the lead is now known to be unbroken through these three claims a large output of ore for 1886 may with safety be predicted. Cunneen & Co.'s workings, situated in the parish of Hamilton, county Gough, is the furthest west upon the great run of basaltic country that has produced the deep lead wash similar to that found in the Wesley mine, and as the deposit has already proved to be extensive and rich in tin ore it is anticipated that the lead will be found to continue for some miles westerly, which appears to be the only outlet.

In tin-lode mining a vast amount of money has been expended in the effort to establish a profitable industry, but so far the results have been discouraging, for notwithstanding the promising surface indications that are to be met with in many parts of this district none have yet proved to be of a permanent character. Several companies are, however, prosecuting their search for permanent rich deposits in a very determined manner, chief amongst those being the Dutchman Tin-mining Co., Torrington Tin-mining Co., Butler Tin mining Co., and Glen Smelting Co., the latter devoting their attention to the mine known as the Ottery, upon which, during the past year, an average of fourteen men have been engaged in raising tin stone. The lodes in this property are extensive, from 4 to 8 feet wide, but the stone is of a poor character, rarely exceeding 3 per cent. of black tin. The Dutchman and Torrington lodes are much richer, but not so regular in formation. Several parcels of 100 tons of stone from these claims are reported to have yielded as high as 20 per cent. black tin. Four extensive stamp batteries, with all the requisite concentrating machinery, are now available for lode-tin miners in this district, and as each plant has been erected in the vicinity of promising outcrops of lode-tin there are reasonable hopes of a much larger output of ore from this source during the present year.

SILVER.

Pye's Creek.

The late rains, which, previous to my visit, had been very heavy in this locality, have interfered considerably with mining operations, though on most claims the latter had been temporarily suspended, in some cases pending the erection of machinery, and in others pending completion of floating operations.

The proprietor of the Burrow claim had sunk a shaft about 40 feet deep. The reef continues to carry good ore all the way, and is about 7 feet wide. At the time of my visit about 12 tons of the ore was about being forwarded to Melbourne for treatment, the result of which will be looked forward to with interest.

Arthur and party, on the south of the Burrow, who are down about 20 feet have a good show. Doolin and party are down about 10 feet. The lode in this claim is about 5 feet wide; and one of the proprietors showed me an assay which had been made a few days previously, giving a return of 72 ounces.

To the north of the Burrow, Keating and party have sunk a shaft about 20 feet. The reef here is about 7 feet wide, with well-defined walls, and the ore seems very rich. Muirson and party, on the north of Pye's Creek, are down about 5 feet, and have struck a rich vein, the ore being a kind of yellow gossan and carbonate of lead. Operations are at a standstill at the Sunny Corner, Homeward Bound, Coolenburg, and Argent Lady. The two latter properties, which are owned by Messrs. O'Donnell Butler & Co., bid fair, judging from the specimens of ore exhibited to me, to become the richest claims upon the creek. Numbers of blocks are still being pegged out, and every hope seems to be entertained that the future of the field will be a favourable one.

Tin obtained during the year 1885:—

	Tons.	cwt.	qr.	lb.
Lode workings	352	2	2	21
Deep „	945	7	1	14
Shallow „	1,207	15	0	19
	2,505	5	0	26

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT—BOOROOK DIVISION.

(*J. P. Curran, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to transmit my annual report for the year just ended, December 31st, 1885, on the state of the mining industry in my division.

In doing so I regret to say that mining throughout the district has made very little progress. The scarcity of water for sluicing purposes has been the cause in many cases of an entire suspension of work during the greater part of the year, consequently the amount of gold won is rather small. But, now that the drought has fairly broken up, and there being every indication of a continuance of wet weather, we may expect to see more activity displayed in mining circles.

The Surface Hill Sluicing Company's property, at Poverty Point, which I mentioned in my last report, is again about to change hands, and there is every probability of active operations being immediately commenced, under the superintendence of Mr. Kenneth Hutchison, a gentleman whose experience in mining and whose knowledge of the application of machinery to mining purposes is well known. Preparations are now being made by Mr. Hutchison for the removal of 25 tons of mining machinery from Queensland to Poverty Point—so this valuable mining property will at length have a chance of being fairly and profitably worked. The method hitherto adapted for working this mine was hydraulic sluicing, but, as mentioned in my last report, a great portion of the auriferous matter was found too hard to be reduced by water, and it was decided to introduce crushing machinery, which is now about to be done.

In my report for the year 1884 I also mentioned a Mr. Horton, who was then about to erect a crushing mill, for the purpose of working a similar formation to that at Surface Hill. At the invitation of Mr. Horton I visited his property a short time ago, and found that he had erected a very complete plant, consisting of a 10-stamp battery, with the most modern gold-saving appliances, driven by an 8-horse power engine. The site chosen for the reduction works is situated at the junction of two creeks, which command the

the watershed of one of the main spurs for a distance of 4 miles. The water from these creeks is received into a large reservoir immediately above the battery, and conveyed thence to the stampers. The mine is situated about a quarter of a mile from the battery, and may be described as a mountain of gold-bearing matter, composed chiefly of decomposed granite. The crushing stuff is obtained from a large excavation in the eastern side of the hill, and drives have been put in north, south, and west. A shaft has also been sunk in the bottom of the level to a considerable distance, and gold can be seen in every piece of stone broken as far as the explorations had been extended at the time of my visit. The gold is fine, but seems proportionately distributed throughout the workings. The mill was in full work whilst I was there, and the ore that Mr. Horton was then putting through was yielding about 9½ dwts. per ton, which, considering the economical way in which the work was being performed, should, I think, leave a fair margin of profit after working expenses were paid.

At Tooloom and Pretty Gully the scarcity of water has been a serious drawback to mining; nearly all work has been suspended during the greater part of the year, which accounts for the very low return of gold won in this part of the division. Gold has, I am told, been found in various places in the neighbourhood of Tooloom, in payable quantities, but the want of water has prevented the discoverers from turning their finds to any advantage. The amount of gold purchased by local buyers is put down at 400 oz. The number of men employed in mining at Tooloom and Pretty Gully is about forty, principally engaged in alluvial mining.

As a great deal of gold passes out of the district for the purpose of obtaining a higher price for it than the gold-buyers here give for it, it is difficult to arrive at a fair estimate of the actual winnings.

At Lunatic Reef nothing of any importance has transpired during the year.

At Boorook silver-mining has been the chief industry during the past seven years, but early in September last the quality of ore became very poor, and the proprietors, Messrs. Hall Brothers, decided to suspend operations for the present, but it is not improbable that work may again be resumed at no distant date, and silver-mining may again flourish in this division. The place, in my opinion, has not had a fair trial. The whole of the work done has been confined to one gold lease of 2 acres and another of 4 acres. The first-named block is known as the Golden Age, and the latter as the Addison. On the Golden Age the deepest shaft is only 300 feet in depth, whilst the greatest depth attained on the Addison is 100 feet. There is abundant proof that silver exists in payable quantities in various parts of the field, and only requires a little capital to develop the mineral wealth which surrounds us. Mr. T. G. Davey, the late superintendent of the Boorook mines and reduction works, is at present on a visit to England, and he purposes whilst there to call the attention of some of his mining friends to the vast mineral resources of Boorook and its neighbourhood, with a view to the introduction of capital to further explore the mines of Boorook.

Owing to the sudden departure of Mr. Davey I have been unable to obtain the returns of metal (silver) won during the year.

At Boonoo Boonoo, an old abandoned gold-field, on the western boundary of my division, a little gold has been obtained from time to time by the few fossicking parties located there.

This field at one period of its history maintained a large population, but during that time the most of the work was confined to the shallow workings on the banks of the creek. The deep ground in the bed of the creek, in consequence of the influx of bottom water, and the frequency of floods, prevented the field from having a fair trial. Two small companies have now been formed for the purpose of trying the deep ground, each party provided with powerful steam-engines and substantial pumping appliances, with which they expect to successfully cope with the water. One party has already had a washing up with very satisfactory results; and if the efforts of the other party are financially a success, there is no doubt that ere long a fair population will again be settled at Boonoo Boonoo.

The amount of gold won from all sources this year is about 500 oz. The average price of gold on the field is about £3 10s. per oz.

The number of miners' rights issued during the year is sixty-seven.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT—DALMORTON DIVISION.

(*W. T. Poole, Mining Registrar.*)

SINCE my last report I have received six gold-mining lease applications, and have issued during the year twenty miners' rights and three business licenses.

Owing to the scarcity of water, both for domestic and crushing purposes, only a limited number of men have been employed in quartz-mining. The only claims at work are the Sir Hercules, Lone Star, and St. Patrick reefs, the property of the V.G.M. Co. (Limited).

Crushing will commence about the 18th instant, and as water is now available the manager intends putting on about twenty men so as to keep the machine at full work in the event of the water supply keeping up. It may thus be safely predicted that next year will be won a larger amount of gold than has been won for some years past.

In alluvial the work done can only be said to be fossicking, as no new finds have been made, and owing to the dry weather no prospecting is being carried on.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT—SOLFERINO DIVISION.

(*Robert Wilkinson, Mining Registrar.*)

I HAVE the honor to herewith submit for the information of the Honorable Minister for Mines, my annual report upon Solferino Gold-field for year 1885.

Quartz-mining in past year has taken quite a more hopeful appearance, in fact a great impetus set in about the middle of year. Several old identities returned and took up ground, and in some instances have been fairly successful; and there are now very sanguine hopes of this long-neglected field being opened up, the opinion of most people being that should capital only be judiciously invested in opening up the mines that there is a great reward buried only awaiting to be unearthed. Most of the claims at work are worked by men who could not afford to go into any heavy expenditure.

To

To give a brief outline of doings of the several claims which are at work, and have been during year, I shall begin with No. 4 N. Garibaldi, it being a claim that has been kept constantly at work for the past five years by four working and six backing shareholders; but through the venture not proving itself payable during last few months that it was at work, the proprietors deemed it advisable to suspend operations for a time to allow them a chance to recoup a little some other way, and to enable them to meet their calls. The only return from this mine during year was from a crushing of some 300 lbs. of specimens treated at Mint, for a yield of 78 oz. 10 dwt., or value of £274 18s. 10d., but out of that had to be deducted 100 lb. specimens which was on hand end of year 1884. They have still a parcel of 80 lb. on hand at Mint awaiting treatment which may turn out £600 worth of gold. This party had to contend latterly with water whilst sinking a winze, and which consequently made the work more expensive. I am given to understand that this Company laid out, during the five years that they were working in mine, £1,400 in excess of what gold they obtained, and which is therefore a great item to men of small means. Adjoining to No. 4 on south lies the ground held and worked by Charles Harkin, who has continuously pegged away during year, but with what result I have not had the pleasure of knowing, and am afraid that it has not been of very great importance.

The prospectors, Garibaldi, of five shareholders—two workers, and three backers—the latter being Sydney residents. This claim was taken up by those proprietors some eighteen months ago, and, as I mentioned in my last report, they were then doing nothing but dead labour, in shape of putting the mine in thorough working order, and it was only about the middle of the past year that they could make a fair start, and sunk a winze from 60-foot level through to the 120-feet, and are stoping down at present time, but have not come on to any gold worthy of note. This, being last on the Garibaldi line, will pass on to the now famous Band of Hope line, and begin with,—

A. Tamini's and party's 3-acre lease, being a part of original prospectors and No. 1 north. Two men on work by means of tunnel, which has been driven in some 60 feet, and a good deal of stoping done. At present sinking a winze in drive with view of getting on to shoot in low level. Yield from this claim was from two parcels of specimens treated at Mint—first lot of 80 lbs. turned out £104 worth of gold; the second am not aware as to the result.

Prosp. Band of Hope.—Three-acre lease, held by G. F. Adam and party, and worked by means of tunnel, with two men on. Tunnel following course of reef, and in 80 feet, and goes through two different shoots of gold, and some of stone in shoot is exceedingly rich. Stoping has been the order of the day with this party for some time back, working in shoots. This mine turned out 104 oz. of gold during the year, besides several lb. of splendid specimens on hand for exhibition, with a view of trying to catch the eye of capitalists, and which may induce them to form a good Company. This party has also another 3-acre block on south side, but have not done anything to it, confining their operations to one place.

No. 2 south, F. Wenkley and party, being also leaseholders, having applied for a 3-acre lease in July last (previously held under M.R.), tunnel workings and a shallow drive is in about 40 feet; ground stoped out for 20 feet; at present putting in a lower cross-cut to get the reef at about 80 feet. 400 lb. of picked stone was treated from the mine at the Marcolini, 1-stamp battery in Grafton for a yield of 37 oz., and this was obtained from the working of one man for four months, and for ten men for three months. I believe that this party have their concern under offer to Victorian capitalists and with this view have retained few specimens to send over for inspection.

No. 3 south, being a 3-acre block applied for by S. Matterson on 8th June last. Drive put in for 35 feet on course of reef at shallow depth, and present workings confined to the starting to a cross-cut to catch the reef at about 50 feet. Have on hand about 150 lb. of very fair specimens, which, at the least estimation, is expected to give the proprietor good wages for time spent in mines, he being on his own foundation.

Adjoining to Matterson is No. 3 south, commonly called Lombardy, which has only been recently taken up, and two men are now at work carrying on one of main abandoned drives.

Two or three other miners are fossicking around reefs trying to find something to induce them to venture in setting in to open up.

The old Lion mine, Lionsville, which has been abandoned for some years, was taken possession of by J. J. Driscoll and others some few months ago, and applied for by them as a 10-acre lease. Tenders were called for the baling of water out of the shaft, but seem, to have ended there, as nothing more was heard of it—probably too expensive a work to be undertaken by a small party.

In alluvial very little has been doing in this division, principally through the scarcity of water. A party of three, in Nicholson's Creek, on Timbarra Watershed, have been making very good wages through the year—something like 1 oz. per week per man, equal to £3 13s. I did not get the returns exactly from this party, which is the cause a good deal for the lowness of returns for gold won from alluvium.

At Bull Dog and Cangi everything is almost at a standstill. The Marcolini battery, as mentioned in connection with some of the crushings from one or two claims, is not in my division, and therefore will probably be fully reported upon by the Mining Registrar of the division it is in, it being a very handy contrivance, and well worthy of mention as useful to miners prospecting reefs.

As far as I have been able to ascertain there has been won in my division during the year 251 oz. 18 dwt. of reef gold and 135 oz. 4 dwt. of alluvial, valued at £1,350. Price of gold during the year has been from £3 8s. to £3 14s. The number of miners at work are fourteen European and three Chinese alluvial, and sixteen quartz-miners; total, thirty-three. Number of miners' rights issued during the year was thirty-eight, and business licenses two. Applications for gold-mining leases lodged numbered six.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT—TENTERFIELD DIVISION.

(*N. Burne, Mining Registrar.*)

MINING within my division has been very quiet during the past twelve months, attributable in most part to the scarcity of water, but the late rains will no doubt enable many of the old miners to resume work again in earnest.

Boonoo Boonoo is the only place of any importance within this division, situate from Tenterfield about 14 miles in a N.N.E. direction. The main creek is at present attracting some little attention, and old miners seem to think this field will yet turn out well. The work being done consists principally of ground sluicing.

Funnell

Funnell and party, consisting of four men, are working in the bed of the creek, about 300 yards below the Boonoo Boonoo Bridge. They have a 6-horse power engine and pump to take away the under current of water, and the ground has a fair show of gold.

About $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile below them Vickery and party, of three men, are putting in their race, and hope to be in working order in about a month or six weeks. Their claim is reported to be good, as they are just below the junction of Dismal Swamp Creek, which in former years turned out well. Some points below Vickery and party have been worked with moderate success, but the creek is a series of waterholes and bars, and nothing can be done without engine-power. It is about 6 miles from Vickery and party to where the creek junctions with the river, with gold-bearing gullies running into it, which, to all appearance, should be payable, and no doubt these will be tried in course of time with the machinery so close at hand.

Some ground in Roper's Gully, a tributary of the main creek, has lately been taken up by Austin and party, and it is their intention to put in a long tail-race, to take off the water from a part of the gully which has not been worked, and it is apparently a fairly payable claim.

Another party, Miller & Co., have a claim in Dismal Swamp, and have put in a long tail-race, to do which they have had to blast through some bars. They are now working old ground out of a face. They have water at present, but have been idle for a long time in consequence of the long drought.

Just above them is a man named Andrews, working a cradle, and has been there for several years; appears to be making a fair living, and seems contented.

There seems to be some chance of the reefs being tried. There are several gold-bearing ones, small but well defined; and it is reported that a party has put down a trial shaft about 30 feet, out of which they obtained about 17 ounces out of a crushing by hand. The ground looks like a place that would do well, provided the old seasons set in again, and with the help of machinery it should compare favourably with many of the old fields hereabouts.

It is difficult to obtain reliable information of the quantity of gold obtained, as most of it is disposed of by the miners to different buyers. Funnell and party have taken out about 80 ounces.

I have issued thirty-two miners' rights and thirty-seven mineral licenses during the past year, which is greatly in excess of the two previous years, but in the majority of cases these rights and licenses are made use of outside my division, therefore it is no criterion of the work being done, or of the number of men working therein.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT—WILSON'S DOWNFALL DIVISION.

(J. G. Draper, Mining Registrar.)

I do myself the honor to forward my annual report of the past year on the Tin-mines, Wilson's Downfall Division, for information of the Hon. Secretary for Mines, which I am sorry to say shows a great falling off in the quantity of tin ore raised to that of the previous year, which is partly due to the very dry state of the weather; but I must also add that tin-mining here is in a state of decline, that is with reference to the stream tin; but I am of opinion, backed up with that of miners of considerable experience, that there is something good to be had in this locality yet in the shape of "lode tin," which has never had a trial; and when capitalists can be induced to open up lodes, some that have already been discovered showing very rich indications, no doubt they will be amply repaid.

A party of Chinese, engaged working the Lady Lisgar claim, on Wylie Creek, have for a long time been doing very little, but latterly they appear to have again picked up the tin. In my last report I mentioned a claim of Mr. D. M'Alister's, worked by eight Chinese, which did not turn out as expected. The Chinaman, Tommy Cook, who, I also stated, had leased two blocks on Nelson's Swamp, has abandoned all idea of that place, and removed about 5 miles down Wylie Creek, where he is ground-sluicing, and getting fair tin, having cut a race a considerable distance to carry water for that purpose. Another party of Chinese, working at head of Herding-yard Creek, on ground leased by Hogan and Mahony (which is in the vicinity of where the lodes spoken of are likely to be found), are getting very good tin.

There are also a number of Chinese on Ruby Creek. They seem to be making fair wages—at any rate they still remain there, which is a sign that they are doing a little; generally speaking, it is very difficult to get information from them as regards the quantity of tin they are getting.

On New Zealand and Dixon's Gully there are a few Europeans and Chinese working. Some of each are making good wages, and others getting scarcely any. Maryland Creek is almost deserted; there are only three Chinese at present working there.

The average number of miners on this field for 1885 is fifty Europeans and 250 Chinese, showing that they are gradually decreasing compared to last year.

The quantity of tin ore obtained here during the year being 311 tons, at an average price of £50 per ton, value £15,550, showing a decrease of 179 tons compared with the yield of 1884.

In conclusion, I beg to add that during the past twelve months I issued sixty-one mineral licenses, eight business licenses, and two miners' rights.

CLARENCE AND RICHMOND DISTRICT—GRAFTON DIVISION.

(Mr. Warden M'Dougall, P.M., Grafton.)

I HAVE now the honor to forward you my annual report as Warden for the Clarence and Richmond Mining District.

I beg leave to state that as so little work was being carried on either at the Dalmorton or Nana Creek reefs in consequence of the late prevailing drought, and consequent scarcity of water, that I did not think it necessary to incur the expense of visiting those places last year, and that the following information has been obtained from reports sent to me yesterday by Messrs. Poole and Geddes, the Mining Registrars and Wardens' Clerks at Dalmorton and Nana Creek.

The number of miners' rights issued at Nana Creek during last year was 23; business license, 1; the number of miners working quartz-claims, 10; and miners at work on alluvial, 6. The quantity of quartz crushed and the yield of gold therefrom during the year has been 263½ tons, and the gold obtained, 196 oz. 15 dwt. 9 gr., being an average of 14 dwt. 23 gr. to the ton.

I received notice yesterday from the Mining Registrar at Nana Creek of a new discovery of alluvial gold by Rudder and party, at little Nymboi River, about 14 miles south-west of Nana Creek; yield, 4 oz. gold from ten days' sluicing. Country impracticable for horses until a road is opened through the dense scrub.

At Dalmorton twenty miners' rights, three business licenses, and six gold-mining lease applications have been issued during the year, and the number of miners employed are about fourteen Europeans and eight Chinese; the quantity of gold obtained from quartz-crushing, 27 oz. 15 dwt., value, £74 1s. 3d.; and 120 oz. alluvial gold, value, £432; and the total quantity of quartz crushed was 111½ tons.

The scarcity of water, both for domestic and crushing and sluicing purposes, has severely affected the mining industry during the last year in this district.

CLARENCE AND RICHMOND DISTRICT—LISMORE DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden Bray, P.M., Lismore.*)

I do myself the honor to report for your information that there is little fresh to state since my last report.

All attempts to open up coal mines in this district appear to have been abandoned, though there is a general impression that there is plenty of coal here.

There is no other mining of any description carried on here. A few miners' rights have been applied for, chiefly by residents of the Tweed River.

CLARENCE AND RICHMOND DISTRICT—NANA CREEK DIVISION.

(*George Geddes, Mining Registrar.*)

In compliance with request conveyed in your advice of 16th November last, I have the honor to supply the annexed statement relating to the mining interests here, for the information of the Honorable the Minister for Mines.

Quartz Claims.

Wm. Cooper and party.—These persons are working a claim (unnamed) situated about a quarter of a mile from the Advance Australia. The reef runs north-west and south-east across a spur into deep gullies on either side. The shaft is in the centre of the spur, and down about 45 feet, well-timbered with uprights and slabbed. The hill is pierced with a drive 70 feet along the line of reef on the north-west side, connecting with the shaft at the 45-foot level. The drive is extended south and east of the shaft 20 feet, and, although the reef still continued, it was found from trial crushings that there was not a sufficiency of gold obtainable to induce them to prosecute the work in that locality, the return, it was thought, would scarcely defray the expense of carting and crushing—stoping was then resorted to, working up to the surface. This finished, a winze was started 40 feet north and west of the main shaft, and sunk 10 feet—a well-formed reef of 1 foot in width going down. Another set of men picked up the reef 75 feet from the level of the original drive, and drove it in 20 feet to the south-east, to meet the winze. This makes a total in depth of about 100 feet from the cap of the reef. The reef in this level is about 18 inches wide in the face, and underlying slightly to the eastward. It is estimated to go ½ an oz. to the ton, but this even, under existing circumstances, will not pay. Work in this claim was for a length of time compulsorily suspended, as the miners could not until very recently get their stone—46 tons—carted to the battery. It had been lying at grass for three months. This party worked for a month or more forming a suitable road for the conveyance of their stone to the Nana Creek Quartz-crushing Company's battery, a distance of about 4 miles. Even, at that time, could they have succeeded in getting it lodged there, the crushing thereof could not have been proceeded with in the absence of water from the dam. Rain has of late, fortunately, and most opportunely for the owners of this claim, visited this locality. Their stone is now through the battery, and the return—60 oz.—gives an average of 1 oz. 6 dwt. 2 gr. to the ton, with which they seem well satisfied.

The Advance Australia.—This claim is distant from the Lady Mary reef about 2 miles, and has been worked by Charles Sperling and party. The claim—or shaft rather—has been stoped out from the 25-foot level to the surface, the reef averaging from 8 to 10 inches. At the bottom of the main shaft—70 feet in depth—reef, north and south, stone has been raised supposed to carry 1½ dwt. to the ton, but that quantity is not considered payable. It will not, therefore, be taken to the battery. From the stoping has been taken out 8 tons of quartz, which upon examination I, with others, think will yield about 2 oz. to the ton. Sperling has bagged up 3 to 4 cwt. of specimens thickly studded with gold, and the general opinion of the miners on the ground is that if that class of quartz could be got in large lots it would give a return of from 10 to 15 oz. to the ton; it may yet be met with. Many of the specimens inspected by me were very rich. The stone has been crushed with a good payable result, the average being 2 oz. 7 dwt. 12 gr. to the ton.

The Lady Mary, Little Plain Creek, about 8 miles north-west of Nana Creek.—This claim is held under lease by Thomas Wilkinson and party. The shaft is down some 60 feet, reef bearing north and south, and is of an average thickness of 1 foot. The last lot of stone obtained in the early part of the year, 28 tons, averaged only 11 dwt. to the ton—barely adequate to defray the cost of getting it to and through the machine—and this is anything but encouraging. The work of this claim, chiefly attributable to the drought, has not been carried on for some time past. I believe suspension of work was, by the Warden, granted to Mr. Wilkinson.

The Nymboi, about 7 miles from Nana Creek.—This claim, on the 11th April, 1885, changed hands, the purchasers being Edward Chapman Lewington, Manager of the Bank New South Wales, and five others, and the transferors, A. W. Nystrom and two others. In the early part of the year they had crushed 40 tons of stone, yielding 48 oz., or 24 dwt. to the ton. The reefs in the shafts mentioned in my last annual report have not since the transfer of the property been worked, but other ground in the immediate vicinity has been opened out, and 73 tons of stone raised from a shaft at a depth of 30 feet; gold in the reef all the way down. It runs north and south, and is on an average 3 feet wide. Two other small shafts have been commenced, from which 4 tons of stone have been taken, and the prospects are stated to be encouraging.

encouraging. There are some 40 to 50 tons of second-class stone at grass, which the proprietors purpose having crushed, but this cannot be effected until the New Year, as the battery is employed upon several lots of stone which will occupy it till the end of the year.

The Hidden Treasure Gold-mining Company's Prospecting Claim, Nana Creek.—This claim, in which there are three shafts, the Prospecting Claim, Bangalow, and Laura, is in close proximity to the Nana Creek Quartz-crushing Company's battery, and they have not, from various causes, been worked—the heavy expense being, I think, the great drawback—since the month of August last, the crushing at that time turning out very indifferently, giving a return of—from 34 tons of quartz operated upon at the Company's battery—but 5 dwt. to the ton. The hands were then knocked off, and, as before stated, the work of the mine has not been resumed. I have no means now of ascertaining the present state of the reefs in this claim. The stone last crushed was got from the Bangalow reef. The reefs in this claim are near to one another, and but a short distance from the Company's battery. The carting has been done for 2s. 6d. per ton. If, therefore, the reefs could be fairly tested they would, no doubt, prove remunerative; but it is the old story, "want of capital," and that the Company either lack or are diffident about laying out their funds.

The Waratah.—Angus M'Leod now holds this claim; it is near to the Nymboi. On the ground are some 20 tons of quartz, left by the former holders—Neill and party—who are now away from the field. When crushed, should the yield of the above stone warrant his doing so, M'Leod will then proceed with the work. It is a very recent holding. The crushing cannot take place till the middle of January.

The Waratah, No. 1.—Thomas Wilkinson is now working this ground. It was formerly held by W. Bourne and party. There have been 17 tons of stone taken from the 25-foot level. The shaft is down 30 feet, and the reef runs north and south, its width on an average being from 8 inches to 1 foot. The crushing of the 17 tons has turned out favourably, giving a yield of 14 oz., or 16 dwt. 6 gr. to the ton. The work of the claim will, after the holidays, be taken up again.

The Illabo, Eleven Tree Creek, Alexander Stout.—A lease of this claim was applied for by Alexander Stout and James Ross on the 4th October, 1884, and refused on the 9th June, 1885, on the ground that the land applied for was not, on the day the application was made, available. The applicants would not, as sanctioned by the Department, re-apply, and the land is now being worked as an ordinary claim under miners' rights. There have been taken out 13½ tons of stone from the 170-foot level in the shaft of 175 feet, and 6½ of a big blow out of a crop 90 feet west of the main shaft. Mr Stout then stoped up from the 135-foot level, taking out and crushing 7½ tons of stone, the yield of which was slightly over 1 oz to the ton. Foul air of a very dense nature has to be contended with in the main shaft, and much time is taken up and labour expended in forcing it out—and this of frequent occurrence. There are at grass about 6 or 7 tons of quartz from the 107-foot level; a good return is expected, and it will be put through the mill at an early period in the New Year.

The Eureka, situated 4 miles west of Nana Creek.—James Tranter and another worked this claim up to the 27th August last, and then, on account of his not receiving any advice *re* his application for a 1-acre lease of this claim, made on the 8th December, 1884, he abandoned the ground. The application for a lease was refused under advice 11,077, of October, 1885. Stone, to the extent of 21½ tons, giving a return of 19 oz. 19 dwt. 9 gr., or 18 dwt. 13 gr. to the ton. Passing the main shaft, which is about 50 feet in depth, there is a spacious tunnel, and throughout its length, about 60 feet, the reef, about 8 inches in width, is plainly traceable. The above stone was obtained in and about the upper workings of the shaft, and near to the mouth of the tunnel, on the hillside. The direction in which the reef runs is nearly north and south.

The Eight Acre.—This claim, which is about a mile from Nana Creek, was for a short time worked by Joseph Dargue and another, from which they took 4 tons of stone. The yield was 2 oz. 17 dwt. 6 gr., or 14 dwt. 7 gr. to the ton. This they did not think good enough, and consequently they abandoned the claim.

The Homeward Bound, Tallewidgen Creek.—This prospecting claim has for a length of time been abandoned by the original owner, John Cowling and party. Stone, however, has since been taken from this ground which, upon a trial crushing of 3 lb., has given 14 gr. or more to the dish. The reefs, of which there are some eight in number in this claim, are all well-defined, and of an average thickness of 2 feet, and, as stated in my last report to be, traced from the surface—all gold-bearing. The main shaft is down 75 feet. This is reckoned to be one of the best claims on the field; still, the difficulties with which the owners have had to contend have been of such a nature, and so diversified, that they have been deterred from going on with the work of the claim.

The Rise and Shine.—This claim is adjacent to the Homeward Bound, and was also held by J. Cowling and party, but they have likewise long since ceased to work it, and resigned all ownership thereto, having turned their attention to farming pursuits in the neighbourhood of the Orara River, contiguous to the diggings. The depth of the main shaft in this ground is 51 feet. All the reefs about there are viewed with favour by those miners who are acquainted with them, and should the place get a fresh start these claims may at any moment be again taken up.

Quartz-crushing Batteries.

The same two batteries, one the property of the Nana Creek Quartz-crushing Company, and the other of Joseph Dargue and Company, are the only two on the field, and they were mentioned in my report for the year 1884. These batteries are not in constant work. I should, indeed, be pleased had it been in my power to state that the stampers of both machines had during the past year been in daily requisition. The former battery was worked day and night from the 21st to the 31st December, with two shifts of men, in order to put through 144 tons of stone—they managed to do it.

Alluvial Workings.

There are a few miners getting gold from sluicing operations in different localities, from 12 to 18 miles from the township of Nana Creek, and their actual finds, though unknown to me, must, from the fact of their working on so persistently, yield them a fair living; indeed, I am told that ground is being worked in the vicinity of a place called Back Creek, distant in a north-westerly direction from Nana Creek about 18 miles, and that the proceeds of the gold realized have been disposed of to one of the Grafton banks; the quantity I have not been able to ascertain. Two miners, whom I have known for a considerable time, on the

the 23rd December brought in 23 dwt. of gold, the result of about ten days' work, from the Little Plain, distant hence about 18 miles. They have been working there for the past few months, and have sold their gold to the local storekeeper here. Anything like an accurate account of what has been won I cannot find out.

Mr. Eugene Frederick Rudder, who owns a selection on the Orara River, distant 3 miles from Nana, and is there settled with his family, has been with two others—Joseph Dargue and James Forbes—on a prospecting tour over this field for the past month. He, on the 24th December, brought in a really good sample of gold, weighing, he stated, 3 oz., and it looked to be that. It was the result of two men's work for five days, and at 72s. per oz. gives a return of £10 16s. The gold is clean, shotty, and very weighty. It was got at a depth of from 2 to 14 feet from the surface, in the vicinity of the Little Nymboi River, about half a mile below its junction with the Bo Bo River, distant from Nana Creek in a north-westerly direction about 14 miles. They have marked off their prospecting protection area. The country is difficult to prospect, owing to its being covered with a dense brush, and as yet, but little, if anything, is known of the value of the land, either above or below, outside their claim. They intend, after the Christmas and New Year's holidays, prosecuting their search for the precious metal, being of the fixed opinion that they are in the region of a much more lucrative find. If present prospects hold out they will then hoist the red flag and report their discovery. That, I think, I may with confidence state will be done in the course of a few days.

I have issued during the year:—

Miners' rights	23
Business license	1
Total	24

The quantity of quartz crushed, and the yield of gold therefrom, is as follows:—

	oz.	dwt.	gr.
407 ton 10 cwt. Gold	333	11	9
Alluvial „ roughly estimated at.....	10	0	0*
Total	343	11	9

* This computation is rather under than over the mark.

RETURN in detail furnished by Mr. James Denning, manager for the Nana Creek Quartz-crushing Company.

1883.	Ton cwt.		Oz. dwt. gr.
February.....	60 0	Laura—The Hidden Treasure Gold-mining Company	48 0 0
„	40 0	Nymboi—A. W. Nystrom and party	48 0 0
„	16 0	Advance Australia—Charles Sperling and party	24 0 0
August	39 0	Nymboi—Refuse stone—E. C. Lewington and five others	17 11 0
„	34 0	Bangalow—The Hidden Treasure Gold-mining Company	8 10 0
September	23 0	Lady Mary—Thomas Wilkinson and party.....	15 8 0
„	73 0	Nymboi—E. C. Lewington and five others	43 16 0
December 21 to	46 0	No title—William Cooper and two others	60 0 0
31st	17 6	Waratah, No. 1—Thomas Wilkinson and another	14 0 0
	8 0	Advance Australia—Charles Sperling and party	19 0 0
		RETURNS FROM JOSEPH DARGUE AND COMPANY:—	
February 18	8 0	Eureka—James Tranter and another	7 8 9
„ 20	4 0	Eight-acre—Joseph Dargue and another	2 17 6
March 17	8 0	Eureka—James Tranter and another	8 10 0
„ 19	13 10	Illabo—Alexander Stout and another	4 18 0
August 27	5 10	Eureka—James Tranter and another	4 1 0
November 23	7 10	Illabo—Alexander Stout and another	7 11 18
	407 10		333 11 9

I much regret my inability to report more favourably of the yield of gold in my division during the past year. It is less than the year 1884 by 66 oz. 13 dwt. 12 gr., and by 190 oz. 15 dwt. 9 gr. for that of 1883. I trust, however, that now there seems to be every probability of some good alluvial ground being brought to light, it may improve mining matters here, and incite our small community to renewed energy. There is, as I pointed out in my last year's report, abundant proof that this field is highly auriferous. One can scarcely examine any of the stone about but indications of gold can be seen, but the grand fulcrum necessary to get it in payable quantities is capital, and that realization appears to be as far off as ever. Then again, when taking into consideration the recent drought—and such may occur at any time—which has in this district extended over a period of six months, it has been a very serious hindrance to mining operations, and checked the ardour of the most practical and energetic of our miners. Their prospects are, I think, better than they were a month or two back; and it is to be hoped that those who have remained on the field may, if not immediately, be eventually rewarded for their pluck and perseverance in striving to develop the ground. The past dry weather has been a sore trial to the poorer class of diggers, and as a resident here since the 29th April, 1883, I have never in that period seen this place or the country adjacent in so deplorably a dried-up condition for want of a thorough downpour of rain.

CLARENCE AND RICHMOND DISTRICT—CRAFTON DIVISION.

(W. Clarke, Mining Registrar.)

MINING has been almost at a standstill during the past year. Toyceor and party have been working their prospecting claim at the Mann River, and I am informed the quartz obtained is of fair quality, but in the absence of machinery to test it it is impossible to say whether it will be payable or not.

Messrs.

Messrs. Stephens and Rush obtained the use of the diamond drill to bore for coal on their mining permit, situated in the parish of Taloumbi, near the village of Maclean, and at the depth of 400 feet the indications of a payable seam of coal were very good, but the drill was then removed, as it was not powerful enough to proceed further.

I issued forty-five miners' rights, three business licenses, and two mineral licenses.

The return of gold has been compiled from information received from the various banks, and embraces some of that won in the neighbouring mining divisions.

CLARENCE AND RICHMOND DISTRICT—LISMORE DIVISION.

(*C. Coghlan, Mining Registrar.*)

I do myself the honor to report for your information that the principal mining operations in this division of the Richmond, which were almost entirely devoted to the development of coal-fields, have been suspended for over six months, owing partly to the smallness of the demand for the mineral and partly to the difficulty and expense of transit from the pit to the river.

A few miners have been prospecting near the coast in the vicinity of the Evans River, between the Richmond and the Clarence. Eighteen miners' rights and four mineral licenses were issued during the year, the greater number of which were taken out for the alleged discovery of gold made near the Tweed River by a person named William Green, reported on the 29th June, 1885, who at the same time deposited at the office a specimen of the ore, which was forwarded to the Department as per regulations. No further report has been received from this new discovery.

ALBERT DISTRICT—SILVERTON DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden Brown, P.M., Silvertown.*)

I HAVE now the honor to hand you for the information of the Hon. the Minister for Mines the following report on the Silvertown Division of the Albert Mining District for the year 1885.

I am happy to state that during the year immense progress has been made in this district, not only in the advancement of the mining industry, but also in the town of Silvertown, which now contains some excellent stone buildings, and contains a population of say 2,000 persons. Smelting operations have also been commenced under considerable disadvantages, the district being entirely destitute of the two most essential requirements, viz., fuel and water, to enable these operations to be successfully carried on; but notwithstanding these drawbacks two smelters were successfully started during the year. The first started was at the Pinacles mine, and said to be capable of treating 60 tons of ore per day. A considerable quantity of ore was smelted, with, I believe, satisfactory results; but from scarcity of water and other drawbacks the furnaces were cooled down some months back, and have not yet been put in blast again. A start is to be made, I hear, next week under the management of an able smelter. The second smelter started was of smaller capacity, the guarantee, I believe, being 20 tons per day. This is the property of the Barrier Ranges Silver-mining Company. It has been running about five months, giving every satisfaction to the proprietors, and reducing over the stipulated amount of ore per day; some weeks fully 150 tons have been treated. The average yield of silver since starting has been about 12,000 oz. per week. In consequence of the inferior quality of the bone-dust supplied the refining process was not able to keep pace with the smelting; the Company have therefore been sending the silver lead bars to Melbourne for final treatment. Another smelter of greater size has been erected and started by this Company since the commencement of this year (1886), and I believe is giving every satisfaction to the proprietors.

The Barrier Ranges Silver-mining Company, who hold a very large interest in this field, have under their very able general manager, Mr. W. R. Wilson, steadily worked and prospected several of their properties, more particularly at the Day Dream, Apollyon, and Gipsy Girl mines. The first-named is, I have no hesitation in saying, the best of the Company's blocks, and during the year has been formed into a separate Company.

At the Broken Hill Company's property work is being steadily pushed on. Two large smelters are now *en route* for the mine. Several hands are busily engaged in making foundations and doing other preliminary work, so that no time will be lost when they arrive. This Company have nearly 2 miles in length on the line of lode, which is visible on the surface nearly the whole distance, and in some places rising fully 50 feet above the soil. This property has been tested at different parts to depths ranging from 100 to 215 feet—the latter depth reached only within the past few days, when a cross-cut was put into the lode, and ore of extraordinary richness was found. Fourteen feet of lode has now been gone through without yet striking the other wall. Chlorides are distinctly visible all through the ore, and the whole bulk from this level will probably average hard on 1,000 oz. of silver per ton. The amount of ore to be won from this mine is almost unlimited, and some idea of its value may be gathered from the fact that 48 tons, sent as a bulk sample for treatment to Melbourne, realized £7,442 12s. 11d. The work done on this property during the year has been purely prospecting, no ore having been stoped out. Yet I find by the manager's report attached that 3,000 tons of ore was raised during the year, valued at £42,866 12s. 11d.; and I may here state that, from information given me by the different managers, the estimated value of the ores dispatched from here has generally been exceeded by the actual results of sales. By the end of the present year, with a fairly favourable season, I have no hesitation in saying there will be several smelters in blast on this line of reef, and a large population gathered there.

The Umlerumberka mine has been steadily worked during the whole year, and with highly satisfactory results, details of which will be found in the manager's report. This property I take to be one of the most permanent mines on the field, and under the management of Mr. E. P. Evans has been splendidly developed during the past year.

The Treasure, owned by the Nolan Bros., has turned out some remarkably rich ore during the year, some of which has been kindly lent for the Exhibition to be shortly held in London. The whole of this ore is still at the mine, and by manager's report, valued at £12,500.

I should very much like to give a more detailed account of the various smaller properties being worked, but as they extend over an area of about 80 by 30 miles I am unable to visit them, and so obtain accurate information as to what results are being obtained.

During the year a considerable area of land was applied for as mineral leases on the Corona Run, some 60 miles north of here; but after a considerable amount of prospecting had been done without obtaining encouraging results, the whole of this portion of the field has been deserted.

Very little work has been done on the Poolamnacca tin lode during the year. This, in a great measure, is due to the absence until lately of water for domestic purpose.

The water supply during the past year has held out remarkably well, and although on two or three occasions the prospect of a water famine appeared likely, we were fortunate in getting rain to tide over the difficulty, and the splendid fall last month of nearly 4 inches, which was general all over the district, filling all dams, tanks, and soakages, has given a good supply for some months to come.

From the Customs returns for last year, kindly furnished me by the Collector, I find silver ore, &c., of the following quantities and values were exported from this field.—

		£	s.	d.
Refined silver	47,521 oz.	£9,503	0	0
Silver lead	190½ tons	25,650	0	0
Ore	1,623½ „	73,128	0	0
		£103,281	0	0

From the managers' reports from fifteen mines (which are attached to this report) I find the following quantities and value of ores have been raised during the year 1885:—

Name of Company or Mine.	Quantity of Ore.	Value.		
	Tons	£	s.	d.
Broken Hill	3,000	42,866	12	11
Day Dream	4,000	51,000	0	0
Umberumberka	1,816	26,588	0	0
Pinacles	2,000	16,000	0	0
Treasure	41	12,500	0	0
Maybell	100	5,000	0	0
Maybell North	50	5,000	0	0
Gipsy Girl	500	5,000	0	0
Christmas	18	2,546	15	6
Mount Gipps Silver-mining Company	200	2,126	9	10
Ellis Mine	12	1,200	0	0
Terrible Dick	15½	1,006	0	0
Apollyon	30	1,000	0	0
Purnamoota Silver-mining Company	21	840	0	0
Piuck Up	19	126	5	10
		£115,800	4	1

All over the field mining operations are being carried on by the working miners on the small chloride veins which permeate the whole of this locality, and I am confident can only be profitably worked in that way. These veins are generally not more than two or three inches thick, but exceedingly rich, the ore frequently running into several thousands of ounces per ton.

In the past year 643 mineral lease applications were received; 622 mineral and 592 business licenses were issued; also 82 miners' rights. The amount of revenue received at this office, exclusive of stamp duty, was £10,242 15s. 6d.

I estimate the value of machinery now at work on the field at £20,000. This amount will be largely increased during the present year by the erection of smelters at Broken Hill and other centres.

The present population of the district I should think reaches fully 5,000, Silverton containing about 2,000 of that number.

In conclusion, I may state that although there is no doubt thousands of acres of land that have been applied for as mineral leases in this locality will be utterly valueless, still there cannot be a possible doubt that the permanence of the field as a silver and lead producing one is firmly established; also that when the South Australian Railway, now in course of construction to the border, is completed, the annual output of ore from these mines will be enormous, and give employment to a large number of hands.

The following return from two mines is omitted in the quantities and value of ore won:—
Hen and Chickens S.M. Co., 100 tons, valued at £3,000; Bird in Hand S.M. Co., 21½ tons, valued at £281.

ALBERT DISTRICT—WILCANNIA DIVISION.

(*Mr. Warden Gower, P.M., Wilcannia.*)

I do myself the honor to inform you that no mining is being carried on within my portion of the Albert District.

Several parties are prospecting for gold and silver between here and Burke's Cave, on the Silverton road, but without, at present, any apparent success.

The want of a good supply of water on this track prevents prospectors from going far away from any of the station tanks, and hence prospecting is confined to a distance of about 10 miles on either side of the Silverton-Wilcannia road.

ALBERT

ALBERT DISTRICT—MILPARINKA DIVISION.

(Mr. Warden C. McA. King, P.M., Milparinka.)

MY report for the year just ended will be somewhat different from those of previous years, inasmuch as it will narrate of copious rains having visited this part of the Colony, the months of January and December having been remarkable for the great quantity that fell—9 inches in the former month, and nearly 4 inches in the latter month, while the smaller quantities which fell in March and September (over 2½ inches and 2¾ inches respectively) have kept the herbage in a lively state, consequently the past year has been considered by the graziers as the best season that has been known; and whereas the stock returns for 1884 showed only 801 horses, 6,592 cattle, and 108,815 sheep,—1,170 horses, 11,794 cattle, and 411,619 sheep have been returned for 1885. The mining industry has also benefited very materially, the miners having been enabled to clear up all their accumulated heaps of wash-dirt and carry on their operations with but little interruption. The January rains induced many miners to return to this field, the result being the opening up of a deep lead at Mount Browne, on Billygoat Hill, by M'Kenzie and party, who struck payable gold at a depth of 55 feet, the wash-dirt being 1½ foot thick. This discovery was followed by three other parties, who found the lead at greater depths, and obtained payable gold. A small rush of miners ensued, and several shafts were put down, and the ground was found dipping towards the west, so much that no bottom at 210 feet could be touched; but water of excellent quality was met in three shafts, and the quantity was so great that it could not be overcome by the miners' ordinary appliances, and the claims suspended work, and some have been abandoned. The yield from these shafts has steadily averaged about 1½ oz. to the load or ton. Several heavy specks and nuggets have been found weighing from 1 dwt. to 3 oz.

At the One-mile, Mount Browne, the lead of gold that was found under the cement has now been picked up again 400 yards further to the south, and two parties are in payable gold at a depth of 56 feet—the yield in one case being 4½ ounces to the load; in the other 1½ ounce to the load or ton. One puddling machine has been steadily at work, and realized returns from surface dirt averaging 1½ dwt. to the ton.

Underground water having been proved to exist at a certain depth, 210 feet, an abandoned shaft has been resumed by the Department of Public Works for a water supply, and when this well is in working order the population of Mount Browne will be supplied with water for domestic purposes.

At Good Friday a few parties have been working, but without any great amount of success, the gold being found in patches from the surface to a depth of 18 feet.

At the reefs at Warratta Creek the Wittabriuna Company's crushing machine has been intermittently at work with results of about half an ounce to the ton of stone. This plant, however, has recently changed hands, having been purchased at a very low figure by a syndicate of local residents and let to a party of tributors, and will probably now be continuously worked. Some prospecting on other lines of reefs is being done, and good results anticipated, the gold showing freely in this quartz.

At the Granite or Tibbooburra the puddling machines have been steadily at work through the year with very little intermission, and have realized results equal to about 1½ dwt. to the ton. Nuggetty Gully still continues to support a few miners.

It is very difficult to estimate the quantity of gold raised here during the year, as an unknown quantity is sent away by private hands and through the post office. The only escort for the year started from here on the 30th August, taking nearly 1,009 oz., and there is now 600 oz. awaiting escort; probably 500 or 600 oz. more have been sent away privately; thus the yield for the season may be estimated at 2,100 oz. of gold. The mining population, as represented by miners' rights, is 430; business licenses, 120; women, 80; children, 126; total on the gold-field, 756. On the surrounding stations, 293 men, 80 women, and 126 children; total population of the Milparinka District, 1,255.

The health of the residents of this district has been exceedingly good; there have been no cases of typhoid fever, and only fourteen deaths have been registered.

The Milparinka waterhole suffered during the floods of January last, the earthen embankment thrown across the Evelyn Creek having been completely washed away; we have, however, had such frequent rains that the waterhole has never been absolutely dry; therefore the well put down by your department has not been called into use for more than a day or two before the January rains. The permanent well put down by the Department of Public Works still remains unfinished. At Tibbooburra the new well has not yet reached a sufficient supply of water, but the season has been so good that there is little need at present for well water. A Government tank of 20,000 cubic yards was barely completed at Warratta Creek before the late rains, which filled it in a few hours; and as all the lakes and reservoirs are full of water the country presents anything but the arid desert of the last few years.

I beg to append an abstract from my meteorological journal, which may be interesting, as showing the rainfall and the temperature, &c.

Monthly abstract from Meteorological Journal, kept at Milparinka, by C. McA. King, during 1885.

Month.	Aneroid.		Thermometer in shade at 9 a.m.			Temperature		Mean		Rain.
	Temp.	Pressure	Dry	Wet.	Point of humidity.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	
January .....	...	29.937	85.5	67.5	19.0	112.0	58.0	99.4	70.9	9.58
February .....	...	29.937	85.5	71.3	14.2	106.0	51.0	97.0	63.2	...
March .....	...	30.022	71.4	61.7	9.7	99.5	49.0	83.07	65.9	1.53
April	61.8	30.181	63.7	56.1	7.6	88.5	39.0	77.1	49.2	43
May	58.5	30.181	60.0	53.0	7.0	88.0	36.0	77.4	43.5	40
June	45.0	30.145	47.0	41.2	3.2	78.0	28.0	63.0	36.5	11
July	46.4	30.148	46.7	42.0	4.7	71.0	31.0	65.0	34.8	...
August	54.7	30.078	56.0	46.9	9.1	89.0	29.0	72.0	40.8	...
September	60.8	30.138	60.9	53.0	7.9	86.0	37.0	74.7	47.8	2.37
October	74.7	30.157	75.0	58.6	16.4	107.0	38.0	90.0	58.1	0.4
November	79.0	30.083	79.2	60.3	18.0	107.0	47.0	93.4	61.8	25
December	84.0	30.036	85.1	68.6	16.5	109.0	55.0	96.7	71.4	3.41
	62.76	30.087	68.0	56.9	11.1	112.0	28.0	82.5	53.0	18.13

ALBERT DISTRICT—MOUNT BROWNE DIVISION.

(E. C. King, Mining Registrar.)

HEREWITH I have the honor to hand you my yearly returns, also my annual report on the Mount Browne Division of the Albert Mining District.

During the past year 430 miners' rights have been issued, and sixty-four business licenses, and sixty mineral licenses. This shows an increase of miners' rights of 120, and a decrease of business licenses of fourteen, and increase of mineral licenses of sixty.

The year 1885 has been far more prosperous than the three preceding years, for in January we had 9½ inches of rain which thoroughly renovated the whole district after the severe drought. This filled all the lakes around the gold-field; but these lakes are too far distant from the field to be of use to the mining population, other than opening communication with civilization. This rain caused much damage by washing nearly all the diggers' dams in the creeks. Since January we have had several good falls of rain through the year, in all 18 inches.

Early in March a rush took place to Billygoat Hill, at Mount Browne, caused through a prospecting party, McKenzie & Jordon, striking a run of good gold at 55 feet, running south-west, averaging 2 oz. to the ton or load. Numbers of shafts have been since put down in the vicinity, and four claims are now working on the lead, and are averaging from 1 to 2 oz. to the ton. Several of these claims have had to suspend work on account of having struck such a body of water that they cannot beat it back, and so get on to the bottom with the appliances they use. This lead has been traced to a depth of 150 feet. Mount Browne, since this discovery, has a very different appearance as compared with 1884, when there was only one house left on the block surveyed for business sites, &c. Now it has been supporting three stores, a public-house, butcher's and baker's shop, and several residences. Independent of the Billygoat Hill lead, payable gold is found scattered all round Mount Browne and the 4-mile, from a depth of 6 feet to the surface. Several fine nuggets have been found lying on the top of surface. At the 1-mile two parties have struck gold at a depth of 56 feet, one averaging as much as 4 oz. 5 dwt. to the ton, the other only 1 oz. 5 dwt. to the ton. Several parties are now sinking all round to trace the lead.

At Warratta Creek the quartz-reefs have been stagnant for nearly nine months, when a Company was formed consisting of the principal business people in Milparinka, who bought up the Wittabrimma machinery and claim, &c., and have let it out on tribute. The tributors have crushed 50 tons, and won 28 oz. from it; this is from picked stone. A rush in the alluvial has taken place lately near Evans' Gully, about 6 miles from the reefs, where a rich patch has been found at a shallow depth, but as yet nothing of importance has been done there.

At Tibobourra (the granite) the miners have been very fortunate in getting their dams and reservoirs repeatedly filled, which has enabled most of them to keep their puddling machines going all the year. The dirt they puddle is found from 6 feet to the surface, and yields 1 to 1½ dwt. to the ton. The miners at Nuggetty Gully are still getting very good gold, and occasionally find some large nuggets weighing over an oz. No deep lead has yet been found here, though some parties have been prospecting for one.

At Good Friday several parties getting payable gold, but nothing rich has been reported yet.

A very rich discovery of silver was reported to have been found near the Packsaddle Station, about 90 miles from here, and a rush was at once caused, and numbers of claims were taken up, and thirty-six mineral leases applied for; but it was soon found out to be a swindle, and everybody abandoned their claims. The promoter, Robert Gordon Graham, was afterward shot dead while trying to escape arrest by the police.

The floating population of the diggings is about 450. The supply of provisions has been and is now abundant, and at a moderate price; but it is anticipated that when the road which is now being opened between here and Bourke is practicable that goods of all kinds will be cheaper.

There has been very little sickness on the diggings this last year.

COBAR DISTRICT—HILLSTON DIVISION.

(Mr. Warden O'Neill, P.M., Hillston.)

THE delay in sending in my report for 1885 has arisen partly from my absence in Sydney, and on official duty, and partly from my inability to procure the necessary information as to actual mining operations during that year.

I regret to have to report that in consequence of the low price of copper the New Mount Hope mine at Mount Hope and the Great Central Mine at South Mount Hope have closed their works since the first of this year. This has had the effect of throwing a large number of men and boys out of employment, and of causing both townships to be almost abandoned, whilst owners of property may be said to have lost everything, as, without the mines, house property is of no earthly value. During 1885 the quantity of ore raised by the New Mount Hope mine consisted of 3,795 tons, producing 635 tons of fine copper; and for the same period 110 men and boys were employed. I have not been able to obtain particulars of the yield, &c., at the South Mount Hope mine, but I may say that the general opinion is that it is a very rich mine, and with a rise in the price of copper, and better management than heretofore, it would prove to be one of the best producing mines in the Colony. Last year ten gold lease applications and two mineral lease applications were made at this office. Some of these have been approved of and others have been refused. In the present depressed state of the country, however, I do not expect to hear of anything like a successful working of those which have been granted, for the reason that the applicants are men whose financial position depends upon businesses that derive their support from the common prosperity of the district.

Grigg's Gold-mining Company, at Lake Cudgellico, has also suspended work. The Company, it seems, was in the hands of persons in Melbourne, and between them and the local directors and shareholders some difficulties have arisen, with a stoppage of work as a result. When work ceased 186 tons 10 cwt. of quartz had been crushed, yielding 94 oz. 6 dwt. 12 gr. of gold. It is said that under proper management this mine could be made a payable one; and an opinion exists that the country around Cudgellico is auriferous, and would doubtless be prospected if the mine were in proper hands so as to show fair results.

A large number of miners' rights were taken out in the early part of last year; but the absence of prosperity in other respects has without doubt led to an abandonment of anything in the shape of prospecting for the present. I have not, for the past seven years, seen anything to equal the depression which now exists.

COBAR

COBAR DISTRICT—COBAR DIVISION.

(F. L. Osborne, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to report that the mining industry during the past year in this district has been, and still remains, in a very depressed state, caused by the low price of copper and the great difficulty in prospecting through want of water away from tanks and dams, there being no creeks or watercourses in the district where there is a permanent supply of water; and to show the difficulties experienced by unfortunate men when strangers in these parts, I may state that four men have within the last month perished for want of water.

No gold-mines have been working during the last year, nor has any gold been won, although reefs abound, and are known to be auriferous; but the difficulty is to work them, through want of water and machinery, there being no crushing plant in the district.

Copper-mining still continues, and the Great Cobar Copper-mining Company are still working, but curtailing their expenses in every way in their power to enable them to keep the mine going. It looks as well as ever, and only requires a rise in the price of copper to enable it to be, as it has been, one of the best mines in the Colony.

There are rumours of another large lode of copper having been discovered, but the parties will give no information, but await better times; and I am sure if there was a railway to this town it would be the means of opening up a number of copper lodes which are known to exist, but will not now pay on account of expense of carriage. No gold or mineral leases have been applied for during the year.

COBAR DISTRICT—NYMAGEE DIVISION.

(E. C. Day, Mining Registrar.)

THE only mining in the district at present is for copper, by the Nymagee Copper-mining Company, Limited, Nymagee. 350 men and boys are employed by the Company, the machinery used being two horizontal engines, two Tangye and one Root's blower, the value of which amounts to £15,000. This year 15,773 tons ore have been raised, which have all been smelted at the mine, and have produced 1,804 tons of fine copper, value £80,000. The depth of shaft is now 528 feet, and the depth of the deepest level, 516 feet. The width of lode from 4 to 12 feet, and the dip is bearing to the west, and strike north 20 degrees west.

COBAR DISTRICT—HILLSTON DIVISION.

(M. Hogan, Mining Registrar.)

I HAVE the honor to state that, as far as mining enterprise is concerned in this district, I have nothing favourable to report. On the contrary, matters have assumed a change for the worse. The new Mount Hope copper-mine has for the present suspended operations, owing, as I am informed, to the low price of copper. Grigg's Gold-mining Company, at Oudgellico, has also stopped work in consequence, as I am told, of complications between the directors in Melbourne and the local directors, as resulting from the action of the late manager.

During the past year nine business licenses, two mineral licenses, and 114 miners' rights have been issued here.

The Warden, who has been absent in Sydney, will write more fully upon the mining matters as soon as necessary information has been obtained.

INSPECTOR OF MINES' REPORT.

IN submitting my annual report for the year 1885, I have the honor to again acknowledge with thanks the assistance given me by Wardens, Coroners, and Mining Registrars in furnishing this department with the earliest information possible of all mining accidents which have occurred in their respective districts in mines other than coal or shale mines during the year 1885.

The following is a list of accidents as reported by the above-mentioned officers as having occurred in their respective districts during the year 1885.

No. of Accidents.	Date.	Name of Mine or Company.	Locality.	Persons killed.	Persons seriously injured.	Occupation.	Cause of death or injury.	Fatal.			Non-fatal.
								Fall of earth.	Falling down shaft.	Using iron scraper with powder.	
1	Jan. 9.	Gally Swamp	Carcoar ..	Chas. Barlow ..	.....	Miner	Fell ill while below in the mine, and requested to be raised to the surface, but before he reached the surface he fell off the rope, and through the fall broke his neck.	..	1	....	....
2	Feb. 6.	Sutherland Waters.	Tingha	Ah Show ..	.....	"	Killed by fall of earth.....	1	....	....	....
3	June 9.	Great Cobar Copper.	Cobar	John Wren ..	.....	"	Killed by fall of earth.....	1	....	....	....
4	July 4.	Bushman's Reef.	Parkes	Dennis Ryan ..	.....	"	Killed by fall of earth.....	1	....	....	....
5	July 20.	Little Boas ..	Silverton ..	J. Gass.....	.....	"	Killed by using an iron scraper in pricking out a missed shot.	..	....	1	..
6	July 23.	Sunny Corner.	Mitchell ..	G. Farrington ..	Both legs fractured.	"	Through fall of earth.....	..	....	....	1
7	Aug. 25.	No name	Tingha	Huy Chee ..	.....	"	Killed by falling down a shaft....	..	1	....	....
8	Oct. 13.	Mockerawa G.M.C.	Mockerawa ..	W. Joynson ..	.....	"	Killed by fall of earth.....	1	....	....	....
								4	2	1	1

A few other accidents were reported to me during the year, but which could hardly be considered as mining accidents, the principal of which is that of a chinaman, who fractured his leg through a piece of lignite falling on him while walking towards his work at the Kiandra Gold-mining Company mines, Kiandra.

During the year 1885 I have travelled and inspected the principal mines in several important mining districts in the north, south, and west.

Gold.

Commencing with Kiandra, which was inspected by me in the early part of February. Here the auriferous deposits are not only rich and very extensive, but they are also very interesting in a practical, as well as geological (theoretic), point of view. They are of such richness and extent that they deserve to be better known by the public.

Kiandra is situated on the Monara tableland, fully 5,000 feet above the sea-level, amongst the Australian Alps, and within 40 miles of the highest mountain in Australia. It would at first seem strange that such extensive auriferous deposits should occur on the top of some of the highest mountains; but the country surrounding this ancient valley, now covered by the volcanic fluid (basalt), must at one time have been of far greater altitude, because at present the basalt caps, with few exceptions, the most elevated ridges, forming in places quite a tableland. One of the highest mountains in the Alps, which is known as Table Top Mountain, is capped by basalt. Probably this mountain is the principal source from whence the lava flowed, which has covered the ancient valley of Kiandra. There is a great field open in the Kiandra district for the profitable investment of capital, provided sufficient capital be forthcoming to bring a large supply of water from the head of the Tumut, the Snowy, or the Doubtful rivers; and unless some such scheme is carried out Kiandra, although a rich gold-field, will still linger along, and the present hydraulic sluicing operations, although payable, will not return such large interest on the capital invested, as from the undoubted richness of the deposits they would do were there sufficient water to keep two or three nozzles at work on each mine all the year round.

The New Chum or Kiandra Gold-mining Company, which, at the time of my inspection, was, and is now, under the able and energetic management of Mr. James Patterson, is situated on a high ridge, within 1 mile of the Kiandra township, and was at the time of my visit the only mine in full sluicing operation on the Kiandra gold-field. The auriferous wash in this mine averages from 4 to 9 feet in thickness, is of a cemented nature, and rests on a silurian slate. Above the wash is a bed of carboniferous clay (earthy lignite), from 12 to 30 feet in thickness, over which there are layers of clay and sand, capped on the surface by a few feet of basalt. The whole height of the face is from 70 to 103 feet. The *modus operandi* of hydraulic sluicing as carried on at Kiandra, is that the nozzle, which is attached to the iron pipes, is fixed within 50 to 100 feet from the face of the workings intended to be operated upon; this nozzle, which works on a swivel, can be directed by one man all round from the bottom to the top or sides of the faces. When the water is fully turned on it has a pressure of 140 feet, and a sufficient force to break in small fragments the cemented wash, causing often a fall of hundreds of tons of earth and earthy lignite. The latter often falls in blocks of several tons weight. To break this into small fragments for the force of water at command to wash away, holes are bored into it with an auger, and a charge of dynamite inserted and fired off. As the boring of holes in the lignite only takes a few minutes, the sound of shots can be heard in quick succession all day long. During the year 1884 the Kiandra Gold-mining Company sluiced 16,955 tons of stuff in 2,997 hours, with a yield of 926 oz. 11 dwt. 9 gr. of gold. The number of tons of stuff sluiced during the year 1885, cleaned off the bottom, was 7,075 yards, the yield of gold during that period being 1,060 oz. 12 dwt. 15 gr., but the figures of the last six months in the yield of gold have improved very considerably, showing that 2,580 yards cleaned yielded 806 oz. 14 dwt. 21 gr.

In my report on the Kiandra mine, which was written by me at Kiandra, and published, by the authority of the Hon. the Minister for Mines (Mr. J. P. Abbott), in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, February

February 24th, I wrote thus:—"The yield of gold proves beyond doubt that if a constant supply of water could be obtained the result could be very satisfactory; although it cannot be denied that the Kiandra Gold-mining Company have already spent a large amount of capital in the storage of water, and the necessary appliances to develop their mine, as the following will show:—Area of reservoir, 80 acres 22 perches; capacity, 431,937,300 gallons; length of embankment, 500 feet; width at bottom, 225 feet; width at top, 14 feet; and height, 40 feet. Of water-races there are several, miles in length, connecting the large reservoir with the mine, and some races are leading the water to the reservoir. The water-races, especially between the mine and the reservoir, ought to be increased in width, and the reservoir in its holding capacity, as it may be reasonably supposed that wet seasons will follow the dry seasons against which the hydraulic-slucing Companies have had to contend at Kiandra since their first starting; but if the above suggested improvements are made, at least two, instead of one nozzle, might be profitably employed, and this rich mine, which is at present only lingering along, although payable, would become one of the best dividend-paying properties in New South Wales. Whether the above suggestions have been taken into the consideration by the directors of the Kiandra G.M.C. I cannot say; but I note with pleasure that on the last half-yearly meeting of the Company it was stated that, after careful consideration, the directors have decided to carry on the following improvements before sluicing is resumed, viz:—

1. The cutting of the head race to twice its present width, and widening of Pig Gully race.
2. The raising of the embankment of the dam 4 feet, which will afford immense additional storage capacity, and will enable sluicing to be carried on during ordinary seasons at least eight months in the year, the greater portion of which time two nozzles can be used.
3. The laying down of an additional line of pipes for the second nozzle.

In order to place this mine on a satisfactory and payable footing it is imperative that these works should be carried out at once. The working of two nozzles will admit of double the quantity of ground being worked at very little additional cost. Thus, it will be seen, that the improvements I suggested on my visit of inspection to Kiandra in the early part of 1885, are to be carried out in the beginning of 1886. Length of iron-piping or fluming, 1,071 feet—22 inches, 15 inches, and 13 inches respectively. Size of nozzle attached to the piping and in general use, 5-inch, and 4½-inch in diameter. Length of boxes, 1,574 feet, including under current boxes through which the finer stuff passes; the boxes are 3 feet in width, but are lined with wooden blocks, leaving 2 feet in the clear by 18 inches in height, with a fall of 7 inches to the 12 feet. Mercury (quicksilver) is thrown loosely in the boxes for the purpose of amalgamating with the finer gold. Pieces of quartz, some fully ½ cwt., containing coarse gold have often been found, and were found in the wash at the time of my inspection, pointing to the fact that a rich quartz-reef is somewhere near, at hand, and most probably in the Company's property.

The Four-mile, or South Broomfield, G.M.C., is situated between Kiandra and the Nine-mile, near the edge of the basalt formation. A little hydraulic sluicing has been done in a narrow gutter, but which seemed to widen at the face left off. About 1 mile northerly of the South Broomfield, is the North Broomfield. Very little work has been done here; the wash appeared to be auriferous, and likely to pay when a good supply of water can be obtained.

The Nine-mile, or Empress, mine is likely to be the richest mine in the Kiandra District, provided a large supply of water can be obtained. The face from which the stuff is sluiced is fully 100 feet in depth, the returns from which, whenever water has been available for sluicing purposes, has been extraordinarily rich.

The Eight-mile G.M. Co.'s mine is under the able management of Mr. Richard Davies, but the mine is not at present in such full work as desired. The length of the main tunnel or tail-race is 600 feet, with a branch tunnel of 201 feet, and a cross tunnel 40 feet in length; height of face of stuff, from 60 to 90 feet; length of boxes, 1,232 feet; width, 4 feet, which, lined with wooden blocks, leaves 3 feet in the clear; grade, 7 inches to the 12 feet; length of under-current, 44 feet. I noticed at the time of my inspection that the tunnel between the 400 and 600 feet lengths was not boxed or even lined on the bottom, which is certainly a false economy, that is if the time and labour are worth anything. It must take at least double as much time to clear up the rough bottom as it would take if boxes were laid down. At the time of my inspection the 6-inch nozzle connected with the 30-inch piping, having a pressure of 270 feet, was brought into operation, and showed the tremendous force of water by which stones, earth, and even logs of wood, were thrown up several feet into the air.

The Fifteen-mile, or the Golden Crown G.M. Co., is situated about 3 miles off the left bank of the Tumut River. The formation is slates, sandstone, and granite, and small belts of serpentine intersect the abovenamed formations. The Company's water supply is one of the best at Kiandra, and if their race was extended from 3 to 4 miles in length they would in favourable seasons be able to sluice all the year round.

Quartz Veins.

The quartz veins or reefs have been greatly neglected in the Kiandra Gold-field. A quartz reef now laying idle at the head of the Three-mile, out of which I was informed 500 tons of quartz had been crushed, yielded on an average 15 dwt. of gold per ton. The reef is said to be from 2 to 3 feet in thickness; it is in slate formation, but at 40 feet from surface the flow of water is very strong. This is the reason I was not able to examine the reef below the surface. Quartz veins can be seen in several parts of the district having an auriferous appearance on the surface, but few, if any, have ever received a thorough prospecting.

Adelong.

A temporary dullness has occurred in the Adelong mines during the year, owing to the stoppage of several of the principal and deep mines. Some of the discharged miners have left the district, whereas others are out prospecting in different directions. Payable prospects have been obtained at the Gap Reef, in the diorite formation. The reef, so far, has only been worked on shallow levels.

There are also several other parts near Adelong where payable quartz veins are likely to be discovered. Even in the midst of the township rich gold-bearing quartz has been picked up on the surface, which leaves no doubt whatever that a payable quartz vein is in close proximity to where these specimens were found.

At

At Donkey Hill and other places a few parties have taken up abandoned claims with every prospect of success. A new quartz reef has been discovered at Paddy's River by Hawkins and party, out of which the first 3 tons crushed yielded, at Wilson and Ritchie's machine, 7 oz. 9 dwt. of gold.

Both in A. D. Sheppard's and Travers Jones's alluvial mines several of the men have been discharged, and unless the lands now fenced in are thrown open for mining purposes it is very unlikely that this branch of mining in the Adelong District will recover for some time to come. But I nevertheless have great faith in the Adelong District as a permanent prosperous gold-field, and believe that by force of circumstances it will again come to the front.

Gundagai.

About 9 miles north of Gundagai is a mine known as the Tarabandra lease (owned by Mr. James D. Williams), which consists of a dyke in the porphyry formation, on which a shaft has been sunk about 90 feet in depth. The crushing stuff consists of bands of quartz and porphyry several feet in thickness, out of which payable crushings had been obtained. There is a large quantity of crushing stuff at grass which seems gold-bearing. A dam and an 8-h. p. engine were in course of erection at the time of my inspection.

One mile southerly of Williams's is the Gundagai Great Victoria mine. This is also a dyke, similar to Williams's, in some parts 20 feet in thickness. A large reservoir and large quartz-crushing machinery were in course of erection, and several hundred tons of stuff on the surface to be operated upon.

About 12 miles north-west of Gundagai is the Bongongolong mine, which consists of a dyke in the porphyry formation. Several shafts have been sunk, and crushings as high as $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. gold per ton obtained. I saw several pieces of quartz on the surface thickly impregnated with gold, the quartz also containing a large percentage of iron and arsenical pyrites.

Some $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-west of Gundagai is situated the Floreston Gold and Asbestos Company, in the serpentine formation. Hornblende, talc, and carbonate of lime are the principal matrices of the Floreston lode; the gold, although in payable quantities, is so fine that ordinary gold-saving appliances are almost useless; some of the gold which can be seen with the naked eye on the hornblende and carbonate of lime is like paint. The lode has a north-east strike, and gold has now been traced for fully 80 feet in length. The veins of talc and of carbonate of lime occur generally in the foot-wall, but contain no gold until they reach the fissure or a lode. I believe that if the lode were sunk on, say to a depth of 300 feet, it would be found to be a purely pyritous lode, and probably very rich in gold. Levels could then be opened, and the shoots of auriferous pyrites could then be followed down. If this was done, the Floreston Gold-mining Company might be able to employ a large number of men with profitable results.

The district of Gundagai is surrounded by extensive auriferous and mineral deposits, but unfortunately a great deal of the land had been alienated before the proclamation of the Gundagai Gold-field. There are several valleys which, by surface indications, should contain payable gold, but few of which have obtained a thorough prospecting.

Temora.

The alluvial workings still continue to employ a few score of men, but their average yield is beginning to get rather low. Nothing fresh has been opened in the alluvial, but a few very rich patches of gold have been obtained in the Mother Shipton and other quartz mines. Several prospecting parties were aided by Government searching for alluvial leads, but none proved successful.

Queanbeyan.

This district abounds in minerals of all descriptions, but hitherto none of these mineral deposits have been worked to any great extent. Time will, however, surely come when sufficient capital will be forthcoming to thoroughly prospect for and develop on an extensive scale the mineral wealth of this district, although it cannot be denied that some of the old residents of Queanbeyan, and foremost of all, Mr. J. J. Wright, J.P., one of the keenest and most enterprising gentlemen of the Queanbeyan District, have spent time and large sums of money in endeavouring to develop the mineral wealth of their district.

Braidwood.

Several discoveries of payable quartz veins have been made during the year in the Braidwood District. One of these veins, on the Little River, named the Day Dawn, is from 2 to 3 feet in thickness; and, at the time of my inspection, 16 tons of quartz, crushed at Forsyth's crushing machine, Bell's Creek, yielded 39 oz. of gold, which realized £3 19s. 6d. per oz. Larger crushings than the latter have since taken place with somewhat similar results.

There was no crushing machinery nearer than that of Mr. Forsyth's, Bell's Creek. The erection of a small crushing plant at or near the Little River would be of great benefit to the whole district, and would tend to open up hitherto undiscovered quartz veins, of which many will be found to contain as rich, if not richer, auriferous deposits than those discovered at the Day Dawn reef.

At Major's Creek mining is rather dull, principally owing to the great scarcity of water for sluicing purposes. None of the numerous quartz veins—such as the Dargue, the Young Australian, Rise and Shine, and The Snobs—are working. Although some of these quartz veins have been very rich in the yield of gold, the quartz is thickly impregnated with pyrites of both iron and arsenical copper blend and other complex ores, which have made the profitable working of these mines very difficult; nevertheless, with proper appliances, these ores may be treated on the spot with profitable results.

The same remarks as to Major's Creek also apply to Bell's Creek, where Mr. T. Forsyth has a very compact and well-constructed 10-stamp quartz-crushing battery, with gold-saving appliances of a superior description.

Several fresh mines have been opened in the Araluen Valley. Tail-races have been brought up the valley, instead, as formerly, of using extensive and costly steam machinery. Through the agency of these tail-races poor ground that could not be worked under the system of steam is now made payable. The principal mines at work were Smith's mine, Doyle's mine, New Oriental mine, Bee-hive, and others. The whole of the work in the Araluen Valley is done by a system of stripping. The strata consist of sand from the surface down to the auriferous wash (drift) from 30 to 40 feet, and auriferous wash about 6 feet in thickness. The former is thrown away, and the latter is put through the sluice-boxes. Of late years the seasons have

have been very dry ; but heavy floods have often occurred in the valley by which capitalists and miners have sustained severe losses. An instance was brought under my notice at the time of my inspection well worth recording here. While Doyle and party were opening their mine they discovered an engine buried in the sand, which had been carried a considerable distance down the valley and there buried by heavy floods fifteen years ago. The engine, however, seemed not much the worse for its fifteen years under the sand.

Wagonga—Bodalla.

The Wagonga Heads quartz reefs are situated about twelve miles south of Mr. T. S. Mort's Bodalla Estate, on a hill about 300 feet above sea-level, and within 2 miles of the sea-coast ; they occur in an altered sandstone formation ; their strike is nearly due south, with an easterly dip or underlay ; they are easily worked ; and some payable crushings have been obtained from these reefs. There are belts of auriferous lands between Bodalla and Wagonga Heads well worthy the attention of prospectors, as some of the hills, and many of the creeks, gullies, or flats, ought to contain auriferous deposits in payable quantities. The greatest difficulty the prospector would have to contend against in prospecting these creeks, gullies, or flats, is the heavy flow of water in the drift ; but this may be overcome by bringing up tail-races for drainage purposes. If this were done, a considerable number of miners might find profitable employment. There is a large flat near Carter's crushing machine which is well worthy of a trial. Coarse gold has been obtained in several gullies ; but, as stated above, the great flow of water in the drift has always been too much for small parties to overcome.

Carter's crushing machine, in close proximity to the quartz reefs, is a well-arranged, compact, ten-stamp battery, driven by a 9-h.p. engine ; and, in the absence of pyrites in the quartz, the gold-saving appliances are satisfactory.

Young.

Mining has been rather dull in this once-famous goldfield, through the scarcity of storm-waters, to enable ground-sluicers to go to work. The Burrangong G.M. Co., on the Burrangong Creek, about 3 miles from Young, have made another start. In former attempts, insufficient capital has been its sole failure ; and, unless this undoubtedly rich mine is opened with sufficient capital, to systematically work the same, it will certainly again lead to failure ; whereas, on the other hand, it would probably prove one of the best gold-mining investments in New South Wales.

Grenfell.

Only two or three quartz claims are at work ; the total number of miners is probably under twenty. If capital was forthcoming to test the Lucknow Reefs at a greater depth Grenfell would again come to the front as a mining district. The Lucknow Reef has been worked down to a depth of about 300 feet. A Company was floated some twelve years ago to work said quartz reef, but before a perpendicular shaft which was sunk could be bottomed on the part of the reef intended to be worked the whole of the available capital had been expended, and the shaft is now the only witness to the folly of starting a mine with insufficient capital.

Forbes.

The mining industry in the district of Forbes has taken a decided step for the better, and of late quite a stir has taken place both in alluvial and quartz-mining.

Parkes.

Alluvial gold-mining is very depressed, but quartz-mining is gradually improving. The richest of the quartz mines at present at work are on the outskirts of the town of Parkes, west of Forbes and Welcome Streets, and on land formerly held by the David Buchanan Gold-mining Company. This Company, instead of persevering and thoroughly prospecting their valuable property, spent their capital, as is too often the case with our gold-mining Companies, in costly shafts, elaborate machinery, and surface decorations, in consequence of which they failed, abandoned their holdings, and left to the energetic persevering miner the task of seeking for and discovering rich quartz veins less than 100 feet from the surface, where the driving in the rock and the getting of the quartz requires no explosives, but is done by pick and shovel. Even the cost of sinking a shaft is not more than from 3 to 4 shillings per foot. If the capital of our mining Companies was more frequently spent in the development of the underground workings, instead of the erection of elaborate machinery, before the value of their mine is partly proven less failures would have to be recorded.

Commencing with J. Quayle and party's mine, who are working on a quartz vein about 100 feet from surface, the deepest part so far obtained being 200 feet ; at the latter depth the thickness of vein averages about 2 feet. This party have crushed a total of 914 tons of quartz, with a yield of 4,203 oz. 2 dwt. of retorted gold.

South of Quayle's is Mr. W. Haselhurst's mine. Through Mr. Haselhurst's perseverance, his own and Quayle's discovery was made. Mr. Haselhurst, who employs a number of wages men, has crushed 656 tons of quartz, with a yield of 2,135 oz. 10 dwt. of gold, or 3 oz. 5½ dwt. of retorted gold per ton, valued at £3 19s. per oz. The quartz vein from which this gold has been obtained averages about 2 feet in thickness, and is embedded in soft porphyritic rock, which requires no blasting.

South of this mine is that of Johnson McIntosh, where the quartz vein is similar in thickness and appearances to that of Haselhurst's vein. A crushing over 100 tons paid the party about £5 per week per man, after all expenses were paid.

Next to this mine is that of George Ritchie and party, who are working on some narrow quartz veins, which, if carefully followed, might lead to a very rich shoot of gold. Some of the specimens obtained by this party consist of more gold than quartz.

Southerly of the above mine is that of Robert Stewart, Moore, & Co., who also work on narrow quartz veins. They had several crushings yielding about 2 oz. of gold per ton. Mr. Robert Stewart's energy and perseverance have had a great deal to do with the present prosperous state of quartz-mining in the Parkes District, although, as is often the case in gold-mining, Mr. Stewart has not been as successful as his actions deserved.

North-easterly of R. Stewart & Co., Drummond, Knightly, and Paravicini, as well as John Nolan and party, are on a large reef of payable quartz, and are likely to have good payable returns for a considerable time to come.

North-east

North-east of Quayle there are several parties prospecting. Some of these have lately obtained some very good prospects of gold in quartz veins, of which Hale, Mitchell, and party, near Mozondier's store, are the principal. This party had a crushing of nearly 100 tons of quartz, yielding about 1 oz. of gold per ton.

On the Bushman's Hill, Phillips, Murray, & Company, discovered a well-defined quartz vein in a hard diorite formation which requires blasting. They have had two different crushings with payable returns. Wright's reef has again come to the front, and payable crushings have been obtained therefrom. Pennington's reef, at the Scrubby Plains, is still in course of development. On the Happy Go Lucky reef, about 8 miles north of Parkes, a payable crushing has been obtained; the gold occurs in shoots, and requires careful observation to follow.

Few, if any, of these quartz veins near the town of Parkes would now be at work had it not been for the watchfulness of the Department of Mines, whose officers persisted, (notwithstanding the failure of the David Buchanan Gold-mining Company) that payable quartz veins would be discovered west of Forbes and Welcome Streets, and that sooner or later a network of said quartz veins or large blocks of quartz would be discovered trending north-easterly. Had this opinion not been held by the officers, and backed up by the chiefs of the Mines Department from time to time, the whole of the lands containing the present rich quartz claim would probably have been sold, and fenced in, remaining unproductive for many years to come, as can be seen in the vicinity of Parkes, where large blocks of land have been sold, fenced in, and are now lying unproductive. Through the action of the Department of Mines a large number of miners are now profitably employed on land near the very streets of Parkes, which otherwise would have been locked up, and only held for speculating purposes.

Lucknow.

These mines are under the able management of Mr. H. W. Newman, J.P., who has large practical mining experience, more especially of the Wentworth Gold-field, and who is ably assisted by Mr. Richard Kalaber as underground manager. Independent of machinery, in which great improvements have taken place, as well as in the underground workings, of the New Reform G.M.C., other mines have been started, under the guidance of Mr. Newman, by an English Company, of which, I am given to understand, the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, Lord Gosford, and the Duke of Manchester are large shareholders.

The main shaft in the New Reform G.M.C. is 300 feet in depth (perpendicular), substantially timbered throughout, and fitted with cages, pump, and ladders. The levels opened at 300 feet are 450 feet in length. A winze (monkey shaft) has been sunk in the Perseverance vein 65 feet in depth, from which a bunch of rich ore (or a bonanza, as Mr. Newman named these bunches) was obtained weighing 33 cwt., which was crushed at the mine, and contained £730 of free gold, with an additional estimate of £500 worth of ore. The latter has been forwarded to England for treatment. Rich ore is also obtained in a rise on the Perseverance vein. A winze or monkey shaft and a rise on the Industry vein are proceeded with, out of which good concentrating ore is being raised. An air-compressor has been erected, by which agency the mine will be thoroughly ventilated, and several parts of the mine formerly filled with foul air will now be opened.

Mr. Newman is now sinking the main shaft another 100 feet. To do this, he has excavated a chamber to receive the waters which filters through the highest levels; a pentise (pent-house) has been erected, and sinking is vigorously proceeded with. A winch worked by compressed air does the winding from the main and monkey shafts.

Machinery.—A new 20-h.p. horizontal engine and winding gear, a 20-h.p. air-compressor, a 30-h.p. air-receiver, a 30-h.p. boiler, and a 25-h.p. boiler.

Steam was turned on the air-compressor for the first time during my inspection, everything working very smoothly. The whole of the machinery is placed on a very substantial timber foundation, and while the machinery is working very little, if any, vibration is discernible. The whole of the machinery is covered by an iron shed 85 feet by 40 feet.

The crushing battery has been idle for a length of time through scarcity of water. The battery has been described by me in a former report. At present this Company only employs about twenty-six men, but this number will be considerably increased after the first heavy rain.

Frederick's Valley G.M.C.

This mine, which was formerly known as the Golden Point, has lately been taken up by an English Company, of which Tayler & Sons, of London, are the legal managers; but, like the other mines at Lucknow, it is under the able management of Mr. Newman. This gentleman's long experience of the characteristic features of the Lucknow veins, his integrity, ability, energy, and dogged perseverance, should enable him to bring this Company's operation to a successful issue. If Mr. Newman succeeds (which I think he will if his plans are carried out) in making this a dividend-paying mine, the whole of New South Wales would thereby benefit, and English capital no doubt would be forthcoming for the further development of our immense mineral resources.

This Company's property will be worked by two shafts, viz., the Golden Point shaft, and the Shamrock shaft; the former is 300 feet in depth (vertical), and is now fitted with cages, poppet-heads, wire rope, platform, 100 feet tram-line from shaft to battery, and other improvements too numerous to mention in this report. Search is now being made for the Golden Point, Little Spicer, and Big Spicer's veins at the 200 and 300 feet levels with encouraging indications. Only twenty-three men are at present employed on this mine.

The veins alluded to have been very rich at the higher levels. It is but reasonable to suppose that when they are followed down into settled country (which requires capital and patience) they will again prove rich, and give payable returns.

Machinery.—25-h.p. beam engine for pumping and crushing purposes; 10-stamp battery, with tables, copper, plates, &c., complete—the tables discharge in one of Monday's patent improved buddles 24 feet in diameter; a 30-h.p. Cornish boiler; and a 15-h.p. horizontal engine for winding purposes. Two well and substantially built sheds 60 x 40 feet and 30 x 40 feet, cover the whole of this machinery.

The other main shaft (Shamrock) on the Frederick's Valley Company's property is situated on the south-east end of the lease, and is 150 feet in depth, is connected with a substantial tramroad to the battery, 700 feet in length; but at present there is fully 100 feet of water in the shaft. The pumps have been placed into position, and pumping has commenced to drain the workings; but if these workings are in the same condition as the Golden Point workings were when Mr. Newman took charge, it will require money, patience, and perseverance to put them in anything like safe condition.

Machinery

Machinery.—Four 15-horse power horizontal engines, a 25-horse power Cornish boiler, bricked in upon solid stone work, the whole of which is covered by an iron shed 38 by 40 feet.

A dam has also been erected on the main creek in connection with this mine; the embankment is high and strong enough to back the water up fully a mile, which when once filled will contain several million gallons of water.

Some of this Company's machinery was bought from P. N. Russell & Co., at one-fifth value, for £350. It is in very good order, made by P. N. Russell & Co., and formerly used by them before they closed their foundry. The erection of machinery on the mine is faultless, and a credit to all concerned.

This Company has also built fourteen houses for the miners; each house has a securely fenced garden attached, 50 by 100 feet, the miners paying the low rental of 2s. 6d. per week.

Mr. Newman has also introduced a novelty by offering prizes to the value of £20 to the miner who keeps the best garden, and any miner's wife who keeps the cleanest house. Everything possible is done by Mr. Newman and his underground captain, Mr. R. Kelabar, to prevent accidents, and so far, I am glad to state, the Lucknow mines have been singularly free of them.

Tomingley

Is situated about 35 miles southerly of Dubbo. The workings consist of quartz-veins; there are no less than three crushing machines, of which one is idle, one is employed by the public barely six months out of twelve months, and the third, a 20-stamp battery, is worked and owned by a party at Myall, 2 miles from Tomingley. The latter have obtained some very good crushings during the year, but the gold appears to be in a dyke in porphyry formation, and cannot be traced far beyond two to three claims. Total population, including Tomingley and Myall, is about 150.

Four parties of four men each were aided during the year to prospect for alluvial gold. Some eighty shafts were sunk by these parties, but without any favourable results.

I also visited Uralla, Bingara, and other mines in the Northern District, but nothing of any importance has of late occurred in them.

The Prospecting Vote.

£3,000 were voted by Parliament for the year 1885 for the purpose of aiding parties to prospect for alluvial gold. A Board, consisting of three, Mr. Harrie Wood, the Under Secretary for Mines, Mr. Wilkinson, Chief Geological Surveyor, and myself, was appointed to recommend the distribution of the money, and the mode by which aid should be granted to the prospector.

As there were large areas of auriferous lands in the Forbes and Parkes District which had been but very little prospected, it was recommended that £1,500 should be expended there in aiding prospectors, £500 should be expended in the Tomingley District, £500 in Temora, and £500 in the Bingara District. The Board visited the abovenamed districts, where meetings were held by the miners, and the most likely-looking auriferous country was pointed out to the Prospecting Board. Reserves were recommended and made (some $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and some 1 mile square) wherever prospecting parties were set to work. In the Forbes, Parkes, and Tomingley Districts the work was performed at per foot; in the Temora District the prospectors received £1 per week; and in the Bingara District, where the ground to be prospected is very wet, boring with Tiffin's water auger, as well as sinking at per foot, was recommended by the Board.

At the Forbes, Parkes, and Tomingley District the work was performed at one shilling and eightpence (1s. 8d.) per foot, for both sinking and driving, the average depth of sinking being 118 feet, at which rate the prospectors were earning from 25s. to 35s. per week per man. In the Temora District, where the average depth was considerably below 100 feet, the work was performed at a weekly wage of £1 per man. The average cost of sinking and driving, without the cost of supervision, is one shilling and ninepence three farthings (1s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.) per foot. The above comparison proves beyond doubt that the system of aiding prospectors at per foot is the best for all parties concerned.

In addition to the above rates paid to prospectors who received Government aid, the successful prospectors are also entitled to all the gold they discover, and the Hon. J. P. Abbott approved of, when Minister for Mines, that each of the successful prospecting parties should, in addition to the above said privileges, receive a prospecting claim inside the prospecting reserve, 600 by 600 feet. But so far, I am sorry to state, none of the several prospecting parties have been successful.

SILVER.

In the early part of the year I inspected the gold and silver mines at Captain's Flat, which is situated near the head of the Molonglo River, in the county of Murray, parishes of Bullongong and Ballalaba, about 25 miles south-east of Queanbeyan, and 28 miles westerly of Braidwood. Very little has hitherto been known about these extensive mineral deposits, wrongly named the quartz-reefs of Captain's Flat. The so-called quartz-reefs are gossan lodes in a micaceous slate formation. They have a strike nearly due north, with a slight easterly dip, are several feet in width, and can be traced for a considerable distance. Up to the present these lodes have with one exception been worked for gold; although containing carbonate of lead (cerussite), sulphide of lead (anglesite), galena, chloride of silver, and various copper and iron ores; and when a greater depth is reached these gossan lodes are likely to appear as sulphides of silver or copper lodes.

The principal mine was at the time of my inspection that of Montgomery's mine, which is situated on a range about 500 feet above the western bank of the Molonglo River. The lode has been sunk to a depth of 70 feet; but on the 40-foot level the lode has been worked for 230 feet in length, and from 10 to 20 feet in width. The wall of the lode consists of saponaceous slates; and the crushing stuff out of which the gold is extracted is composed of very small quartz-veins, greenish talcose, red felspar, jupar, carbonate of lead, and iron concretions. The Company have crushed at Holtermann's 10-stamp battery 1,133 tons of stuff, yielding 360 oz. of gold. The latter is of low quality, owing to the large percentage of silver. The lode is so far very soft, and is worked without the aid of any explosives. About three-quarters of a mile south from Montgomery's is Blatchford's mine, which is similar in formation to Montgomery's. Some thousand tons of stuff have been crushed out of this mine.

Mr. Blatchford has a 20-stamp battery and 16-horse power engine on the mine.

East of the Molonglo River, and within half a mile from Montgomery's, is a hill, part of the western slope of which is composed of limestone, whereas the saddle and eastern part of the hill is of slate formation. The whole hill has a highly auriferous appearance; and some prospects tried in my presence gave payable

payable returns. On the northern side of the hill is a large outcrop of hematite iron, but I observed only carbonate of lead where it had been sunk on, denoting the existence of silver.

As stated above, the lodes at present opened are worked for gold only; but I think that large quantities of silver will be extracted by the aid of proper furnaces. There is a fair supply of firewood; and the Molonglo River, although very insignificant at this place, could, by the erection of dams, be made to supply sufficient water for all purposes.

There are two crushing machines at Captain's Flat.

The country from Molonglo Plains to Captain's Flat appears highly metalliferous, more especially so on the high ranges commencing at the Tumble Down Bob Mountain.

Several new discoveries in silver deposits have been made throughout the Colony. A very promising lode is now being opened about 12 miles from Newbridge, on the road to Rockley.

Nothing much has been done during the year on the Plant silver lode near Emmaville, Vegetable Creek, but operations are to be commenced in earnest as soon as Mr. Davey, who formerly managed the Boorook silver-mines, returns from his visit to England.

Great things are expected from Pye's Creek, near the Mole River, Vegetable Creek District; the country is virgin, very little prospected. One of the lodes carried good walls to the greatest depth sunk, with a lode 5 feet wide underlaying easterly. Some of the assays were of a high percentage.

TIN.

The tin-mining industry is in a fairly flourishing condition, owing to the high market value of tin ore. Several mining properties which were closed have again been opened, and are worked with profitable results.

Cope's Creek.

Is still forwarding a large supply of tin ore. Although nothing of any consequence has been opened during the year, nevertheless both Europeans and Chinese are doing fairly well. New machinery has been erected at the Victor mine from which good returns are now expected. This mine is still under the able management of Mr. Walmsley.

Emmaville (Vegetable Creek District).

The Wesley mine, under the able and energetic management of Mr. Sales, has lately turned out some tin from under Flannery's old workings. Mr. Sales has let two parties on royalty the headings and sides of the lode left by the late Mr. Flannery, which with three or four other parties of tributors might give the Wesley Company a few more dividends.

Fox & Co.—The Tent Hill Smelting Company have bought out nearly all the shareholders. The ground has always been badly handled, and now that there is a likelihood that Mr. Reid will work it in a systematical manner, better results than hitherto may be anticipated.

Bailey & Co. have a good show. They have a main drive in for about 200 feet in wash with a yield of about 1 cwt. to the load (ton). This mine only requires to be systematically handled—appliances erected to save handling of the dirt—and it is likely to become one of the best paying tin-mines in the Vegetable Creek District.

Nothing of any consequence yet on Gordon's ground.

The Chance Company washed 40 loads of wash for a total of 17 cwt. This would only pay the current rate of wages, but there are still hopes that this mine will turn out better results.

Barry & Co. have sunk and driven a great deal in various parts of their land, but so far unsuccessfully. Bourke and party, at the Two-mile Creek have been making wages for the last three months.

Hall's, at Kangaroo Flat, have six parties of tributors on and doing very well, which they really deserve, as they have been very persevering for years past. The mine is under the management of Mr. Thomas Chandler, J.P., a gentleman of great ability, energy, and perseverance, and one of our best mining managers in New South Wales. The Rothschild and other mines are also under the management of the abovenamed gentleman, and under his guidance have, and are still, paying profits to the shareholders.

At the Torrington, on the Tableland (which is under the able management of Mr. Hugh Marshall, who is well-known as one who formerly successfully managed one of the most celebrated gold-mines at Hawkin's Hill, Hill End) some very rich patches of tin have been obtained. The mine is worked on the tribute system by five or six different parties.

The Butler lode is turning out some tin, and so is the Dalcouth mine, which are both under the able management of Capt. Bryant.

The Ottery Lode is clearing expenses, and might yet come to the front as a dividend-paying mine.

At the Gulf they have been very short of water, and in consequence not much tin has been obtained there during the year.

The Y Waterholes, the property of Mr. A. Cadell, are still turning out large quantities of tin.

COPPER.

The copper-mining industry has received a great check through the low prices ruling in the copper-markets. Copper deposits are plentiful in all parts of New South Wales. The Great Cobar, Nymagee, Mount Hope, and Great Central are still working, but with greatly reduced hands. In the Northern District, Mr. L. Lloyd's (the Burrage) is the only one in full work.

I have, &c.,

W. H. J. SLEE,

Inspector of Mines.

COAL AND SHALE.

TABLE compiled from Reports furnished by the Owners of Collieries, showing the quantity and value of Coal and Shale won during the year 1885, and the number of Miners employed in the Collieries.

Company.	Locality.	Men Employed.			Quantity.	Value.	
		Above ground.	Under ground.	Total.			
COAL.							
					Tons cwt qrs.	£	s. d.
Australian Agricultural Co	Newcastle	117	805	922	394,604 0 0	188,322	3 6
Wallsend	"	200	880	1,080	485,053 0 0	242,243	7 0
Newcastle Coal Co.	"	100	370	470	155,950 0 0	82,100	0 0
*Lambton	"	60	400	460	223,030 0 0	111,515	0 0
Co-operative	"	70	457	527	252,685 0 0	124,017	11 6
Ferndale	"	22	149	171	68,800 0 0	31,246	13 4
South Ferndale	"	3	15	18	4,009 0 0	1,603	12 0
New Lambton	"	48	130	178	58,174 10 0	28,997	0 0
Dog and Rat							
New Duckenfield							
Greta	Maitland	40	168	208	63,373 17 0	31,687	0 0
Greta C.	"	3	14	17	1,944 6 0	574	16 0
Duckenfield	Newcastle	40	216	256	215,723 0 0	102,114	0 0
Brown's	"	40	212	252			
East Waratah	"	23	156	179	58,013 0 0	27,747	0 0
South Waratah	"	38	40	78	7,753 0 0	3,774	0 0
Goose	"	4	3	7	2,000 0 0	500	0 0
Sunderland	Four-mile Creek ..	2	3	5	2,500 0 0	650	0 0
Shamrock Hill	Maitland	2	2	4	560 0 0	112	0 0
Ellesmere	Singleton	4	10	14	2,400 0 0	1,265	0 0
Rix's Creek	"	1	3	4	840 0 0	504	0 0
Wickham	Newcastle	15	59	74	5,728 0 0	2,546	0 0
Lamb, Parbury, and Saddington.....	Lake Macquarie ..	1	2	3	408 0 0	240	0 0
Thornley	Four-mile Creek ..	2	9	11	7,554 0 0	1,824	4 0
Hidden Treasure.....	Newcastle	3	5	8	1,000 0 0	250	0 0
Stockton	"	35	50	85	10,600 0 0	4,730	0 0
Singleton	Singleton	14	30	44	13,800 0 0	8,000	0 0
Brickfield Hill.....	Newcastle	2	9	11	7,000 0 0	3,500	0 0
Rosedale	Singleton	2	2	4	400 0 0	192	0 0
Clay Cross	Newcastle	2	16	18	6,253 0 0	1,563	5 0
Burwood	"	69	115	184	25,295 0 0	13,902	5 0
Dunkirk	"	7	35	42	14,190 0 0	5,676	0 0
Hill End	"	4	8	12	2,875 0 0	1,124	0 0
Brookstown	"	5	23	28	20,796 0 0	10,062	16 0
Pride of Ferndale	"	2	4	6	61 0 0	21	0 0
		980	4,400	5,380	2,113,372 13 0	1,032,904	13 4
Mount Kembla	Wollongong	40	160	200	80,324 0 0	48,193	8 0
Bulli A.	"	76	238	314	128,340 0 0	74,619	12 0
Bulli B.	"	7	24	31	8,533 0 0	5,129	16 0
Osborne Wallsend	"	47	161	208	108,579 0 0	40,717	0 0
Coal Cliff	"	30	100	130	48,500 0 0	29,000	0 0
Illawarra	"	45	164	209	69,841 0 0	27,634	13 0
Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Co.	Joadja Creek	170	54	224	5,924 0 0	3,632	0 0
Berrima	Berrima	3	5	8	1,875 2 0	762	18 3
Erith	Bundanoon	12	12	24	1,811 13 3	761	19 9
		430	918	1,348	453,727 15 3	230,471	7 0
Vale of Clwydd	Lithgow Valley ..	8	48	56	42,000 0 0	12,600	0 0
Lithgow Valley	"	7	70	77	73,504 2 0	16,926	8 1
Eskbank	"	8	52	60	67,615 0 0	15,322	17 3
Eskbank old tunnel	"	4	15	19	19,407 0 0	4,851	15 7
Hermitage	"	1	7	8	7,564 14 0	1,677	11 4
Coerwull	"	1	....	1	500 0 0	125	0 0
Hartley Vale	Hartley	3	8	11	833 0 0	208	5 0
Carlo's Gap	Capertee	2	3	5	339 0 0	124	16 0
Katoomba	Hartley	17	35	52	40,000 0 0	10,000	0 0
Zig Zag	Lithgow Valley ..	9	71	80	60,000 0 0	15,000	0 0
		60	300	360	311,762 16 0	76,836	13 3
SHALE.							
N.S.W. Shale and Oil Co.	Hartley	40	60	100	11,042 0 0	22,084	0 0
Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Co	Joadja Creek	See Coal.			16,420 0 0	45,153	0 0
		40	60	100	27,462 0 0	67,239	0 0

*On strike since 20th October.

REPORT of the Examiner of Coal-fields for the Colony of New South Wales, for the year 1885.

In accordance with the provisions contained in the twenty-sixth section of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 39 Vic. No. 31, I have the honor to submit reports from the Inspectors of Collieries, with my general report, for the year ending 31st December, 1885. The delay in furnishing this report has been caused through my time being so long and fully occupied in rendering assistance to the Lithgow Valley Colliery Company, in endeavouring to put out a fire in the mine, and the sad catastrophe in connection therewith.

The information I have the honor to submit in respect to the condition and progress, &c., of the various coal and boghead mineral mines under my supervision, during the year 1885, is as follows:—

Number of accidents in 1884 and 1885.

The number of fatal accidents is, I am happy to report, less than those of the previous year by three, but I regret to say that the number of non-fatal accidents exceeds those of the past year by six. In the year ending 31st December, 1884, there were fourteen fatal and thirty-four non-fatal accidents. Six of the fatal accidents occurred through "falls of coal"; seventh and eighth by falling down shaft; ninth by fall of earth; tenth by stone falling down shaft; eleventh and twelfth by fall of coal and stone; thirteenth by falling off pit-frame; fourteenth by being run over by a set of skips—fourteen of the non-fatal accidents happened from falls of coal—fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth by falls of stone; twenty-first, twenty-second, twenty-third, twenty-fourth, twenty-fifth, and twenty-sixth by loaded skips; twenty-seventh by falling on rails before a skip in motion; twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth jammed by empty skips; thirtieth jammed by a set of skips; thirty-first by riding on a truck; thirty-second by an explosion of powder; thirty-third by falling off a boiler-seat; and thirty-fourth by falling before a truck.

In the year under notice (1885) fifty-one notices of accidents were received, eleven of them being fatal and forty non-fatal accidents, all of which have been inquired into, the scene of the accidents inspected, inquests attended, and reports made thereon, and forwarded to the Mines for your information.

The names and occupations of the persons who died from injuries received and those who have been seriously injured, as well as the names of the collieries, are given in the following summary:—

SUMMARY showing the number of fatal and non-fatal accidents in 1885, the names and occupations of the persons who died or were injured, cause of death or serious injury, and the names of the collieries where they occurred.

No. of Accidents.	Date.	Colliery.	Where situated.	Persons killed.	Persons seriously injured.	Occupation.	Cause of death or serious injuries.	Lives lost.		Non-fatal accidents.													
								Fall of stone.	Fall of coal.	Fall of prop.	Run over by a truck.	Fell from off trolley.	Fell from off coal.	Fell from screens.	Loc. engine run over by loaded skips.	By blasting powder.	Cradle stage in shaft.	Fall of stone.	Empty wagon.	Empty skip.	Explosion of a shot.		
1	Jan. 15	Burwood	Burwood		James Straker	Miner	Fractured thigh, through falling off trolley.					1											
2	" 23	Co-operative	Plattsburgh		Peter Robertson		Leg fractured by fall of coal						1										
3	" 24	East Waratah	New Lambton		Wm. Royall	Screenman	Fractured collar-bone, fell off screens							1									
4	Feb. 7	Joadja	Joadja, near Berrima		James Kenney	Labourer	Leg crushed, knocked down by locomotive engine and wheel passed over his leg																
5	" 17	Lambton	Lambton		Chas. Bartholomew	Miner	Leg fracture by fall of coal							1									
6	" 19	North Illawarra	Near Bulli	John Donohoe			Killed by fall of stone	1															
7	" 25	Brown's	Minni		John Anderson	Driver	Thigh fractured by falling from trolley					1											
8	" 26	Coal Cliff	Coal Cliff		Wm. Lalrd	Miner	Leg broken by loaded skip																
9	Mar. 12	Duckensfield	Minni		James Sutton	"	Fracture of ankle by fall of coal							1									
10	" 12	Ferndale	Tighe's Hill	John Cork			Fatal injuries by fall of stone	1															
11	" 20	Burwood	Burwood		Wm. Price	Roadman	Leg fractured by loaded skip																
12	April 1	Wallsend	Wallsend		George Minto	Miner	Collar-bone fracture and injury to hips																
13	" 7	Lambton	Lambton		Thos. Gibson	Wheeler	Collar-bone fracture by loaded skips																
14	" 15	Wallsend	Wallsend		James Herd	"	Leg fracture by loaded skips																
15	" 17	North Illawarra	Near Bulli		Wm. Cressby	Miner	Hand badly burnt by powder																
16	May 16	Dunkirk	New Lambton		Thos. Broughall	Manager	Injured by falling from screens																
17	" 15	Greta	Greta		James Reed	Miner	Leg fractured by cradle stage in shaft																
18	" 22	Newcastle	Burwood	Jas. Bullerwell			Fatal injuries by fall of coal																
19	" 27	Wallsend	Wallsend	John Morrow			Fatal injuries by fall of prop																
20	" 30	A. A. Co.	Newcastle		Matt. Robson	Shiftman	Thigh fractured with skip loaded with rails																
21	June 8	Joadja	Joadja, near Berrima		John Sharp	Miner	Arm fractured by fall of coal																
22	" 15	Co-operative	Plattsburgh		John Cain	"	Serious injuries by explosion of loose powder.																
23	" 15	Ferndale	Tighe's Hill		Geo. Banks	"	Body and arms burnt by loose powder																
24	" 16	Bulli	Bulli		John Hearty	"	Severe bruises on body by fall of stone																
25	" 22	Bulli	Bulli		George Anos	"	Ankle dislocated by fall of stone																
26	" 26	Co-operative	Plattsburgh		John McCulloch	Labourer	Leg fractured by empty wagon																
27	" 29	Mount Kembla	Wollongong		Martin Armstrong	Miner	Back bruised by fall of coal																
28	" 29	Burwood	Burwood		Isaac Turnbull	"	Thigh fractured by fall of coal																
29	" 30	Co-operative	Plattsburgh		John H. Lawson	"	Leg fracture by empty skips																
30	July 9	Brown's	Minni	Alex. Grant			Fatal injuries by fall of coal																
31	" 14	Ferndale	Tighe's Hill		Thos. Martin	"	Fracture of thigh by fall of coal																
32	" 16	Wallsend	Wallsend		Geo. Callender	"	Injuries to face by explosion of loose powder.																
33	" 20	Brown's	Minni		Robert Blair	"	Leg fracture by fall of coal																
34	" 20	Bulli	Bulli		Walter Wollett	"	Injured about back and loins, fall of coal.																
35	Aug. 6	A. A. Co.	Newcastle	Ralph Wilkins			Fatal injuries by fall of coal																
36	" 10	Bulli	Bulli		Wm. Moon	Gatekeeper	Foot crushed by locomotive engine																
37	" 12	Wallsend	Wallsend		Robert Walker	Miner	Injured by an explosion of a shot.																
38	Sept. 11	"	"		Wm. Lewis	Switchkeeper	Severe injuries to head by loaded skip																
39	" 19	Lambton	Lambton	Thos. Hemming			Fatal injuries by fall of coal																
40	" 25	Joadja	Joadja, near Berrima	John Potter			Fatal injuries, run over by a truck																
41	Oct. 17	Co-operative	Plattsburgh		John McLuskie	Trapper	Thigh fractured and wound on leg, loaded skip.																
42	" 19	Mount Kembla	Wollongong		Abraham Morris	Shiftman	Collar-bone broken by loaded skips																
43	Nov. 14	Mount Keira	"	Thos. Dunphy			Fatal injuries by fall of coal																
44	" 17	Brown's	Minni	Thos. Pomroy																			
45	" 17	A. A. Co.	Newcastle		James Graham	"	Injuries to foot by fall of coal																
46	" 24	"	"		Joseph Cook	"	Internal injuries by fall of coal																
47	" 27	Wallsend	Wallsend	John Thompson			Fatal injuries by fall of coal																
48	" 27	Newcastle	Burwood		Wm. Frankham	"	Severely burnt by an explosion of loose powder.																
49	" 27	Newcastle	"		Wm. Young	"	Face and hands burnt by ditto																
50	Dec. 18	Wallsend	Wallsend		Wm. Usher	Wheeler	Fractured rib and injuries to back by empty skips.																
51	" 30	Newcastle	Burwood		John Davis	Miner	Fracture of arm and thigh by fall of coal.																
								2	7	1	1	2	13	2	2	8	6	1	2	1	2	1	

Total number of fatal accidents, 11.

Total number of non-fatal accidents, 46.

COAL RETURNS.

	Northern District.	Southern District.	Western District.	Total.
Tons of round and small coal raised	2,113,372t. 13c. 0q.	453,727t. 15c. 3q.	311,762t. 16c. 0q.	2,878,863t. 4c. 3q.
Value of round and small coal raised	£1,032,914 13s. 4d.	£230,471 7s. 0d.	£76,836 13s. 3d.	£1,340,212 13s. 7d.
Persons employed above ground.....	980	430	60	1,470
Persons employed under ground.	4,400	918	309	5,627

PETROLEUM OIL CANNEL COAL OR BOGHEAD MINERAL RETURN.

Western and Southern Districts.

Tons of boghead mineral or petroleum oil cannal coal.....	27,462
Value of boghead mineral or petroleum oil cannal coal raised	£67,239
Persons employed above ground	210
Persons employed under ground	114

Comparative statement of Returns for 1884-85.

	Men above ground.	Men under ground;	Tons of round and small coal.	Value.		
			Tons cwt. qr.	£	s.	d.
NORTHERN DISTRICT.						
Australian Agricultural, Newcastle Wallsend, Newcastle Coal Company, Lambton, Co-operative, Ferndale, South Ferndale, New Lambton, Dog and Rat and New Duckenfield, Duckenfield, Brown's, East Waratah, South Waratah, Goose, Wickham and Bullock Island Company, Stockton, Hidden Treasure, Brickfield Hill, Clay Cross, Burwood, Hill End, Dunkirk, Brookstown, Pride of Ferndale, Sunderland, Thornley, Shamrock Hill, Greta, Greta C, Ellesmere, Rix's Creek, Singleton, Rosedale, Lamb, Parbury & Co.	980	4,400	2,113,372 13 0	1,032,904	13	4
Total in 1885	980	4,400	2,113,372 13 0	1,032,904	13	4
„ 1884	808	3,927	2,055,342 10 3	1,011,933	13	7
Increase in 1885.....	172	473	58,030 2 1	20,970	19	7
SOUTHERN DISTRICT.						
Mount Kombla, Bulli A, Bulli B, Osborne Wallsend, Coal Cliff, Illawarra Coal Company, Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company, Berrima, and Erith.	430	918	453,727 15 3	230,471	7	0
Total in 1885.	430	918	453,727 15 3	230,471	7	0
„ 1884.....	277	820	419,942 9 0	216,981	16	9
Increase in 1885....	163	98	33,785 6 3	13,489	10	3
WESTERN DISTRICT.						
Zig-Zag, Vale of Clwydd, Lithgow Valley, Eskbank, Eskbank Old Tunnel, Hermitage, Coorowall, Hartley Vale, Carlo's Gap, Katoomba.....	60	309	311,762 16 0	76,836	13	3
Total in 1885.	60	309	311,762 16 0	76,836	13	3
„ 1884	92	303	273,823 14 0	74,161	9	7
Increase in 1885 . . . . .	.....	6	37,939 2 0	2,674	3	8
Decrease in 1885	32	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

From these returns we find that in the Northern District, in the year under notice, there has been an increase of 58,030 tons in the quantity of coal raised, and an increase of £20,971 in the value of it, whilst in the previous year (1884) there was an increase of 155,722 tons, and in the value of the coal raised £83,907. In 1883 the increase in the quantity raised was 330,103 tons. There has therefore been a falling off in the increased quantity raised per year of 272,073 tons in the last two years.

In the Southern District there has been an increase 33,785 tons, and £13,489 in the value, whilst in the preceding year there was an increase of 30,523 tons, and £20,847 in the value; in the Western District an increase of 37,939 tons, and in the value of £2,674, whilst in the previous year there was an increase of 41,405 tons, and a decrease of £3,619 in the value.

The following table shows comparisons between the year under notice and two preceding years as regards the export of coal to foreign and intercolonial ports: the quantity used for home consumption; total

total output and value; tons of round and small coal raised for each person employed in and about the collieries; value of round and small coal raised for each person so employed; and the quantity of coal raised for each life lost:—

Years.	Exports to Intercolonial Ports.			Exports to Foreign Ports.			Total Exports.			Home consumption.
	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.	
	Tons.	£ s. d.	£	Tons.	£ s. d.	£	Tons.	£ s. d.	£	
1883	855,704	0 10 5-76	448,356	656,741	0 11 7-84	381,306	1,512,445	0 10 11-65	829,662	1,009,012
1884	994,087	0 10 8-66	532,838	696,676	0 11 5-10	398,107	1,690,763	0 11 0-16	981,045	1,058,345
1885	991,924	0 10 7-13	525,443	704,432	0 11 6-50	441,220	1,756,356	0 11 0-09	900,063	1,122,507
	2,841,715	0 7 0-21	1,506,737	2,117,849	0 11 6-32	1,220,038	4,959,564	0 10 11-98	2,727,370	3,189,864

Years.	Total Output and Value.			Coal raised per each person employed in and about the Mines.			Value of Coal raised per each person employed in and about the Mines.			Tons of Coal raised per each life lost.		
	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value	Quantity.	Average tons per each person employed.	Persons employed.	Value.	Average value per each person employed.	Persons employed.	Quantity.	Average tons per each life lost.	Lives lost.
	Tons.	£ s. d.	£	Tons.	Tons.	Number.	£	£ s. d.	Number.	Tons.	Tons.	Number.
1883	2,521,457	0 9 6-4	1,201,941	2,521,457	460	5,481	1,201,941	219 5 1	5,481	2,521,457	163,096	15
1884	2,749,103	0 9 5-76	1,303,076	2,749,108	441	6,227	1,303,076	209 5 2	6,227	2,749,103	190,804	14
1885	2,878,863	0 9 3-72	1,340,212	2,878,863	405	7,097	1,340,212	188 16 10	7,097	2,878,863	261,714	11
	8,140,428	0 9 5-24	3,845,229	8,140,428	433	18,805	3,845,229	204 9 6-9	18,805	8,149,428	203,735	40

From the above it will be seen that in the year under notice (1885) we exported 2,168 tons less coal to Intercolonial ports than in the preceding year, and 132,244 tons more to Foreign ports. The Intercolonial decrease in 1885 appears to be principally owing to South Australia having taken 32,977; New Zealand, 20,071; and Western Australia, 4,074 tons less coal from Newcastle than they did in 1884. Victoria taking 36,923; Queensland, 6,816; and Tasmania, 7,957 more tons from Newcastle than they did in 1884.

It will be seen that the quantity of coal raised during the last three years for each person employed above and under ground at the collieries has averaged 433 tons of round and small coal per year, and that each person so employed added £204 6s. 9d. per annum to the wealth of the Colony. In the years 1883, 1884, and 1885, forty lives were lost for 8,149,428 tons raised, viz., 203,735 tons were raised for each life lost. The proportion the accidents and deaths bear to the number of persons employed in each district—north, south, and west, and the quantity and value of coal raised for each person employed in and about the northern, southern, and western collieries, is as follows:—

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Number of persons employed in and about the mines	5,380
Number of persons employed underground	4,400
Quantity of coal raised in tons	2,113,372 13 0
Number of non-fatal accidents	31
Number of lives lost by accidents	8
Persons employed per each non-fatal accident	173
Persons employed per each life lost	672
Tons of round and small coal raised per each non-fatal accident	68,173
Tons of round and small coal raised per each life lost	264,171
Tons of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines	392 16 0
Tons of coal raised per each person employed underground	480 6 0
Value of coal raised	£1,032,904 13 0
Value of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines	£191 19 0
Value of coal raised per each person employed underground	£234 15 0

SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

Number of persons employed in and about the mines	1,348
Number of persons employed underground	918
Quantity of coal raised in tons	453,727 15 0
Number of non-fatal accidents	9
Number of lives lost by accidents	3
Persons employed for each non-fatal accident	149
Persons employed for each life lost	449
Tons of round and small coal raised per each non-fatal accident	50,414
Tons of round and small coal raised per each life lost	151,243
Tons of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines	336
Tons of coal raised per each person employed underground	494
Value of coal raised	£230,431 7 0
Value of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines	170 18 0
Value of coal raised per each person employed underground	251 0 0

WESTERN DISTRICT.

Number of persons employed in and about the mines	369
Number of persons employed under ground	309
Quantity of coal raised in tons	311,762 16 0
Number of non-fatal accidents	nil
Number of lives lost by accidents	nil
Persons employed for each non-fatal accident (and no accident)	369
Persons employed per each life lost (and no life lost)	369
Tons of round and small coal raised per each non-fatal accident (and no accident)	311,762 16 0
Tons of round and small coal raised per each life lost (and no life lost)	311,762 16 0
Tons of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines	845
Tons of coal raised per each person employed underground	1,009
Value of coal raised	£76,836 13 3
Value of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines	208 0 0
Value of coal raised per each person employed underground	240 17 0

The

The following table shows comparisons between the year under notice and the preceding year, as regards the proportion the accidents and deaths bear to the persons employed, the quantity and value of the coal raised for each person employed in and about the mines and underground, in the Northern, Southern, and Western Districts.

	Northern District.		Southern District.		Western District.	
	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.
Number of persons employed in and about the mines	4,745	5,380	1,007	1,348	395	369
Number of persons employed underground	3,937	4,400	320	408	363	309
Quantity of coal raised in tons	2,055,842 10 3	2,113,372 13 0	419,942 0 0	453,729 15 0	273,823 14 0	311,762 16 0
Number of non-fatal accidents	20	31	13	9	1	NII
Number of lives lost by accidents	0	8	3	3	2	NII
Persons employed per each non-fatal accident	237	173	84	140	305	369
Persons employed per each life lost	626	672	366	440	107	and no accident.
Tons of round and small coal raised per each non-fatal accident	1,027,763	68,172	32,303	50,414	273,823 14 0	and no life lost.
Tons of round and small coal raised per each life lost	238,371	264,171	139,981	151,243	136,911 18 0	and no accident.
Tons of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines	434	393	382	330	693	and no life lost.
Tons of coal raised per each person employed underground	523	481	612	404	904	846
Value of coal raised	£ 1,011,933 13 7	£ 1,032,904 13 0	£ 216,981 16 6	£ 230,431 7 0	£ 74,161 9 7	£ 70,836 13 3
Value of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines	213 14 3	191 39 0	197 16 11	170 18 0	187 14 11	208
Value of coal raised per each person employed underground	257 13 8	234 15 0	264 6 1	251 0 0	244 15 1	246 17 0

The following statistical return, furnished me by Mr. W. R. Logan, the Collector of Customs at Newcastle, shows that the greatest increases in the export of coal from that port have been—To Victoria, 36,923; India, 19,737; South America, 17,504; Manilla, 12,655; Wilmington, 10,079; Guam, 9,275; Tasmania, 7,957; Queensland, 6,816; Honolulu, 4,723; and Fiji, 3,765 tons.

NEWCASTLE.—New South Wales export of Coal during the years 1884 and 1885.

Countries.	1884.	1885.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom	5,000	5,000	86,923	5,000
Victoria	507,082	544,005	36,923	20,071
New Zealand	198,778	178,707	20,071	32,077
South Australia	172,314	139,337	4,074	16,383
Western Australia	16,383	12,309	6,816	37,389
Queensland	37,389	44,205	7,957	37,198
Tasmania	37,198	45,155	3,765	11,862
Fiji	11,862	15,627	3,463	8,376
New Caledonia	8,376	4,913	4,723	10,363
Honolulu	10,363	15,086	12,655	40,060
Manilla	40,060	52,715	7,658	14,937
Mauritius	14,937	7,279	17,468	122,022
Hongkong	122,022	104,554	12,662	22,075
China	22,075	9,413	1,806	1,942
Japan	1,942	3,748	22,544	140,597
San Francisco	140,597	118,053	1,250	3,927
Portland, O.	3,927	2,677	17,504	47,812
South America	47,812	65,316	3,829	69,815
Java	69,815	55,986	19,737	86,947
India	86,947	106,684	1,367	2,890
Mexico	2,890	1,523	9,275	976
Guam	976	10,251	2,764	1,050
South Sea Islands	1,050	3,814	100	600
New Guinea	600	700	10,079	10,079
Wilmington	10,079	10,079		
Total increase for 1885 is 1,741 tons.	1,550,395	1,552,136	134,104	132,363

DECENNIAL RETURN.—Port of Newcastle—Foreign and Intercolonial Ports.

Year.	Vessels cleared outwards for Foreign and Intercolonial Ports		Total value of Imports from Foreign and Intercolonial Ports.	Quantity and value of Coal exported to Foreign and Intercolonial Ports.		Total value of Exports (inclusive of Coal) to Foreign and Intercolonial Ports.	Total amount of Revenue collected.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.		Tons.	Value.		
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876	1,309	535,738	469,988 2 8	719,050	495,502 0 0	585,114 16 2	54,031 8 0
1877	1,328	577,376	502,861 6 4	781,502	540,560 0 0	680,750 11 7	56,584 3 11
1878	1,407	655,895	444,760 18 0	871,985	602,557 0 0	690,252 13 0	60,511 14 0
1879	1,330	651,501	340,501 0 0	860,375	591,000 0 0	648,427 0 0	57,477 18 0
1880	1,023	516,480	527,905 0 0	673,393	372,378 0 0	447,486 0 0	57,883 4 6
1881	1,121	654,543	482,845 0 0	899,369	343,931 0 0	407,212 0 0	77,543 10 7
1882	1,143	737,772	632,073 0 0	1,080,416	527,575 0 0	618,586 0 0	76,799 12 7
1883	1,305	926,956	658,601 0 0	1,359,505	722,428 0 0	1,440,752 0 0	87,844 12 0
1884	1,433	1,066,462	788,653 0 0	1,505,395	835,070 0 0	1,699,047 0 0	108,720 0 0
1885	1,388	1,076,346	930,200 0 0	1,552,136	832,495 0 0	1,927,626 0 0	108,834 18 6

Return showing the quantity raised, price per ton, and value of the boghead mineral or petroleum oil (cannel coal), commonly called kerosene shale, from 1865 to 1884 inclusive:—

Years.	Tons.	Average price per ton.	Value.	Years.	Tons.	Average price per ton.	Value.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1865	570	4 2 5·47	2,350 0 0	1876	15,998	3 0 0·00	47,994 0 0
1866	2,770	2 18 10·48	8,154 0 0	1877	18,963	2 9 0·82	46,524 10 0
1867	4,079	3 14 9·21	15,249 0 0	1878	24,371	2 6 11·49	57,211 0 0
1868	16,952	2 17 7·11	48,816 0 0	1879	32,519	2 1 10·96	66,930 10 0
1869	7,500	2 10 0·00	18,750 0 0	1880	19,201	2 6 7·03	44,724 15 0
1870	8,580	3 4 3·18	27,570 0 0	1881	27,894	1 9 2·59	40,748 0 0
1871	14,700	2 6 3·91	34,050 0 0	1882	48,065	1 15 0·00	84,114 0 0
1872	11,040	2 11 11·91	28,700 0 0	1883	49,250	1 16 10·77	90,861 10 0
1873	17,850	2 16 6·55	50,475 0 0	1884	31,618	2 5 7·85	72,176 0 0
1874	12,100	2 5 1·48	27,300 0 0	1885	27,462	2 8 11·62	67,239 0 0
1875	6,197	2 10 2·22	15,500 0 0				
					397,679	2 5 0·39	895,437 5 0

Complaints made of deficient ventilation, &c.

I have, as usual, inquired into sundry complaints made with respect to defective ventilation and non-compliance with the requirements of the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1876. Proceedings, where necessary, have been taken to enforce the provisions of the Act, and reports furnished thereon.

NEW MINES OPENING OUT OR IN COURSE OF DEVELOPMENT DURING THE YEAR 1885.

Burwood.

February 8th.—Mr. Allen Wilde gave notice of having begun to open a tunnel on the Burwood Estate, about half a mile from the Burwood junction, and near the terminus of the Newcastle Coal Company's new line of railway, to be known by the name of Hillside Colliery.

New Lambton.

February 13th.—Mr. Thomas Broughall gave notice that he had commenced to sink a new shaft at New Lambton, named the Dunkirk Colliery.

Wollongong.

May 22nd.—Mr. T. Bertram, General Manager, gave notice that they had commenced operations to open a new mine, to be known as the Broker's Nose Colliery.

Rio's Creek, Singleton.

May 29th.—Mr. Robert Minto gave notice of having opened out a coal-mine on Messrs. Nowland's estate, 6 miles north of Singleton, and close by the Great Northern Railway.

North Illawarra, near Bulli.

September 2nd.—Mr. G. W. Garlic notified, on behalf of the North Illawarra Coal-mining Company (Limited), that they are opening No. 2 mine, on the late Sir W. Allen's freehold, formerly owned by James Hicks.

Warner's and Quintell's Estates, Lake Macquarie.

September 18th.—Mr. S. Birrell gave notice of having started two shafts, 12 feet diameter—one on the north of Warner's estate is called No. 1; the other shaft is near the railway, on Quintell's property, called No. 2 shaft.

• *Bellambi, Wollongong.*

October 14th.—Mr. Wm. Wilson notified, on behalf of Mr. Thomas Saywell and himself, of having started a coal-mine at Bellambi. At present no underground works would be undertaken for a few months. The name of the colliery not yet decided upon. Three men at work on surface.

Buttai, Four-mile Creek, near East Maitland.

October 16th.—Mr. Edward Elliott gave notice that he and his brother have been sinking for coal on their property, and now sunk to a depth of 125 feet, and upon coal.

Waratah Colliery.

November 5th.—Mr. F. D. Metcalfe, colliery manager, notified that he had commenced to sink a trial shaft on the South Waratah estate.

Helton Colliery Company.

December 14th.—Mr. Alex. Mathieson, colliery engineer, notified that the above Company have started to sink for coal close to the hydraulic engine-house on Bullock Island.

Tighe's Hill

December 14th.—John Bevan gave notice of having re-opened what was called Brickfield Colliery, situated at Tighe's Hill, now to be known as the Pride of Ferndale, to be worked by Stephens and Lloyd, having arranged with them to drive direct to the creek, so as to work the coal from under Throsby's Creek.

MINES ABANDONED OR OPERATIONS SUSPENDED DURING THE YEAR 1885.

February 13th.—Mr. Thomas Broughall notified that he had stopped the whole of the Speedwell Collieries worked by him, at Tighe's Hill; are worked out and abandoned.

Waratah Colliery.—Mr. F. D. Metcalfe, colliery manager, gave notice of having stopped indefinitely the South Wararah Colliery, as his directors consider the expense of working it too heavy. The place is not abandoned in the sense of a colliery having been worked out.

The report on Collieries and Boghead Mineral Mines, made by me for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, which has been in the hands of the Government Printer for some time, contains accounts of all new collieries which have commenced to raise coal during the year, and sections of the coal-seams.

And I have, therefore, only now to add that there were 67 collieries under inspection, and that notices have been received of 11 new mines having been opened out, against 64 under inspection in the preceding year, and 22 opening out; and that the year's returns show an increase in the Northern District of 58,030 tons of round and small coal raised, and £20,971 in value; in the Southern District of 33,785 tons, valued at £13,489; and in the Western District an increase of 37,939 tons, and an increase in the value of £2,674.

I have, &c.

JOHN MACKENZIE, F.G.S.,

Government Examiner of Coal-fields.

THE Half-Yearly Report of the Inspector of Collieries for the Northern District in New South Wales, and Accidents therein investigated by said Inspector, for the six months ending 31st December, 1885.

PURSUANT to the provisions of clause 26 in the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1876, I have the honor to transmit to you this my six-monthly report on the state of the various collieries in the Northern District, for the half-year ending 31st December, 1885.

The total number of collieries under inspection in the Northern District during the term embraced by this report is thirty-eight. Two of the collieries reported by me last time are now abandoned, viz., Speedwell and Refuge. A new mine, Rosedale, has been opened. Homeville mine has been re-opened, and sinking operations have been carried on at the Lymington Wallsend Colliery during the six months, thus bringing the total up to one more than the number under inspection during the first half of the year.

Present state of Mines.

A.A. Company.—About 780 men, &c., are employed in this mine during the day shift, and the total quantity of air introduced into the mine per minute is about 100,000 cubic feet. During the six months very marked improvements have been made in the main return airways, owing to which the volume of fresh air has been considerably increased in some of the districts. The number of splits are in accordance with the Act. The requirements of the Act are complied with in other respects also.

Wallsend.—There are about 850 men, &c., employed in this mine on both shifts, and the total quantity of air circulating in the mines per minute is about 200,000 cubic feet. There are eleven splits for the face workings, each split being supplied with a separate and distinct current of fresh air. None of the splits have more men than the Act allows. The Act in other respects is also carried out.

Lambton.—This colliery has only been under inspection during part of the six months, and at the present time is at a standstill, owing to an unfortunate dispute concerning the tonnage price in some portion of the colliery workings.

Newcastle Company's Colliery.—About 360 men, &c., are employed in this mine on one shift, and the total quantity of air introduced into the mine per minute is about 66,000 cubic feet. The face workings are divided into seven different splits, each split being supplied with a distinct current of fresh air. There are not more men in any split than the Act allows. During the six months the new shaft in connection with this colliery has been sunk to the main seam, and a communication effected with the main shaft workings. The new shaft is also intended for a winding shaft, and is now being fitted up with the necessary machinery, &c. The Act in other respects is also complied with.

New Lambton.—At the present time there are only about eight men employed in this mine. They are engaged in pillar work, and to all appearances this colliery will be soon abandoned. The requirements of the Act are complied with.

New Lambton C. Pit.—About seventy-four men, &c., are at present employed in this mine, and supplied with about 10,000 cubic feet of air per minute, in two separate currents. The second shaft has not yet been fitted with the necessary machinery for drawing men, &c., but it is contemplated to have winding gear in connection with this shaft as soon as possible. With this exception the Act is complied with.

Co-operative.—About 400 men, &c., are employed in this mine on both shifts, and the total quantity of air introduced into the mine per minute is from about 60,000 to 70,000 cubic feet. There are six distinct splits, and each split is supplied with a separate current of fresh air. There are not more men in any district than the Act allows. In connection with this colliery it is contemplated to sink a large shaft near the present working face. This shaft will be used as an upcast, and when completed will doubtless prove effectual for ventilating purposes for many years to come. The requirements of the Act are also complied with in other respects.

South Waratah.—Only a very limited number of men have been employed in this mine during the six months.—The principal work has been to put the pit in proper order, with the view of working the seam again in the course of a few weeks. The requirements of the Act are complied with.

East

East Waratah.—About 130 men, &c., are employed in this mine during the day shift. The total quantity of air circulating per minute is about 22,000 cubic feet. None of the districts are overcrowded, and the Act is complied with in every respect.

Brown's Colliery.—About 220 men, &c., are employed in this mine on the day shift, and the total quantity of air circulating in the mine is about 50,000 cubic feet per minute. The face workings are divided into five districts; each district has a separate current of fresh air, and in no district are there more men than the Act allows. The requirements of the Act are complied with in other respects also.

Duckenfield.—About 216 men, &c., are employed in this mine during the day shift, and the total quantity of air introduced into the mine is from about 45,000 to about 50,000 cubic feet per minute. There are four districts, each supplied with a separate current of fresh air. None of the districts are overcrowded, and the Act in other respects is also complied with.

Ferndale.—About 140 men, &c., are employed in this mine on both shifts, and the total quantity of air supplied is about 18,000 cubic feet per minute, in three separate currents or splits, each serving from forty to sixty men, &c. The Act is also carried out in other respects.

Ferndale No. 3.—About eighteen men, &c., are employed in this mine on one shift, and are supplied with about 3,000 cubic feet of air per minute in one current. The Act is also complied with in other respects.

Old Waratah.—Only about fourteen men, &c., at present employed in connection with this mine. The ventilation is good throughout, and the Act complied with.

Hill End.—About eight men are at present employed in this mine. The ventilation is good, and the Act carried out.

Dog and Rat.—There are only about four men now employed in connection with this mine. No cause for complaint.

Goose Colliery.—About six men, &c., continue to be employed in this mine. The ventilation is good throughout, and the Act complied with.

Hidden Treasure.—This mine was under inspection during part of the half-year, but is now finished and abandoned.

New Duckenfield.—About forty men, &c., are employed in this mine. There are four openings to the day, and the ventilation is fairly good throughout. The Act in other respects is also complied with.

Tighe's Hill Colliery.—About six men are employed in this mine at present. There are two openings to the day. No cause for complaint.

Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery.—There are about sixty men, &c., at present employed in this mine, and supplied with a current of about 7,000 cubic feet of air per minute. A communication has now been got between the two pits in connection with this colliery, but complete arrangements have not yet been made to allow of persons employed in the mine to pass in and out of the Wickham shaft at all times whatsoever. With this exception the Act is complied with.

Maryville Colliery.—About sixty men, &c., are now employed in this mine. As yet there is only one shaft, and in the matter of ventilation the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act are not complied with.

Brookstown Colliery.—About twenty-four men, &c., are at present employed in this mine. The ventilation is fairly good throughout, and the Act in other respects complied with.

Burwood Colliery.—In connection with the new pit at this mine there are about 160 men, &c., employed. There are three shifts, and the greatest number of men, &c., in one shift is about sixty-four. The total current of air in the pit workings is about 7,000 cubic feet per minute. In the tunnel where there are about seventy men, &c., the ventilation is rather defective, but steps have been taken to remedy this matter at once. The Act in other respects is complied with.

Stockton Colliery.—About sixty men, &c., are employed in this mine on one shift. The shaft has been hatted, and a ventilating furnace has been erected at the surface, yet the total quantity of air in the mine is not quite up to the requirements of the Act. Steps are being taken however to remedy this matter as speedily as possible. In the course of about six months it is expected that the second shaft in connection with this colliery will have been sunk. The Act in other respects is complied with.

Hillside Colliery.—There are only four men employed in this mine. No cause for complaint.

Burnley's Colliery.—About sixteen men, &c., are at present employed in this mine. The ventilation is pretty good throughout, and the Act also complied with in other respects.

Dunkirk Colliery.—About thirty men, &c., are employed in this colliery at present. There are three openings to the day. The ventilation is good, and the Act carried out in other respects also.

Marshall's Thornley Colliery.—There are only about eight men now employed in this mine. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Tulips, Sunderland Colliery.—Only about three men employed in this mine. No cause for complaint.

Rathluba Colliery.—About five men are employed in this mine. The provisions of the Act are carried out.

Homeville.—This mine has again been opened, but only a few men are at present employed. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Greta Colliery.—About 180 men, &c., are employed in this mine, and the total quantity of air circulating in the mine per minute is about 23,000 cubic feet. There are three districts, and each is served with a separate current of fresh air. None of the districts are overcrowded. The provisions of the Act are also complied with in other respects.

Singleton New Park Colliery.—About twenty-six men, &c., are employed in this mine, and supplied with a current of about 4,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act in other respects is also complied with.

Longworth's Colliery.—There are sixteen men, &c., employed in this mine. The ventilation is good throughout, and the Act complied with in other respects also.

Rix's Creek.—Only the lessee himself occasionally employed getting house coal. No cause for complaint.

Rosedale Colliery.—This is a small mine close to the Great Northern line of railway, about 7 miles north of Singleton. At present there are only three men employed. No cause for complaint.

Lyminster Wallsend Colliery.—Sinking operations are being proceeded with at this place. No. 1 shaft is 12 feet in diameter, and is now sunk to a depth of about 324 feet. The No. 2 shaft is also 12 feet in diameter, and is sunk to the depth of about 294 feet. There are forty-two sinkers and nine banksmen, and with engine-drivers, blacksmiths, carpenters, labourers, &c., the total number of men employed is about seventy-three. Everything in connection with this work appears to be in good order.

Accidents in Mines.

The accidents investigated and reported on by me in connection with the collieries in the Northern District during the six months ending 31st December, 1885, are seventeen in number, happening in most instances by falls of coal, five of which accidents were fatal, and each fatal accident was caused by a fall of coal. Some of the non-fatal accidents caused serious bodily injury, but the majority of them were not so serious. In addition to the above, during the past six months I have also investigated several minor accidents which are not given in this report.

The first of the fatal accidents happened to a miner named Alexander Grant, by a fall of coal in Brown's Colliery on 9th July last, death ensuing on the 13th of the same month.

The District Coroner held an inquest on the body of the deceased, at Minmi, on the 14th July. I was present at the inquest and heard all the evidence, and fully agree with the verdict of "Accidental death," as returned by the jury.

The second fatal accident happened to a miner named Ralph Wilkins, by a fall of coal in the A.A. Company's No. 2 pit, on the 5th of August last.

The District Coroner, S. Chapman, Esq., J.P., held an inquest on the body of deceased, at the "Glebe Colliery Hotel," Glebeland, on the afternoon of the same day. I attended the inquest, and fully agree with the verdict of "Accidental death," as given by the jury.

The third fatal accident happened to a miner named Thomas Hemmings, by a fall of coal in the Lambton Colliery, on 19th September.

The District Coroner held an inquest on the body of deceased at "West's Hotel," Lambton, at 7 p.m., on the day of the accident, which inquest I also attended, and fully agree with the verdict of "Accidental death."

The fourth fatal accident happened to a miner named Thomas Pomeroy, by a fall of coal in Brown's Colliery, Minmi, on 17th November.

The District Coroner held an inquest on the body of the deceased, at the "Northumberland Hotel," Minmi, on the day following the accident. I attended the inquest and heard all the evidence, and fully agree with the verdict of "Accidental death," as recorded by the jury.

The fifth fatal accident happened to a miner named John Thompson, by a fall of coal in the Wallsend Colliery, on the 27th November. This poor man lingered in great pain for about twenty-seven hours after the accident, and died about noon on the 28th November.

On the 30th of the same month the District Coroner held an inquest on the body of deceased, at "Lorey's Hotel," Plattsburg. I was present at this inquest also, and fully agree with the verdict of "Accidental death."

The first of the non-fatal accidents happened to a miner named Thomas Martin, by a fall of coal in the Ferndale Colliery, on 14th July, and resulted in a fracture of thigh-bone just above the knee.

The second resulted in severe burns to body, arms, face, and neck, to a miner named George Cairns Callender, by an explosion of loose powder in the Wallsend Colliery, on 16th July.

The third was a leg fracture and severe flesh wound to a miner named Robert Blair, by a fall of coal, in Brown's Colliery, on 20th July.

The fourth happened to a miner named Robert Walker, by the explosion of a shot in the Wallsend Colliery, on 12th August, and resulted in severe wounds to head and face.

The fifth happened to a boy named William Lewis, a switch-keeper, who was run over by loaded skips in the Wallsend Colliery, on 11th September, the result being a severe fracture of the left thumb and a deep flesh wound from the knee downwards on the left leg.

The sixth resulted in a fracture of thigh and wound in leg to a boy named John M'Luskie, by loaded skips in the Co-operative Colliery, on 17th October.

The seventh happened to a miner named James Graham, by a fall of coal in the A.A. Company's No. 2 pit, on 17th November; result, injury to foot.

The eighth happened to a miner named Joseph Cook, by a fall of coal in the A.A. Company's Hamilton pit, on 24th November, and resulted in internal injuries.

The ninth resulted in very serious bodily injury to a miner named William Frankhan, by an explosion of loose powder in the Newcastle Company's new pit, on 27th November.

The tenth also resulted in severe burns to the hands, face, and neck of a miner named William Young, by the same explosion of loose powder in the Newcastle Company's new pit, on 27th November.

The eleventh happened to a wheeler named William Usher, by an empty skip in the Wallsend Colliery, on 18th December, and resulted in a fractured rib and injury to back.

The twelfth and last happened to a miner named John Davis, by a fall of coal in the Newcastle Company's Colliery, on 30th December, the result being severe fracture of right arm and right thigh.

The usual tabulated list of accidents is hereto appended.

I have, &c.,
JOHN DIXON,
Inspector of Collieries.

TABULATED List of Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents in the Northern Collieries of New South Wales, investigated by the Inspector of Collieries during the half-year ending 31st December, 1885.

No	Date.	Colliery.	Sufferer.	Occupation.	Remarks, &c., on nature and extent of injuries.	Non-fatals					Fatals.	Total Non-fatals.	Total fatals.
						Fall of Coal.	Loaded skips.	Empty skips.	Explosion of loose powder.	Explosion of shot.	Fall of Coal.		
1	July 9	Brown's	Alexander Grant	Miner	Fatal injuries by a fall of coal	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
2	" 14	Ferrisdale	Thomas Martin	Miner	Fracture of thigh by a fall of coal	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
3	" 16	Wallsend	George Callender	Miner	Injuries to face by explosion of loose powder	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
4	" 20	Brown's	Robert Blair	Miner	Leg fracture by a fall of coal	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
5	Aug. 6	A. A. Co.'s	Ralph Wilkins	Miner	Fatal injuries by a fall of coal	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
6	" 12	Wallsend	Robert Walker	Miner	Injuries to head by explosion of a shot	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
7	Sept. 11	Wallsend	William Lewis	Switchkeeper	Severe wound in leg by loaded skip	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
8	" 19	Lambton	Thos. Hemmings	Miner	Fatal injuries by a fall of coal	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
9	Oct. 17	Co-operative	John M'Luskie	Trapper	Thigh fracture and wound in leg by loaded skip	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
10	Nov. 17	Brown's	Thomas Pomeroy	Miner	Fatal injuries by a fall of coal	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
11	" 17	A. A. Co.	James Graham	Miner	Injury to foot by a fall of coal	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
12	" 24	A. A. Co.	Joseph Cook	Miner	Internal injuries by a fall of coal	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
13	" 27	Wallsend	John Thompson	Miner	Fatal injuries by a fall of coal	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
14	" 27	Newcastle Co.	Wm. Frankhan	Miner	Severely burnt by an explosion of loose powder	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
15	" 27	Newcastle Co.	Wm. Young	Miner	Face and hands burnt by an explosion of loose powder	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
16	Dec. 18	Wallsend	Wm. Usher	Wheeler	Fractured rib and injury to back by empty skips	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
17	" 20	Newcastle Co.	John Davis	Miner	Fracture of arm and thigh by a fall of coal	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Totals						5	2	1	3	1	5	12	5

The Half-yearly Report of the Inspector of Collieries on the state of the various Collieries in the Southern and Western Districts of the Colony of New South Wales, and Accidents therein, for the half-year ending December, 1885.

The Examiner of Coal-fields, Newcastle,—

Sir,

Wollongong, 12 January, 1886.

In compliance with the requirements of the clause 26 in Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1876, I have the honor to transmit to you this my six-monthly report on the state of the various collieries for the half-year ending December 31st, 1885.

One new colliery has been added to the number during the last six months, viz., the Bellambi Colliery (near Wollongong), making in all twenty-nine collieries.

Western District.. .. .	12 coal-mines and 2 shale		
Berrima „ .. .	4 „	1 „	
Southern „ .. .	10 „	...	
	—	—	
	26	3	= 29 Collieries.

PRESENT STATE OF MINES.

Bulli Old Tunnel.—About 170 men and horses employed, and supplied with 17,000 cubic feet of air per minute, in two separate currents.—No. 1 split supplying ninety men and horses with 9,000 cubic feet of air per minute; No. 2 split supplies eighty men and horses with 8,000 cubic feet of air per minute. An air-shaft has been sunk to a depth of 320 feet, which, when the furnace is built, will produce a powerful current of ventilation.

In the Hill End division of workings a fault of “cinder” coal has been cut through which gave off a quantity of gas, but every precaution is taken by the manager, viz., the boards examined every morning by a competent person, a danger signal placed cautioning persons not to pass with a naked light, and the miners working with locked safety lamps. Eight men employed, and supplied with 4,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act in other respects complied with.

Bulli Second Seam.—About twenty men employed underground, and supplied with 4,000 cubic feet of air per minute.

Bulli New Tunnel.—An average of twenty men are employed, but meanwhile work is suspended, as the demand for coal is somewhat slack.

Mount Pleasant Colliery.—About eighty men and horses are employed, and supplied with 11,000 cubic feet of air per minute. In a few months the coal in the No. 1 tunnel will be wrought out to the western boundary. The Company is opening out the colliery anew by means of an adit driven into the face of the mountain about 500 yards in a northern direction from the No. 1 tunnel. In connection with this alteration, an air-shaft has been sunk to a depth of 80 feet for the future ventilation of the colliery. No complaints. The Act in all respects complied with.

North Illawarra Coal Company.—The No. 1 tunnel is driven a distance of 24 chains. Coal at the working face $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in thickness. Twenty-six men employed, and supplied with 5,000 cubic feet of air per minute. No. 2 tunnel driven in a distance of 140 yards. Coal at the working face measures 4 feet. Six men employed, and supplied with 3,000 cubic feet of air per minute. Tramways to the jetty are under construction for both tunnels. The Act in all respects complied with.

Rose Hill Prospecting Tunnel.—Mr. D. Ford and Son, proprietors, driving a few yards occasionally testing the coal. The drive is in about 40 yards. The coal at the working face measures 3 ft. 4 in.

Coal Cliff Colliery.—The top seam, as previously reported, was cut off by a dislocation of 29 feet of a down-throw. The manager, after driving a stone mine a distance of 40 yards, again regained the coal in splendid condition, which measures fully 6 ft. high. For the future ventilation of the colliery the manager intends to bring the ventilating current up the main heading, a distance of 49 chains, dividing it into two separate currents to the right and left of the workings, after which it will return and pass over an air-crossing a few chains from the entrance of the tunnel. About eighty men and horses employed, and supplied with 13,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act in all respects complied with.

Broker's Nose Coal-mining Company.—Surface arrangements are still being carried forward to connect the colliery with the Illawarra line. An air-shaft has been sunk which reached the seam at a depth of 100 feet. A tunnel has been driven into the mountain 176 yards. Four men are employed underground, and supplied with 4,000 feet of cubic air per minute. The Act in other respects complied with.

Mount Kembla Colliery.—During the last six months an average of 122 men have been employed, and supplied with an average of 12,000 cubic feet of air per minute, in four separate splits. No. 1 East, thirty men and horses employed, and supplied with 3,000 cubic feet of air per minute; No. 2 East, eighteen men employed, and supplied with about 1,800 cubic feet of air per minute; No. 4 division of workings, forty men and horses, and supplied with about 4,000 cubic feet of air per minute; No. 2 and 3 West, about thirty-four men and horses employed, and supplied with 3,400 cubic feet of air per minute. In the east and No. 4 division of workings the ventilating current was weak as it approached the working faces. The manager for the last two months has been driving a new air-course with three shifts of men, to improve the ventilation. The Act in other matters complied with.

Avondale Colliery.—Prospecting operations are still suspended.

Bellambi (at Russell Vale).—This is an old colliery which is being re-opened by Wilson and Saywell, and is situated along the line of mountain between Broker's Nose and Bulli Collieries. Three men are gutting out the two tunnels which had been previously driven. Surface arrangements are also being carried forward.

BERRIMA DISTRICT.

Erith Colliery.—During the last six months work has been almost suspended for the want of sale for the coal. Two men are employed getting a few tons of coal occasionally. The Act in other respects complied with.

Australian

Australian Kerosene Oil Company.—About eighty men employed underground, and supplied with 16,000 cubic feet of air per minute. This colliery is wrought on the long-wall system, a fresh current of air passing into the working faces. Travelling roads and working places safe. The Act in all respects complied with.

Berrima Colliery.—Four men employed, and supplied with 4,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The colliery is wrought on the long-wall system. The Act in other respects complied with.

Mittagong Coal-mining Company.—Underground operations are still suspended.

WESTERN DISTRICT.

Zig-Zag Colliery.—About sixty-three men and horses, and supplied with 10,000 cubic feet of air per minute. Travelling roads and working faces safe. The Act in other matters complied with.

Esk Bank Old Tunnel.—About eighteen men are employed underground, and supplied with 3,000 cubic feet of air per minute. During the last six months an air-shaft has been sunk to a depth of 63 feet. The shaft is sunk at the extreme end of the working faces. A furnace is to be built which will produce a plentiful supply of ventilation throughout the colliery.

Esk Bank Pit.—Forty-five men and horses are employed, and supplied with 10,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The ventilation good throughout the colliery. The Act in all respects complied with.

Vale of Clwydd Colliery.—About thirty men employed underground, and supplied with 10,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The colliery in a safe condition throughout. The Act in all respects complied with.

Lithgow Valley Colliery.—About sixty-five men and horses employed underground, and supplied with 12,000 cubic feet of air per minute, in two separate currents—No. 1 split supplying thirty men and horses with 5,000 cubic feet of air per minute; No. 2 split supplying thirty-five men with 7,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act in all other respects complied with.

Bowenfels Colliery.—Five men employed underground, and supplied with 4,000 cubic feet of air per minute. Travelling roads and working faces safe. The Act in other respects complied with.

Carlo's Gap and Irondale Collieries.—Working operations meanwhile suspended on account of no sale for the coal.

Main Camp (Hartley Vale).—Six men employed underground and supplied with 10,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act in all respects complied with.

New South Wales Shale Mine (Hartley Vale).—About eighty men and horses employed, and supplied with 14,000 cubic feet of air per minute in one current. Twelve men employed in taking out pillars. This division of workings well secured with timber. The Act in all other respects complied with.

Katoomba Colliery.—About fifty-six men underground, and supplied with 6,000 cubic feet of air per minute. Travelling roads and working faces safe. The Act is also complied with in other respects.

Gladstone Coal-mining Company.—Working operations meanwhile suspended.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

DURING the last six months I have investigated six separate accidents, two of which were fatal and four non-fatal. The first of the fatal accidents happened to a lad seventeen years of age, named John Potter, 25th September, at the Australian Kerosene Oil Company's works, Joadja. He was employed as a brakesman, and while shunting fell before the loaded truck, crushing his leg to a pulp. He was conveyed to the Goulburn Hospital, but died the following day. The District Coroner held an inquest on 26th September. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, with which verdict I fully agree.

The second fatal accident happened to a miner named Thomas Dumphy, by a fall of coal at Mount Keira Colliery, on 14th November. He received internal injuries, which resulted in death on 17th November. The District Coroner, F. C. Smith, Esq., held an inquest concerning the death, at Mount Keira, on 25th November, which inquest I attended. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and no blame attached to any one in connection with the accident, with which verdict I fully agree.

The first of the non-fatal accidents to a lad sixteen years of age, named John Sharp, at the Australian Kerosene Oil Company's mine, Joadja, on 8th June; arm broken by a fall of stone from the roof, in No. 1 tunnel. The second to a miner named Walter Wollett, at Bulli Colliery, on 29th July; bruised about the back and loins by a fall of stone from the roof. The third to a lad sixteen years of age, named William Moon, on the 10th August; foot crushed at the gates of the Company's tramway crossing. The fourth to a shiftman named Abraham Morris, at Mount Kembla, on October 19th; collar-bone broken—jammed between skips.

I have also investigated several slight accidents which are not given in this report.

The usual tabulated list of accidents is hereto appended.

I have, &c.,
JAMES ROWAN,
Inspector of Collieries.

TABULATED List of Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents in the Southern and Western Districts of New South Wales Collieries investigated by the Inspector of Collieries during the half-year ending 31st December, 1885.

No.	Date.	Colliery.	Sufferer.	Occupation	Remarks, &c., on the nature and extent of the injuries.	Fall of stone.	Run over by locomotive.	Run over by loaded truck.	Run over by loaded skips.	Fall of coal.	Non-fatal.	Fatal.
1	June 8	Joadja Creek	John Sharp.....	Miner	Arm broken by a fall of stone from roof	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	July 29	Bulli	Walter Wollett	"	Bruised about the back and loins by fall of stone	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	Aug. 10	Bulli	William Moon.....	Gate-keeper	Foot crushed by locomotive engine .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
4	Sept. 25	Joadja Creek	John Potter	Brakesman	Fatal injuries, run over by a truck .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
5	Oct. 19	Mt. Kembla.	Abraham Morris ..	Shiftman	Collar-bone broken by fall skips .....	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
6	Nov. 14	Mt. Keira....	Thomas Dumphy...	Miner	Fatal injuries by a fall of coal.....	..	..	..	..	1	4	2

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Report of Progress for 1885 by the Geological Surveyor in Charge.

I HAVE the honor to submit the following Report of Progress of the Geological Survey during 1885.

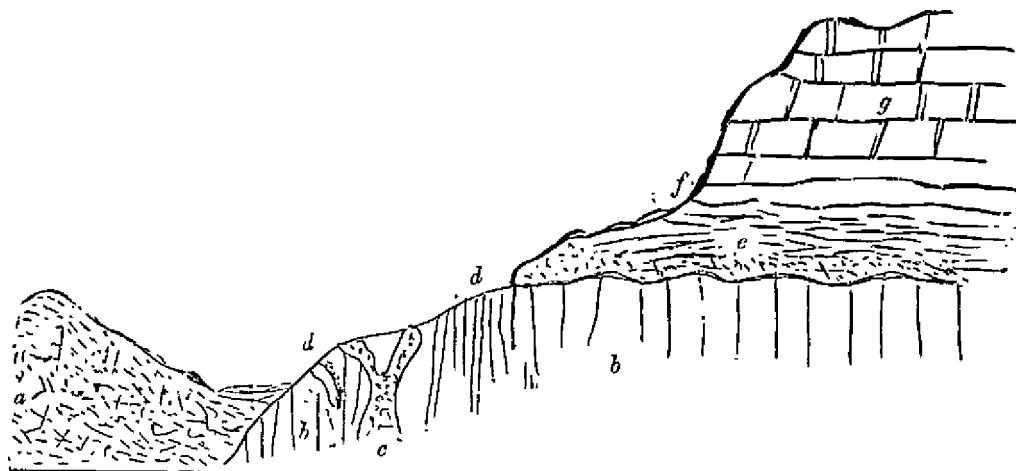
In conjunction with the Superintendent of Drills, I examined the country at Dulcalmah, near Singleton, where it had been proposed to put down a diamond-drill bore to search for water. It was found that the geological formation consisted of calcareous shales and sandstones, almost horizontally bedded, belonging to the Lower Coal-Measures. As this formation is unfavourable for the occurrence of good water, it was decided that the boring operations should not be undertaken. I also examined the country 6 miles to the south, where some seams of coal are associated with lenticular beds of iron ore. The iron ore, though of rich quality, does not occur in payable quantity. These strata contain fossil tree-stems and impressions of *Glossopteris*, and appear to be the equivalents of the Rix Creek and East Maitland Coal Series, and therefore belong to the Middle Coal-Measures.

I next examined some country to the north of Molong, including the old Copper Hill mine; my report thereon is herewith annexed. (See Appendix A.) In this locality the Silurian sedimentary strata have been upheaved by an extensive mass of felsite, which in places passes into porphyry with hornblende. This igneous rock is traversed by irregular reefs or gossan lodes of vesicular ferruginous quartz, containing copper pyrites and galena, which have been more or less extensively prospected and found to contain both gold and silver, but not as yet in payable quantity. The metalliferous rock at the Copper Hill mine consists of a mass of felsite, about 300 feet long and 100 feet wide, with the joint fissures in the rock filled in with earthy carbonate of copper. It is also traversed by veins of quartz, containing sulphide of copper, and by irregular masses of porous quartzite. The rock has been excavated bodily, and the copper ore sorted from it. Some of the numerous gossan veins in this locality have favourable appearances for gold and silver and should be prospected. During the year an interesting discovery has been made at Gumble, in this district, about 12 miles westerly from Molong, of a lode containing copper ores, lode tin, gold, and silver. Samples of the ore have assayed up to 14·85 per cent. copper, 38·9 per cent. tin, and 6 oz. 10½ dwt. silver, with traces of gold, per ton.

In March I proceeded by way of Goulburn to inspect the seams of coal discovered in the Clyde River Valley near its source, and my report thereon is given in Appendix B. From Goulburn the road passes over open undulating plains for 10 miles, with rocks cropping out at the surface, consisting of altered sandstones and shales, diorite, and quartz reefs, then for 2 miles conglomerates; then both altered and unaltered sandstones, some suitable for building-stone, shales and conglomerates with quartz reefs, till we reach Croker's farm, where occurs basalt resting on Tertiary silicious sandstone, which rests on the palæozoic shales and sandstones, dipping about N.W. at 65°, and traversed by quartz reefs. It is probable that the Tertiary drifts under the basalt are auriferous. No fossils were found in the palæozoic rocks by which their age might be determined; but they appear to be Upper Silurian, and where they have been disturbed by intrusions of diorite it is likely that payable metalliferous veins occur in them. They are also traversed by veins of ironstone, and form the bed-rocks of the main valleys of Budjong Creek and Nadgigomar Creek, where they strike about N. 5° W., containing quartz veins, and are overlaid by Tertiary yellow and red clays and ironstone.

From Nadgigomar Creek to Shoalhaven River, a distance of 8 miles, are hills of Silurian sandstone and shale about 300 feet high, with quartz reefs, and in places capped with Tertiary rounded quartz pebble drift and brown iron ore. The bed of the river consists of the same Silurian rocks dipping west 20° south at 70°; and in the crevices between the projecting bars of rock I saw small waterworn specks of gold. The banks of the river to a height of from 60 to 100 feet are covered with pebble drift, which in places is worked for gold when water is available from the tributary gullies. From the river to English's farm we find the same rocks capped with Tertiary; and at portion 4, parish of Corang, on the main Braidwood Road, is a patch of basalt, probably covering a lead or ancient river-bed. Then along the road to Narriga, on the Endrick River, the Silurian formation is covered here and there by Tertiary sand, hard silicious sandstone and basalt. At the river-crossing occurs a volcanic breccia containing angular pieces of basalt, obsidian and zeolites; and on the east bank may be seen interesting sections of Silurian sandstones and shales (strike N. and S.) traversed by quartz veins and intrusive dykes of basalt and porphyry. The gullies crossing these Silurian rocks are being worked for gold, and the occurrence of diamonds in the river-drift has been reported.

From the river the road ascends a steep hill, for the first 300 feet over Silurian sandstones and shales with ferruginous quartz reefs; next Carboniferous conglomerates (containing coarse sandstone boulders and a few quartz pebbles, probably auriferous), shales and compact sandstone beds, for about 200 feet; then a bed of sandstone pebble conglomerate 3 feet thick, overlaid by 325 feet of horizontal and current-bedded Hawkesbury sandstones, with layers of quartz and grit and conglomerates. The following sketch illustrates this section:—



a, volcanic breccia; b, Silurian sandstones and shales, intruded by basaltic dykes c, and traversed by quartz reefs d; e, Carboniferous conglomerates, sandstones, and shales; f, pebble conglomerate; g, Hawkesbury sandstones, grits, and conglomerates. The conglomerates (e) are probably auriferous, and should be prospected.

From

From the top of this hill the Hawkesbury formation forms an undulating table-land for 8 miles, as far as portion 60, where intrusive basalt occurs, and continues with a few small patches of sandstone to Greg's farm, which is on a basalt hill commanding an extensive view to the east, including Jervis Bay, 25 miles distant. This basalt range appears to continue to N.N.E. for 5 or 6 miles. Between here and Nowra and Jervis Bay there is a table-land of Hawkesbury formation at about 500 feet lower level, and furrowed into deep ravines draining northerly to the Yalwal Diggings and the Shoalhaven River. From Greg's farm the road passes south-easterly for half a mile over basalt, then sandstone for a quarter of a mile, then over a high range of basalt for 1 mile, called Sassafras Mountain, from which, at Halley's farm, there is an extensive view overlooking the Shoalhaven country to the north. From here the ground descends for about 150 feet on to the Hawkesbury sandstone which forms the watershed between the Clyde and Shoalhaven Rivers. On this watershed the creeks take their rise in undulating heathy plains, partly timbered, and with boggy peaty flats in the hollows. This character of country continues for about 6 miles to where the seams of coal occur, which have been described in my report dated 30th March, 1885. (Appendix B.)

In April I accompanied the Under Secretary for Mines and the Inspector of Mines, as members of the Prospecting Board, to the Forbes, Parkes and Tomingley Gold-fields, to examine proposed sites for prospecting, and to decide upon the applications for aid from the Parliamentary vote for prospecting for gold. Many sites were fixed in places where the formations consist of rocks, which are usually of a gold-bearing character, such as Silurian sandstones and slates, traversed by quartz reefs, and in some cases in the vicinity of diorite rocks.

The prospectors, however, in no instance succeeded in finding payable gold. Nevertheless good service has been done, for the sites have been well proved, and the results afford a reliable guide for miners in carrying out future operations. The Temora gold-field was also visited by the Board for the same purpose, with similar unsuccessful results. Travelling from Orange to Forbes I noticed that the formations of the country between Orange and Boree station consisted of hills of Devonian shales and sandstones, overlaid in places by Tertiary quartz, pebble drift, and basalt. The basalt has evidently flowed from the old point of eruption on Mount Canoblas. At Boree are thick-bedded Devonian sandstones and shales dipping N.N.W., at about 25°. Thence the hills become gradually lower, with wide flats of red sandy Pleistocene clays and loam, forming good soil for the cultivation of wheat and maize, to within 1 mile from Cudal, where occurs dense basalt containing crystals of oligoclase felspar. At Cudal the Devonian grey shales dip N.E. at 25°, and a well has been sunk in them 43 feet deep, and brackish water obtained. Six miles beyond Cudal occur vertical slaty shales, and half a mile further the hills are capped with basalt, especially on the north side of the road. Two miles east of Merga are Devonian purple shales and quartzites; and for 1 mile to the north and south of Merga the Devonian rocks form high ranges, and continue for 8 miles to the west, when granite appears and extends to Eugowra. The country from Eugowra to Forbes and Parkes I have already described in a former report (*vide* Annual Report).

From Orange, the road to Molong for the first 5 miles passes over altered Devonian sandstones and shales, having an easterly dip at about 80°, and traversed by quartz reefs. Then occur hills of greenstone rocks, with altered slates and sandstones, to within 8 miles of Molong, when the hills are capped with basalt, which 1 mile further appears to have filled in an old valley, and probably covers an auriferous lead. In the road-cutting an interesting section is exposed, showing the decomposed basalt weathered into round masses like cannon-balls. Seven miles from Molong the road crosses a belt of marble limestone extending north and south in a belt 5 chains wide. For the next 6½ miles are seen yellow and purple altered shales; dip, vertical, and sometimes contorted; strike, north and south. In places they are traversed by dyke masses of diorite and diorite-breccia. Molong is situated upon thick beds of grey coralline and shell marble limestone dipping W. 30° S. at 45° to 25°. These limestones extend to about 1¼ mile west of the town, and are upwards of 3,000 feet thick. On the Bocoble Creek, 6 miles from Molong, they appear again at the surface, dipping almost in an opposite direction—E. at 50°; thus forming a large syncline. They are overlaid by Devonian sandstones and shales, pebble conglomerates, chocolate-coloured shales, and thick beds of hard silicious grit, ripple-marked. Bocoble Creek flows through a sandy-soil flat about half a mile wide, and from it to Manildra the road passes over low red-soil hills composed of yellow shales and altered green sandstones, traversed by quartz reefs: these rocks probably belong to the Silurian series, of which the Molong limestones are the uppermost or "passage" beds, the overlying purple shales, conglomerates, &c., being Devonian. At the Manildra Creek crossing is a dyke mass, about 200 yards wide, of granite; and it is about 4 miles N.N.E. from here where the recently-discovered Gumble lode, above mentioned, containing tin, copper, and silver, occurs.

The next 10 miles is over quartzite containing pyrites, altered hard black and brown shales and sandstones to Dulladerry Creek, 2 to 4 mile beyond which occur felspar, porphyry, and altered sandstones. The road then crosses the source of the Billabong Creek, about 18 miles from Parkes, where crop out purple fine-grained micaceous sandstones dipping N.E. at 15°. In the next 2 miles a range is crossed composed of purple and white false-bedded sandstones and soft grey shales, dipping easterly at 10°, and ripple-marked; a thickness of about 400 feet of these rocks is seen in section in the road-cuttings. From their lithological character, they appear to be of Devonian age. At 8½ miles east of Parkes, we leave them and come upon Silurian rocks traversed by quartz reefs; in the former quartz reefs seldom seen. The Silurian formation continues thence to Parkes, where it is intruded by the diorite dyke-mass, which extends northerly from Forbes, and in the vicinity of which the principal gold-workings occur.

Some of the prospecting shafts on Scrubby Plains reached a depth of 161 feet, passing through yellow ferruginous and white sandy clays, pipe-clay, and a little quartz-pebble drift, partly cemented with ironstone and containing colours of gold; the bed-rock is Silurian slates with quartz veins.

Miller's or Wright's reef is situated about 3 miles north-east from Scrubby Plains. It is 2 feet thick to a depth of 70 feet, traversing altered ferruginous sandstones, and dips S. 30° E. at 70°. Between 500 and 600 tons of quartz are said to have been raised, yielding from 10 to 16 dwt. of gold per ton. Near to the reef there is a deposit of Tertiary rounded quartz drift with very hard silicious cement in places. This drift, about 30 chains west of Wright's reef, was prospected, and though the shaft bottomed on diorite only a little gold was obtained.

About 2 miles south-west from Scrubby Plains is Pennington's reef. It has been opened to a depth of 100 feet, and consists of hard compact quartz with galena and pyrites. It is about 12 inches thick, strikes N. 25° E. underlying S.E., and occurs in soft sandstone and slate formation.

The

The Britannia reef, near Forbes, has been traced for about 2 chains in length, and worked to a depth of 150 feet and abandoned. It is said to have yielded 2 oz. of gold per ton. It occurs in diorite dipping N. 30° W. at about 50°, and at the surface is seen to vary in width up to 4 feet as a network of quartz veins, and is stained with carbonate of copper. The strike of the diorite dyke is about N. 10° E.

The Bald Hills lead, near Forbes, trends in a south-easterly direction between hills of Silurian with diorite. The sinking is from 186 feet to 240 feet deep, and the channel varies in width from 30 feet to 200 feet, the wash-dirt, which is said to yield from 3 dwt. to 4 oz. of gold per load, being 2 to 3 feet thick. The sinking is nearly dry, and not much water makes at the bottom. Some of the gold obtained is so extremely fine that it has been called "flour" or "paint" gold. The wash consists of sub-angular drift of quartz, quartzite, and large round boulders of diorite.

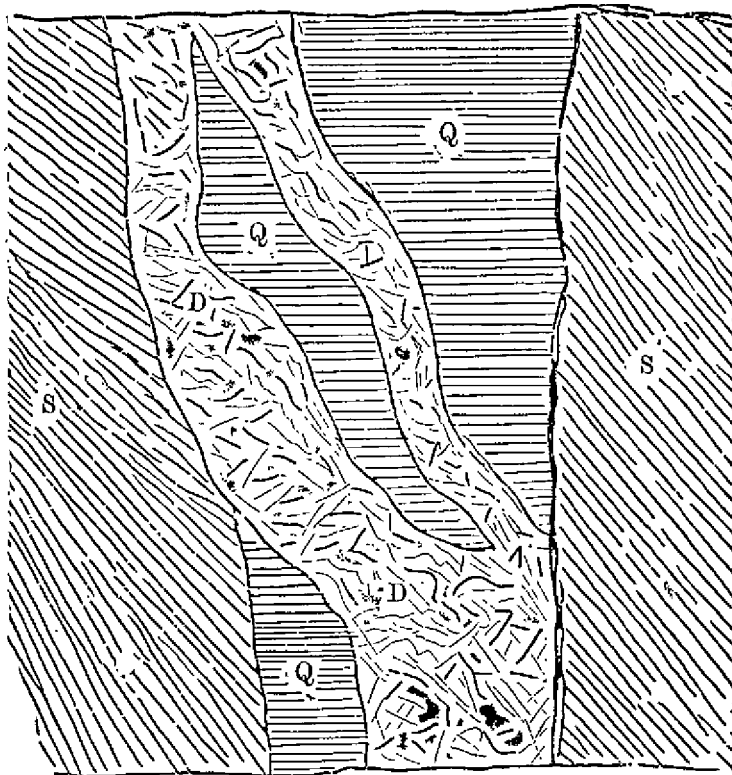
About 3½ miles north from Forbes a quarry has been opened in laminated marble limestone, 10 feet thick, and dipping south-easterly at 45°.

Hazelhurst's reef, on the Buchanan line of reef, in the town of Parkes has during the year given good returns. The shaft was 105 feet deep, and the reef dips N. 15° to 35° E. at 40° to 60°. The crushing stuff up to 3 feet thick is ferruginous with the quartz occurring in shoots, one shoot being 30 feet long and 2 feet thick, thinning to each end, and dipping north-westerly at about 50°. The hanging-wall shows several inches thick of white clay slickenside against felspathic rock, and the foot-wall is the same, with, in one place, coarse pebble conglomerate. The yield of 106 tons crushed in April gave 522 oz. of gold.

From Parkes to Tomingley the country consists of Silurian sandstones, shales, and conglomerates with intrusions of diorite, the latter rock is seen from ½ to 2 miles north of the railway survey mark BM 23, and the country about it has a promising appearance for the occurrence of gold-bearing reefs and alluvia.

At the Ten-mile Ridge Dam occur altered clay shales and sandstones dipping S. 22° E. at 60°, traversed by horizontal narrow veins of gold-bearing quartz, which have, to a small extent, been worked; but they appear to be too narrow to be profitably mined. The conglomerates are similar to those in which the Dayspring reef occurs at Parkes, and contain pebbles of diorite, showing the existence of this rock in Silurian or pre-Silurian times. The intrusions of diorite with which the principal gold-bearing reefs are associated on the Parkes, Forbes, Gulgong, &c., gold-fields are of post-Silurian age.

From the Ten-mile Ridge to the Myall Flat reefs, near Tomingley, the country consists of Silurian slates and sandstones, traversed by quartz reefs: it looks to be a promising auriferous country. The Myall Reef is in a greenish chlorite schist, and dips E. 25° N at 1 in 3. It is up to 14 feet wide, but only for about 3 feet is it payable auriferous. It is being worked in several claims which are from 70 to 180 feet deep. At Tomingley the reefs occur in altered Silurian clay slates, associated with dykes of diorite. Some of the reefs are 16 feet thick, but with only 3 feet of payable quartz, which is very patchy. The quartz reefs appear to have been formed at two periods, the earlier-formed quartz containing little or no gold, while the latter-formed quartz can be profitably worked. The latter probably filled fissures caused by the intrusion of diorite, and these fissures in some cases opened alongside the reefs already formed; hence the occurrence, as at the Myall Reefs and here, of wide reefs with only a certain thickness of the quartz payable gold-bearing, and also the association of gold-bearing reefs with dioritic intrusions. This view was suggested by the following section seen in one of the shafts at Tomingley.



S, altered Silurian clay slates; Q, quartz reef; D, diorite dyke.

In this section the quartz reef appears to have been intruded by the diorite; and I was informed that no gold had been found in this quartz, but that small veins near it contained gold; also that in another shaft near this gold occurred in quartz veins traversing the diorite. The strike of this reef is E. 30° S. The deepest shaft was 140 feet. About 10 chains west of the reef a section, exposed in an excavation for a tank,

tank, shows altered clay slates dipping N. 30° E. at 60°, traversed by a vertical dyke of diorite from 5 to 8 inches thick, and striking E. 25° to 30° S. The Tomingley reefs occur along the crest of a narrow low spur running northerly. This spur is terminated about half a mile north of the town by a wide alluvial flat, through which the Tomingley Creek flows to the west. A prospecting shaft, said to be 225 feet deep, has been sunk upon this flat, about 2 miles N.W. from Tomingley. It passed through strata of red, yellow, and white sandy clays, and a few small pebbles of quartz and slate. It is probable that if the deepest channel of this old valley were to be ascertained by boring or sinking it would be found to contain a payable lead just below, that is on the west side of, where the old watercourse crossed the belt of country in which the Tomingley reefs occur. This old valley received the drainage of two deep valleys, now filled with alluvial deposits, extending northerly on the east and west sides of the Tomingley spur. Several shafts to a depth of 160 feet have been sunk in them, but payable gold has not yet been discovered.

The road from Tomingley to Dubbo, after crossing the Tomingley Creek, passes on to granite formation, which continues to within 7 miles south of Dubbo, where it is overlaid by Tertiary ferruginous-rounded quartz-pebbles, drift, and cement. At $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from Dubbo the road passes on to a basalt plateau, covering the Hawkesbury sandstone formation, and continues so into Dubbo.

I examined the mining reserves at Young, and recommended the permanent reservation of certain lands containing gold-bearing quartz reefs, on Quartz Reef Hill, near the town, and the cancellation of some other portions of the reserves.

I inspected the Hanging Rock and Nundle Gold-field; my report thereon will be found in Appendix C.

Since that report was written, Mr. F. M. Hole, J.P., of Woolloomin, informs me that he and some others took up an abandoned reef, now called the Lord Carrington reef, near the John Bull reef, at Bowling-alley Point, and have succeeded in striking exceedingly rich quartz, of which he has sent a fine specimen to the Mining and Geological Museum; it shows free gold interspersed through pyrites and quartz.

The Chrome iron-ore lodes, near the same locality, have also recently been applied for under lease.

Mr. T. W. E. David, Geological Surveyor, inspected the country between Byrock and Bourke, and his report (Appendix E) points out the extension of the Cretaceous formation for about 27 miles south-easterly from Bourke, and that artesian water is likely to be found in it by boring. Immediately to the south and south-west there is a large area occupied by palæozoic formations, in which gold and other metalliferous deposits may be discovered. Mr. David also reported upon the Wellington and the Wombeyan caves; his description of the latter will be printed and issued as a guide-book. Besides other duties (see Appendix D), Mr. David has been engaged upon the completion of his geological survey map, and sections of his geological survey of the Vegetable Creek Tin-fields. These, with his report thereon, which gives an exhaustive description of the tin-bearing deposits, from a geological and mining point of view, will shortly be published.

Appendix F contains Mr. David's report on the Ashford coal-seams, in the northern portion of the Colony.

From the report of Mr. J. E. Carne, Curator of the Mining and Geological Museum (Appendix G), it will be seen that 2,620 mineral specimens have been added during the year to the Museum collection, which now includes 16,809 registered specimens. For the Library, 169 donations of valuable scientific works and reports have been received. Besides numerous mineral samples submitted for examination, 1,428 assays have been made, being an increase of 764 upon the returns of the previous year. A statement of these, together with lists of donations to the Museum, accompany Mr. Carne's report. It was found impossible to complete the arrangements of the mineralogical and geological collections so that the Museum might be thrown open to the public, owing to the time of the Curator and myself having been so much occupied with the preparation and arrangement of the mineral exhibits, both of the Department and of private exhibitors, for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition—a work that the Department undertook at the request of the New South Wales Commission. The exhibits of minerals, many of which include large bulk samples, well represent the varied mineral resources of the Colony. The exhibits of coal were chiefly obtained through Mr. John Mackenzie, F.G.S., Examiner of Coal-fields; and Mr. Wyman Brown, P.M., Warden at Silvertown, took much interest in securing good samples of silver-ores from the Barrier Ranges field. Mr. A. Molineaux also very kindly procured for the Department exhibits of auriferous quartz from Adelong.

Geological and mineral maps and sections have been specially prepared, including maps of the coal-fields, and natural-size sections of the coal-seams at present worked; also coloured photographs of alluvial gold-mining operations, together with the Annual Reports and publications of the Department.

The keeper of the Jenolan Caves (Mr. Jeremiah Wilson) reports that the number of visitors to the caves during the year was 938, being an increase of 168 over that of the previous year.

Mr. James Sibbald has been appointed keeper of the Wellington Caves. The Wombeyan Caves, under the custody of Mr. Charles Chalker, have had additional improvements made in them for the safety and convenience of visitors.

In January Mr. Carne accompanied Mr. H. T. Wilkinson, J.P., the Special Commissioner, to Norfolk Island, and collected specimens illustrative of the geological formation of the island. Mr. Carne's interesting report is appended. (Appendix H).

When visiting Lord Howe Island, Mr. Carne obtained from the Pleistocene coral-sand rock deposit some bones, including the skull of the extinct gigantic horned lizard *Megalania*, of a different species to the *Megalania prisca*, found in the Pleistocene deposits of Darling Downs, Queensland. This discovery, which was first made known by Mr. R. D. Fitzgerald, Deputy Surveyor-General, of the *Megalania* on Lord Howe Island, is of special interest, as showing the probable former connection of the island with Northern Australia.

In April, Mr. H. C. Russell, Government Astronomer, submitted some fragments of bones which had been found in sinking a well in the Pleistocene deposits in the western interior. I forwarded these fossils, through Mr. Robert Etheridge, junior, F.G.S. to Sir Richard Owen, who writes:—"The fossil fragments which you confided to me for examination are of a mammal, and indicate a new genus. They include three incisors of an upper opposed to one (at least) larger in the lower jaw. Of the bones, besides the bits which have the teeth, there is the proximal portion of a tibia with a part of a fibula attached. The tibial part is in two pieces, and I have marked where they joined. These interesting fossils cannot be referred to any recent or extinct Australian genus known to me. I should like, however, to see more of the skeleton before venturing on a generic name."

In August, Mr. R. D. Oldham, A.R.S.M., Deputy Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, visited New South Wales, for the purpose of ascertaining the relation of the coal-measures to those of India;

and in examining the upper marine conglomerates, near Branxton, he succeeded in discovering some ice-scratched pebbles. This is a discovery of considerable importance, not only as proof of glacial action in connection with the deposition of this portion of our carboniferous series, but also as it affords evidence which will materially guide us in arriving at a correct correlation of the Australian and Indian coal-measures.

The occurrence of glacial deposits in our upper marine series, in the Bacchus Marsh beds of Victoria, and in the Talchir series of India, together with the same plant remains in the two latter, points to the homotaxial relationship of these geographically widely separated formations. This evidence alone would not be conclusive in establishing the identity of the New South Wales glacial beds with the others; for upon similar grounds our Hawkesbury beds might be included in this correlation, seeing that they also reveal evidence of ice-action, though no ice-scratched boulders have yet been found in them; but Mr. Oldham, since his return to India, informs me that marine fossils identical with some of those of our upper marine series have been found in beds connected with the Talchir series. This is therefore a discovery of much significance in reference to the physical geology of the carboniferous period, for it fixes a definite horizon and adds an important link in the chain of geological sequence.

Another important feature in connection with the classification of the New South Wales coal formation is the occurrence of fossil plants—*Teniopteris Daintreei*, *Thinnfeldia*, &c.—in the shale beds immediately underlying the Hawkesbury sandstone on the coast of Narrabeen, 6 miles north of Manly. These fossils were discovered by Mr. David and myself, when examining this locality in December, and as they also occur in the Clarence series it is probable that the stratigraphical position of the latter will now be definitely ascertained.

From a comparison of the fossils of the Hawkesbury beds with those of the Clarence series, the Rev. J. Milne-Curran, of Dubbo, in a paper read before the Linnean Society on 29th April, 1885, stated his conviction that the position of the Clarence series was intermediate between the Upper Coal-Measures and the Hawkesbury formation.

As we have at Narrabeen the outcrop of the lowest beds of the Hawkesbury sandstones, this would be the nearest point to Sydney where the coal-measures are likely to come closest to the surface. (See Appendix I.)

I have, &c.,

C. S. WILKINSON,

Geological Surveyor in Charge.

APPENDIX A.

Report on the Metalliferous Lodes at Copper Hill, near Molong.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 13 April, 1885.

In accordance with your instructions, I have examined the land in the vicinity of Copper Hill, 2 miles north of Molong, where lodes containing copper, gold, silver, and lead have been found.

The formation is felsite, with hornblende porphyry in places, and is traversed by numerous lodes or dykes of porous ferruginous quartz. Copper Hill is a high mass of this formation, and is situated close to and on the east side of the Molong Creek, on the property of Mr. J. E. Kelly, who is prospecting several of the lodes. One of these, called the "Galena lode," is about a mile S.E. from Copper Hill. It strikes N.W., and has been traced for 4 chains, varying in width from 1 foot to 15 feet, with bunchy masses of gossan. A shaft has been sunk on it to a depth of 14 feet. The lode is 3 feet 3 inches at the surface, and increases to about 8 feet thick at the bottom of the shaft; it consists of quartzite with porous iron oxide and galena. An assay of the ore taken from here yielded at the rate of 4 oz. 19½ dwt. of silver and a trace (under 2 dwt.) of gold per ton. The galena does not occur in sufficient quantity to be worked for lead; but I think that the lode should be opened to a greater depth with a view of ascertaining if it contain silver and gold in payable quantity.

About half a mile westerly is the No. 2 lode, which has been opened to a depth of 6 feet. It dips north 20 degrees west, at 80 degrees and is from 6 to 8 inches thick, the lode stuff consisting of ironstone with red oxide, grey sulphide, and carbonates of copper. Mr. Kelly informed me that assays of this ore gave 15 dwt. of gold and 2 oz. of silver per ton, with from 18 to 25 per cent. of copper; the lode is, however, too small to be profitably worked. Within 2 chains from it, on the N.W. side, two lodes of gossan and spongy quartz crop out at the surface, about 1 foot thick; these should be opened out and tested for gold and silver.

No. 3 lode, situated about 30 chains N.N.E. from the "Galena lode," is a lode 2 feet wide, of brown iron ore or gossan and spongy quartz, dipping S. 20 degrees E. at 85 degrees. It has been sunk into for 10 feet, at which depth I took an average sample, which gave on assay, silver 2 oz. 9 dwt. per ton, and gold a trace. Between this and the "Galena lode" six other similar lodes of gossan and porous quartz from 1 foot to 3 feet wide have been prospected. A sample taken from one of the most promising of them gave on assay only 1 oz. 12½ dwt. of silver per ton, with a trace of gold.

About 25 chains N.W. from the "Galena lode" is a quartz reef which has been worked some years ago, apparently for copper. It strikes N. 5 degrees E., and can be traced for over 10 chains. It consists, as far as can be seen near the surface (the old deep shafts have partly fallen in and contain water), of wedge-shaped veins of quartz from 2 to 9 inches thick, with copper pyrites, carbonate of copper, and baryta. This reef would be of no value to work for copper, but it would be desirable to test it in several places for gold and silver.

A quartz leader 6 inches thick, also containing copper ore, joins it on the east side.

Starting from near the south end of this reef, and extending north-westerly for half a mile to Copper Hill, is a large dyke-mass of felspathic quartzite and porous ferruginous quartz from 2 to 5 chains wide. An assay of a sample of it yielded neither gold nor silver.

This broad dyke-mass is cut through by a gully, in the gravel of which a little alluvial gold is said to have been found. Immediately above where the gully crosses the dyke is a mass of quartzite 50 feet wide, with a little sulphide and carbonate of copper in it, two samples of which, taken from different places, yielded on assay no gold or silver. About 15 chains higher up the gully occurs a lode 2 feet thick of porous quartzite, containing iron pyrites and baryta, the assay of which also gave neither gold nor silver.

Between

Between the head of this gully and the top of Copper Hill a cutting 8 feet deep has been made into the felsite rock traversed by numerous thin ferruginous quartz veins, in which I did not see any ore of value. A few chains from this, on the eastern slope of Copper Hill, there is an outcrop of red and pink coloured gossan and spongy quartz varying from 10 to 20 feet wide. An assay of a sample taken from near the surface yielded neither gold nor silver, but this lode should be further sunk into.

About 10 chains north there are several outcrops of small ironstone lodes to which attention should, I think, be given. A sample from one of them, containing carbonates of copper, gave, on assay, silver, 1 oz. 12½ dwt. per ton, and a trace of gold. This sample was only taken from the surface, as none of the lodes have yet been opened.

On the western slope of Copper Hill a considerable amount of mining for copper has been done many years ago (it is said in 1849-51). Here a mass of felsite, for about 30 yards wide and 100 yards long, is impregnated with green carbonates of copper, and the joint fissures in the rock are also filled with the same ore. It has been irregularly excavated here and there, a tunnel driven through it, and several deep shafts sunk. There is no defined copper lode, but the debris from the shafts shows the occurrence of some small veins of quartz containing sulphides of copper. An assay of a sample of this pyritous veinstone gave 1 oz. 18 dwt. of silver and 16 dwt. of gold per ton. The principal source of the copper ore appears to have been the bunches of ore in the joint fissures throughout the rock mass, and as these are so irregular and uncertain in their occurrence it is improbable that they can be profitably worked for copper alone; but I would suggest that samples of the ore be collected from various parts of the deposits and assayed for gold and silver, as it is possible that these metals may exist in sufficient quantities to be profitably worked in conjunction with the copper.

From the foregoing it will be seen that none of the lodes have yet been proved payable, but that the nature of several of them, as indicated above, is such as to warrant their being further prospected.

In one or two places on the hills I observed patches of Tertiary rounded quartz pebble drift, the remains of ancient river deposits. These are sure to be auriferous, but I venture to think were they payable so they would have been worked long ago.

The felsite and porphyry formation containing the above-mentioned metalliferous lodes is an intrusive igneous rock. The Molong rivulet flows almost along the junction of it with the Silurian strata. The latter consists of shales and massive beds of coralline and shell lime-stones, which, near the town of Molong, contain mottled gray marble of good quality.

I have, &c.,

C. S. WILKINSON,

Geological Surveyor in Charge.

APPENDIX B.

Report upon the Coal-seams discovered in the Milton and Ulladulla District, near Jervis Bay.

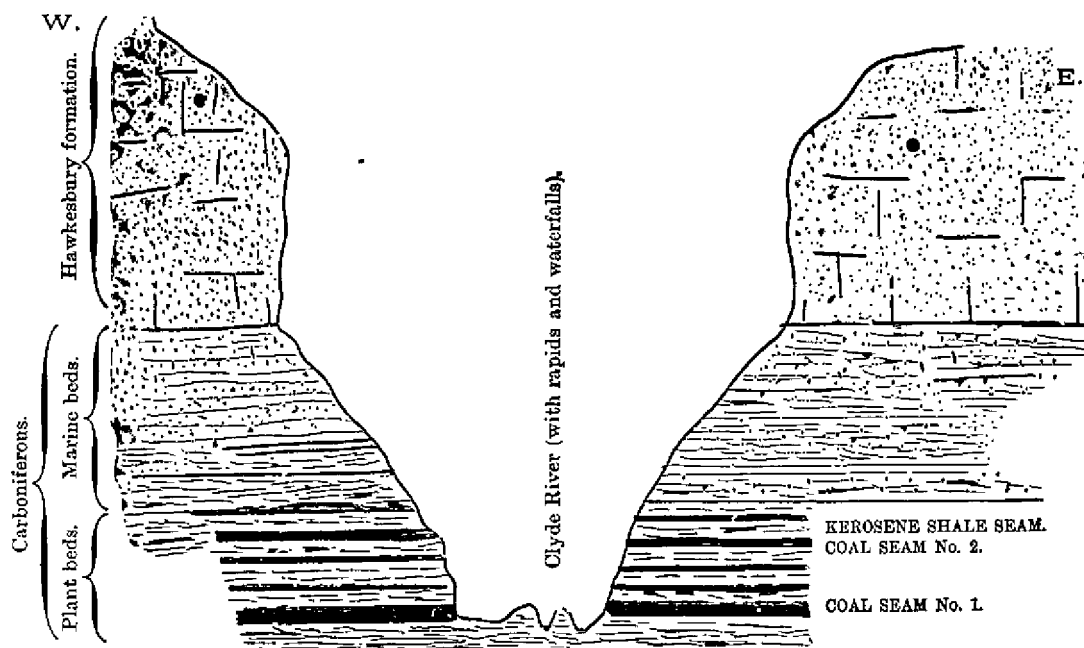
Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 30 March, 1885.

In accordance with your instructions, I have inspected the coal-seams which have been discovered near the head of the Clyde River, in the Milton and Ulladulla District.

The Clyde River takes its rise in some peat-bog swamps, on a high tableland, consisting of the Hawkesbury sandstone formation, near the Sassafras Mountain. The waters draining from several of these swamps unite within 2 or 3 miles from their source, and have eroded a precipitous ravine about 600 feet deep, at the bottom of which the coal-seams crop out.

The section exposed in this ravine shows about 300 feet of Hawkesbury sandstones and conglomerates, resting on about 200 feet of conglomerates, sandstones, and shales, containing marine fossils (*Spirifers*, *Productus*, *Fenestella*, &c.), of carboniferous age; below these are 120 feet of bituminous shales and sandstones, with interstratified seams of coal.



The

The lowest of the coal-seams, No. 1, gives the following section, commencing about 20 feet below the section measured by Mr. Norman Taylor, F.G.S., as quoted in the accompanying extract from the *Milton and Ulladulla Times*, which publishes Mr. Taylor's report, made for a Company in Goulburn who have selected 1,920 acres of the land in this locality :—

Dark gray sandy shales	(Roof)
	ft. in.
Bituminous coal (sample A)	3 3
Black coaly shale	0 8
Splint coal	0 6½
Coaly shale	0 6½
Splint coal (sample B)	1 0
Black coaly shale	0 5
Splint coal (sample C)	0 7½
Coaly sandy shale	4 0
Bituminous coal	1 8
Coaly sandy shale	2 8
Bituminous coal	0 9
Shale and sandstone	30 0
Coarse pebble conglomerate	8 0

About 50 feet above this is the No. 2 seam, from 2 feet 11 inches to 3 feet 2 inches thick, of good bright bituminous coal, suitable for steam, coking, gas, smelting, and household purposes (sample D), and similar in quality to No. 1 seam (sample A).

In addition to these seams there is one 2 feet thick, and several others of less thickness ; but though they contain coal of good quality they occur too far apart from each other to be worked as one seam, and therefore could not be profitably worked. Associated with them are some layers of inferior kerosene shale, the best of which is from 6 inches to 12 inches thick. (See analysis of sample E.)

The upper portion of No. 1 seam, which contains 4 feet 9 inches of workable coal, will yield after due allowance for loss and waste in getting, at the rate of 3,778 tons of large coal and 1,259 tons of small coal per acre.

Taking the No. 2 seam as 3 feet thick, it will yield after due allowance for loss, &c., at the rate of 2,352 tons of large coal, and 783 tons of small coal per acre.

The following analyses are of samples taken from the whole thickness of each of the above-mentioned seams ; the samples were taken from near the outcrop of the seams :—

Sample.	Moisture.	Volatile hydrocarbons, &c.	Fixed carbon.	Ash.	Sulphur in coal.	Sp. gravity.	Coke.
A.	3.20	28.98	59.88	7.94	1.43	1.313	67.82
B.	0.85	32.15	56.18	10.82	1.63	1.302	67.00
C.	0.75	38.37	45.64	23.24	1.28	1.359	68.88
D.	1.60	32.30	59.22	6.88	1.21	1.291	66.10
E.	0.02	44.98	13.20	41.80	not detd.	1.412	

The strata undulate slightly ; where No. 1 seam crops out the dip is E 35° S at 3°, and at the outcrop of No. 2, about 10 chains higher up the river, it is W 15° S at 3° ; in some other places the strata are nearly horizontal.

From here the coal could be conveyed by a line of railway about 26 miles long to the large shipping port of Jervis Bay, or else by a shorter route to the harbour of Ulladulla. I have not personally examined these routes, but I am informed that they present no engineering difficulties for the construction of lines of railway.

The Coal Measures overlaid by the Hawkesbury sandstone formation extend much nearer to the coast in the direction of Jervis Bay and Ulladulla, but whether the seams of coal are continuous also, as they probably are, can only be proved by boring or sinking. To the westward the Coal Measures do not extend beyond Narriga, where the Siluro-Devonian gold-bearing formation rises to the surface.

However, the occurrence now ascertained of workable coal-seams in this district almost upon the southern margin of our great coal formation, and accessible to one of the finest harbours upon the coast of New South Wales, is one of considerable importance, though the seams are not so thick as those of the more northerly coal-fields of Illawarra and Newcastle.

They were discovered about sixteen months ago by Messrs. George and E. Webb and W. Rixon, who, having previously found rolled fragments of coal in the bed of the Clyde River, at last succeeded in tracing them to their source.

Mount Sassafras is the highest point on the watershed between the Clyde River and Yalwal Creek, which is a tributary of the Shoalhaven River. It is of volcanic origin, and consists of a mass of intrusive basalt, rising several hundred feet higher than the tableland of Hawkesbury sandstone which surrounds it. The decomposing basalt produces rich chocolate soil, as may be seen on the farms belonging to Mr. Gregg and Mr. Halley, and where the ground has not been cleared there is a forest of fine timber.

The Hawkesbury sandstone formation has in places been eroded into deep gorges resembling those in the Blue Mountains.

I have, &c.,
C. S. WILKINSON,
Geological Surveyor in Charge.

APPENDIX C.

Report on the Hanging Rock and Nundle Gold-field.

The Under Secretary for Mines,—

Sir,

Department of Mines, 28 October, 1885.

In accordance with your instructions, I have examined the Nundle and Hanging Rock Gold-field, which is situated from about 25 to 40 miles in a southerly direction from Tamworth.

The "cement deposits" from which much gold has been obtained are the remains of ancient river beds covered by basaltic flows, and are similar in geological age to the Tertiary deep leads of Gulgong and Forest

Forest Reefs; they occur amongst ranges of altered Devonian rocks, diorite, and serpentine, which are traversed by gold-bearing quartz veins. From the summits of some of the high mountain peaks, such as Hanging Rock, which is of diorite formation, or Mount Misery, which is capped with basalt, the view of the surrounding country affords a very grand illustration of the enormous denudation that the country has suffered since the flows of basalt overwhelmed the old Tertiary river channels. Valleys have been scored out to a depth of 2,000 feet; and as millions of tons of the older bed-rock formations, with their contained gold-bearing quartz reefs, have been ground down, and the lighter material swept far away to form the agricultural flats about Tamworth and the wider pastoral plains beyond, some idea may be formed of the rich deposits of the heavier gold which remained behind and became concentrated in the narrow and deep gullies and valleys. Large portions also of the ancient river-beds, which, of course, contained the accumulations of the denudation during previous ages, have likewise been swept away, and their rich contents naturally ground-sluiced, as it were, into the present valleys.

The beds of nearly all the streams (especially those of the Happy Valley Creek, Oakenville Creek, and Butcher's Creek) draining from the Hanging Rock Ranges and past the town of Nundle into the Peel River, and the bed of this river itself as far down as Bowling Alley Point, have been more or less worked for gold, of which large yields have been obtained.

I am informed that gold was first discovered on this field near Bowling Alley Point, by Mr. Thomas Laurie, J.P. (now of Nowendoc), in 1852. Since then the value of the production of gold to the end of 1884 has amounted to £647,040, according to the published records. These records, however, do not include the returns for the first five years, which probably exceed £188,000. During the last ten years the production has been 16,596 oz. from alluvial deposits, and 15,677 oz. from quartz reefs.

Below Bowling Alley Point the valley widens, and the river winds through alluvial flats, which have not yet been worked on account of the large amount of water in the underlying gravels. These flats, no doubt, contain rich deposits of gold; and I see no reason why they might not be as readily worked as similar alluvial flats have been at Shepardon, near Adelong, and at Araluen, if proper mining enterprise were devoted to them. They are, however, chiefly on private property. The fall of the flats is at the rate of about 25 feet per mile.

With the exception of these deposits, the recent drifts have been almost worked out, and there are now only a few parties of miners digging amongst the old workings. But the old Tertiary leads in the ranges between Hanging Rock and the head of the Peel River will, I am of opinion, afford profitable employment for a large number of miners for many years to come, if a constant supply of water be provided. These deposits have already been extensively worked at or near their outcrops on the sides of the ranges; but, with the exception of the Messrs. Henderson and party's claim at Mount Misery, very little work is now done owing to the scanty and intermittent water supply. The gold-bearing drift is, in places, as at Mount Ephraim, of great thickness, as much as 25 feet; and if it were worked by hydraulic sluicing appliances, for which the ground offers facilities, I believe that the results would be very profitable. At present water is brought to the Mount Misery mine by a small race, 3 miles in length, from the head of Swamp Creek; and some years ago Messrs. Schofield and party supplied their claim at the head of Sawpit Gully from a small race, 15 miles long, brought across a gap in the Dividing Range from the head of one of the tributaries to the Manning River on the eastern watershed; but the intermittent supply is said to have prevented regular work. Mr. Henderson and others have informed me that an ample supply could be obtained by cutting a large race about 30 miles in length from the head of the Macdonald River. If this race were constructed the water could be stored in reservoirs, where the ground is favourable, at sufficient elevation above the claim to command the required head for hydraulic sluicing. There are considerable deposits which could be operated upon in this manner until the drift shall have been followed under its covering of basalt, when the system of tunnelling now so energetically carried out in the Messrs. Henderson and party's claim would have to be adopted, and it could be done on a larger scale if a good water supply were available.

In this claim the drift is mined from a tunnel 1,700 feet in length, and the work is of no ordinary kind, in consequence of the large boulders to be removed. The drift consists of boulders and pebbles of diorite, serpentine, altered slates, sandstones, and quartz, of all sizes up to 15 feet and more in diameter, and irregularly mingled together, and cemented with ferruginous clay. The difficulty of working is further increased by the uncertain distribution of the gold, which does not always occur in the deepest ground; and, though the coarse boulder drift extends right across the channel, the payable portion of it is seldom more than 40 feet wide and 8 feet thick, and its position has to be ascertained by actual testing, and not always by the rise of the bed-rock. The gold is mostly of a fine scaly character, and it seems to have accumulated in places along lines where the strong currents of water which brought down the drift did not flow with such force as in other parts of the channel. Before the basalt flowed into it the valley had been filled to a depth of 235 feet, with about 40 feet thickness of boulder drift, then with sand clays and lignite, containing fossil leaves, nuts, and trunks of trees, similar to those found in the deep leads at Gulgong, Lucknow, and Kiandra. Owing to the cemented nature of the wash it has to be crushed; and this is done on the Mount Misery claim by a battery of stampers driven by an overshot water-wheel 40 feet in diameter. Then the tailings flow through sluice-boxes between 300 and 400 yards long, and into a deep gully.

At Dangar's Gully Basin a considerable amount of prospecting has been carried out by Mr. Thompson, Mr. Walker, and others, both by shafts and long tunnels under the basalt, but, with the exception of Watt's party, no work is at present carried on here. In this locality there is an extensive area of serpentine formation, and it is probable that the lead will be found payable. At the junction of the serpentine and the drift occurs a remarkable deposit of ferruginous silicious scinter, evidently derived from thermal springs. It somewhat resembles the silicious cement rock that is crushed for gold at Brown's Creek, near Blayney, and should be prospected for gold. These old leads were once connected with the drift which has been worked on the hill at Hanging Rock. Rounded quartz drift and cement also crops out under the high basalt hills, near the Quackanacka and Nuggety Creeks.

The cement deposits at Mount Ephraim, which are exposed to a thickness of 150 feet, form a lead distinct from that of Mount Misery. But the two leads must have once united with other tributaries joining them within 2 or 3 miles to the S.W., towards the Yellow Rock, as there are outliers of coarse boulder cement in that locality, such as those near Emblen's farm and at Hewitt's claim. From here the lead

lead appears to have continued in a westerly direction towards Quirindi; for the old Tertiary valley having been suddenly filled with flows of basalt, the drainage water from the mountains was diverted towards the north, and caused the erosion of the present valley of the Peel River.

In regard to quartz-mining in the district, a considerable amount of work has been done, and some very rich finds have been made. Some of the reefs occur in the diorite formation, others in altered slates and sandstones.

The Brown Snake reef, near Hanging Rock, traverses altered slates, sandstones, limestones, and dykes of diorite. It underlays generally to the N.E. at an angle of 30° , and varies in width from 1 to 8 inches. Mr. Thomas Bakewell, one of the enterprising miners upon this field, informed me that about 250 tons, crushed from the upper part of the reef, yielded on an average 2 oz. of gold per ton. The gold occurs in shoots, dipping N.N.W., and it appears that the quartz is payable where the reef intersects beds of altered slate, but it is not so where it crosses beds of sandstone. This would seem to indicate that during the gradual filling of the reef-fissure the quartz and other mineral matter in solution issuing from the slates contained a greater quantity of gold than that coming out of the sandstone; or that if the mineral solution did not come from the bounding rocks, but from great depths, that the slate walls of the fissure presented chemical and perhaps electric conditions favourable for the deposition of the gold from solution which the surfaces of the sandstone strata did not. In either case the angle of dip formed by the line of intersection of the angles of dip of the reef and of the strata will be that of the shoots of gold in the reef. In other words, the reef should be followed where it intersects or is walled-in by the beds of slate rock. Mr. Bakewell showed me through the old workings where three shoots of gold have been found in this reef, and he well described them as descending through the reef like "gullies" towards the N.N.W. According to my observations of the average dip of the strata (E. 25° N. at 80°) and of the reef (N. 38° E. at 33°) the dip of the shoots of gold would be N. 21° W. at an angle of 19° ; therefore the reef should be followed where it intersects or is walled-in by the beds of slate rock. But as it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the altered slate rock and the altered fine-grained silicious sandstone, the miner, when he has met with gold in the reef, may perhaps adopt the more general guide to open out the reef at an angle dipping about 1 in 3 to the N.N.W., or rising at the same angle to the S.S.E. As the reef and the strata vary in their dip in places, the dip of the shoots will be found to vary accordingly.

On the Oakenville Creek, just under the precipitous side of the Hanging Rock, another reef "The Christmas Reef" has been worked by tunnel for 300 feet by Bakewell and party, who informed me that 700 tons of quartz from it, crushed at various times, yielded at the rate of from 7 dwt. to 3 oz. of gold per ton, the gold being patchy, 63 oz. having been found in one bucketful of quartz. The claim is not now worked, being wet with soakage from the creek. The reef traverses both altered slates and diorite, and the gold is said to occur mostly in the black slaty quartz on the hanging-wall side. It dips north-easterly at about 60° , and will probably be found to continue on its north-westerly strike to Spier's reef, about 20 chains distant, crossing a creek which has been eroded to a depth of 300 feet below the Christmas mine; it should therefore be prospected for at this low level. Several other reefs, the Black Snake, Golden Streak, and Lady Emma, have been opened on the falls of the Oakenville Creek. Between Swamp Creek and Nuggetty Creek, near Hanging Rock, are Brayshaw and Watts reefs, from which 4 dwt. to 1 oz. to the ton are said to have been obtained. And at Hanging Rock, Mr. Kermode and Mr. Bond showed me a promising-looking dyke of diorite, about 50 feet wide, traversed by veins of ferruginous crystalline quartz which should be prospected. I am of opinion that much of the gold found in the alluvial deposits in this gold-field has been derived from the diorite rock, as well as from quartz reefs.

Ruzicka's reef, which occurs on the summit of a range about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile N.E. from the Brown Snake reef, dips W.N.W. at 40° , the strata, altered silicious shales and conglomerates, dipping N. 15° E. at 80° . The reef is only $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches in thickness, but it has been found very rich in three small shoots. A considerable amount of prospecting has been done here to trace the gold, but without success, and the ground is now abandoned. At the spot where the gold is said to have been found the reef intersects patches of hard flinty silicious shales. If we apply the above-mentioned rule to this reef the dip of the shoots would be almost coincident with that of the reef, and therefore the continuation of the shoots should be sought for by following down the reef in the direction of its dip, viz. W.N.W.

Near the Quackanacka Creek is the Buckley's reef, which is now being worked in the Gladstone claim from a tunnel 150 feet long. The reef traverses altered sandstones and conglomerates, dipping with the strata at about W. 5° S. at 50° , and varies from 2 inches to 2 feet thick. The quartz is pyritous and crystalline. 100 tons crushed are said to have yielded at the rate of from 1 to 10 oz. of gold per ton, one parcel of 11 tons yielding 107 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

About half a mile to the north-west is the Foley's Folly reef, which appears to be a continuation of the Buckley's reef. It has been opened in several places along its course both by tunnel and shaft, and a large amount of capital and labour has been expended upon it, the deepest shaft being 530 feet. The reef is now idle. Probably, when the mode of occurrence of the shoots of gold is better understood, this reef will be taken up again and profitably worked.

A large amount of prospecting on a reef has been done by Mr. A. C. Thompson, on the south side of Swamp Creek, about three-quarters of a mile above its junction with the Peel River. The reef consists of quartz with ironstone, varying in thickness up to 15 inches, and dipping easterly at from 5 to 15 degrees, traversing altered clay slates and sandstones, which dip south-west at 65 degrees. The gold is somewhat irregular in distribution, but it has been thought to run in shoots towards the north-east. If, however, the intersection of the strata with the reef be taken as a guide, the shoots of gold should be found to dip south 41° east, at the low angles of from 4 to 9 degrees, averaging about 1 in 11.

About $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Nundle is the Moonlight reef, along which, from its out-crop on the west side of the range, a drive has been put in 204 feet. The quartz reef, from 1 to 12 inches thick, occurs in a channel of ferruginous shaly fluccan from 2 to 30 inches wide, dipping north 15° east at about 45 degrees. The reef channel is well defined, and has a permanent aspect. The country rock is diorite. The reef is said not to be payable as far as it has been opened in the tunnel; but Mr. Fuller expects shortly to meet a rich shoot of gold dipping easterly in the reef, which was worked some years ago to a depth of 100 feet from the surface higher up the range. A crushing battery of five stampers has been erected near the mouth of the tunnel, and is driven by a water-wheel, the water being brought from the head of Duncan's Creek in a race 9 miles long.

Several

Several reefs have been worked at Bowling Alley Point—The Marquis of Lorne, John Bull, Kanaka, Maitland, Opossum, Golden Hole, and Blackfellows' Nob reefs. In the Marquis of Lorne claim, under the management of Mr. J. Stanning, J.P., a large amount of work has been done, and the quartz raised is said to have yielded up to 22 oz. of gold per ton, with an average of 5 oz. per ton. There is an east-and-west reef, averaging about 12 inches thick, and dipping south at 45 degrees, in which runs a shoot of gold bearing quartz 100 feet long, and dipping east at 45 degrees. This reef is crossed at right angles by another about the same thickness, and dipping west at 30 degrees, from which also a large quantity of quartz has been raised, yielding from 2 to 5 oz. per ton; and the quartz is said to have been rich along the line of junction. At the south end one or two joint-breaks come in and cut off the reef.

These reefs traverse diorite, which varies in crystalline texture; and Mr. Stanning informs me that the quartz was richer where the diorite was the more coarsely crystalline. A tunnel 500 feet long is now being put into the hill to strike the east-and-west reef below the level to which it has been worked from the upper tunnel, so that the quartz can be more readily raised. The tunnel is nearly completed, and has, so far, passed through altered slate and sandstones dipping east 20 degrees south at 80 degrees. It should therefore meet the reef near the line of junction of the sedimentary rocks and the intrusive diorite.

The John Bull reef is also in diorite, and dips south south-west at 45 degrees. It is from 4 to 12 inches thick, and has been followed down for 80 feet on the underlay. King and party, the owners of the claim, informed me that 78 tons of the quartz yielded 328 oz. of gold; and I saw about 30 tons at grass, which, it is estimated, will yield from 3 to 4 oz. per ton. The quartz is more or less pyritous, and contains cavities in which occur quartz crystals and sometimes beautiful octahedral crystals of gold grouped in dendritic forms. Mr. M. Isaacsohn, of Nundle, is forwarding a good collection of crystallised gold and other specimens from the reefs of this gold field to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

None of the other reefs here are being worked, but in some of them, very rich patches have been found.

Near the surface in the old workings, the Kanaka reef, which passes within 5 chains S.S.W. from the John Bull reef, dips E.N.E. at 50°, and is 8 inches thick. Near it is the Maitland reef dipping S.S.W., and 2 feet thick. These reefs probably junction, and appear to be well worth further prospecting.

On a high range about 1 mile N.E. from Bowling Alley Point occurs a lode of almost pure chromite of variable thickness; in one place, at the junction of the diorite and serpentine, it crops out on the surface 12 feet wide. Mr. T. Hole, J.P., of Woolloomin, who has taken an active part in developing the resources of this district, sent last year 30 tons of this ore to Newcastle. The serpentine formation contains small veins of asbestos of no value, and is in places stained with green carbonates of copper; it is probably a continuation of the serpentine at Hanging Rock. Nickel was found by the late Rev. W. B. Clarke on Wear's Creek, about 1 mile south from here.

At Mount Pleasant, on Dungowan Creek, Mr. T. Hole has had a shaft 50 feet deep sunk in prospecting for a copper lode, where the altered red jasperoid slates are traversed by a small irregular vein, a few inches thick, of gossan quartz and serpentinous clay, containing carbonates of copper; it is evidently a decomposed vein of copper and iron pyrites, and of no value as a copper lode. But in one specimen I detected free gold, and I would advise further prospecting to ascertain if gold does not exist in payable quantity. Jasperoid rocks appear at the surface for about 10 chains in a N.W. and S.E. direction, and in places are stained with carbonates of copper.

Lower down the Dungowan Creek, on Mr. Fisher's land, some copper-bearing lodes have been opened in places for a length of about 8 chains, striking N. 10° W. and dipping westerly at 70°.

These consist of several masses of irregular size, up to 10 feet long and 4 feet wide, and then thinning out, of gossan and quartz, containing pyrites, native copper, red oxide, and carbonates of copper. They occur in greenish schists and jasperoid rocks. At the present low price of copper these small bunchy lodes could not be profitably worked. Within 10 chains on the west side occur similar bunchy lodes of black oxide and pink silicate of manganese, too limited in quantity to be of value; but I am informed that large lodes occur in the ranges to the east, and also near the Woolloomin Station.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the geological formation of the district consists of altered Devonian slates, sandstones, and limestones, in which, from Bowling Alley Point to Hanging Rock occur beds of serpentine and intrusive dyke-masses of diorite; that the igneous rocks and the Devonian rocks in the vicinity of these are traversed by gold-bearing quartz veins; that in Tertiary times the country was drained by rivers in the channels of which rich gold drifts accumulated and were covered by flows of basalt; that in more recent times the formations were extensively denuded, deep valleys being eroded in them; that since the year 1852 the alluvial deposits in the valleys and in the ancient river channels, as well as the reefs, have yielded gold to the value of about £835,000; and that the resources of this gold-field are far from being exhausted. The quartz-mining will be permanent.

The chief points of practical importance to be noted are:—(1.) That reef-mining is likely to be carried on more profitably than hitherto, when the mode of occurrence of gold is better understood; and it is to be hoped that mining managers will record their observations of the different circumstances under which gold occurs, especially in patches and shoots; for not until numerous observations in this direction have been made and compared can general rules for guidance be stated.

(2.) That the wet alluvial flats along the Peel River immediately below Bowling Alley Point, containing, as they must do, much of the gold that was originally enclosed in the diorite formation which has been so extensively broken up and removed during the erosion of the deep valleys, should be tested with proper mining appliances for working wet drifts.

(3.) That large portions of the old "cement" leads on their outcrop from under the basalt could be profitably worked if an abundant supply of water were available. The high ground above the deposits and the deep valleys below them afford facilities for conducting hydraulic operations on a large scale, though some of the cement would need to be crushed; the great desideratum therefore is water for sluicing purposes, as the Inspector of Mines, Mr. Slee, pointed out in the Annual Report of the Department for 1882. I was informed by Mr. Henderson and others who have examined the country that a large and constant supply of water could be brought by an open race, about 30 miles in length, from the Macdonald River, supplemented by races from creeks on the eastern falls of the Main Dividing Range. Miners would readily pay good rates for a constant supply.

I obtained some characteristic specimens of rocks, minerals, and fossils illustrating the reefs and formations of the district for the Mining and Geological Museum, and for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

I have to express my obligations to Mr. E. Jones, Warden, Mr. Sergeant Langworthy, Mr. Kermode, late Mining Registrar, Mr. T. Hole, and others for their kind assistance.

I have, &c.,

C. S. WILKINSON,

Geological Surveyor in Charge.

APPENDIX D.

Progress Report by T. W. E. David, B.A., F.G.S., Geological Surveyor.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the following Progress Report of work done by me during the year 1885.

Field Work.—On January 12th I proceeded to Byrock, and made a cursory examination of the country between that town and Bourke, with reference to recommending sites for boring for water, for the railway and for the travelling-stock route, between Byrock and Bourke. I returned to Sydney on January 20th.

On March 2nd I visited Wellington, and examined the newly-discovered chamber in No. 3 Cave, returning to Sydney on March 4th.

My report thereon was furnished you on March 16th.

On June 10th I went to Goulburn, *en route* for the Wombeyan Caves, examined the caves, and returned to Sydney on June 16th. A detailed report on these caves was furnished by me to you on June 22nd.

On November 30th I left for Coolac, and examined a water reserve there, as instructed, returning to Sydney on December 1st.

Office Work.—The remainder of my time has been spent at the offices of the Geological Survey completing a Geological Map and Sections of the Vegetable Creek Tin-fields, besides diagrams illustrative of the occurrence of the deep leads and tin veins, to accompany my report on that district.

The report is now in course of publication by the Government Printer. A considerable part of my time at the office has been employed in the determination of mineral samples submitted for examination, and in answering various inquiries. Appended are my reports on the water-bearing strata near Byrock and Bourke.

I have, &c.,

T. W. EDGEWORTH DAVID, B.A., F.G.S.

The Geological Surveyor in Charge.

Geological Surveyor.

APPENDIX E.

Notes on the prospect of obtaining Underground Water between Byrock and Bourke.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 30 January, 1885.

In accordance with your instructions, I have the honor to furnish you with a general report on the prospect of obtaining underground water between Byrock and Bourke.

This general report is based on the special reports already made by me with reference to the letters addressed to this department by the Commissioner for Railways and Mr. Barton, M.L.A., asking for an opinion as to the probability of obtaining water by boring in the above-mentioned district.

Going from Sydney towards Bourke the Western Railway line, after attaining a height of 3,658 feet above the sea, at Mount Clarence, on the main coast range, has a general fall in a westerly direction, following the general slope of the country. Hard rocks of slate, sandstone, granite, and stony lava are to be seen in the cuttings as far as Wellington. At Wellington the valleys begin to open out into alluvial flats, and from here towards Dubbo the country becomes more and more level. At Dubbo the alluvial flats have widened, but are still hemmed in by low hills of slate and granite.

Between Dubbo and Narromine the railway, after passing through a few shallow cuttings in the slate and volcanic rocks, emerges on to the vast western plains. The hard rocks of the last spurs of the Great Dividing Range disappear under what seems to the unaided eye to be a perfectly level alluvial plain of gray and red sandy clay.

This plain has in reality an average fall of from 2 to 3 feet per mile to the north-west, as shown by the railway levels; but this line may not be in the exact direction of the main slope of the plain. At Nyngan, the Bogan, at the time of my visit, had more the appearance of a mud canal than a river, as observed by Mr. W. E. Abbott with regard to several of these tributaries of the Darling on the western plains.

Water had been conserved in dams at intervals down its bed, but there were no signs of a running stream.

Throughout the whole distance from Narromine to within 9 miles of Giralambone the flat red and gray sandy clays appear to entirely conceal the underlying palæozoic rocks; but at this point the ground gradually rises, and the old rocks re-appear at the surface, as low undulating masses of grey clay-stone and pink mottled clay-slate, with one bold hill of granite rising to the south-west. This alteration of low rocky rises and red sandy clay flats continues for about 70 miles to about 12 miles beyond Byrock, where the palæozoic rocks dip under the red alluvial flats, and are no more seen along the rest of the line to Bourke.

At Byrock want of water has been much felt. There are no springs in this district, nor creeks, with the exception of the Mulga Creek, which may be compared to a shallow drain, 100 yards across by from 3 to 8 feet deep in the centre. It is generally dry, and runs for a few days only at a time after heavy rain.

The only natural permanent water is to be found in the gilgies, which sometimes lie in saucer-shaped depressions. These gilgies form small waterholes, limited in extent and number.

The

The greater part of the surface of this area may therefore be considered as practically waterless, and in a dry season might be compared to a desert but for the scanty clothing of stunted timber and undergrowth of saline shrubs. The soil between the bushes was either quite bare or covered with tussocks of brown wiry grass grazed close to the roots. In some places there were intervals of 2 or 3 feet between the tussocks, and the intervening soil having been blown away by the wind they were often to be seen standing out 2 or 3 inches above the original level of the surface.

Until the railway was opened to Byrock, the district derived its water supply chiefly from artificial tanks and dams, from a few wells and bores, and to a very limited extent from the gilgies. As this water proved insufficient for the railway works when in progress near Byrock, Mann, Cary, & Co., who have the railway contract to Bourke, have been bringing water by train from Narromine to Byrock, a distance of 155 miles. The water carried in this way is pumped out of the Macquarie River, near Narromine, and brought down to Byrock in 400-gallon iron tanks.

At about 21 miles north-west of Byrock, wherever the red sandy clay has been cut through in the railway ditches, a pale greenish grey marly clay is exposed to view at a depth of about 1 foot. This forms a hard marly level floor, covered in places by a thin crust of lime, and can be traced in the railway ditches for a distance of 12 miles to within 13 miles of Bourke.

Just beyond the 490-mile-peg the marly clay is overlapped by the dark grey flood loam of the Darling River, locally known as the "Black Soil Country," which completely hides the underlying marly clay until Bourke is reached.

Here the marl can be seen again in the banks of the Darling, showing the following vertical section at Fort Bourke, commencing at the surface:—

1 foot—Sandstone, with impressions of fossil plants. This sandstone is capped in places by grey marl clay at least 10 ft. thick at West Bourke.

5 feet—Minutely bedded, nearly horizontal, lime clays and sandstones.

11 feet—Bluish black and purple stiff clay.

The general surface of these beds, though level, is very uneven, resembling that of the ground over a "deep lead" which has caved after the removal of the underlying gold or tin gravels. In places the strata are much disturbed, as at $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile below the bridge at West Bourke, where the fossiliferous sandstones dip at from 18° to 30° north-west.

The minor irregularities in the surface are due, I think, to soluble materials in the leads having been dissolved out and carried away by water percolating through them; and so the upper strata, having their foundations undermined as it were, sink in, or "creep" in places; and it is action of this kind which has, I believe, produced some of the hollows in which the gilgies are formed.

The more extensive disturbances, as referred to with respect to the tilting of the rocks below the bridge at West Bourke, may be due to a faulting of the strata.

From these observations at the surface, and from sections obtained from local bores and wells, the rocks of this district may be provisionally divided into four groups, according to their water-bearing qualities—

1. The flood loam, or "black soil" country, liable to be inundated by the flood-water of the Darling.
2. The red sandy clays, or "red soil" country.
3. The greenish-grey marly clays and sandstones.
4. The slates and granite.

Omitting No. 1 group, which from its thinness and limited extent, has little water value, the observer passes on to examine the character of the rocks composing the other three groups.

The strata of 2 and 3 closely resemble one another; but there is a very marked difference between them, and those of group 4. No 2 group consists of soft beds of clay and sand resting in nearly horizontal layers on the somewhat harder but no less level strata of the grey marls and sandstones of No. 3. The rocks, however, constituting group 4 are far harder and older than either of the preceding, being composed of slate and granite, and their underground surface being irregular they form a very uneven bed for the overlying strata of 2 and 3.

The rocks of No. 4 stand up through the great silt beds of 2 and 3 like islands in the sea, and suggest the idea of their being mountain tops struggling to the surface through this thick mantle of clay and sand, and telling of a deeply buried old land surface, or undulating ocean floor.

The phenomena of valleys buried under lava streams, or extensive silt beds, is well known along the slopes of the Great Dividing Range of this Colony and Victoria; but on this lower-lying plain country the silting up process having been far more extensive, not the valleys only, but even the tops of the ranges have been overwhelmed, so that the old surface of this part of the country has been reduced to a nearly uniform level.

As they creep over these wide alluvial plains, the rivers having their gathering grounds in the Cordillera, as the Bogan and others, from having been running streams when they entered the plains, often run dry before they reach the Darling. This Messrs. H. C. Russell, W. E. Abbott, and yourself have shown to be due principally to the water sinking through the comparatively porous beds of their channels into the water-bearing strata beneath. Here, then, is one source of water supply to the underground reservoirs of the western plains. Another source is to be found in the rainfall over the plains themselves, but it is very doubtful as yet whether any large proportion of this ever finds its way into the deep-seated water-bearing beds. Certainly some must find entrance to them near the flanks of the Dividing Range and around the lines of outcrop of the inliers of palaeozoic rock on the plains; but it is probable that a great deal of the rain falling on this area, after percolating through the surface soil, does not sink down to the true bed-rock, but is held in suspense in the patchy sand-beds so commonly occurring in group 2, and is thence slowly returned to the atmosphere by evaporation.

The rainfall of this district may be taken as averaging about 15 inches, though in 1883 the rainfall at Glenariff Home-station, near Byrock, as registered by the manager, Mr. J. O. Dwyer, was only 5.78 inches. These arguments show that a large quantity of fresh water must find its way into the deep-seated underground sand-beds, whether derived from the drainage of the Darling Range, or from the percolation of rain falling over the area of these plains.

That such underground reservoirs of fresh water do exist to the west of the Darling has been already proved by the water obtained there in wells and bores.

It remains to be seen how far similar results may be expected to be realized east of that river.

This necessitates a closer examination of the rocks in which water may be found.

In group 4, which embraces the slates, granites, and other palæozoic rocks, the chances of striking water are too uncertain to make them of much water value. A remarkable instance, however, of a copious supply of fresh water being obtained from these rocks is furnished by the Medway Well, 5 miles south-west of Byrock. This well was sunk 109 feet in granite so soft that it could be dug out with a spade, even near the bottom of the shaft. The water in the well now stands at about 40 feet below the surface of the ground. This gives the water in the well a depth of 69 feet. The yield of fresh water per day from this well has never been fairly tested, but has been proved to be, as I am informed, equal to at least 5,000 gallons a day, and it has shown no signs of failing in the driest seasons.

The strong supply of water here is probably owing, partly to the very rotten nature of the granite, allowing water to permeate its mass, and partly to the occurrence of a flat-topped volcanic hill, called the Bye Mountain, a mile to the north of the well.

This small plateau of greenish-black stony lava rises to an elevation of about 150 feet above the level of the surrounding plain, and the rain falling on it must help to feed the supplies of fresh water stored in the underlying rotten granite.

A site has been recommended by me for sinking a well in this granite, near the town of Byrock, should the bores fail to strike water at the points indicated in my previous report.

If the water found in this group of rocks, that is the slates and granites, prove brackish near the surface the chances of getting fresher water by sinking deeper in these bed-rocks are very slight. A remarkable instance of this is afforded by the bore at Glengariff Home-station, made by Mr. J. O. Dwyer. The bore was carried down to a depth of 447 feet in palæozoic, or true "bed" rock. Salt water was encountered in the upper part of the bore, and continued to the bottom, the water showing no improvement in quality as the bore was deepened.

It must be understood that this remark applies only to the slate and granite rocks, where water found in them near the surface is brackish. On the other hand, in the strata composing 2 and 3, it is always advisable, if the water near the surface prove brackish, to carry the bore down to the true bed rock.

3 Group.—The marly clay and sandstones forming here the upper members of this group probably belong to the same great series of beds as those in which artesian water has been got to the west of Bourke; and may be provisionally classed as Cretaceous, though their age cannot be satisfactorily determined as such until the discovery in them of sea-shells similar to those found in the wells west of the Darling.

Nothing is known of their thickness and character east of Bourke, except from shallow surface excavations. To the west of Bourke this series consists of grey, yellow, and blue clays, and glauconitic sands containing marine shells, with occasional bands of gypsum, and in places has been proved to be at least 700 feet thick, and in South Australia 1,200 feet.

Being of marine origin the beds of this group are persistent in character over wide areas, so that water having once found its way into their sand-beds should have free passage underground; and it is on this property of free circulation that the freshness of the water contained in these beds depends, as shown by yourself in your official report to the Lands Inquiry Commission on "Underground water in the Western Plains," dated February 23rd, 1883.

There is good surface evidence for inferring that the Cretaceous beds extend from Bourke in a south-easterly direction for at least 25 miles, that is, to about the 478-mile-peg on the railway line, and probably further.

Chances of obtaining fresh water in these beds are very good, as they evidently form part of the great basin of water-bearing strata which extends west and north into South Australia and Queensland, and they are, moreover, backed here on the south-east by hills of impervious slate and granite.

If underground sand-beds of any extent are met with in this formation supplies of fresh water between the 478-mile-peg towards Byrock are nearly certain, and it would probably flow over the surface, at the waterholes.

As these marly clays maintain their clayey character to great depths the sinking in them may be proportionately deep before sand-beds are reached. This has been experienced in Mr. Tully's bore at Warraweena, 23 miles north of Bourke, where a bore has been carried down for 493 feet, in clay throughout, without reaching sand or water. The chances, however, of ultimately striking water in these beds are decidedly good, and it is very important that they should be thoroughly tested by boring.

Suitable sites for such boring along the travelling-stock route between Byrock and Bourke have already been recommended by me in another report, in answer to the inquiries of Mr. Barton, M.L.A.

In *No. 2 group* the chances of getting fresh water are much less than in *No. 3*. Not being sea-beds, like *No. 3*, but, though of a saline character, probably of fresh-water origin, the water-bearing sand-beds contained in them are patchy, and this formation does not lie in one great basin, like the Cretaceous series, but has its continuity much broken by the ridges of palæozoic rocks, which come to the surface at intervals of from 1 to 10 miles, between Byrock and Nyngan.

The water contained in the sands of this Pleistocene formation being in many cases impounded between clay-beds, so as to form stagnant underground lakes and pools, is almost invariably under such conditions highly saturated with mineral salts, dissolved out from the soil, which is naturally salt. Only where the underground water has free passage along the sands, as at the bottoms of the buried valleys already mentioned, can it be expected to prove fresh.

At Byrock and its neighbourhood the country is composed chiefly of these Pleistocene beds of red sandy clay, alternating with masses of clay-slate, granite, and lava.

The thickness of these Pleistocene beds has been proved by the bore made by Mr. J. O. Dwyer at the Ten-mile, near Glengariff, to extend to a depth of at least 209 feet, and the water got in it proved brackish to that depth. Had the bore been carried deeper on to the true bed-rock it might possibly have struck fresh water. At present an abundant supply of brackish water fit for stock is derived from this bore-hole.

As it is impossible from observations made at the surface to define the exact position of the deepest "made" ground in these Pleistocene beds, the most obvious method to adopt in searching for water in them would be to sink in the alluvial flats as far as possible from the surface outcrop of the true bed-rocks, and thus

thus prove the whereabouts of the deep ground, which the underground drainage channels are most likely to follow, in the same manner as the gutters of buried rivers are discovered on the deep leads. Of the existence of such underground drainage channels strong evidence is afforded by the geological character of these Pleistocene beds, and their relation to the underlying slates and granites, as previously described.

As far as could be judged from a cursory view of the country, this same Pleistocene formation extends without a break from 9 miles south-east of Giralambone to the foot of the Dividing Range, between Narromine and Dubbo. There should then be the same chance of obtaining underground water in this district as at Byrock, with the additional probability, in the neighbourhood of Nyngan, of striking an old silted-up channel of the Bogan River.

Summary.—In the area occupied by *No. 2 group* brackish water fit for stock can be easily obtained at a depth of from 100 to 200 feet, but much prospecting may be necessary before the discovery in them of fresh water.

Each fresh discovery, however, will make the next one easier, by proving the trend of the underground valleys.

In *No. 3*, fresh water will probably be got without much difficulty, and it will probably flow over the surface in the neighbourhood of Bourke.

In *No. 4 group* chances of obtaining water are so remote that, as a rule, it is waste of labour to sink wells or bore into them. In very exceptional cases, as where the rock is soft and much cracked, and in the immediate vicinity of high ground, they may possibly contain available stores of water.

My thanks are due to the contractors for the railway to Bourke (Mann, Cary, & Co.), to their engineer, Mr. Kerle, and to Mr. J. O. Dwyer, manager of Glengariff Station, for the information and assistance which they kindly rendered me during my geological examination of this district.

I have, &c.,
T. W. E. DAVID.

The Geological Surveyor in charge.

APPENDIX F.

Report on a Coal Seam, on the river Severn, near Ashford, New England District.

Sir, Department of Mines, Sydney, 13 September, 1884.

In accordance with your instructions, I have examined the coal-seam at Fraser's Creek Station, near Ashford, and have the honor to report thereon as follows :—

The rocks in which the coal occurs are yellowish-grey iron-stained shales, alternating with thin evenly-bedded felspathic quartzites and grey sandstones. The general dip is westerly at about 60 degrees, subject to considerable variation of direction and angle, owing to the strata having been much disturbed by intrusive granite which bounds the coal-bearing rocks at about 1 mile west of the station. The existence of a coal-seam in the neighbourhood has been suspected for some years past, as loose blocks of coal were frequently found after heavy floods washed up on the shingle in the bed of the river Severn, opposite the head-station. This led to the discovery of a seam of coal about 3 miles higher up the river, at a place since called Coal Gully. Beds of hard, dull, black coal, alternating with carbonaceous clay shales, crop out in this gully at a point 30 chains above its junction with the river.

The seam dips westerly at from 35 degrees to 60 degrees, striking between 10 degrees and 35 degrees east of north. This strike would make it cross a large deep water-hole in the river a few chains above the point where the loose blocks were first noticed, so that there can be little doubt that they were originally derived from this seam. The total thickness of clean coal at Coal Gully is over 30 (thirty) feet, the greatest thickness of coal without bands being 7 (seven) feet.

The clay shales, near the base of the seam, contain numerous fossil-plant remains, but the impressions are not sufficiently distinct to furnish trustworthy evidence as to the geological age of the beds.

The surface coal does not burn readily, owing probably to its volatile constituents having been lost through long exposure to the weather, and to the coal itself being partially infiltrated with clayey material, derived from the surface rain-wash. I was informed, however, by Mr. John Macdonald, the discoverer of the seam, that by sinking on it a few feet he got coal of a quality sufficiently good to use in a blacksmith's forge. The coal composing the loose blocks found near the head-station is of a better quality, its superiority being due more perhaps to its having suffered less from exposure than to any original difference in chemical composition. Hence there are good grounds for assuming that by sinking to a moderate depth coal of equally good quality may be obtained from the seam at Coal Gully.

An analysis of coal taken from one of the loose blocks in the river-bed, made by the Government Analyst, has given the following result :—

Hygroscopic moisture.....	1.40
Volatile hydrocarbons, &c.	20.50
Fixed carbon	71.94
Ash.....	6.16
	100.00

* Coke, 78.10 per cent.
Sulphur in coal, 0.52 per cent. Specific gravity, 1.35.

This analysis shows the sample to belong to the class of bituminous coking coals, suitable for smelting and steam-coal purposes. Situated, as it is, within 8 miles of large limestone beds of excellent quality for lime-burning, and near the border of the extensive Vegetable Creek tin-fields, this coal-seam may in time form a valuable source of fuel for the district, when wood becomes scarcer and carriage cheaper.

I would recommend therefore that a reserve be made for coal-mining purposes comprising all Crown Lands within the following boundaries :—Commencing at the north-east corner of portion No. 3, parish of Ashby, county of Arrawatta; and bounded thence on the east by a line running north to Myall Creek; thence on the south by that creek for about 50 chains eastwards to the east boundary of parish of Myall; thence on the east by the east boundary of that parish north for about 1 mile; thence on the north by a line running west for about 2 miles, to a point about 113 chains due north of the north-west corner

corner of portion 3, parish of Macdonald; thence on the west by a line running south from this point to the north-west corner of the aforesaid portion No. 3; thence on the west again by the west boundary lines of portions Nos. 3 and 2 south to the south-west corner of the latter portion; thence on the west again by a straight line running south-westerly to a point 1 mile due west of the south-west corner of portion No. 5; thence again on the west by a line running south 2 miles; thence on the south by a line running east for about 117 chains to a point due south of the south-west corner of portion No. 6, parish of Ashby; thence on the east by a line running north to the south-west corner of the aforesaid portion No. 6; thence again on the east in a northerly direction by the river Severn to a point due south of the point of commencement; thence again on the east by a line running due north to the point of commencement.

I have, &c.,

T. W. EDGEWORTH DAVID,

Geological Surveyor in Charge.

APPENDIX G.

Report of the Curator of the Mining and Geological Museum.

Sir,

I have the honor to furnish the following returns of the assays and analyses made by the Department of Mines, and the donations and other additions to the Mining and Geological Museum and Library, during 1885, with notes thereon.

ASSAYS AND ANALYSES.

APPLICATIONS for examinations of specimens have been very numerous; 1,428 assays were made—which represent a portion of the samples forwarded—showing an increase of 764 upon the previous year's returns. Of these, 1,246 were for gold and silver principally; 206 of which yielded from 2 dwt. to 136 oz. 19 dwt. 18 gr. of gold; and from 10 oz. to 9,780 oz. 8 dwt. of silver per ton.

Gold and silver

380 yielded from a trace to 1 dwt. 23 gr. of gold, and from a trace to 9 oz. 23 gr. of silver per ton.

660 yielded neither gold nor silver.

The localities from which the most favourable results were obtained were: Gold—Adelong, Bombala, Braidwood, Bathurst, Bingera, Bongongolong, Bowman River, near Capertee, Cooma, Clarence Heads, Orange, Oberon, Razorback, Rockley, Reedy Flat, Snowy River, and Scone.

Silver—Abercrombie Ranges, Barrier Range, Back Creek, Bolivia, Burragorang, Braidwood, near Condobolin, Deepwater, Emmaville, Molonglo, Mitchell, Nambucca, O'Connell, Orange, Oberon, Peelwood, Pye's Creek, Rockley, Snowy River, Tuena, Tenterfield, and Wiseman's Creek.

COAL.

Twenty-five analyses were made of samples of coal, kerosene shale, and lignite, the best qualities being from Blackheath, Cockle Creek, Clarence Siding, Lake Macquarie, and Shoalhaven.

Shale—Capertee, Merimbula, and Mudecc District.

TIN.

Twenty-one assays were made for tin, seven of which yielded from 4.05 % to 70.50 % of metallic tin, the latter being from Emmaville, Gumble near Molong (associated with copper, silver and gold), Merool Creek, and Oban.

COPPER.

Forty-nine samples were assayed for copper, twenty-seven of which yielded from 1.05 % to 43.9 % of metallic copper, the localities from whence the latter were obtained being—Abercrombie, Barrier Range, Braidwood, Gumble near Molong, Glen Innes, Tuena, and Wellington.

ANTIMONY.

Thirteen assays for the above metal were made, ten of which yielded from 9.58 % to 73.19 % of metallic antimony, the best results being obtained from samples from Armidale, Bingera, Bellinger River, and Razorback, near Capertee (associated with payable gold).

LEAD.

Thirty-one assays were made for lead, eighteen of which yielded from 17.93 % to 74.7 % of metallic lead, and coming from the following localities—Abercrombie, Barrier Range, near Condobolin, Snowy River, and Tuena.

BISMUTH.

Six assays were made for this metal, four of which yielded from a trace to 66.8 % of metallic bismuth, the localities being—Bundarra and Deepwater.

MANGANESE.

Eleven assays were made of manganese ore, nine of which yielded from 5.28 % to 91.55 % of peroxide of manganese, the localities being—near Bathurst, Glanmire, Gulgong, Rockley, and Tamworth.

COBALT AND NICKEL.

Nine assays were made for the above, five of which yielded from 1.21 % to 3.13 % of sesquioxide of cobalt, and 0.35 % to 3.05 % of metallic nickel. Localities—Bungonia, Barrier Range, Boro, Capertee, and Goulburn.

ZINC.

Two assays were made for zinc, which yielded up to 20.05 % of metallic zinc. Locality—Deepwater.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Fifteen examinations were made of samples of water, &c.

MINING

MINING AND GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM.

Eighty-three donations were received for the above, some of them being collections comprising a considerable number of specimens, notably amongst them being a large collection of minerals and fossils presented by the Geological Survey of Sweden; rich silver ores from the Broken Hill silver-mine, by Mr. Jamieson, Manager; Carboniferous marine fossils from Wollongong, by Mr. S. Alexander; tin ores from Penang, by Mr. G. R. Fearby; auriferous lode-stuff from the New Reform gold-mine, Lucknow, by Mr. H. W. Newman, Manager; stanniferous and cupriferous lode-stuff from Gumble, near Molong, by Mr. J. E. Kelly; chloride of silver from Lake City, New Mexico, by Mr. F. Jessope; auriferous and cupriferous ores, &c., from Nundle District, by Mr. E. W. Jones, Warden; fine specimens of needle antimony ore from Carangula by Mr. E. H. Becke, Manager; auriferous ores from Mount Morgan, Queensland, and from Gulgong, by Professor Nicholas; silver ores from Barrier Range, by Mr. Wyman Brown, Warden; diamond in matrix, and matrix showing impressions of diamonds, and associated minerals, from Griqualand, South Africa, by Mr. J. Mackenzie; copper ore from Cloncurry, and opal from Cooper's Creek, Queensland, by Dr. J. R. M. Robertson.

The collection in the Museum has been further augmented by specimens illustrative of the metallurgy of tin, copper, and iron, obtained in England by the Agent-General, upon the advice of the Under-Secretary for Mines; by collections by yourself, Mr. J. Mackenzie, F.G.S., Examiner of Coal-fields; Mr. Charles Cullen, collector; Mr. Theo. Ranft, temporary collector; Mr. James Sibbald, keeper of Wellington Caves, and myself; from Hay, Young, Temora, Tomingley, Parkes, Hunter River, Cooma, Queadong, Wollongong, Wellington, Canberra, and Queanbeyan Districts, and Lord Howe, Norfolk, and Phillip Islands. (See Appendix.)

The number of specimens registered amounted to 2,620, making the total to date 16,809.

From this total must be deducted 647 registered specimens included in collections dispatched by this Department, leaving a total in hand of 16,162. 169 donations were received for the library, amongst them being a large number of scientific works presented by the Geological Survey of Sweden; valuable reports from the Geological Surveys of India, Canada, and the United States, &c.; and progress reports from Victoria and New Zealand.

The Department of Mines having undertaken, at the request of the Commission for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, to prepare a collection to illustrate the mineral resources of the Colony, the last quarter of the year was almost wholly taken up in this work, with the result that a large and comprehensive exhibit, numbering 1,371 specimens, many of them in bulk, has been forwarded for display in the above Exhibition.

In addition to the above, the Department undertook the arrangement and dispatch of all private exhibits of a like nature.

Owing to the press of work consequent upon the preparation of the above, little progress has been made with the proper arrangement of the specimens in the Museum; only such as could be readily displayed have been placed in the show-cases; but I trust, before my next report, that the Museum will be as complete in all its arrangements as the limited space will allow.

I have, &c.,
JOSEPH E. CARNE,
Curator.

The Geological Surveyor in Charge.

SPECIMENS procured by Officers of the Department of Mines during 1885:—

Donor.	Donation.	Locality.
Harrie Wood, Under Secretary for Mines, per the Agent-General.	Specimens illustrative of the metallurgy of tin, copper, and iron.	England.
C. S. Wilkinson, Government Geologist.	Collection of minerals, &c.	Hay, Young, Temora, Tomingley, and Parkes Districts.
J. Mackenzie, Examiner of Coal-fields.	Collection of Carboniferous marine fossils, from between 700 and 800 feet below No. 1 coal-seam.	Railway cutting, Garden Hill, Hunter River District.
J. E. Carne, curator	Collection of minerals	Norfolk and Phillip Islands.
"	Collection of fossil bones	Lord Howe Island.
Charles Cullen, collector	Collection of minerals and fossils	Cooma District.
"	"	Queadong.
"	"	Wollongong.
Theo. Ranft, temporary collector.	Collection of fossils	Canberra and Queanbeyan.

DONATIONS to Mining and Geological Museum during 1885.

Donor.	Donation.	Locality.
Mr. S. Alexander	Carboniferous marine fossils, <i>Pachydomus</i> , <i>Aviculopecten</i> , <i>Productus</i> , <i>Chonetes</i> , &c.	Wollongong.
Mr. J. S. Allen	Devonian marine fossils	Sugar-loaf Mountain, Southern District.
Mr. S. Bailey	Heavy spar	Sunny Corner.
Mr. Wyman Brown (Warden).	Samples of rich silver ores	Barrier Range.
Mr. E. H. Becke	Needle antimony ores	Carangula.
Mr. J. Begley	Cassiterite	Meadow Flat.
Mr. S. Brown	Crystals of chloride of silver	Broken Hill, Barrier Range
Mr. S. Bell	Chromite	20 miles from Young.
Mr. J. Christian	Pitchstone	near Tamworth.
Mr. A. H. Cooper	Salt	Lake Buchanan, Northern Queensland.
Mr. A. Cooper	Rhodonite	Glanmire.
Mr. T. Cotterill	Two large blocks of oxide of manganese	Back Creek, Rockley.

APPENDIX G—continued.

Donor.	Donation.	Locality.
Dr. Creed	Fossil wood	Omadale.
Mr. A. J. Cotta	Native moags, and samples of Tertiary and granitic rocks.	Paroo district, Queensland.
Mr. Dickstall	Mica	Barrier Range.
Mr. B. Dunstan	Fossil fish and mollusca	Wianamatta Beds, Bowral.
Mr. J. E. Dargin	Polished stones and specimens of rocks.	Erpagonia, Warrego District.
Mr. J. H. Ellis	Sulphides of lead and iron with baryta	Thackaringa.
Mr. Edenfeldt	Fossils (Miocene?)	North of Hall's Sound, New Guinea.
Mr. G. R. Pearby	Tin and tin ores	Penang.
Mr. P. A. Ficus	Epsomite	Pye's Creek.
Mr. C. J. Fache	Brown hematite	Ballimore, near Dubbo.
Mr. J. Graham	Fluorspar and quartz	Deepwater.
Do	Lode tin	Pye's Creek.
Mr. W. G. Gibson	Volcanic bomb	Barrier Range.
Mr. C. Hodson	Stibnite and crude antimony	Gara, near Armidale.
Mr. Geo. Hardie	Block of lode tin ore	The Gulf, New England.
Dr. E. Inglis	Coal from Mount Linton Station	Southland, New Zealand.
Do	Scheelite	From head of Wakatipu Lake, New Zealand.
Mr. Jamison	Rich silver ores	Broken Hill Mine, Barrier Range.
Mr. A. F. Jessop	Chloride of silver	Lake City, New Mexico.
Mr. E. W. Jones	Auriferous quartz, copper ore, auriferous quartz and calcite chalcedony, fossil wood, &c.	Peel River District.
Hon. P. G. King, M.L.C.	Ferromanganese oxide	Tamworth.
Mr. J. E. Kelly	Stanniferous and cupriferous lode stuff	Gumble Mine, near Molong.
Dr. Von Lendenfeld	Recent shells	Norman River, Queensland.
Do	Oronaceous fossils, gypsum, carnelian, and agates	Albert District.
Do	Quartz with carbonates of lead and copper, fossiliferous limestone and calcite.	Nymagee District.
Mr. Latla	Artificial sulphide of tin.	Pymont smelting works.
Mr. W. Lockington and party.	Zinc-blende, galena, and pyrites	Homeward Bound Mine, Pye's Creek.
Mr. J. O. M. Mauly	Aboriginals' stone hatchets	Yass and Burrowa.
Mr. H. Moss	Petrified wood	Shoalhaven.
Mr. C. S. McGlue	Radiating crystals of pyrolusite	Launceston, Tasmania
Do	Galena, and prehnite in cavities of trap rock	Bowen River, Queensland.
Manager of the John Bull Mines, Nundle.	Large block of auriferous reefstone in diorite	John Bull Mine, Bowling Alley Point, Peel River.
Mr. W. Naper	Malachite	New Mount Hope.
Mr. Neate	Lode tin ore	Cannibal Creek, Northern Queensland.
Mr. H. W. Newman	Specimens of lode stuff richly impregnated with gold.	New Reform Mine, Lucknow.
Do	Serpentine with magnetic iron, and a little mispickel, richly impregnated with gold	do.
Professor Nicholas	Auriferous ores	Mount Morgan, Queensland.
Do	Collection of minerals	Gulgong.
Mr. A. S. R. Osborne	Gold-coating crystals of pyrites in lode stuff	Green Vale Mine, Rockhampton.
Mr. A. Oppenheimer	Auriferous antimony ore	Razorback, near Capertee.
Mr. W. Partington	Talc	Abercrombie District.
Do	Manganese concretions	5 miles N.W. of Rockley.
Mr. Hugh Quinn	Garnets	Pye's Creek.
Dr. J. K. M. Robertson	Cuprite	Argyle Mine, 60 miles N.W. of Cloncurry.
Mrs. Selkirk	Arragonite and zeolites	Cooma District.
Mr. Southey	Gem stones	Mittagong.
Mr. H. Selkirk	Carboniferous fossils	Harper's Hill and Wollongong.
Mr. A. Sturgeon	Tin ore	Near Jindabyne.
Mr. F. Sylvester	Sapphire	Near Mittagong.
Swedish Consul	Large collection of minerals and fossils	Sweden.
Mr. J. Sibbald	Silurian fossils in limestone	Wellington Caves.
Mr. R. Timmins	Auriferous lode stuff with free gold	Reedy Flat, Upper Adelong.
Mr. Vautin	Auriferous ore	Mount Morgan, Queensland.
Mr. T. Woodhouse	Dendrites in limestone	South-east end of Gandalecancr, Solomon Islands
Mr. H. Walshe	Carboniferous marine fossils	Water-works, West Maitland.
Mr. R. Zouch	Favosites	Temora.

DONATIONS to the Library of the Mining and Geological Museum during 1885.

Donations.	Donor.
<p>Palaontologia Indica:—</p> <p>Series. XIV, vol. 1-3</p> <p>" X, " 3</p> <p>" IV, " I, part 4</p> <p>" XII, " I, " 4, fasciculus 4</p> <p>" X, " III, " 4,</p> <p>" XIII, " I, " 4, " 5</p> <p>" II, " I, " 1,</p> <p>" II, " I, " 1, " 6</p> <p>" II, " I, " 1, " 5</p> <p>" IV, " I, " 5</p> <p>Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India:—</p> <p>Vol. XXI, part 1</p> <p>" XXI, " 2</p> <p>" XXI, " 3</p> <p>" XXI, " 4</p> <p>" 1-3</p>	<p>H. B. Medlicott, M.A., F.R.S., Superintendent.</p>

APPENDIX G—continued.

Donation.	Donor.
Records of the Geological Survey of India:—	
Vol. XVIII, part 2	H. B. Medlicott, M.A., F.R.S., Superintendent.
" XVIII, " 3	
" XVIII, " 4	
Catalogue of the Library of the Geological Survey of India	Secretary.
Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers. Vol. XII	do
Index Volumes—I to X.	
Transactions of the American Institute. 1884-1895	do
Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. New Series, XI. Whole Series, Vol. XIX. Parts 1 and 2.	
Productions of Gold and Silver in the United States. 1883.	H. C. Borchard, Director of the Mint.
Annual Report of the Director of the Mint. Fiscal year ending June 30th, 1894.	J. W. Powell, Director.
Bulletin of the United States Geological Survey. No. 7	do
Second Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey. 1880-81	do
Mineral Resources of the United States. By Albert Williams, junr.	Professor De Koninck.
Extrait du Bulletin du Musée Royal D'Histoire Naturelle de Belgique, Tome II. 1883	Dr. C. J. Andru, Secreter des Vereins.
Verhandlungen des naturhistorischen Vereins der preussischen Rheinlande und Westfalen 1882	A. R. C. Selwyn, Director of the Geological Survey of Canada.
2 vols. do. do. do. do. 1883	
Descriptive Sketch of the Physical Geography and Geology of the Dominion of Canada by A. R. C. Selwyn, L.L.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., and G. M. Dawson, D.S., F.G.S., F.R.S.	do
Comparative Vocabularies of the Indian Tribes of British Columbia, with map illustrating distribution, by W. Fraser Tolmie, M.D., and G. M. Dawson, D.S., F.G.S., F.R.S.	do
Report of Progress of the Geological Survey of Canada, with maps, 1882-83-84.	Secretary for Mines, Victoria.
Reports of the Mining Registrars, Victoria, for the quarter ending 31st December, 1884	do
Do. do. do. do. 1874.	do
Report of the Inspector of Mines, 1875.	do
Mineral Statistics, 1875	do
Reports of Mining Surveyors and Registrars, 1875	do
Report of the Inspector of Mines, 1876	do
Mineral Statistics, 1877 to 1880, 1876.	do
Reports of Mining Surveyors and Registrars from 1876 to 1884.	do
Reports of the Chief Inspector of Mines from 1877 to 1882	do
Reports of the Mining Registrars for the quarter ending 30 June, 1885.	do
Reports of the Mining Registrars for quarter ending 30 September, 1885.	do
Smithsonian Report, 1882	The Secretary.
Proceedings of the Canadian Institute, Toronto, Fasciculus 1 and 2, 1884	do
Fourth Annual Report of the State Mineralogist for the year ending May 15, 1884	H. G. Hanks, S.G., State Mineralogist.
Report on the Gold-fields of New Zealand, 1881	Secretary for Mines.
Report on the Control and Inspection of Mines, 1881	do.
Report of the Department of Mines, Queensland, 1880	do.
Bulletins of the Comité Géologique de Russie, 1882	Secretary, Comité Géologique.
Do. do. do. 1883.	
Do. do. do. 1884	
Memoirs of the Comité Géologique de Russie, 1883	
Do. do. do. 1884.	
Do. do. do. 1884.	
Sketch Map of the General Geological Features of Tasmania	C. P. Sprent, Surveyor-General.
14th Annual Report of the State Geologist of Indiana, 1884	J. Collett, A.M., M.D., Ph.D., State Geologist.
Official Record of the New South Wales Commission for the Calcutta International Exhibition, 1883-84.	Secretary.
Krakatau par R. D. M. Verbeek, Ingénieur des Mines, 1st part, Publié par ordre de Son Excellence le Gouverneur General des Indes Néerlandaises, 1885.	Avon Rees, Governor-General, Netherlands India.
Graptolithskiffrar med Monograptus turriculatus vid Klubbudden nära Motala af G. Linnarsson, med 2 tafvor, 1881.	Geological Survey of Sweden, per Swedish Consul.
Om Försteningarne i de Svenska lagren med Pellura och Sphaerophthalmus, med 2 tafvor, af 1880.	do
Om Gotlands Graptoliter, med 1 tafva, 1879, af G. Linnarsson	do
Om faunan i coronatus kalken, med 3 tafvor, 1879, af G. Linnarsson.	do
Iktagelser öfver de graptolithförande skiffrarne i Skåne, med 1 tafva, 1879	do
Om de Paleozoiska bildningarna vid Hundenäs, med 1 karta, 1878	do
Om faunan i lagren med Paradoxides ölandicus, 1877	do
Öfversigt af Neriens öfvergångsbildningar, 1875	do
Om några försteningar från Sveriges och Norges primordiazon, med, 1 tafva, 1873	do
Skånes basalter mikroskopiskt undersökta och beskrifna med 1 karta och 2 tafvor, 1882.	do
Erratiska basaltblock nr N. Tysklands och Danmarks diluvium, 1883	do
Om basalttuffen vid Djupadal i Skåne, 1883	do
Några iakttagelser öfver Dalarnes graptolithskiffrar, 1880. af Sv. Leonh Törnqvist	do
Ueber die Geognosie der Schwedischen Hochgebirge, mit einer Karta, 1873, af A. R. Törnebohm.	do
Geognostisk profil öfver den skandinaviska fjellryggen mellan Osterund och Sevanger, 1872	do
Om "Svevgruppen" i nordligaste Jemtland och Ångermanland, samt des förhållande till fossilförande lager, 1880, af Fr. Svenonius Mikr. undersökning af de vid Djupadal i Skåne förkommande basaltbergarterna, med 2 tafvor, 1883, af E. Svedmark.	do
Halle-och-Hünnebergs (mpp, 1878	do
Förloppande redogörelse för geologiska resor på Öland, 1882, af S. A. Tullberg	do
Om lager foljden i de Kambryska och siluriska af lagringarne vid Rostanga, med 1 Karta, 1880, af S. A. Tullberg.	do
Om Sveriges viktigaste kristalliniska bergslag och deras förhållande till hvarandra, 1882, af O. Torell.	do
Sur les traces les plus anciennes de l'existence de l'homme en Suède, 1876, O. Torell	do
On the causes of the glacial phenomena in the north-eastern portion of North America, with map, 1878. By O. Torell.	do
Praktiskt geologiska iakttagelser under resor på Gotland, med 1 Karta och 1 tafva, 1879 af A. Lindström	do
Praktiskt geologiska undersökningar inom Herjedalen och Jemtland, med 2 Kartor, 1879, af Alb. Blomberh and A. Lindström.	do

APPENDIX G—continued.

Donation.	Donor.
Om Siljanstraktens sandstenar, 1884, af M. Stolpe	Geological Survey of Sweden, per Swedish Consul.
Om en post glacial landsänkning i södra och Till fragau om förhållandet mellan Vemdal-sqvarsteiten och sil. formationen inom södra delen af Jentland lan, med 1 Karta, 1882, af F. Svenonius.	do
Studier vid svenska jökla, med 3 tafior, af F. Svenonius	do
Om olivinstens- och serpentinförekomster i Norrland, med 1 tafla, 1883. F. Svenonius...	do
Om Sveriges lagrade urberg, jämförda med sydvestra Europas, med 1 Karta, 1875. af David Hummel.	do
Om rullstens bildningar, med 2 tafior, 1874, af David Hummel.....	do
Öfversigt af de geologiska förhållandena vid Hallandäs, med 2 tafior, 1872, af D. Hummel	do
Kemiska bergartsanalyser, sammanställda och bearbetade I. Gneis hallesfint gneis (eurite) och hallesfinta, 1877, af H. Santesson.	do
Om mellersta Sveriges glaciala bildningar II. Om millsteinsgrus med 1 Karta, 1876, af Otto Gumælius.	do
Bidrag till Kännedomen om Sveriges erratiska bildningar samlade å geol. Kartbladet Örebro, med 4 tafior, 1871, af Otto Gumælius.	do
Om malmlagens åldersföljd och deras användande såsom ledlager, med 1 Karta, 1873, af Otto Gumælius.	do
Om mellersta Sveriges glaciala bildningar I. om Krosstousgrus med 3 tafior, 1874, af Otto Gumælius.	do
Om de vaxtiferande lagren i Skånes, Kolförande bildningar och deras plats i lagerföljden, 1880, af A. G. Nathorst.	do
Om de äldre sandstens- och skifferbildningarna, vid Vettern, 1880, af A. G. Nathorst...	do
Om de svenska urbergens sekulära förvittring, 1880, af A. G. Nathorst	do
Om Spirangium och dess förekomst i Skånes Kolförande bildningar, med 2 tafior, 1879, af A. G. Nathorst	do
Nya fyndorter för artiska vaxtemningar i Skåne, 1877, af A. G. Nathorst	do
Om en öykadokotte från den rätiska formationen lager vid Tinkarp i Skåne, 1875, af A. G. Nathorst.	do
Om flora i Skånes Kolförande bildningar I. Flora vid Hoganas och Helsingborg, med 8 tafior, 1878, af A. G. Nathorst.	do
Beskrifning öfver Beser-Ecksteins Kromolitografi och litotypografi, 1872, af A. Bortzell	do
Geognostisk beskrifning öfver Persbergets gruf vefält, med 1 Karta, 1875. A. Tornebohn.	do
Bidrag till Kännedomen om Sveriges qvartära bildningar text och Atlas med 14 kartor, 1868, af A. Erdmann	do
Exposé des formations quaternaires de la Suède texte accompagné d'un Atlas. A. Erdmann.	do
Atlas. Bidrag till Kännedomen om Sveriges qvartära bildningen, af A. Erdmann	do
Atlas. Exposé des formations quaternaires de la Suède. A. Erdmann	do
Beskrifning öfver Skånes stenkolssörande formation med Karta och 4 tafior, af A. Erdmann	do
Af Sveriges Geologiska Undersökning aro hittill utgifna. Ser. Aa. Kartblad med beskrifningar. 91 parts.	do
Series Ab do. do. do. 9 parts	do
Skånes graptoliter. I. Allmän öfversigt öfver de Siluriska bildningarna i Skåne och jämförelse med Öfriga Kända samtida aflagringar, 1882, af S. A. Tullberg	do
Skånes graptoliter Graptolitaunorna i cardiolaskifflen och cyrtograptusskifflarna, med 4 tafior, af S. A. Tullberg.	do
Om Agnostusarterna i de kambriska och Siluriska aflagringarna vid Andrarum, med 1 Karta och 2 tafior, af S. A. Tullberg.	do
Praktiskt geologiska undersökningar inom norra delen af Kalmar lan, med 2 Karta 1884 ..	do
Cephalopoderna i Sveriges Kriteystem I. med 2 Karta, 1884, af J. C. Moberg	do
Undersökningar öfver Siljans-mrädets trilobitfauna, med 3 tafior, af S. J. Tornquist	do
Om flora i Skånes Kolförande bildningar I.	do
Flora vid Bjuf. Andra häftet, med 8 tafior, 1879, af A. G. Nathorst	do
Om flora i Skånes Kolförande bildningar II	do
Flora vid Hoganas och Helsingborg, med 8 tafior, 1879, af A. G. Nathorst	do
Underd. berättelse om malmfyndigheter inom Norrbottens lan (2 vols.), med bilagor och 5 Karta, 1877.	do
Da undre paradoxideslagren vid Andrarum, med 4 tafior, af G. Linnarsson	do
Description de la Formation Carbonifère de la Scanie, par E. Erdmann	do
Undersökningar öfver molluskfauna i Sveriges äldre mesozoiska bildningar, med 6 tafior, 1881, af B. Sundgren.	do
Beskrifning till Karta öfver Berggrunden inom de malmförande trakterna i norra delen af Örebro lan.	do
Annales de la Société Géologique de Belgique. Tome onzième, 1883-84	The Secretary.
Verhandlungen des Vereins für naturwissenschaftliche Unterhaltung zu Hamberg, 1878-1882.	
Elephant Pipes in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Davenport, Iowa, by Charles E. Putnam	The Secretary.
Results of Rain Observations in New South Wales during the years 1873 to 1884, by H. C. Russell, B.A., F.R.A.S., Government Astronomer.	The Author.
Memoirs du Comité Géologique de Russie, vol. II, No. 1.	
Bulletin do. do. do. No. 1-5	
Do. do. do. do. 1882	
Do. do. do. do. 1883	Secretary.
Do. do. do. do. 1884	
Memoirs do. do. do. do. 1883	
Do. do. do. do. 1884	
Annual Report of the Acting Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria, 1884.....	Secretary for Mines.
19th Annual Report of the Colonial Museum and Laboratory, and 15th Annual Report of the Colonial Botanic Garden, 1893-1884, New Zealand.	Dr. Heclor, M.D., C.M.G., F.R.S., Director.
Bollettino della Società Africana D'Italia Anno IV, Fasc. III, 1885	Secretary.
Transactions of the Edinburgh Geological Society, vol. V, part I, and vol. IV, part IIF ..	do
Société de Géographie Commerciale du Havre Bulletin No. 3, Mai-June, 1885	do

APPENDIX II.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Geological Survey Branch.

I have the honor to report that, in accordance with your instructions, I accompanied Mr. H. T. Wilkinson, J.P., to Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands in the Government steamer "Thetis." Owing to the briefness of the stay made at each island no systematic examination could be carried out. The following notes are the result of observations made at each place visited:—

Norfolk Island is situated about 900 miles E.N.E. of Sydney, in lat. $29^{\circ} 2'$ S., and long. $168^{\circ} 2'$ E. It has an area of 8,607 acres, and is of volcanic origin.

The cliffs, which rise to an average height of about 250 feet above sea-level, form a precipitous wall-like coast, with few indentations, the most important being Sydney, Ball, Cascade, Anson, Duncombe, and Emily Bays. None of these, however, are available as shipping ports, being very small and either shallow and barred by fringing reefs, as at Sydney and Emily Bays; exposed, like Ball Bay; or too small, as in the case of Anson's Bay, which would be practically inaccessible owing to the steepness of the surrounding cliffs. Ball Bay might be made available by the construction of a breakwater, but the undertaking would be costly.

Sydney Bay is the most important of the above-mentioned, being the main landing-place. On its shores is situated the old convict settlement, now known as the town. The bay is barred by a fringing coral reef, exposed at low-water. A boat-passage has been cut through this, and landing is effected at a small pier which has been constructed inside; but with on-shore winds this is not practicable, owing to the heavy surf. Emily Bay, which is in fact part of the eastern extension of Sydney Bay, is very shallow, and barred by the same reef.

The anchorage ground, available off Sydney Bay, is of limited extent, and exposed to gales, so that vessels have to shift to leeward of the island as the wind veers. It is the opinion of some of the inhabitants that this anchorage might be protected to a great extent by the construction of a breakwater on the east, connecting Nepean Island with the mainland at Point Hunter. Phillip Island would afford sufficient protection on the south-south-east, so that only the south-west would be left open. Such a scheme, however, would, as in the case of Ball Bay, necessitate a large outlay, Nepean Island being a considerable distance from Point Hunter.

Cascade Bay affords a landing-place, but not of much importance, being too open and devoid of shelter.

With the exception of a small tract of country at Sydney Bay, the ground rises out of the sea either in sheer cliffs or steep slopes into an undulating plateau, having a general elevation of about 300 feet above sea-level. Towards the north-western portion of the island a conical mountain—Mount Pitt—rises from this plateau, which, with three adjoining cones, attains an elevation of over 1,000 feet above sea-level. These hills have a gentle slope, and are covered with deep soil. No sections were to be seen at the points visited, but occasional rounded blocks of basalt showed themselves on the flanks of the hills.

The old land surface of the island has undergone considerable modification under the influence of atmospheric agencies. The volcanic rock of which the island is composed, yielding to these, has become disintegrated, and gradually eroded into the deep valleys by which the country is now intersected. Sections exposed in the road-cuttings on the sides of the valleys reveal how deeply such influences have penetrated, and also furnish striking examples of the spheroidal weathering so characteristic of basalt.

The principal drainage channels are known as Water-mill, Stockyard, Cascade, and Broken Bridge Creeks.

The margin of the island is formed in places of black ramparts of basalt worn into cliffs, which are often nearly perpendicular. In some instances a columnar structure may be observed. An excellent section illustrative of this may be studied at Anson's Bay. A sheet of basalt, which has assumed the columnar structure during cooling and contraction, occurs here near the summit of the cliff. The columns in some instances are about 30 feet high, and are divided transversely by curved joints of the ball-and-socket type. This flow of dense lava has a southerly dip, and rests upon a fine yellowish tuff, the composition of which is given in the following analysis:—

Moisture	21.20
Gangue (insoluble in acids)	47.45
Peroxide of iron	11.75
Alumina	15.30
Lime	1.80
Magnesia	1.80
Phosphoric oxide.....	trace
Undetermined, loss, &c.....	0.62
	<hr/>
	100.00

Traced downwards, this yellow tuff passes into a coarser brown deposit of a similar nature, which shows distinct planes of bedding. These fragmental rocks separate the upper basalt flow from a lower which appears at the sea-level.

The characteristic shades of colour exhibited by the greater part of the sea-cliff pass from greyish white to red and purple, and attract the eye at a considerable distance from the shore. These colours are due to the action of weathering.

The only sedimentary rock I observed occurs at Sydney Bay, where it forms the lowest portion of the island, being but a few feet above sea-level. It occupies an area of about 200 acres, covered for the most part by soil formed from sediment carried down by Watermill Creek, and from the degradation of the surrounding hills. This formation is of recent origin, and consists of well-rounded particles of corals of white, yellowish, and pink colour, interspersed with a few particles of volcanic rocks. It corresponds exactly with a formation at Ascension Island, in the Atlantic Ocean, as described by Darwin in his "Geological Observations," p. 56.

Excellent sections are exposed at the old Government Lime-kiln, at Emily Bay, where a triangular block has been quarried out for lime-burning. The rock is divided into layers of about half an inch or more in thickness. At a depth of a few feet these are found cemented together into a compact stone, which has been quarried for building purposes. The union of the particles is effected by calcareous matter, and in the compact varieties each particle can be seen to be enveloped in a husk of pellucid carbonate

bonate of lime. The cementation takes place rapidly, owing to the permeating water being charged with carbonate of lime in solution, derived from the waste of the coral reef. As an instance of the rapidity of cementation, I may here mention that quarrying in the compact rock above described revealed a portion of an anchor chain embedded to a depth of nearly 2 feet in the solid stone, and in a position exposed to the abrading action of the waves, which must have removed a considerable quantity of superincumbent material. The chain is supposed by the inhabitants to have been lost in the wreck of the "Sirius," about ninety years ago.

The following is the result of an analysis of a sample of the compact rock above-mentioned:—

Hygroscopic moisture.....	0.22
Carbonate of lime	86.65
" magnesia	8.72
Oxide of iron and alumina.....	1.10
Silica	0.90
Phosphoric oxide (P_2O_5)	trace
Alkalies, undetermined.....	2.41
	<hr/> 100.00

Phillip Island, situated about 3 miles to the southward of Norfolk Island, has an extreme length and breadth of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile by $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile. It rises abruptly at its western end to an altitude of about 900 feet, and slopes gradually to the eastward to about 300 feet above the sea-level. The coast is mostly precipitous, and the greater part of the island deeply furrowed, and almost destitute of vegetation, owing to the extreme friability of the rocks and the steep slope of its surface.

The enormous masses of decomposed basalt and roughly stratified coarse brown and yellow tuff which form the island are penetrated in numerous places by dykes of undecomposed basalt, striking to all points of the compass, and from their dark colour forming a strong contrast to the rocks they traverse. At the landing-place on the northern side a good section is exposed where a large dyke has burst through the tuff, which here forms the sea-cliff; it disappears near the central portion of the island, as the decomposed basalt is reached. Where the tuff forms the coast the cliffs are nearly perpendicular, owing to the sapping action of the waves causing it to fall in blocks, and from its upper surface resisting more successfully the aerial denudation which has worn the softer *wacké* into steep slopes.

About the centre of the little inlet where landing is effected, and near the dyke, the slope is more gradual, and ascent practicable. The tuff, when traced upwards, gradually passes into *wacké*, but owing to the debris from the higher ground covering the inclined surface no line of demarcation can be drawn.

The *wacké* presents a singular group of alternating red, purple, brown, yellow, and white soft argillaceous beds; the red and purple predominating, afford a remarkably striking appearance from the main island. At the surface these beds are soft and friable, but at the depth of a few inches they become unctuous, and, like wax, yield a polished streak when cut with a knife.

Lying scattered on the surface in several places are black concretionary nodules, which yielded on analysis:—

Manganese dioxide	5.28%
Peroxide of iron	15.69%
Sesqui-oxide of cobalt.....	2.01%

They have probably been formed by segregation round organic nuclei. Similar concretions of brown iron ore, of reddish colour and more elongated form, also occur in several places, and probably have a similar origin.

A sample of the brown tuff from the landing-place yielded on analysis:—

Moisture	10.73
Combined water	4.08
Lime	1.06
Oxide of iron	27.95
Organic matter.....	.32
Phosphoric oxide.....	.05
Insoluble silicious matter	54.81
Loss and undetermined	1.00
	<hr/> 100.00

Phillip Island is evidently part of a volcanic crater, the material of which is chiefly composed of tuff. It is rapidly being wasted away under the action of the waves and weather; and I am informed that after heavy rain the sea is discoloured for a considerable distance round the land. As each fall of rain removes the loose soil a fresh surface is exposed to the desiccating influence of the climate, to be in its turn converted into dust and swept into the sea. Under such conditions, and in the absence of a return of volcanic energy, it is evident that at a not distant period the whole island must be washed away.

Lord Howe Island.—The geological features of this interesting island having already been described by Mr. H. T. Wilkinson, I devoted my attention to procuring fossil bones which occur embedded in a rock almost wholly composed of fragments of corals cemented together by carbonate of lime. The area occupied by this rock forms the low-lying habitable portion of the island. Mr. Wilkinson, in his report, makes mention of the occurrence of the fossil bones, but they were at the time pronounced to be turtle bones, as undoubtedly many of them are, fragments of carapaces of Chelonians being of frequent occurrence. Recently, however, a collection dispatched by Edward King, an inhabitant, to Mr. Fitzgerald, Deputy Surveyor-General, afforded you an opportunity of inspection, and of forming an opinion that some of them constituted portions of the skeleton of a large extinct horned lizard allied to *Megalanias*; and I understand that upon your recommendation they were submitted to Professor Sir Richard Owen, who has since, in acknowledging their receipt, intimated that they belong to species of *Megalanias* and *Chelonias*.

Having engaged the services of Mr. King when I first touched at the island on my way to Norfolk Island, I was enabled upon my return to bring away a fairly good collection, including a skull with two osseous horn-like processes, which in all probability belong to *Megalanias*.

In addition to the above attached processes are several detached perfect specimens of the same description, which Professor Owen describes as weapons of defence possessed by many edentulous herbiferous reptiles, thus inferring that *Megalanias* probably belonged to that class of animals. I was unable to obtain teeth of any description, a fact which also points to the above conclusion. The results of the Professor's systematic examination of these remains will be awaited with great interest.

Associated

Associated with the bones in the coral rocks are abundance of shells of species now living on the reefs and in the surrounding waters. I submitted several specimens to Mr. Brazier, C.M.Z.S., of the Australian Museum, who identified them as *Tridacna elongata*, Lamarck; very common on the reefs in Torres Straits, Solomon Island, and the Great Barrier Reef of Eastern Australia; *Bulimus bivaricosus*, Gaskoin; and a species of *Venus*.

In concluding my notes, I desire to express my sincere thanks to the residents of Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands for their generous hospitality, particularly the family of Mr. Fletcher Nobbs, of Norfolk Island.

Appended is a description of rock specimens collected by myself from Norfolk and Phillip Islands. The specimens have been microscopically examined by Mr. T. W. E. David, B.A., F.G.S., Geological Surveyor.

Also is appended a list of the flora of Norfolk Island, kindly furnished by Mr. Isaac Robinson, a resident on the island.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH E. CARNE,

Geological Surveyor in Charge.

Curator, Mining and Geological Museum.

DESCRIPTION of Rock Specimens from Norfolk and Phillip Islands, microscopically examined by T. W. E. David, B.A., F.G.S., Geological Surveyor.

Specimen 5,045, from Emily Bay, Norfolk Island, is a fragmental calcareous rock, consisting of rounded grains of coral and lava, and tests of foraminifera. Under the microscope the worn fragments of coral appear as oval grains, 1-30th inch in longest diameter, of which about 20 per cent are semi-transparent, and show the structure of coral very distinctly. The remainder are opaque, and of a milky-white or ochraceous colour, the discolouration being due probably to the presence of oxide of iron, derived from the volcanic particles. The latter constitute about 7 per cent of the bulk of the stone. Some of these occur as rounded grains, showing the crystalline structure of lava, in which crystals of plagioclase and orthoclase felspar are scattered through a dark yellowish green ground mass, with numerous dark patches.

The ground mass is probably formed chiefly of decomposed augite, olivine, and magnetite.

The remainder consist of aggregations of black dust sprinkled through a transparent yellowish-green base, filling in the interstices between the grains of coral and lava, and shells of foraminifera.

The last are compound, and perforate, resembling the nummuline type, and contribute about 5 per cent. of the rock material. Nearly all the fragments are coated with a thin film of clear calcite, and are agglutinated into a compact stone by a cement of carbonate of lime and volcanic dust.

Specimen 5,049, from columnar flow at Anson's Bay, Norfolk Island, is an eruptive rock, composed of multiple-twined crystals of plagioclase with a few of orthoclase singly twined, augite, olivine, biotite (?), and magnetite.

The olivine occurs chiefly in rounded grains, decomposing along the edges into a reddish and greenish brown mineral, much resembling biotite, and contains enclosures of magnetite.

The specific gravity of this rock is 2.83. It weathers a greyish brown; and on freshly broken surfaces the crystals of felspar and grains of olivine can be readily distinguished with the unassisted eye.

The rock may therefore be classed provisionally as a plagioclase dolerite.

Specimen 5,038, from dyke at landing-place, Phillip Island. This rock consists essentially of a grey microcrystalline base of plagioclase felspar, augite, and magnetite, in which irregularly shaped grains of olivine occur porphyritically.

The olivine grains are decomposed along the edges into a reddish-brown mineral resembling biotite. A few small patches of glassy material are observable in this section, and fluidal structure is very apparent. As the stone is porous, it is difficult to determine its specific gravity with accuracy (it is about 2.7.)

It weathers a bluish grey. This rock may be described as a porous plagioclase anamesite.

Specimen 5,039, from Phillip Island, is a friable, massive, yellowish-brown rock with dark included fragments, and white spots of zeolitic material infilling what have been irregularly shaped cavities.

Under the microscope the rock is seen to be composed of a semi-transparent to opaque yellowish brown base, enclosing volcanic lapilli, and broken crystals of olivine and felspar.

The lapilli consists of rounded fragments of black lava, up to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, some of them being very porous. They contain crystals of olivine and felspar in a yellowish semi-transparent base partly composed of glassy material. The rock is clearly fragmentary and of volcanic origin, resembling a basalt tuff.

Specimen 5,040, from Phillip Island, is a silicious sinter, composed of broken fragments of clear quartz in a milky-white, opaque, chalcedonic base.

The quartz fragments have their edges much corroded, and show numerous large cavities, besides zonal enclosures of magnetite.

These fragments of quartz have evidently been shattered in their present position, as many of the contiguous pieces fit one another. The fracture has probably been due to the expansion of gases and liquids imprisoned in the cavities, consequent on the relief of external pressure.

List of the Flora of Norfolk Island, furnished by Mr. Isaac Robinson, from descriptions by Baron Sir F. von Müller, K.M.G., &c.

TIMBER TREES.

Botanic Name.	Local Name.
<i>Araucaria excelsa</i>	Norfolk Island pine.
<i>Olea apatala</i>	Iron-wood; most durable.
<i>Acronychia Endlicherii</i>	Yellow-wood do.
<i>Xanthoxylon Blackburnia</i>	Hochandle; yellow wood, good.
<i>Hymenanthera latifolia</i>	Beech; good, used for rails and boat-keels.
<i>Elacodendron certipendulum</i>	Maple; good.
<i>Exocarpus Australis</i>	Everlasting; durable as iron-wood.
<i>Dysoxylon Patersonianum</i>	Sharkwood; fair.
<i>Wickstromia Australis</i>	Kurryjung; wood no good, bark useful as flax.
<i>Bologhia lucida</i>	Bloodwood; indifferent, sap good for staining.
<i>Alyxia gynopogon</i>	Evergreen; small.
<i>Myoporum obscurum</i>	Sandalwood; worthless.

APPENDIX II.—continued.

Botanic Name.	Local Name.
<i>Excoecaria Agallocha</i>	Sandalwood; worthless.
<i>Celtis paniculata</i>	Great white-wood; worthless.
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Ti-tree; small, but good.
<i>Albizzia cophantlea</i>	
<i>Pisonia Brunonian</i>	Soft-wood; worthless.
<i>Melicope</i>	Do. do.
<i>Lagunaria Patersonii</i>	White oak do.
<i>Enodia litoralis</i>	Shade-tree.
<i>Meritua latifolia</i>	Do.
<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	A shrub pest.
<i>Achyranthes arborescens</i>	Softwooded-tree.

VINES, CREEPERS, &C.

Von Mueller.	Name.
<i>Pterocarpus australis</i>	Samson's Line.
<i>Cordyline Baueri</i>	
<i>Muehlenbergia australis</i>	
<i>Capparis nobilis</i>	
<i>Tasminum simplicifolium</i>	Jasmine.
<i>Sicyos angulata</i>	
<i>Geitonoplesium cymosum</i>	
<i>Melodinus Baueri</i>	
<i>Tylophora biglandulosa</i>	
<i>Canavalia obtusifolia</i>	
<i>Abutilon julianae</i>	Hibiscus.
<i>Salvia</i>	
<i>Pittosporum bracteolatum</i>	Oleander.
<i>Cassia lavigata</i>	Acacia.
<i>Solanum sodomæum</i>	Poison Weed.
Do <i>auriculatum</i>	Tobacco Stuff.
<i>Phoridium tenax</i>	Flax.
<i>Cyperus</i>	
<i>Panicum crusgalli</i>	
<i>Viscum articulatum</i>	Mistletoe.
<i>Scirpus</i>	
<i>Polygonum minus</i>	
<i>Boehmeria australis</i>	Fire-Tree.
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Flag.
<i>Parmelia</i>	
<i>Marchantia polymorpha</i>	
<i>Urena barbata</i>	
<i>Hypnum</i>	
<i>Lobelia anceps</i>	

FERNS.—F. VON MUELLER.

<i>Pteris arguta</i> , Aiton.	<i>Aspidium cordifolium</i> , Bory.
Do <i>incisa</i> , Thunberg.	Do <i>uliginosum</i> , Kruze.
Do <i>marginata</i> , Bory.	<i>Cheilanthes tenuifolia</i> , Swartz.
Do <i>aquilina</i> , Linne.	<i>Woodwardia cantata</i> , Cavaniller.
<i>Asplenium falcatum</i> , Lamarek.	<i>Hypolepis tenuifolia</i> , Bernhardt.
Do <i>japonicum</i> .	<i>Lomaria lanceolata</i> , Sprengel.
Do <i>nidus</i> .	<i>Marattia fraxinea</i> , Smith.
Do <i>Robinsonii</i> (new) Von. Mueller.	<i>Apliglossum vulgatum</i> , Linne.
Do <i>umbrosum</i> .	<i>Polypodium pustulatum</i> , Forster.
Do <i>diversifolium</i> , A. Cunningham.	Do <i>tenellum</i> do.
Do <i>rigida</i> .	Do <i>acrostichoides</i> do.
<i>Adiantum affine</i> , Willdenow.	<i>Trichomanes Bauerianum</i> , Endlicher.
Do <i>hispidulum</i> , Swartz.	Do <i>humile</i> , Forster.
<i>Aspidium aristatum</i> , Swartz.	<i>Vittaria elongata</i> , Swartz.
Do <i>tenerum</i> , Sprengel.	<i>Alsophila excelsa</i> , Brown.
Do <i>molle</i> , Swartz.	<i>Psilotum trignetrum</i> , Brown.

APPENDIX I.

Memorandum.

Department of Mines, Geological Survey Branch, 8 December, 1885.

THE red and grey shales which crop out from beneath the Hawkesbury sandstones at Long Reef, 6 miles north from Manly Beach, are, in lithological character, similar to, and are evidently the re-appearance at the surface of, the shaly ironstone-beds which were pierced at a depth of 1,142 feet near Port Hacking, and which extend at the base of the Hawkesbury sandstone formation throughout the Illawarra coal-field. At Bulli the main coal-seam occurs about 700 feet below the red shales; at Coal Cliff, 829 feet; at Heathcote, 846 feet; while in the diamond-drill bore on the Holt-Sutherland Estate 1,051 feet of strata below them were passed through and the coal not reached; thus showing that the strata between the red shales and the coal appear to thicken towards the north. Without actual test, therefore, by boring or sinking, it would be impossible to predict the depth at which the coal-seams exist at Long Reef; but as this is the nearest point to Sydney Harbour at which the coal-measures are likely to be found closest to the surface, it is a matter of considerable importance that this locality should be prospected, for should workable coal be proved here it might readily be shipped at Middle Harbour.

The Under Secretary.

C. S. WILKINSON, G.S.

SUPERINTENDENT OF DRILLS' REPORT.

The Superintendent of Drills to the Under Secretary for Mines, reporting on the working of Diamond Drills and Water Augers, during the year 1885.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Diamond Drill Branch.

In submitting my first Annual Report on the workings of the Diamond Drills and Water-augers for the year 1885, I do myself the honor to attach to said Report the following Appendices:—

Diamond Drills.

Appendix A.—Return showing the locality, strata, depth bored, percentage of core extracted, value of diamonds used during the year, and rate per foot, exclusive of office salaries, store wages, and rent, also Superintendent of Drills' travelling expenses.

Appendix B.—Summary of Diamond Drills, showing the number of feet bored, total working cost to Department, average cost per foot, and amounts receivable for the year 1885.

Appendix C., Nos. 1 to 26.—Sections of borings during the year 1885.

Water-augers.

Appendix D.—Return showing the locality, depth bored, and rate per foot, exclusive of office salaries, store wages, and rent, also Superintendent of Drills' travelling expenses.

Appendix E.—Summary of water-augers, showing the number of feet bored, total working cost to Department, average cost per foot, and amounts receivable for the year 1885.

Appendix F. Nos. 1 to 22.—Sections of borings during the year 1885.

Appendix G.—Map of Colony of New South Wales, showing position of wells and bores, as published last year, with additions.

Appendix H.—Index to wells, bores.

When I took charge of the Diamond Drill Branch on the 14th September last, in addition to my former duties as Inspector of Mines, I was fully sensible of the great responsibility I had undertaken, and the extra work the office of Superintendent of Drills would entail, not only on my time, but also on my mental and physical endurance. I was very anxious that through no neglect on my part should the mining community, or those interested in the successful workings of the diamond drills, be inconvenienced. I have since left no stone unturned to perform the duties of both offices, fearlessly, and to the best of my ability, for the benefit of all concerned. I beg to be allowed to add that I am very thankful for the great consideration which has at all times being extended to me by the heads of the Department of Mines during the last ten years, and the kindness and assistance I have at all times received from my fellow officers throughout the Department.

I lost no time to make myself acquainted with the duties appertaining to my new work, both in the office and in the field, and it will be seen that by a return called for as to how the drill work stood when I took charge, that several of the drills were in difficulties, and that my task was not the easiest to commence with.

Particulars respecting Diamond Drills, September, 1885.

No. of Drill.	Where working.	Engineer in charge.	Depth.	Remarks.
A	Clarence Siding, G.W.R....	Thomas Durning.....	feet. 283½	Lost diamonds; was delayed in recovering same—diamonds forwarded September 3rd to recommence boring.
2	Port Waratah	Alfred Goodare	238	Struck coal Sept. 4th—boring through same.
3	Colo Vale	Alexander Roy .....	.....	Bore finished—this drill is about to be removed to Bourke.
4	Apple-tree Flat, near Minmi	Robert Augus	256	Lost core-barrel—trying to recover same.
5	Penrith	John Gretton	20	Bore just started.
6	In store .....	.....	.....	Underground drill.
7	Dempsey Island	T. R. Richards	1,750	Bit wrenched off at bottom of bore—trying to recover same.
8	Monk-Wearmouth	Henry Fryer .....	.....	Drill just erected—sinking shaft for stand-pipe.
9	Bingera	M. Liston, in charge .....	.....	Waiting acceptance by the Melbourne and Sydney Diamond Co. of terms offered to them to put down bore at Bingera.
10	Orange	Thomas Roberts	64	Rods jammed—tubing bore.
11	Heathcote	John Hampshire	1,020	Cementing bore to keep sides from falling in and jam the rods.
12	Pelican Flat	G. Archibald	750	No report received from the 25th July.
13	Werris Creek	J. Harrington	605	Struck water—testing supply.

I found the majority of the engineers in charge of diamond drills and foremen of water-augers trustworthy, and well up in their work. Those who were not trustworthy, and neglected their duty, have been discharged by me, and I have now no hesitation in stating that the present engineers in charge of diamond drills and foremen of water-augers with the men under them, compare very favourably with any class of working men in New South Wales. The engineers of diamond drills and foremen of water-augers have given me great assistance by doing their best for the interest of all concerned. They have received credit from me when credit was due, and I have not hesitated to reprimand them when I considered them to be

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in fault. I have given them to understand that if work is worth doing it is worth doing well; and I am glad to be able to state that this maxim has now been adopted throughout the whole of the Diamond Drill Branch.

The clerks in connection with the branch, one and all, including the storeroomkeeper, have given me every possible assistance, and thereby lightened my duties considerably. Not only have they given me a willing hand when required, but in all matters in connection with this branch they have done their duty faithfully and well, for which I tender them my sincere thanks.

I was much pleased to note in the annual report of the late Superintendent of Drills, for the year 1884, that an important invention had been made in a tool for the recovery of lost or fractured diamonds, and that a statement made out by the Department prior to the use of this diamond-recovering tool showed that the average cost per foot for diamonds used was 3s. 8d., and since the introduction of the tool the cost is 2s. 0½d.. As it is noted in said annual report that this diamond-recovering tool was invented 2nd June, 1884, I was very anxious to know the result this tool had achieved during the fifteen months from date of invention to date of my appointment, and therefore issued a circular to all the engineers in charge of Government diamond drills, viz. —

"The Engineer in charge of No. diamond drill is requested to state:—

1. What means has he adopted to recover a diamond, or fracture of a diamond, when lost in the bore?
2. Has he ever used for this purpose a tool known as a tool for recovering diamonds lost in a bore-hole; and if so, with what results?
3. Has he one of these tools with him at the drill; and if so, the date it was received, and from whom?"

The reply to the above circular, from ten out of eleven engineers, was that they had never seen nor yet received such tool, but that when losing a diamond in a bore-hole they adopted a remedy of their own to recover said lost diamond. One engineer of the eleven engineers written to wrote thus:— "I received a tool from the late Superintendent in July last for boring a hole in the centre of bore, but I had a tool made out of steel, of my own invention, which I think is better than the one I received from the late Superintendent. I can make a tool out of an old bit."

I felt much disappointed at the replies received, and forthwith instructed the clerk-in-charge to search the records of the Diamond Drill Branch, and to ascertain how many of these tools, known as the diamond-recovering tool, had been paid for or ordered. *The result was nil.* No such tool had ever been ordered or paid for. After gathering the above information, I do not feel justified in incurring the expenditure of supplying the engineers of diamond drills with these so-called diamond-recovering tools, more especially so as the late Superintendent had every opportunity of bringing the above-mentioned tool into practical use for fully fifteen months previous to his resignation. I am, however, glad to note that, although no discovery of lost diamonds has been made through the agency of the above-mentioned tool, the loss of diamonds in the bore-holes is considerably less than formerly, owing, no doubt, to the engineers in charge of diamond drills gaining more practical knowledge in setting the diamonds in the working-bit, to the knowledge gained in supervision as to which are the best diamonds adapted for the work, and to a thorough knowledge of the work generally, which experience alone can teach. In the earlier times of diamond-drill boring in this Colony the average cost per foot for diamonds used was 3s. 8d.; in the year 1884 it was reduced to 2s. 0½d. and from 1st January to 12th September, 1885, it was still further reduced to 1s. 7½d. per foot. From the 14th September to the end of this year, since I had charge of the Diamond Drill Branch, the cost at per foot for diamonds used is 1s. 1½d. Thus it will be seen that the average cost at per foot for diamonds used has gradually decreased, the average for the year being 1s. 5½d. per foot.

That the Government diamond drills have been the means to a very great extent of the recent rapid development of our mineral industry, especially that of coal, is generally admitted and duly appreciated by the public. These drills, while really assisting in the discovery and development of the great mineral wealth of this Colony, can, and should, be made self-supporting, and I have not the least doubt but that in a very short time the cost of working the Government diamond drills in New South Wales will be considerably lessened.

There are now thirteen drills belonging to the Government; of which No. A is at Clarence Siding; No. 2, near Adamstown; No. 3, North Shore (St. Leonards); No. 4, Apple-tree Flat (Newcastle District); No. 5, Penrith; No. 7, Dempsey Island; No. 8, Redhead (Lake Macquarie); No. 10, Lucknow; No. 11, Heathcote; No. 12, Pelican Flat (Lake Macquarie); No. 13, Werris Creek.

No. 6 and No. 9 drill are in store—these are underground drills, for which there is very little demand. I am also of opinion that No. 2, No. 5, and No. 10 drills may be brought into store as soon as the contracts on which they are employed are completed. This would curtail expenditure, and the eight drills still remaining in the field would be quite sufficient for public purposes.

The most important bores put down during the year is that at Dempsey Island—1,966 feet 7 inches, still boring*; that at Heathcote—1,431 feet, 11 inches, still boring†; at Colo Vale, Mittagong—1,181 feet; and at Pelican Flat, Lake Macquarie—1,000 feet 1 inch.

The total depth bored during the year by diamond drills is 11,325 feet 4 inches, or 1,461 feet 1 inch more than was bored in 1884. Of this total, 7,806 feet 5 inches were bored during the first 8½ months, from 1st January to 12th September, and 3,518 feet 11 inches were bored during the last 8½ months, from 14th September to the end of the year.

305 feet 6 inches was done by hand-boring during the earlier part of the year, which, although necessary, does not come within the scope of diamond-drill boring.

The average cost at per foot for boring, exclusive of office salary, store wages, and rent, also of Superintendent's travelling expenses, is, from 1st January to 12th September, 17s. 7½d. per foot; from the 14th September to 31st December, 15s. 7½d.; total average during the year, 16s. 11½d.

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* Depth bored to 31st December, 1885—1,966 feet 7 inches; bore completed 6th February, 1886—2,001 feet 7 inches.

† Depth bored to 31st December, 1885—1,431 feet 11 inches; bore completed 3rd March, 1886—1,685 feet 7 inches.

The total working on field cost, exclusive of all office salaries, store wages, and rent, also Superintendent of Drills' travelling expenses, amounts to £9,619 18s. 6d., and the total earnings during the year, to £9,642 0s. 6d.; but the total cost, inclusive of all the expenditure in connection with the Diamond Drill Branch, amounts to £10,811 3s. 6d., or at the rate of 19s. 1½d. per foot bored during the year 1885.

As stated above, the diamond drills can and should be made self-supporting, and I am confident that I will be able to carry this into effect before the end of the year 1886, and without any extra expense or inconvenience to those who employ the drills.

Percentage of core saved from 1st January to 12th September is 78·82; from 14th September to 31st December, 79·44; total average of core saved during the year, 79·01.

Owing to several of the diamond drills being in difficulties when I took charge, the delays have been longer, and the cost per foot bored larger, than it otherwise would have been.

Water-augers.

There are now 11 water-augers at work in search of water—3 on road Wilcannia to Silverton; 3 on road Bourke to Wanaaring; 2 on Moongulla Reserve, Collarenebri; 1 at Gorian Station, near Walgett; 1 at Barrington; and 1 at Hay.

The total cost of boring per foot, exclusive of cost of carriage, from 1st January to 12th September, is at the rate of £1 2s. 5½d. per foot; from 14th September to end of year, £1 18s. 0d. per foot; total for the whole year, £1 5s. 11d. per foot, inclusive of carriage £1 11s. 1d.

The above appears at first sight as if the cost of boring, at per foot, had greatly increased during the last 3½ months of the year, but such is really not the case. When I took charge, on the 14th September last, I found that the water auger at Hay had not been erected. The augers at Moongulla, Collarenebri, were in difficulties. The auger at Barrington made very little progress, and the foreman of said auger resigned on the plea of ill-health, which caused great delays; the foreman of the water-augers 75 miles from Bourke to Wanaaring also resigned on the plea of ill-health; the delays, to obtain suitable persons to take the places of those who had resigned, has added considerably to the expenditure for the last 3½ months. Great delays have also taken place on the water-augers—Wilcannia to Silverton Road, owing to Ministerial changes, as it was under consideration whether or not the water-augers on said road should be withdrawn. This was beyond my control. It will be seen that 131 days were lost in delays during the last 3½ months, owing to causes stated above, as against 175½ days for the first 8½ months; again, repairing had to be done for 171 days during the last 3½ months, whereas only 316½ days were lost in repairing during the first 8½ months; 40 days were lost in erecting the last 3½ months, and only 69½ days for the first 8½ months. This proves that, without the delays, the cost of erecting and the necessary repairing during the last 3½ months exceeded by far the average cost of the first 8½ months. But, by the latest date, the whole of the water augers, with the exception of the one in store at Barrington, are at work. That at Hay is down 381 feet, and at Bourke, 531 feet; and the cost of boring, including all expenditure from whatever source, will be considerably less in future than hitherto. The total cost of boring during the year, inclusive of all expenditure, is at the rate of £1 18s. 0½d. per foot.

Total number of feet bored during the year, 3,161 feet 7 inches, or 1,628 feet 4 inches more than during last year.

In addition to the above 683 feet were bored for private persons, by whom part of the labour was supplied, the charges for which are not included here. 468 feet 6 inches were bored during the first 8½ months, and 214 feet 6 inches from 14th September to the end of the year, or at the rate of 6s. 8d. per foot for the first 8½ months, and 4s. 2½d. per foot for the last 3½ months, exclusive of carriage. Or a grand total of 3,844 feet 7 inches were bored during the year, including the work for private parties, at a cost of £1 2s. 4½d. per foot without carriage, or £1 6s. 7½d. per foot with carriage, exclusive of office salaries, store wages, and rent, also Superintendent of Drills' travelling expenses; but inclusive of all expenditure from whatever source the total cost of the Department is £1 12s. 11¼d. per foot, or at the rate of 13s. 9½d. per foot less than last year. (This includes service-tanks containing 918 cubic yards.)

The water-augers on the Wilcannia to Silverton Road have hitherto not met with much success; the water, so far, obtained is only fit for stock purposes; and, by my personal knowledge of the country, I have little hope that the water-augers on said roads will do much good at any time. I intend to recommend their withdrawal at an early date.

Mr. C. S. Wilkinson, Government Geologist, writing on this subject, states:—“The country along this route (between Silverton and Wilcannia) consists of hills of Devonian sandstone and conglomerates and Silurian schists, with quartz reefs. Between the hills are rich red sandy plains formed of sand, clay, and drift, filling old hollows.

Good fresh water will be scarce in these deposits; but fair stock water will probably be obtained, if the lowest parts or old channels under the plains can be discovered. The depths in some instances may reach 350 feet. When the bed-rock is struck, it should not be bored into more than 5 feet.

The boring operations at Moongulla Reserve, Collarenebri, are going on slowly, owing to the great difficulty to get anything required forwarded from Sydney to the place of operations; some of the articles have been on transit nearly three months before they reached their destination.

Four bores put down with No. 9 water-auger at Gorian Station, near Narrabri, were very successful.

With No. 3 bore at said station stock water was struck at 95 feet and 137 feet respectively, and at the depth of 158 feet fresh water was tapped, which rose within 88 feet from surface at the rate of 9,792 gallons per day.

No. 4 bore tapped fresh water at 182 feet, which rose within 80 feet of surface, at the rate of 12,672 gallons per day.

No. 5 bore obtained fresh water at 150 feet, which rose within 83 feet from surface, at the rate of 12,000 gallons per day.

No.

No. 6 bore.—Salt water was tapped at 82 feet 6 inches, which rose to 77 feet from surface, at the rate of 3,600 gallons per day. Good stock water at 93 feet; salt water from 99 to 104 feet; good stock water from 116 to 146 feet 6 inches, which rose within 75 feet 6 inches from surface; and fresh water was tapped at 173 feet, which rose within 71 feet from the surface, at the rate of 17,280 gallons per day.

At Barrington a little salt water has been obtained.

I expect great results from the present boring operations on the road from Bourke to Wanaaring. If artesian water is tapped all along this road, which, I believe, will be the case, then boring operations may be successfully extended on to Wanaaring, and from there on to Milparinka and Tibooburra, Mount Browne District. In some parts the bores may have to be put down from 700 to 800 feet; but in other parts from 400 to 500 feet will be the probable depths. The greatest drawback in this remote part of New South Wales is the great scarcity of water, and if this is once overcome by artesian wells, all the stock and wool now finding its way from Cooper Creek, Mount Browne and Mount Poole Districts would be directed towards the Bourke Railway Station, and to Sydney. The bore at Gunbar Road, 13 miles from Hay, which was down 206 feet 11 inches on 31st December, tapped fresh water at 70 feet from surface, and below this the sand-drifts, from a depth of 84 feet to 200 feet, contain fresh water, which rose to within 62 feet of the surface.

By latest report from this bore, fresh water was tapped at 240 feet, and rose to 140 feet in four minutes; supply, 25,200 gallons per day. This water forced a plug of clay 20 feet long over 100 feet up the tubes. Should artesian water be obtained here, which, I believe, will be the case after a greater depth is reached, the benefits accruing therefrom will be immense, not only to the Hay District, but our Colony at large.

The water-boring machinery could be greatly improved. One of their greatest drawbacks for general use is their clumsiness, which increases the cost of boring very considerably, and almost places it beyond the reach of private individuals. A great deal of the machinery which is made out of cast iron could be made out of steel, so as to reduce the weight, and thereby reduce the cost of transit.

I have, &c.,

W. H. J. SLLEE,

Superintendent of Drills.

No. of Machine	No. of Bores.	Locality.	Strata.	Depths bored.				Days occupied.							Rate bored per hour.	Per-centage of Core extracted.	Cost.	
				Bored by Hand Drill.	Bored by Diamond Drill.	Depth of Bores.	Total depth bored in each locality	Moving.	Erecting.	Boring.	Repairing.	Idle.	Holidays.	Total.			Amounts.	Per foot.
A	1	Colo Vale	Hawkesbury Series and Coal Measures	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	5	1	19	18	2	45	inches.	£ s. d.	s. d.	
A	1	Clarence Siding	Do. do.	338 0	338 0	338 0	338 0	17	36	137	55	3	248	14 00	19 06	103 0 7	
A	1	Leconfield, Braxton	Lower Coal Measures	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	2	10	2	18	1	33	3 30	82 57	457 10 7	
13	1	Do. do.	Do. do.	65 0	65 0	87 0	87 0	6	20	1	3	30	4 80	78 33	672 15 5	
2	1	Waratah	Upper Coal Measures	49 0	254 0	303 0	303 0	2	4	35	20	31	2	94	12 90	86 18	211 4 11	
2	2	Do.	Do. do.	141 0	141 0	Bored by Hand Drill.				48 6 1	
2	3	Do.	Do. do.	51 0	222 2	273 2	717 2	2	22	7	6	36	13 60	90 02	369 9 8	
2	1	Adamstown	Do. do.	177 0	202 0	202 0	202 0	7	3	16	3	5	1	36	18 90	76 36	67 10 3	
3	1	Colo Vale	Hawkesbury Series and Coal Measures	380 0	380 0	380 0	380 0	52	19	125	1	197	10 90	88 24	421 6 8	
3	1	North Shore	Do. do.	343 10	343 10	343 10	343 10	1	7	32	19	3	2	64	16 10	61 70	240 9 5	
4	1	Maitland	Middle Coal Measures	48	48	
4	1	Apple-tree Creek	Upper Coal Measures	681 3	681 3	681 3	681 3	6	18	82	100	63	6	275	12 40	86 57	694 10 11	
5	1	Breakfast Creek	Hawkesbury Series	3	5	
5	1	Rocky Mouth	Lower Mesozoic	403 4	403 4	403 4	403 4	2	12	55	5	20	3	97	11 00	50 25	282 18 9	
5	1	Penrith, Euroka Creek	Hawkesbury Series	434 3	434 3	434 3	434 3	5	18	47	26	32	1	129	13 80	83 13	203 10 10	
6	1	Cobar	Silurian	0 6	0 6	0 6	0 6	1	1	1	3	0 75	100 00	45 19 3	
7	1	Dempsey Island	Upper Coal Measures	1,033 7	1,033 7	1,033 7	1,033 7	5	163	104	67 1/2	11	351	9 40	87 73	1,219 18 4	
8	1	Monk Wearmouth	Do. do.	705 4	705 4	705 4	705 4	2	18	98	5	11	9	143	10 70	88 19	23 7 1/2	
8	2	Do.	Do. do.	491 4	491 4	491 4	491 4	4	16	38	7	7	1	73	19 30	67 46	
8	3	Do.	Do. do.	657 6	657 6	1,854 2	1,854 2	17	24	50	8	7	1	107	19 70	90 99	840 12 8	
8	1	Redhead	Do. do.	160 6	160 6	160 6	160 6	12	16	8	1	3	40	30 00	83 46	77 3 1	
9	1	Bingera	Siluro-Devonian	97 11	97 11	15	6	10	1	32	9 70	51 83	
9	2	Do.	Do. do.	140 0	140 0	1	3	24	7	2	37	8 70	59 04	
9	3	Do.	Do. do.	103 0	103 0	340 11	340 11	3	14	6	1	24	11 00	59 38	278 18 10	
10	bores	City Railway	Hawkesbury Series	264 0	373 6	637 6	637 6	5 1/2	4 1/2	37 1/2	1	4	52	25 00	51 22	112 1 5	
10	1	Lucknow	Tertiary	140 0	140 0	4	9	28	24	15	2	82	7 50	66 34	16 4 3/4	
10	2	Do.	Do. do															

Less depth bored by Waratah Co.	ft. in. 49 0				
HAND BORING.					
Accounted for in 1884.					
Less depth bored at Railway Extension .	264 0				
Do. do. Hamilton	216 4	529 4	HAND BORING.		
1885.					
Port Waratah	100 0		By Contract	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Do.	41 0		Do.	40 0 0	
Do.	51 0		Do.	22 11 0	
East Waratah	25 0			20 12 0	83 3 0
Hamilton	88 6	305 6	Do.		7 10 0
			Do.		70 16 0
					161 9 0

		EXTRA EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	
4	Maitland	Endeavouring to recover bit set with diamonds	102 0 7	Diamonds not recovered, value £196 18s. 4d. This expenditure is on account of 1884 work.
5	† Breakfast Creek	After completion of boring with proportion of balance of General Account	51 8 2	
			153 8 9	

With the view of recovering the diamonds lost at Maitland in 1884, the above expenditure was incurred in the early part of 1885.

† The above expenditure in the early part of 1885 on account of Breakfast Creek includes wages, sundries, and carriage from and to Penrith and site.

Value of diamonds used—January 1st to September 12th.....	£ s. d. 625 1 0	=	s. d. 1 7 ³ / ₁₆ per foot.
Do. do. do. —September 12th to December 31st	204 8 7	=	1 1 ¹ / ₁₆ do.
Total value of diamonds used—January 1st to December 31st	829 9 7	=	1 5 ⁵ / ₁₆ per foot.

We the undersigned certify this return of Diamond Drill Work correct.

J. S. McNEIL.
D. McCULLOCH.

Drill Branch, 15th April, 1886.

W. H. J. SLEE,
Superintendent of Drills.

APPENDIX B.

SUMMARY of Diamond Drills, showing number of feet bored, total working-cost to Department, average cost per foot, and amounts receivable for 1885.

No. of Drill.	Locality.	Feet bored.	Wages.	Carriage.		Travelling expenses.	Repairs.	Diamonds used.	Stores issued.	Fuel, Water, and Sundries.	Proportion of balance of general A ₁ count.	Proportion of balance of general stores issued.	Office salaries.	Store wages.	Rent.	Superin- tendent of Drills' travelling expenses.	Total.	Cost per foot.	Amounts receivable inclusive of Ministerial concessions.	Amounts receivable exclusive of Ministerial concessions.	Amount receivable per foot.	
				Railway.	Other.																	
[A 2 & 13 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Colo Vale	ft. in.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	
	Clarence Siding.....	338 0	309 6 10	42 7 5	13 16 3	12 15 1	6 18 4	103 1 5	80 8 9	14 1 3	76 5 1	13 15 0	60 13 7	16 5 10	7 13 2	7 14 4	705 2 4	7 14 4	450 10 7	.....	.....
	Leconfield	87 0	127 8 0	2 12 1	7 14 3	2 12 4	.....	33 13 0	6 3 3	4 2 0	22 17 6	4 2 6	18 4 1	4 17 9	2 5 11	2 6 4	238 19 0	2 6 4	89 0 0	.....	.....
	Waratah	476 2	177 11 6	0 11 2	20 13 3	4 6 6	35 1 2	7 13 3	51 8 0	0 4 9	61 0 1	11 0 0	48 10 10	13 0 8	6 2 6	6 3 6	443 7 2	6 3 6	451 15 8	.....	.....
	East Waratah	177 0	47 2 0	.....	0 11 0	.....	.....	.....	10 15 9	0 1 6	7 12 6	1 7 6	6 1 4	1 12 7	0 15 4	0 15 5	76 14 11	0 15 5	131 7 6	.....	.....
	Colo Vale	380 0	234 15 0	8 6 7	6 10 1	5 4 0	0 19 6	6 15 0	37 5 4	40 11 0	68 12 8	12 7 6	54 12 3	14 13 4	6 17 10	6 18 10	504 8 11	6 18 10	554 19 0	.....	.....
	North Shore	343 10	101 14 8	.....	14 9 2	0 0 11	1 10 0	34 3 0	26 17 6	34 14 2	22 17 6	4 2 6	18 4 1	4 17 9	2 5 11	2 6 4	268 3 6	2 6 4	191 13 5	.....	.....
	Minmi	681 3	395 3 2	2 8 3	37 15 0	9 17 10	15 5 4	63 15 7	54 0 2	26 5 6	76 5 1	13 15 0	60 13 7	16 5 10	7 13 2	7 14 4	786 17 10	7 14 4	612 1 10	.....	.....
	Rocky Mouth	403 4	123 0 0	.....	18 8 6	.....	2 19 1	28 7 11	52 1 4	4 1 10	45 15 1	8 5 0	36 8 2	9 15 6	4 11 11	4 12 6	338 6 10	4 12 6	282 6 8	.....	.....
	Euroka Creek	434 3	163 11 4	1 1 4	26 6 0	5 1 10	2 1 6	9 14 3	13 10 7	27 4 0	38 2 6	6 17 6	30 6 9	8 12 11	3 16 7	3 17 2	339 14 3	3 17 2	353 13 8	.....	.....
	Cobar	0 6	25 10 0	1 8 8	.....	0 7 6	.....	9 13 1	.....	.....	7 12 6	1 7 6	6 1 4	1 12 7	0 15 3	0 15 6	55 3 11	0 15 6	61 0 4	.....	.....
	Dempsey Island	1,033 7	657 13 10	0 2 0	27 14 3	10 14 6	116 9 10	35 5 0	74 11 9	189 7 1	91 10 1	16 10 0	72 16 3	19 11 1	9 3 9	9 5 2	1,330 14 7	9 5 2	1,327 16 4	.....	.....
	Monk Wearmouth	1,854 2	532 3 0	.....	30 5 11	10 15 8	0 17 9	71 17 10	44 14 5	50 18 1	83 17 7	15 2 5	66 14 11	17 18 6	8 8 6	8 9 9	942 4 4	8 9 9	1,518 11 8	.....	.....
	Redhead	160 6	66 13 4	.....	1 9 9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 12 6	1 7 6	6 1 4	1 12 7	0 15 4	0 15 5	86 7 9	0 15 5	81 9 9	.....	.....
	Bingera	340 11	135 5 0	.....	2 8 0	5 8 0	.....	37 19 10	7 12 6	54 5 6	30 10 0	5 10 0	24 5 6	6 10 4	3 1 3	3 1 8	315 17 7	3 1 8	238 15 0	.....	.....
	Railway Extension	373 6	65 17 0	.....	14 14 0	.....	0 11 0	9 2 6	1 16 5	11 0 6	7 12 6	1 7 6	6 1 4	1 12 7	0 15 4	0 15 5	121 6 1	0 15 5	150 6 6	.....	.....
	Lucknow	307 3	373 1 8	9 3 3	48 10 8	8 8 6	11 12 0	93 17 0	31 3 8	46 11 3	83 17 7	15 2 5	66 14 11	17 18 6	8 8 6	8 9 9	822 19 8	8 9 9	307 5 0	.....	.....
	Heathcote	1,431 11	607 9 4	0 4 5	78 5 7	14 18 3	0 11 0	10 11 4	154 16 0	11 19 2	68 12 7	12 7 6	54 12 3	14 13 4	6 17 9	6 18 11	1,042 17 5	6 18 11	1,059 4 3	.....	.....
	Hamilton	308 2	59 18 6	.....	13 10 6	0 4 0	3 2 0	.....	.....	6 1 10	15 5 0	2 15 0	12 2 8	3 5 3	1 10 7	1 10 10	119 6 2	1 10 10	82 16 10	.....	.....
	Pelican Flat	1,246 6	549 7 4	.....	39 10 3	29 9 9	11 18 8	175 16 5	36 14 6	44 4 6	76 5 1	13 15 0	60 13 7	16 5 10	7 13 2	7 14 4	1,069 8 5	7 14 4	873 4 0	.....	.....
	Werris Creek	943 0	379 3 8	72 2 1	29 15 1	24 0 3	3 10 10	77 12 0	88 10 5	164 11 7	76 5 1	13 15 0	60 13 7	16 5 10	7 13 2	7 14 4	1,021 12 11	7 14 4	813 10 0	.....	.....
		11,325 4	5,191 15 2	140 12 7	432 9 6	148 7 0	213 8 0	829 9 7	772 10 4	730 5 6	983 13 6	177 7 4	782 15 0	210 3 10	98 15 6	99 10 8	10,811 3 6	19 1 ¹ / ₈	9,642 0 6	.....	.....
																			Less Ministerial concessions, as under, viz. :- 119 7 5 153 12 6 133 6 8	.....	.....
																			406 6 7	.....	.....
	Total	11,325 4	5,191 15 2	140 12 7	432 9 6	148 7 0	213 8 0	829 9 7	772 10 4	730 5 6	983 13 6	177 7 4	782 15 0	210 3 10	98 15 6	99 10 8	10,811 3 6	19 1 ¹ / ₈	9,235 13 11	.....	16 3 ¹ / ₄	

W. H. J. SLEE,
Superintendent of Drills.

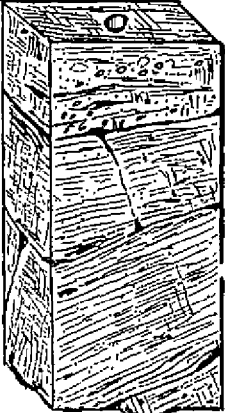
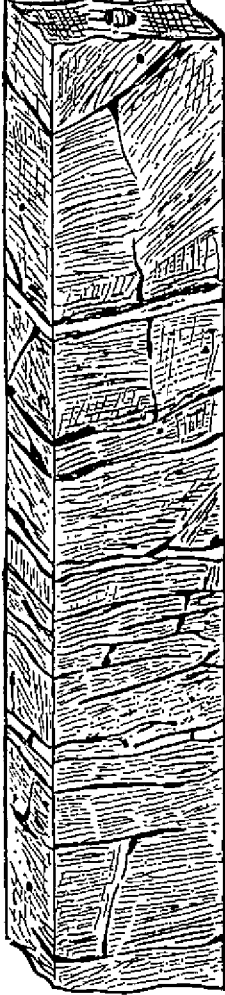
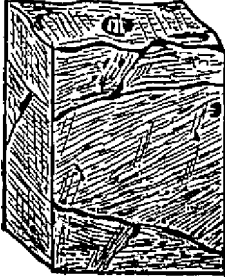
We the undersigned do hereby certify this return correct.

J. S. McNEIL.
D. McCULLOCH.

Drill Branch, 22nd April, 1886.

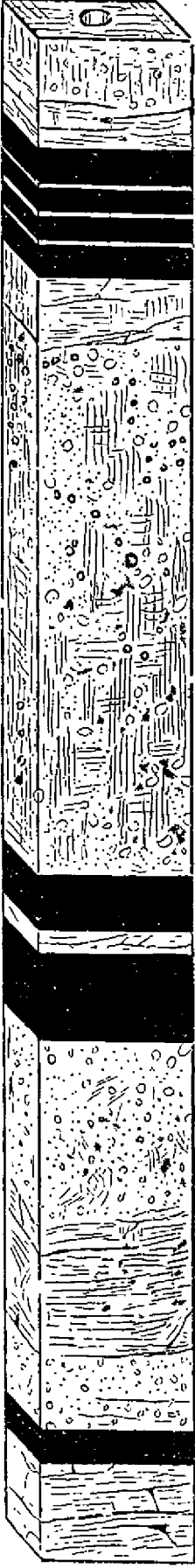
APPENDIX C.

SECTION OF BORE NO. 1 (IN COURSE OF PROGRESS).
No. A Diamond Drill, at Clarence Siding.

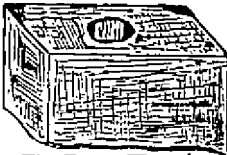
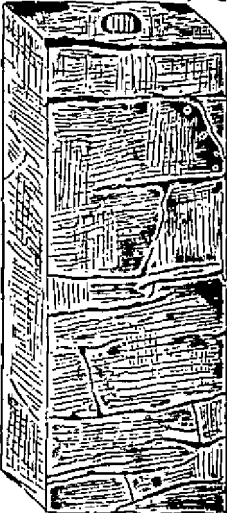
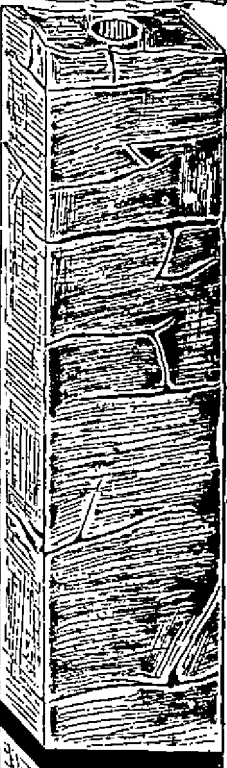
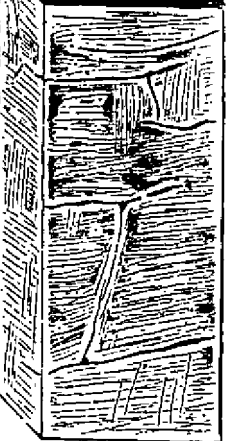
Borehole, 2½ in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.	Depth from Surface.
		ft. in.	ft. in.
	Standpipe	11 0	
	Sandstone	144 2	
	Sandstone and iron bands	40 0	
	Chocolate clay	6 0	
	Grey shale.....	6 0	
	Sandstone	6 4	
	Chocolate clay	8 0	
	Grey shale.....	3 0	
	Chocolate clay	5 0	
	Sandstone	108 6	
	To 31st Dec., 1885.....		336 0

APPENDIX C—continued.

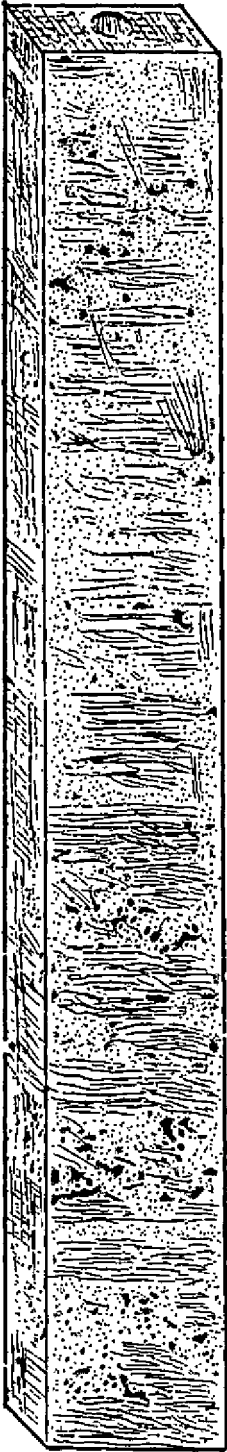
SECTION OF BORE No. 4 (from 1st Jan., 1885).
Nos. 2 and 13 Diamond Drills, at Leconfield Estate, Branxton.

Borehole 2 in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.	Depth from Surface.
	Bored in 1884	ft. in.	ft. in.
			529 0
	Conglomerate	5 0	
	Thin bands coal and shale	2 6	
	Coal	1 10½	
	Sandy shale band	0 1½	
	Coal	1 3	
	Conglomerate band	0 1½	
	Coal	1 1	
	Conglomerate band	0 0½	
	Coal	1 6	
	Sandstone and shale	3 6	
	Conglomerate	31 0	
	Coal	2 10	
	Blue shale	1 4	
	Coal	4 10	
	Conglomerate	10 0	
	Sandstone	8 0	
	Conglomerate	5 0	
	Coal	1 6	
	Shale	5 6	
			616 0

APPENDIX C—continued.
SECTION OF BORE No. 1.
No. 2 Diamond Drill, at Port Waratah.

oreho 2½ in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.	Depth from Surface.
		ft. in.	ft. in.
	Bored by hand-drill	84 0	
	Grey sandstone	17 0	
	Shale and sandstone	13 0	
	Soft shale.....	89 0	
	Shale and sandstone	53 0	
	Coal	1 8	
	Shale and sandstone	45 4	
			303 0

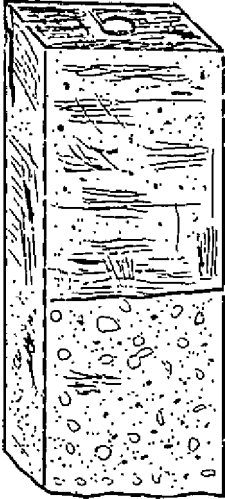
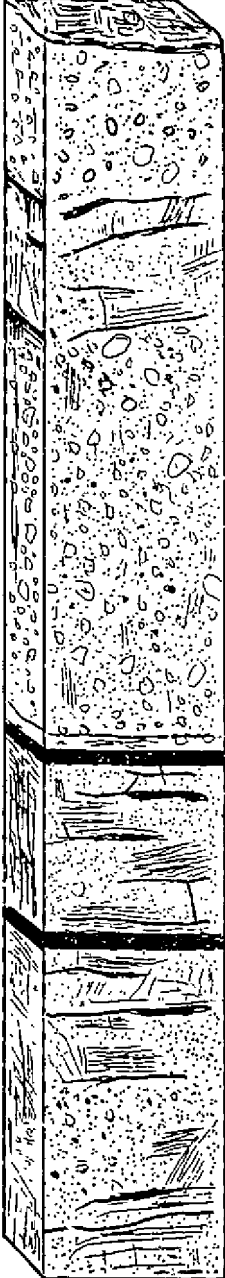
APPENDIX C—continued.
SECTION OF BORE NO. 2.
Bored by Hand-drill, at Port Waratah.

Borehole, 2½ in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.	Depth from surface.
		ft. in.	ft. in.
	Sand and clay	141 0	
			141 0

APPENDIX C—continued.
SECTION OF BORE NO. 3.
No. 2 Diamond Drill, at Port Waratah.

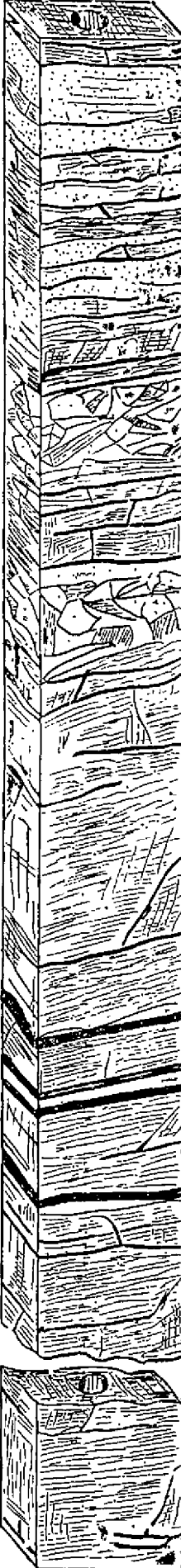
Borehole 2½ in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.		Depth from surface.	
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.
	Bored by hand-drill.....	51	0		
	Conglomerate	2	0		
	Grey post	15	0		
	Sandstone	30	0		
	Blue shale	92	0		
	Shale and sandstone	48	0		
	Coal	1	8		
	Shale	2	0		
	Conglomerate	10	0		
	Chert	3	6		
	Conglomerate.. ..	6	10		
	Shale	3	0		
	Coal	1	2		
	Chert ..	7	0		
				273	2

APPENDIX C—continued.
SECTION OF BORE NO. 1.
No. 2 Diamond Drill, at Adamstown.

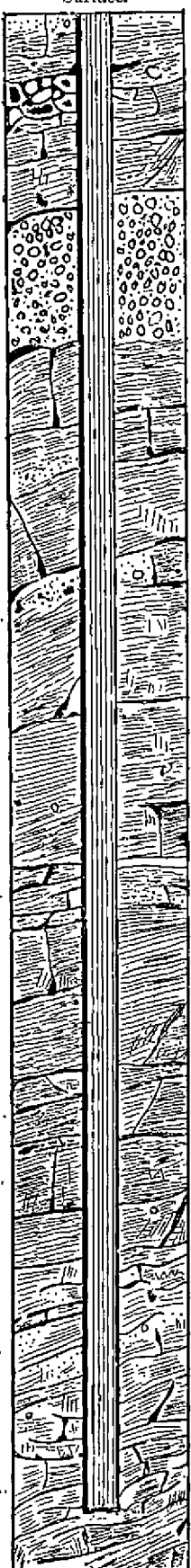
Borehole 2½ in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.		Depth from surface.	
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.
	Bored by hand-drill	25	0		
	Coarse conglomerate	70	0		
	Shale and sandstone	11	0		
	Coarse conglomerate	43	0		
	Shale and sandstone	1	0		
	Coal	0	6		
	Shale	4	0		
	Shale and sandstone	12	0		
	Shale	1	9		
	Coal	0	5		
	Shale	6	0		
	Sandstone	27	4		
				202	0

APPENDIX C—continued.

SECTION OF BORE No. 2 (from 1st Jan., 1885).
No. 3 Diamond Drill, at Colo Vale, Mittagong.

Borehole, 2½ in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.	Depth from surface.
		ft. in.	ft. in.
	Bored in 1884 .....	.....	801 0
	Clay shale	4 0	
	Fine sand and shale.....	10 0	
	Fine sand	4 0	
	Fine sandstone	2 10	
	Fireclay, sandstone, and sand	8 0	
	Black and grey shale	0 10	
	Black stone	2 9	
	Fine sand and shale.....	14 0	
	Black shale	8 7	
	Black stone	4 10	
	Basalt.....	13 2	
	Grey stone.....	1 6	
	Fireclay	1 8	
	Black shale	3 3	
	Sandstone	10 1	
	Black stone	1 6	
	Basalt.....	11 2	
	Black stone	8 10	
	Sandstone and shale	60 0	
	Sandstone, with coal points	34 6	
	Sandstone, with clay shale.....	9 0	
	Fine sandstone	165 6	
			1,181 0

APPENDIX C—continued.
SECTION OF BORE NO. 1 (IN COURSE OF PROGRESS).
No. 3 Diamond Drill, at North Shore.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole 3 in. diameter.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			
40 8	Soft sandstone and boulders.....				
32 6	Fine conglomerate				
118 6	Sandstone.....				
11 6	Shale.....				
37 7	Sandstone.....				
16 10	Sandstone with shale bands				
26 1	Sandstone.....				
46 2	Shale				
14 0	Shale and sandstone				
343 10	To 31st Dec., 1885.				
57 7	Sandstone.				
401 5	Total depth.				

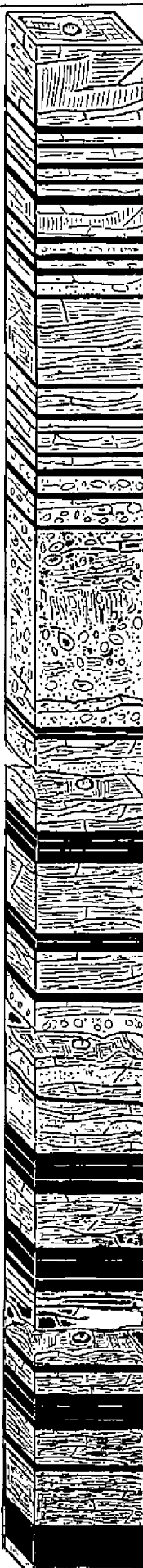
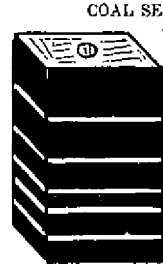



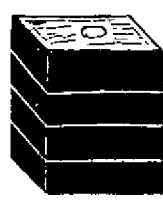

REMARKS.

Indications of water at 283 ft. ; supply not given.

APPENDIX C—continued.

SECTION OF BORE.

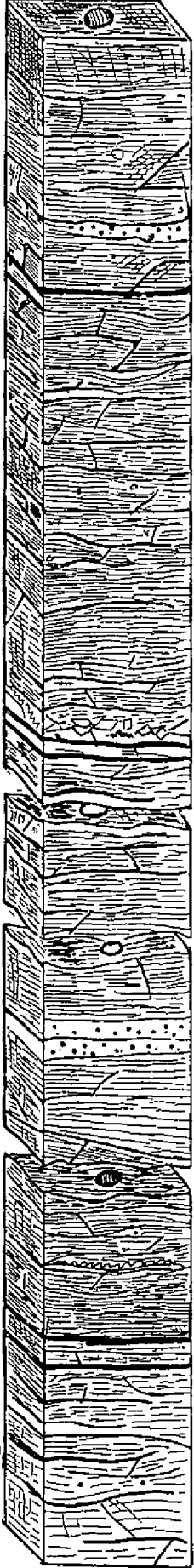
No. 4 Diamond Drill, at Apple-tree Creek, Minmi.

Borehole, 4 in diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.	Depth from surface.	Enlarged Sections.		
		ft. in.	ft. in.			
	Sandstone and shale with pipe-clay bands	64 0½		COAL SEAM (A), at 344 ft. 6 in.		
	Coal	1 8			ft. in.	
	Sandstone, pipe-clay and coal	11 2		Coal	2 1	
	Pipe-clay and coal	11 0		Band	0 3	
				Coal	1 6	
	Pipe-clay and coal, with shale and hard stones ..	29 4½		Coal with bands ..	5 2	
				Thickness	9 0	
	Sandstone, pipe-clay and shale	20 4		COAL SEAM (B), at 525 ft. 4 in.	ft. in.	
	Pipe-clay, shale, sandstone and coal	33 0			Coal ..	1 0
				Stone band ..	0 3	
	Coal, sandstone and conglomerate	26 2		Coal ..	1 11	
				Coal with bands ..	7 0	
	Conglomerate	47 2		Coal ..	0 6	
				Band ..	0 2	
				Coal ..	0 8	
				Thickness	11 6	
	Conglomerate, shale, pipe-clay and coal	3 0		COAL SEAM (C), at 551 ft. 9 in.	ft. in.	
	Shaly sandstone, shale and sand, sandstone and grey shale	92 7	344 0		Coal ..	1 9
	Coal seam (A) (See enlarged section)	9 0		Stone band ..	0 2	
				Coal ..	0 5	
Grey shale	23 6		Shale ..	1 10		
Coal	1 0		Coal and bands ..	4 1		
Band	0 8		Coal ..	0 6		
Coal with shale	3 0		Thickness	8 9		
Grey shale	13 4		COAL SEAM (D), at 635 ft.	ft. in.		
Coal with shale	2 0			Coal ..	2 0	
Grey shale, conglomerate, sandstone and shale ..	107 6		Coal and bands ..	1 0		
Shale and chert	3 10		Coal ..	2 2		
Black shale and coal pipes	0 8		Band	0 0½		
Hard grey shale	11 9	525 4	Coal ..	2 2		
Black and clay shale	4 7		Band	0 0½		
Coal seam (B)	11 6		Coal ..	2 2		
Black shale	5 8		Band	0 6		
Fireclay	1 0	554 9	Coal ..	1 2		
Grey shale, clay and chert	10 0		Thickness	9 0½		
Fireclay	1 3		COAL SEAM (E), at 672 ft. 6 in.	ft. in.		
Coal seam (C)	8 9			Coal ..	1 9	
Fireclay	1 6		Stone band ..	0 1		
Coal and bands ..	2 3		Coal ..	1 5		
Shale and coal pipes	5 3		Band ..	0 1		
Hard grey shale	55 0		Coal ..	1 1		
Coal	0 6	635 0	Coal ..	0 1		
Shale, chert, and fine sandstone	7 0		Band ..	0 1		
Coal seam (D)	9 0½		Coal ..	1 9		
Hard grey shale	12 0		Thickness	6 3		
Coal	0 4		COAL SEAM (F), at 681 ft. 3 in.	ft. in.		
Shale with coal pipes	2 11	672 6		Coal ..	1 9	
Grey shale	13 3		Stone band ..	0 1		
Coal seam (E)	6 3		Coal ..	1 5		
Fireclay and sand	2 6	681 3	Band ..	0 1		

APPENDIX C—*continued.*

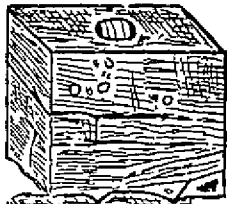
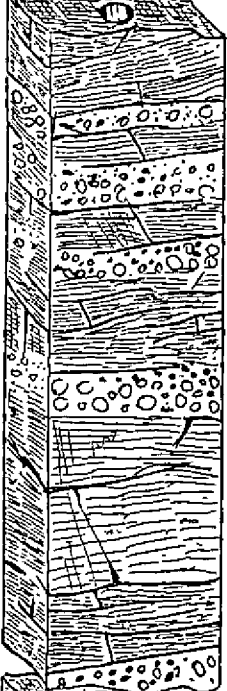
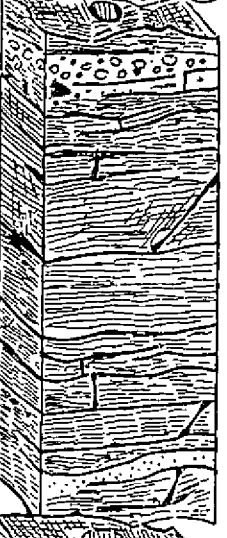

SECTION OF BORE.

No. 5 Diamond Drill, at Rocky Mouth, Clarence River.

Borehole, 2½ in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.	Depth from surface.
		ft. in.	ft. in.
	Shaft	11 6	
	Dark sandstone	22 8	
	Cement and dark sandstone	2 6	
	Dark sandstone	10 0	
	Dark sandstone, with dirty coal band, 4 in.	8 7	
	Dark sandstone, with clay bands	24 0	
	Dark sandstone, with shale bands	8 0	
	Dark and light shale	9 8	
	Shale and sandstone	22 7	
	Shale	4 0	
	Shale and crystallized quartz	3 0	
	Sandstone, with coal pipes	5 0	
	Dark shale and sandstone	49 8	
	Fine dark sandstone	65 6	
	Shale and conglomerate	7 0	
	Limestone	6 10	
	Sandstone and shale	89 9	
	Basalt	0 6	
	Shale	12 7	
	Fireclay	0 2	
	Dark shale	4 4	
	Fireclay	0 3	
	Dark shale	5 8	
	Dark shale, with sandstone bands	7 2	
	Shale and sandstone	22 5	
			403 4

[APPENDIX C—continued.]

SECTION OF BORE.
No. 5 Diamond Drill, at Penrith.

Borehole 2½ in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.		Depth from surface.	
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.
	Shaft	7	10		
	Sandstone	112	6		
	Conglomerate	1	11		
	Sandstone	4	10		
	Sandstone and conglomerate	17	1		
	Sandstone	3	4		
	Shale	12	6		
	Conglomerate	4	5		
	Sandstone	25	5		
	Sandstone and shale	6	8		
	Sandstone and conglomerate with shale bands	75	4		
	Grey and purple-spotted shale	9	0		
	Sandstone	27	6		
	Shale	6	8		
	Sandstone	8	10		
	Shale with sandstone bands	81	10		
	Sandstone	23	1		
	Sandstone and fine conglomerate	5	6	434	3

APPENDIX C—continued.

SECTION OF BORE No. 1.
No. 7 Diamond Drill, at Dempsey Island.

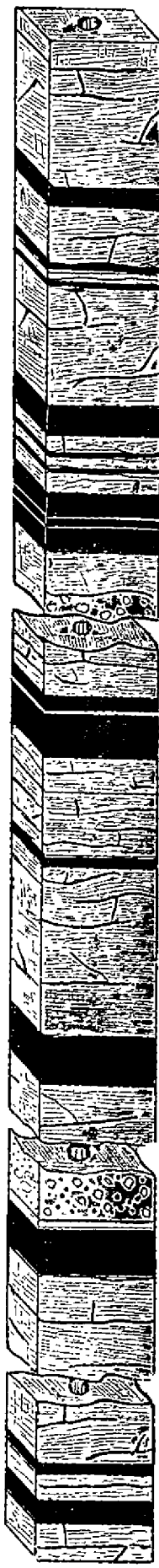


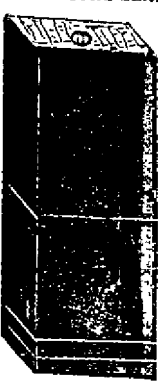

Borehole 2 in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.		Depth from surface.	
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.
	Bored in 1884			933	0
	Shale and sandstone	96	10		
	Shaly sandstone	105	2		
	Shale, sandstone, and shaly sandstone	118	0		
	Shaly sandstone, with small bands of coal.....	7	0		
	Shale, sandstone, and shale	86	0		
	Blue shale	95	0		
	Soft shale	56	0		
	Sandstone	16	0		
	Coal and jerry	0	6		
	Sandstone	7	0		
	Jerry	2	0		
	Blue sandstone.....	35	6		
	Shale and sandstone	35	0		
	Shaly sandstone	22	0		
	Blue sandstone.....	15	0		
	Blue shale	15	0		
	Shaly sandstone	8	0		
	Soft shale	6	9		
	Shaly sandstone	6	0		
	Coal	0	3		
	Soft shale	3	0		
	Sandstone and shale	22	0		
	Shaly sandstone	11	7	1,701	7
	Coal	2	5		
	Sandy shale	9	9		
	Fine and coarse conglomerate	13	0		
	Conglomerate and coal pipes	3	0		
	Conglomerate	12	0		
	Shale	2	0		
	Shaly sandstone	7	10		
	Coaly shale	20	2		
	Shaly sandstone, blue shale, and conglomerate.....	64	6	1,836	3
	Coal	0	6		
	Band	0	1		
	Coal	1	8		
	Blue shale	7	11		
	Shaly sandstone	80	6		
	Conglomerate	1	9		
	Shaly sandstone	8	3		
	Coaly shale	3	9		
	Shaly sandstone	19	8		
	Conglomerate	5	6		
	Shaly sandstone	13	5		
	Blue shale	22	4	2,001	7

NOTE.—Depth bored to 31st December, 1885, 1,966 ft. 7 in. Bore completed 6th February, 1886. Total depth, 2,001 ft. 7 in.

APPENDIX C—continued.

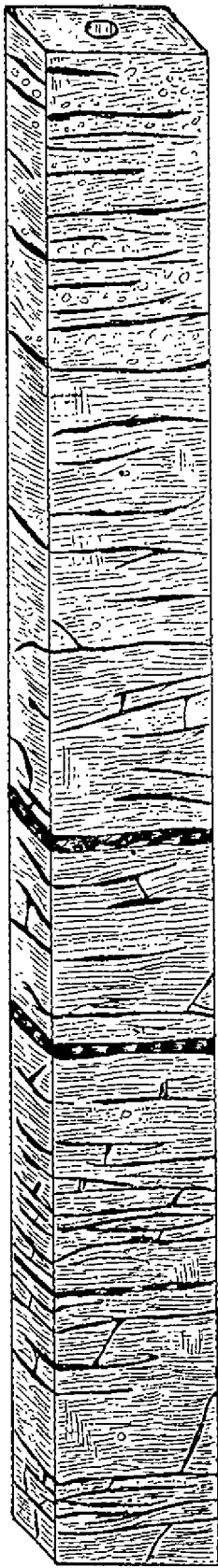
SECTION OF BORE NO. 2.

No. 8 Diamond Drill, at Monk-Wearmouth, near Minmi.

Borehole, 2½ in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.	Depth from surface.	Enlarged Sections.																																			
		ft. in.	ft. in.																																				
	Surface clay	4 7		 <p>COAL SEAM A, at 82 ft. 6 in.</p> <table><tr><td>Coal</td><td>ft. in.</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 11</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 4</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 5</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 3</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 3</td></tr><tr><td>Chert</td><td>0 10</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 9</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 7</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 10</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 1</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 11</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 5</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 4</td></tr><tr><td>Thickness</td><td>9 11</td></tr></table>	Coal	ft. in.	Band	0 11	Coal	0 4	Coal	1 5	Band	0 3	Coal	1 3	Chert	0 10	Coal	0 9	Band	0 7	Coal	0 10	Band	0 1	Coal	0 11	Band	0 5	Coal	0 4	Thickness	9 11	Soft shaly sandstone	22 7			
	Coal	ft. in.																																					
	Band	0 11																																					
	Coal	0 4																																					
	Coal	1 5																																					
	Band	0 3																																					
	Coal	1 3																																					
	Chert	0 10																																					
	Coal	0 9																																					
	Band	0 7																																					
	Coal	0 10																																					
	Band	0 1																																					
	Coal	0 11																																					
	Band	0 5																																					
	Coal	0 4																																					
	Thickness	9 11																																					
	Coal	2 5																																					
	Sandstone	10 3																																					
	Coaly shale	2 9																																					
	Sandstone	23 8	66 3																																				
Coal	4 8																																						
Shaly sandstone, coaly shale, and chert	11 7	82 6																																					
Coal seam A (See enlarged section)	9 11																																						
Shaly sandstone, conglomerate, and shale	77 4	169 9																																					
Coal seam B	9 2																																						
Shaly sandstone	6 6																																						
Blue shale with ironstone bands	12 5																																						
Coal	1 4																																						
 <p>COAL SEAM B, at 169 ft. 9 in.</p> <table><tr><td>Coal</td><td>ft. in.</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 6</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 4</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 5</td></tr><tr><td>Chert</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 3</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 4</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 1</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 6</td></tr><tr><td>Clay</td><td>0 5</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 3</td></tr><tr><td>Chert</td><td>0 6</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 4</td></tr><tr><td>Clay</td><td>0 6</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 0</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 6</td></tr><tr><td>Thickness</td><td>9 2</td></tr></table>	Coal	ft. in.	Band	0 6	Coal	0 4	Band	0 5	Chert	0 2	Coal	1 3	Coal	1 4	Band	0 1	Coal	1 6	Clay	0 5	Coal	0 3	Chert	0 6	Coal	0 4	Clay	0 6	Coal	1 0	Band	0 2	Coal	0 6	Thickness	9 2	Blue shale and shaly sandstone	30 2	229 4
	Coal	ft. in.																																					
	Band	0 6																																					
	Coal	0 4																																					
	Band	0 5																																					
	Chert	0 2																																					
	Coal	1 3																																					
	Coal	1 4																																					
	Band	0 1																																					
	Coal	1 6																																					
Clay	0 5																																						
Coal	0 3																																						
Chert	0 6																																						
Coal	0 4																																						
Clay	0 6																																						
Coal	1 0																																						
Band	0 2																																						
Coal	0 6																																						
Thickness	9 2																																						
Coal seam C	7 11																																						
Shaly sandstone and conglomerate	84 11																																						
Blue shale	1 7																																						
Soft coaly shale	0 6	324 3																																					
Coal seam D	7 1½																																						
 <p>COAL SEAM C, at 229 ft. 4 in.</p> <table><tr><td>Coal</td><td>ft. in.</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 1</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>3 10</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 1</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>3 0</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 4</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 1</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Thickness</td><td>7 11</td></tr></table>	Coal	ft. in.	Band	0 2	Coal	0 1	Coal	3 10	Band	0 1	Coal	3 0	Band	0 2	Coal	0 4	Band	0 1	Coal	0 2	Thickness	7 11	Sandstone, dark shale, and shaly sandstone	145 4½															
	Coal	ft. in.																																					
	Band	0 2																																					
	Coal	0 1																																					
	Coal	3 10																																					
	Band	0 1																																					
Coal	3 0																																						
Band	0 2																																						
Coal	0 4																																						
Band	0 1																																						
Coal	0 2																																						
Thickness	7 11																																						
Coal	1 2																																						
Shaly sandstone	3 1																																						
Coaly shale	1 2																																						
Coal	2 8																																						
Sandstone	0 6	491 4																																					
 <p>COAL SEAM D, at 324 ft. 3 in.</p> <table><tr><td>Coal</td><td>ft. in.</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 8</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 1</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 6</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 3</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>3 0</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 1</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 7</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 0½</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 11</td></tr><tr><td>Thickness</td><td>7 1½</td></tr></table>	Coal	ft. in.	Band	0 8	Coal	0 1	Coal	0 6	Band	0 3	Coal	3 0	Band	0 1	Coal	1 7	Band	0 0½	Coal	0 11	Thickness	7 1½																	
	Coal	ft. in.																																					
	Band	0 8																																					
	Coal	0 1																																					
Coal	0 6																																						
Band	0 3																																						
Coal	3 0																																						
Band	0 1																																						
Coal	1 7																																						
Band	0 0½																																						
Coal	0 11																																						
Thickness	7 1½																																						

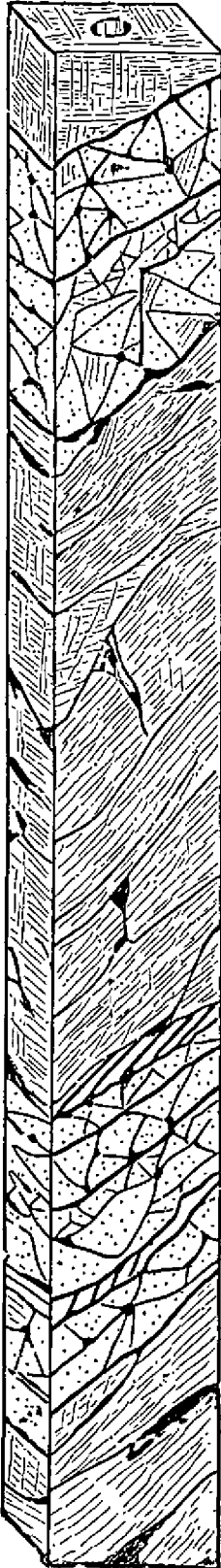
APPENDIX C—*continued*.

SECTION OF BORE NO. 1 (IN COURSE OF PROGRESS).
No. 8 Diamond Drill, at Redhead, near Charlestown.

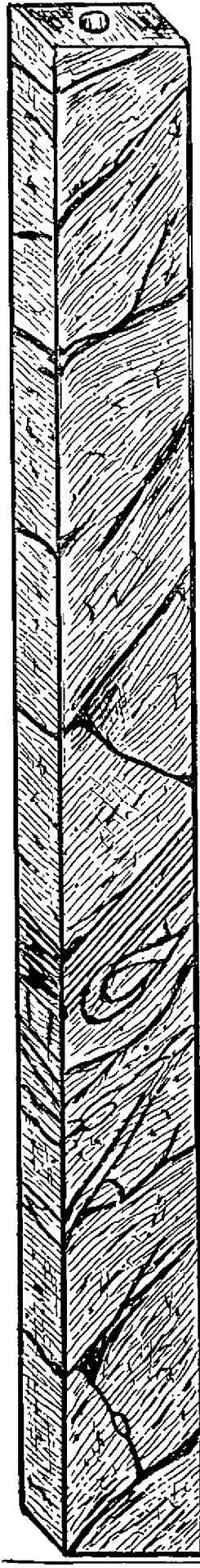
Borehole, 2½ in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.		Depth from surface	
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.
	Shaft	31	0		
	Soft shale	50	6		
	Ironstone	0	11		
	Soft shale	21	10		
	Ironstone	1	0		
	Shale	11	1		
	Clay	1	6		
	Soft shale	2	11		
	Ironstone	0	2		
	Black shale	0	5		
	Fireclay	0	4		
	Black shale and clay bands	6	0		
	Ironstone	0	2		
	Black shale	2	6		
	Sandstone	17	10		
	Blue shale	4	8		
	Sandstone	4	7		
To 31st December, 1885.				160	6

APPENDIX C—continued.

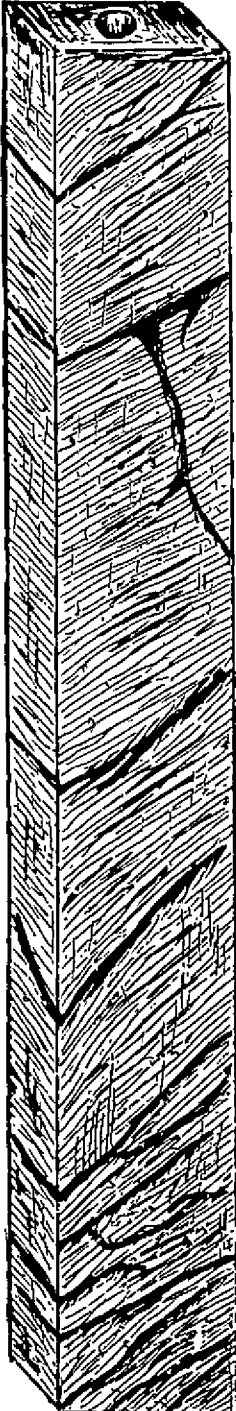
SECTION OF BORE No. 1.
No. 9 Diamond Drill, at Upper Bingera.

Borehole, 2 in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.		Depth from surface.	
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.
	Shaft	3	0		
	Hard grey rock or granite	8	3		
	Hard grey rock, intermixed with vertical quartz seams	3	0		
	Grey rock or granite	7	9		
	Diorite	52	5		
	Brown slate	0	6		
	Quartz	2	0		
	Granite	4	0		
	Quartz	2	0		
	Granite	4	8		
	Brown slate	0	6		
	Granite	5	6		
	Diorite	23	7		
				117	2

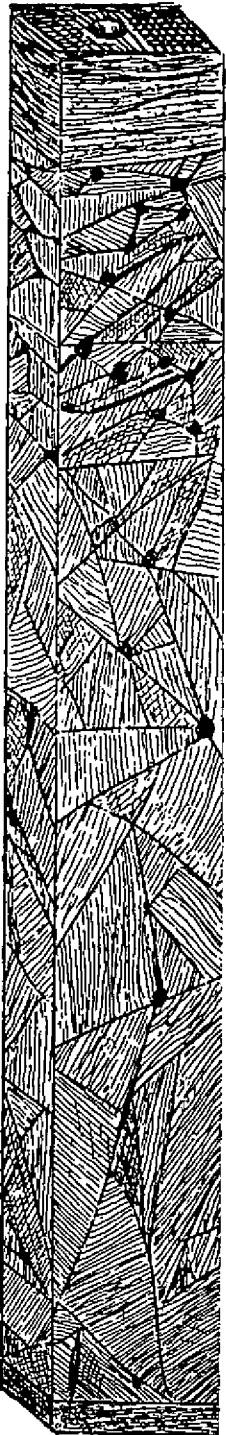
APPENDIX C—continued.
SECTION OF BORE NO. 2.
No. 9 Diamond Drill, at Upper Bingera.

Borehole, 2 in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.		Depth from surface.	
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.
	Diorite	75	0		
	Slate, stained with copper	5	0		
	Copper lode.....	3	0		
	Diorite	9	0		
	Copper lode.....	1	0		
	Diorite	47	0		
				140	0

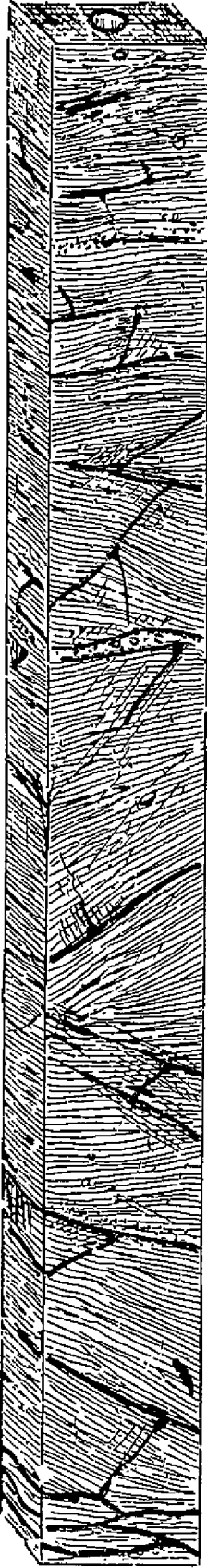
APPENDIX C—continued.
SECTION OF BORE NO. 3.
No. 9 Diamond Drill, at Upper Bingera.

Borehole, 2 in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.	Depth from surface.
		ft. in.	ft. in.
	Diorite	79 0	
	Gossan lode	22 0	
	Diorite	2 0	103 0

APPENDIX C—*continued.*
SECTION OF BORE NO. 1.
No. 10 Diamond Drill, at Lucknow, Orange.

Borehole, 2 in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.		Depth from surface.	
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.
	Shaft	10	0		
	Soft basalt	30	0		
	Hard broken basalt	96	10		
	Good gold alluvial	3	2	140	0

APPENDIX C—continued.
SECTION OF BORE NO. 2.
No. 10 Diamond Drill, at Lucknow, Orange.

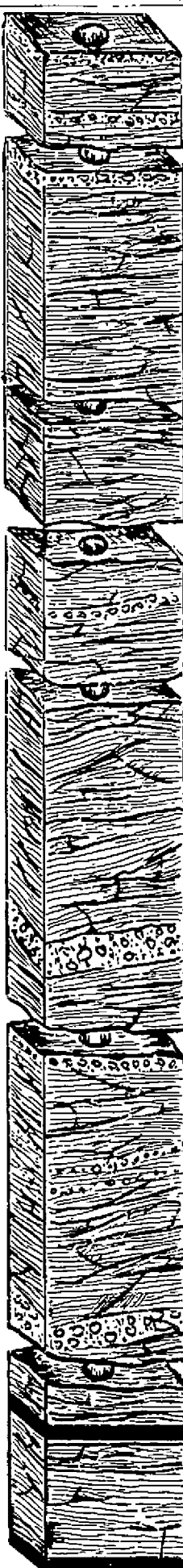
Borehole, 2 in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.	Depth from surface.
		ft. in.	ft. in.
	Shaft	12 0	
	Soft sandstone and drift.....	10 0	
	Soft sandstone	12 0	
	Coarse sandstone	14 0	
	Hard grey rock.....	16 0	
	Drift	1 0	
	Hard grey rock.....	97 0	
	Serpentine	60 9	
	Total depth		231 9

NOTE.—64 ft. 9 in. of this bore put down in 1886.

APPENDIX C—continued.

SECTION OF BORE.

No. 11 Diamond Drill, at Heathcote, Illawarra Railway.







Borehole, 3 in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.		Depth from surface.	
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.
	Sand.....	3	0		
	Sandstone	33	0		
	Bands sandstone and fine quartz, conglomerate and blue shale.....	94	0		
	Sandstone and bands sandstone, and quartz conglomerate	77	0		
	Blue shale ..	7	0		
	Blue shale and sandstone bands	38	0		
	Blue shale	55	0		
	Chocolate ferruginous shale, with fossil plants, thinfeldia, &c.	86	6		
	Sandstone and shale in layers	462	3		
	Fireclay, sandstone, and shale in layers.....	65	2		
	Conglomerate	5	4		
	Sandstone.....	9	0		
	Shale	3	0		
	Pipeclay.....	1	0		
	Fireclay	1	5		
	Shale	6	0		
	Pipeclay.....	2	0		
	Sandstone and shale in layers	57	3½		
	Shale with numerous fossil valves of a species of estheria	3	0		
	Sandstone and shale	46	5½		
	Greyish green silicious clay shale	45	5		
	Sandstone	14	8		
	Conglomerate ..	11	1		
	Fireclay with band of purple shale	28	1		
	Sandstone, conglomerate and shale	166	9½		
	Blue shale	35	5		
	Sandstone and conglomerate, with concretions of brown iron ore ...	20	0½		
	Grey shale.....	23	3		
	Sandstone and shale, with concretions of brown iron ore	44	10		
	Conglomerate ..	13	8		
	Very fine dark grey carbonaceous sandstone, with thin bands of dark sandy clay.....	50	4		
	Grit ..	1	0		
	Compact sandstone	1	0		
	Gritty sandstone	2	0	1,513	0
	Coal ..	4	8½		
	Dark shale	2	0		
	Dark sandstone and shale	8	6		
	Dark shaly sandstone	1	6		
	Dark grey sandstone	48	1	1,577	9
	Coal ..	6	1		
	Dark shale	1	9	1,585	7

NOTE.—Depth bored to 31st December, 1885, 1,431 ft. 11 in.
Bore completed 3rd March, 1886. Total depth, 1,585 ft. 7 in.

APPENDIX C—continued.

SECTION OF BORE No. 1.

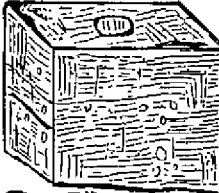
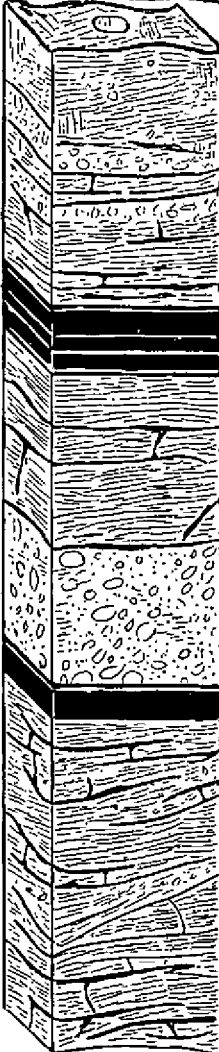

No. 12 Diamond Drill, at Pelican Flat, Lake Macquarie.

Borehole, 3 in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.	Depth from Surface.	Enlarged Sections.																																																														
		ft. in.																																																																
	Sand	36 0		COAL SEAM A, at 92 ft. 1 in.  <table><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 10</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 0 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 9</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 4</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 10</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 1</td></tr><tr><td>Thickness</td><td>4 0 1/2</td></tr></table>	Coal	1 10	Band	0 0 1/2	Coal	0 9	Band	0 4	Coal	0 10	Band	0 2	Coal	0 1	Thickness	4 0 1/2	92 1																																													
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Band	0 2																																																																	
Coal	0 1																																																																	
Thickness	4 0 1/2																																																																	
	Sand, shells, and small pebbles	41 0																																																																
	Sandstone and conglomerate	13 0																																																																
	Fireclay	1 10																																																																
	Sandstone	0 2																																																																
	Coaly band	0 1																																																																
	Coal seam A	4 0 1/2																																																																
	(See enlarged section.)																																																																	
	Clay, sandstone, and conglomerate	31 5 1/2																																																																
	Band	0 1																																																																
	Coal	2 4																																																																
	Sandstone, shale, and sandstone	33 9	218 9	COAL SEAM B, at 218 ft. 9 in.  <table><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 8</td></tr><tr><td>Fireclay</td><td>1 6</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 10</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 7</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Sandstone</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>2 3</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 5</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 7</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 10</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 11</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 9</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 5</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 4</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 1</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 4</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 4</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 5</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 3</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 7</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 8</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 9</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>2 11</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>5 9</td></tr><tr><td>Thickness</td><td>26</td></tr></table>	Coal	0 8	Fireclay	1 6	Coal	1 10	Band	0 7	Coal	0 2	Sandstone	0 2	Coal	2 3	Band	0 2	Coal	0 5	Band	0 7	Coal	1 10	Band	0 11	Coal	0 9	Band	0 2	Coal	0 5	Band	0 2	Coal	0 4	Band	0 1	Coal	0 4	Band	0 2	Coal	0 4	Band	0 5	Coal	0 3	Band	0 7	Coal	0 8	Band	0 2	Coal	0 9	Band	2 11	Coal	5 9	Thickness	26		
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	Shale	27 2																																																																
	Sandstone and conglomerate	13 7																																																																
	Conglomerate	132 4																																																																
	Sandstone and conglomerate	22 11	473 0	COAL SEAM C, at 473 ft. 9 in.  <table><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>2 5 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 8</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 4</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 1 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 9</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>2 4</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 5 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 3 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 4 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 5</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 11 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>2 6</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 0</td></tr><tr><td>Thickness</td><td>10 3 1/2</td></tr></table>	Coal	0 2	Band	0 2	Coal	2 5 1/2	Band	0 8	Coal	1 4	Band	0 1 1/2	Coal	0 9	Band	0 2	Coal	2 4	Band	0 5 1/2	Coal	1 3 1/2	Band	0 4 1/2	Coal	0 5	Band	0 2 1/2	Coal	0 11 1/2	Band	0 2	Coal	2 6	Band	0 2	Coal	1 0	Thickness	10 3 1/2																						
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	Shale	8 3																																																																
	Coal	0 2																																																																
	Shale	11 9	510 2 1/2	COAL SEAM D, at 510 ft. 2 1/2 in.  <table><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 8</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 4</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 4</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>2 9</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 10</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 7 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Sandstone and coal pipes</td><td>5 6 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Shale and coal pipes</td><td>1 6</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 5</td></tr><tr><td>Shale and coal pipes</td><td>1 8</td></tr><tr><td>Thickness</td><td>16 5 1/2</td></tr></table>	Coal	1 8	Band	0 4	Coal	0 4	Band	2 9	Coal	0 10	Band	0 2	Coal	1 7 1/2	Sandstone and coal pipes	5 6 1/2	Shale and coal pipes	1 6	Coal	0 5	Shale and coal pipes	1 8	Thickness	16 5 1/2																																						
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	Slate	4 10																																																																
	Shale	20 10 1/2																																																																
	Sandstone, sandstone and conglomerate, sandstone	130 8																																																																
	Shale	3 0	895 4	COAL SEAM E, at 895 ft. 4 in.  <table><tr><td>Coal</td><td>3 5</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 5</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 6</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>2 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 0</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 0</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 9</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>2 3</td></tr><tr><td>Shale</td><td>7 6</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 4</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 4</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 2</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>2 6</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>1 4</td></tr><tr><td>Band</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal</td><td>0 6</td></tr><tr><td>Thickness</td><td>28 10</td></tr></table>	Coal	3 5	Band	0 5	Coal	1 6	Band	2 2	Coal	1 0	Coal	1 0	Band	0 9	Coal	2 3	Shale	7 6	Coal	0 4	Band	0 4	Coal	1 2	Band	2 6	Coal	1 4	Band	0 2	Coal	0 6	Thickness	28 10																												
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Thickness	28 10																																																																	
	Coal seam E	26 10																																																																
	Slaty clay, shale, and sandstone	15 6																																																																
	Coal	1 0																																																																
	Shale and clay bands	12 2																																																																
	Coal	0 10																																																																
	Shale and sandstone	16 8																																																																
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	Shale and sandstone	13 8																																																																
	Conglomerate and shale	109 5																																																																
	Coal	0 7																																																																
	Shale	6 3																																																																
	Coal	0 8																																																																
	Coal and bands	4 0																																																																
	Shale and sandstone	38 1																																																																
	Shale	63 6	1,000 1																																																															

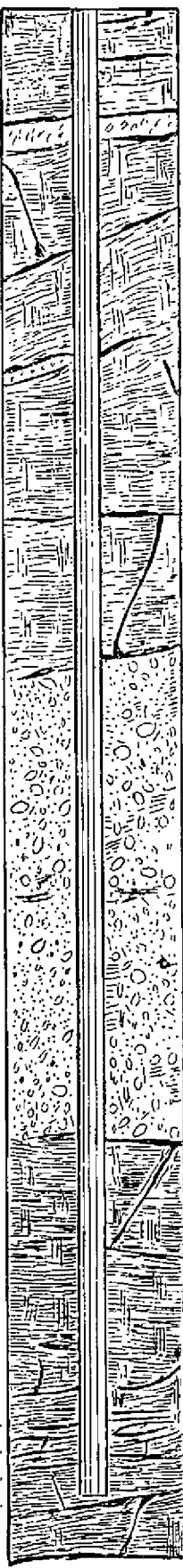
APPENDIX C—continued.

SECTION OF BORE NO. 2.

No. 12 Diamond Drill, at Pelican Flat, Lake Macquarie.

Borehole, 3 in. diameter.	Nature of Strata.	Thickness of Strata.	Depth from surface.																			
		ft. in.	ft. in.																			
	Tubes	77 0																				
	Sandstone and conglomerate	6 0																				
	Sandstone	7 0																				
	Fireclay	1 10																				
	Sandstone	0 2	92 0																			
	<table><tr><td rowspan="8">{</td><td>Band.....</td><td>0 1</td><td rowspan="8">} Seam</td><td rowspan="8">4 1½</td></tr><tr><td>Coal.....</td><td>1 10</td></tr><tr><td>Band.....</td><td>0 0½</td></tr><tr><td>Coal.....</td><td>0 9</td></tr><tr><td>Band.....</td><td>0 4</td></tr><tr><td>Coal.....</td><td>0 10</td></tr><tr><td>Band.....</td><td>0 2</td></tr><tr><td>Coal.....</td><td>0 1</td></tr></table>	{	Band.....	0 1	} Seam	4 1½	Coal.....	1 10	Band.....	0 0½	Coal.....	0 9	Band.....	0 4	Coal.....	0 10	Band.....	0 2	Coal.....	0 1		
{	Band.....		0 1	} Seam			4 1½															
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	Coal.....		0 9																			
	Band.....		0 4																			
	Coal.....		0 10																			
	Band.....		0 2																			
	Coal.....	0 1																				
	Clay, sandstone, and conglomerate	31 1½																				
	Band	0 1	127 4																			
	Coal.....	2 4																				
	Sandstone	3 4																				
	Shale	22 6																				
	Shale and sandstone	46 6																				
	Sandstone	16 0																				
	Coal and bands	20 7																				
	Band	1 0																				
	Coal.....	5 6																				
	Sandstone	1 4	246 5																			

APPENDIX C—continued.
SECTION OF BORE No. 1.
No. 13 Diamond Drill, at Werris Creek.

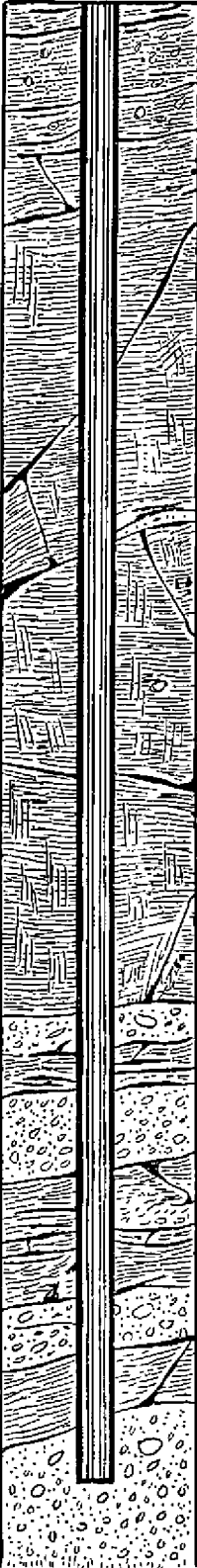
Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole, 3 in. diameter	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			
50 0	Shaft and stand-pipe				
6 0	Conglomerate				
238 0	Sandstone				
216 0	Conglomerate				
115 0	Fine sandstone				
15 0	Red clay				
5 0	Blue shale				
10 0	Sandstone				
2 0	Red clay				
15 0	Sandstone				
672 0	Total depth.				

REMARKS.

Fresh water, in small quantities, tapped in this bore at depths ranging from 300 ft. to 500 ft. Supply not worthy of notice.

APPENDIX C—continued.

SECTION OF BORE NO. 2.
No. 13 Diamond Drill, at Werris Creek.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole, 3 in. diameter.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.					
27 0	Shaft.....				
177 0	Sandstone				
8 0	Small boulders				
7 2	Hard broken sandstone, with bands				
16 10	Conglomerate ..				
11 1	Sandstone, with clay bands and pebbles				
12 8	Shale and sandstone				
11 3	Conglomerate, with clay and pebbles				
14 3	Sandstone				
10 8	Conglomerate				
295 11	Total depth.				

REMARKS.

No water tapped in this bore.
24 ft. 11 in. of this bore put down in 1886.

APPENDIX D.

REPORT of Water-auger Work for the year 1885, exclusive of office salaries, store wages and rent, also for Superintendent of Drills' travelling expenses.

No. of Machine.	No. of Bores put down.	Locality.	Days occupied.									Depths.		Rate bored per day.	Cost of Carriage.	Working Cost exclusive of Carriage.	Working Cost inclusive of Carriage.	Cost per foot.		
			Moving.	Erecting.	Boring.	Bailing.	Repairing.	Delays.	Holidays.	Tank-sinking.	Total.	Each bore.	Total.					Exclusive of Carriage.	Total.	
1, 2 & 3	D	Bourke	1	..	29½	9½	37½	1	2	..	81	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Including cost for excavating Tanks, as under.
"	E	" .....	..	4	28	..	..	..	..	3	63	71 6	..	2 4½	..	..	..	..	..
"	F	"	6	17	63	1	64	9	2	3	155	266 0	..	9 6	..	..	..	..	..
4	6	Angledool .....	..	..	71½	20½	22	51	..	..	165	197 6	197 6	2 9½	19 5 3	280 16 9	300 2 0	28 5½	30 4½
4 & 6	1	Moongulla	6	12	34	..	25	70	1	..	148	134 0	134 0	3 11½	112 1 4	230 12 8	342 14 0	34 5½	51 1½	
7	1	Goodooga	27	15½	9½	5	21	13	..	..	91	104 0	..	10 11½	..	..	..	..	..
"	2	" .....	..	..	16½	5	24	31½	..	..	86	132 0	236 0	8 0	94 16 6	255 8 9	350 5 4	21 7½	29 8½
7	1	Barrington	15	10	28	..	42	28	1	..	124	192 2	192 2	6 10½	66 17 6	180 4 9	247 2 3	18 9½	25 8½	
5	B	Wilcannia to Silverton	6	..	15½	2½	7	11	1	2	45	90 0	..	5 10½	..	..	..	..	..
"	C	"	3	4	99	..	27	17	2	7	159	75 8	..	0 9½	..	..	..	..	..
"	E	"	4	4	24	..	24	12	..	5	73	55 2	..	2 3½	..	..	..	..	..
8	A	" .....	..	..	74	1	78	2	4	..	159	107 10	..	1 5½	..	..	..	..	..
"	A	" .....	..	..	19	..	20	3	..	..	42	236 4	..	12 6½	..	..	..	..	..
"	D	"	6	11	70	..	14	3	2	6	112	105 3	..	1 6	..	..	..	..	..
10	L	"	3	..	9	..	3	..	..	..	15	26 10	..	2 11½	..	..	..	..	..
"	K	"	1	2	11	..	..	2	..	..	16	56 0	..	5 1½	..	..	..	..	..
"	J	"	5	1	38	..	11	5	2	..	62	210 9	..	5 6½	..	..	..	..	..
"	J	"	4	..	44	7	13	7	..	6	81	321 10	..	7 3½	..	..	..	..	..
"	H	"	6	3	83	..	40	5	2	..	139	250 3	1,585 11	3 0½	341 2 7	1,777 13 2	2,118 15 9	23 1½	27 7½	
11	1	Hay .....	..	22	44	..	7	36	3	..	112	206 11	206 11	4 8½	132 8 9	384 9 10	516 18 7	27 1½	49 11½
"	25	Total	98	109½	810½	52	487½	306½	22	32	1,918	3,161 7	3,161 7	3 10½	816 17 4	4,096 9 7	4,913 6 11	25 11	31 1	
January 1st to September 12th			94	69½	544½	52	316½	175½	11	21	1,284	2,468 5	..	4 6½	764 13 9	2,760 6 8	3,523 0 6	22 5½	28 8½	
September 14th to December 31st			4	40	266	..	171	131	11	11	634	703 2	..	2 7½	52 3 7	1,336 2 11	1,388 6 6	38 0	39 6½	
Total			98	109½	810½	52	487½	306½	22	32	1,918	3,161 7	3,161 7	3 10½	816 17 4	4,096 9 7	4,913 6 11	25 11	31 1	

The following Bores were put down by private persons, by whom part of the labour was supplied, the charges for which are not included here :--

9	2	Gorian.....	1	...	19	41	2	...	63	5 0	...	5 0	4 Tube do bores. Including cost for excavating Tanks, as under.
"	3	".....	3	10	21	2	6	6	2	...	60	159 6	...	7 7½	...	...	...	...	...
"	4	".....	4	4	22	2	8	17	1	...	68	104 0	...	8 9½	...	...	...	...	...
"	5	".....	20	3	12	28	66	151 0	...	7 6½	4 Tube do bores. Including cost for excavating Tanks, as under.
"	6	".....	11	6	17	1	1	27	...	...	76	173 6	...	10 2½	...	...	...	...	...
"	5	Total.....	18	23	81	8	57	119	7	...	313	683 0	688 0	8 5½	6 11 7	201 1 6	207 13 1	5 10½	6 0½	
†	30	Grand Total.....	116	132½	891½	60	544½	425½	20	32	2,231	3,844 7	3,844 7	4 3½	823 8 11	4,297 11 1	5,121 0 0	22 4½	26 7½	4 Tube do bores. Including cost for excavating Tanks, as under.

Private Work, Gorian.

• January 1st to September 12th.....	7	17	58	4	36	92	5	...	219	468 6	...	8 0½	6 4 7	156 2 6	162 7 1	6 8	6 11½	4 Tube do bores. Including cost for excavating Tanks, as under.
September 14th to December 31st.....	11	6	23	4	21	27	2	...	94	214 6	...	9 3½	0 7 0	44 10 0	45 6 0	4 2½	4 2½	
Total.....	18	23	81	8	57	119	7	...	313	683 0	688 0	8 5½	6 11 7	201 1 6	207 13 1	5 10½	6 0½	

Grand Total.

† January 1st to September 12th.....	101	86½	692½	56	352½	267½	16	21	1,503	2,926 11	...	4 10½	770 18 4	2,916 9 2	3,687 7 6	19 11½	25 2½	4 Tube do bores. Including cost for excavating Tanks, as under.
September 14th to December 31st.....	15	46	289	4	192	158	13	11	728	917 8	...	3 2½	52 10 7	1,381 1 11	1,433 12 6	30 1½	31 2½	
Total.....	116	132½	891½	60	544½	425½	29	32	2,231	3,844 7	3,844 7	4 3½	823 8 11	4,297 11 1	5,121 0 0	22 4½	26 7½	

Service Tanks.

		Cubic yards.
Road Bourke to Wanaaring.—Foremen Ford and Carmichael		
Bores E and F, at 75 and 94 mile-posts—size not given.....	capacity =	608
Road Wilcannia to Silverton.—Foremen Holmes and Wright.		
Bore A, at Outer Netallie—size not given.....	" =	30
" C, at C.R. 605.....	" =	50
" D, at C.R. 606.....	" =	45
" E, at C.R. 607.....	" =	30
" H, at Yancowinna Plains.....	" =	65
" J, at 64-mile W.R.....	" =	90
Total.....		918

We the undersigned do hereby certify this return to be correct,—

J. S. McNEIL.
D. McCULLOCH.

Drill Branch, 1st May, 1886.

W. H. J. SLEE,
Superintendent of Drills.

APPENDIX E.

SUMMARY of Water-augers, showing number of feet bored, total working cost to Department, average cost per foot, and amounts receivable for 1885.

No. of Auger.	Locality.	Feet bored.	Wages.	Carriage.		Travelling expenses.	Repairs.	Stores issued.	Sundries.	Proportion of balance of general account.	Proportion of balance of general stores issued.	Office salaries.	Store wages.	Rent.	Superintendent of Drills' travelling expenses.	Total.	Cost per foot.	Amount receivable.	Amount receivable per foot.
				Railway.	Other.														
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.														
1, 2 & 3	Bourke.....	ft. in.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
4	Angledool.....	659 1	738 11 7	2 17 9	40 8 3	87 11 10	28 2 0	53 7 3	44 19 11	38 9 0	3 1 5	242 3 6	65 1 11	30 11 11	30 18 0	1,406 4 4	...	...	...
4 & 6	Moongulla.....	134 0	210 3 4	5 0 10	13 1 3	20 2 6	2 0 6	26 11 6	7 17 0	13 18 2	1 6 11	40 7 2	10 17 0	5 2 0	5 3 0	361 11 2	...	...	...
7	Goodooga.....	236 0	185 0 0	...	109 15 0	5 14 0	2 7 3	33 16 6	25 11 2	27 16 4	2 13 9	80 14 5	21 14 0	10 3 11	10 6 0	465 12 4	...	...	...
7	Barrington.....	192 2	151 12 4	...	93 9 5	23 7 0	7 0 6	4 0 2	53 0 1	16 4 5	1 11 5	47 1 9	12 13 2	5 19 0	6 0 1	421 19 4	...	...	...
5, 8, & 10	Wilcannia.....	1,535 11	1,09 10 8	5 3 6	60 14 9	7 10 0	7 6 1	14 14 0	29 9 1	11 11 9	1 2 5	33 12 8	9 0 10	4 5 0	4 5 10	298 6 7	...	...	...
11	Hay.....	206 11	1,521 18 2	6 18 3	327 4 11	84 6 3	44 2 3	17 17 0	24 18 6	83 9 0	8 1 5	242 3 6	65 1 11	30 11 11	30 18 0	2,487 11 1	...	...	...
Total.....		3,161 7	3,034 5 5	41 13 4	754 10 1	238 12 3	93 1 0	255 19 4	223 5 4	248 0 5	23 19 9	719 16 1	193 9 8	90 18 9	91 16 9	6,009 8 2	38 0½	...	...
9	Gorian.....	683 0	140 10 0	...	4 5 3	12 4 6	...	11 15 3	8 8 0	27 16 4	2 13 9	80 14 4	21 14 0	10 4 0	10 6 0	330 11 5	9 8½	278 9 2	8 1½
Grand Total.....		3,844 7	3,174 15 5	41 13 4	758 15 4	250 16 9	93 1 0	267 14 7	231 13 4	275 16 9	26 13 6	800 10 5	215 3 8	101 2 9	102 2 9	6,339 19 7	32 11½	...	...

We the undersigned do hereby certify this return to be correct,—

J. S. McNEIL.
D. McCULLOCH.

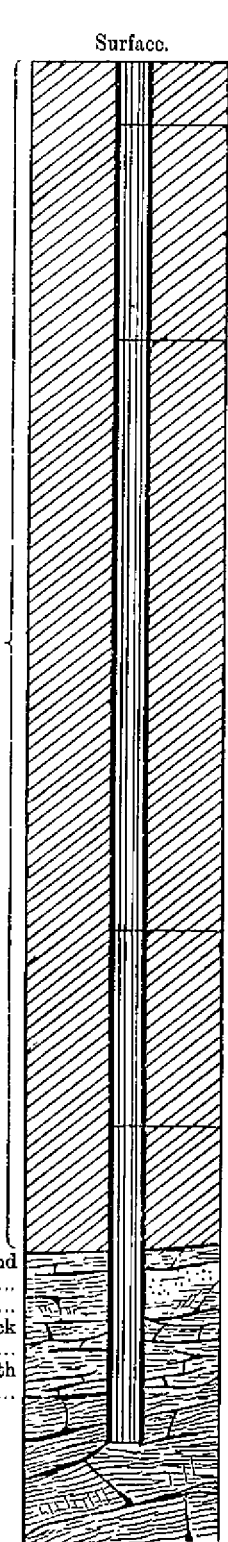
Drill Branch, 4th May, 1886.

W. H. J. SLEE,
Superintendent of Drills.

APPENDIX F.

SECTION OF BORE NO. D (from 1st Jan., 1885).

No. 1 Water Auger, at 57-mile Post, road Bourke to Wanaaring.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.					ft. in.
		Surface.			
					
			Rose to 23 ft. below surface.	Salt	23 0
			Rose to 3 ft. over surface. Rate, 720 gals. per day; increased to 2,500 gals.	Salt	110 0
474 0	Bored in 1884		Rose to 3 ft. 3 in. over surface. Rate, 4,320 gals. per day.	Brackish	349 0
				Fresh	427 0
545 6	Total depth.				

REMARKS.

Salt water tapped from 23 ft. to 110 ft. ; stands at 23 ft. from surface.
 Brackish water tapped at 349 ft. ; rose to 3 ft. over surface. Rate, 720 gals. per day; increased to 2,500 gals.
 Fresh " " 427 ft. ; " 3 ft. 3 in. over surface. Rate, 4,320 gals. per day.
 During course of testing the supply of water met with the salt and fresh water were made to flow over the surface, each distinctly—the fresh issuing from the 4-inch tubes, and the salt from the 5-inch.
 At 452 ft. passed through large quantities of decomposed shells (one shell petrified).
 At 484 ft. found fossil shells in the core.
 At 541 ft. passed through 6 in. of fossil wood.

APPENDIX F—*continued*.

SECTION OF BORE NO. F.

No. 2 Water Auger, at 94-mile Post, road Bourke to Wanaaring.

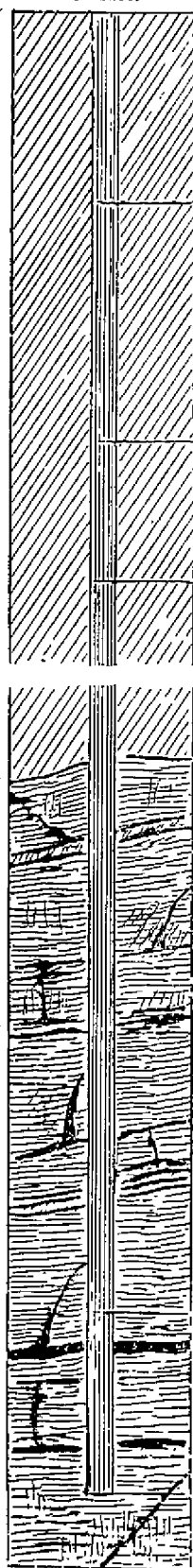
Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			ft. in.
9 0	Red sandy loam and brown clay.....				
16 0	Red, yellow, and white sandy loam and grey clay			Salt	22 0
7 0	White sandy loam				
28 6	Brown and white rock, and red stone				
12 0	Red and white clay				
115 6	Red, white, brown, and yellow clay				
51 0	Blue clay				
3 0	Brown sandstone				
44 0	Blue clay				
0 3	Sandstone				
6 9	Blue clay				
0 3	Stone and sand				
5 3	Grey sandy loam.				
0 6	White rock				
12 0	Brown and grey sandstone				
2 3	White rock and sandstone				
2 6	Sandy clay and white rock				
5 10	Grey sandy loam, sandstone, and sandy loam				
321 7	Total depth.				

REMARKS.

Salt water tapped at 22 ft. ; stand at 22 ft. ; rate, 5,000 gals. per day.

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE NO. 6 (from 1st Jan., 1885).
No. 4 Water Auger, at Sandridge Reserve, Angledool.

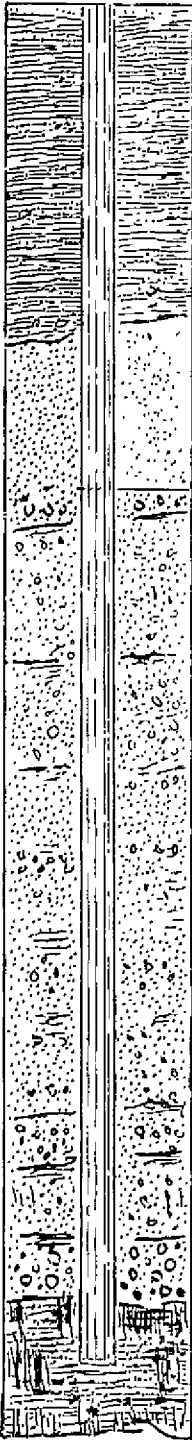
Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.					ft. in.
		Surface.			
					
293 0	Bored in 1884		Rose to 50 ft.	Salt	50 0
			Rose to 50 ft. below surface.	Salt	112 0
			Rose to 48 ft. below surface.	Salt	150 0
157 0	Soft sandstone with clay partings.				
2 0	Brown coal			Salt	442 0
25 0	Soft sandstone				
13 6	Hard sandstone				
490 6	Total depth			Salt	490 6

REMARKS.

Salt water tapped at 50 ft. ; stood at 50 ft. ; rate, 4,800 gals. per day.
 " " 112 ft. ; rose to 50 ft. ; " 7,200 " "
 " " 150 ft. ; " 50 ft. ; " 10,000 " "
 Salt water in great quantities from 50 to 150 ft., bursting up every few feet.
 Salt water tapped at 442 ft. ; rose to 48 ft. ; rate, 240 gals. per day.
 " " 490 ft. 6 in. ; rose to 48 ft.

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE No. 1 (IN COURSE OF PROGRESS).
Nos. 4 and 6 Water Augers, at Moongulla Reserve.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			ft. in.
31 0	Dry mixed clay				
17 0	Damp sand				
81 0	Drift sand, mixed			Salt	48 0
5 0	Clay				
134 0	To 31st Dec., 1885.				

REMARKS,
Salt water tapped at 48 feet below surface.

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE NO. B.

No. 5 Water Auger, at C.R. 604, road Wilcannia to Silverton.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			ft. in.
8 0	Loam and clay				
7 0	Fine sand				
66 6	Grey mottled clay				
10 0	Purple clay				
3 6	Grey mottled clay				
12 0	Grey sandy clay				
3 0	Sand drift				
9 0	Stiff grey clay				
17 0	Sand drift				
2 6	Stiff grey clay				
8 0	Sand drift				
146 6	Total depth.				
			Rose to 103 ft.	Fresh ..	110 0
			Rose to 105 ft. below surface.	Fresh ..	120 0
			Rose to 103 ft.		
			Rose to 105 ft. below surface.		
			Rose to 103 ft. below surface.		
				Fresh ..	138 6
				Fresh ..	142 0
				Fresh ..	145 6

REMARKS.

Good stock water tapped at 110 ft. ; rose to 103 ft. below surface ; rate, 720 gals. per day.
 " " " 120 ft. ; " 105 ft. " 1,440 " "
 " " " 138 ft. 6 in. ; rose to 105 ft. below surface ; rate, 1,440 gals. per day.
 " " " 142 ft. ; rose to 105 ft. below surface ; rate, 1,440 gals. per day.
 " " " 145 ft. 6 in. ; rose to 103 ft. below surface ; rate, 1,440 gals. per day.
 56 ft. 6 in. of this bore put down in 1884.

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE NO. C.

No. 5 Water Auger, at C.R. 605, road Wilcannia to Silverton.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			ft. in.
9 0	Stony clays and gypsum				
				Salt	10 0
11 6	Green rock				
55 2	Hard rock				
75 8	Total depth.				

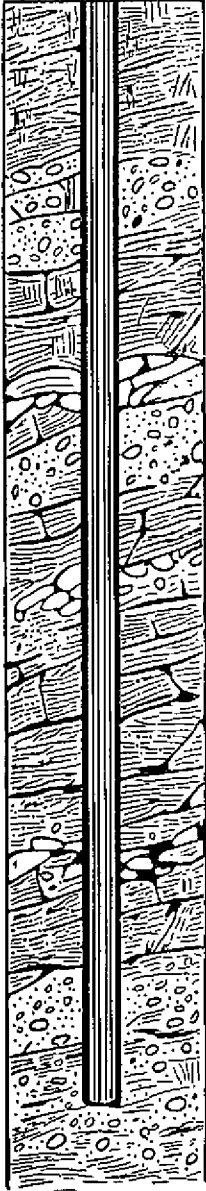
REMARKS.

Salt water tapped at 10 feet below surface.

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE NO. E (IN COURSE OF PROGRESS).

No. 5 Water Auger, at C.R. 607, road Wilcannia to Silverton.

Thickness of Strata.		Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft	in		Surface.			
8	0	Shaft.....				
5	2	Stiff red clay and gravel boulders ...				
34	11	Iron and sandstone, and gravel boulders				
4	0	Boulder drift				
3	1	Boulders and clay				
55	2	To 31st Dec., 1885.				

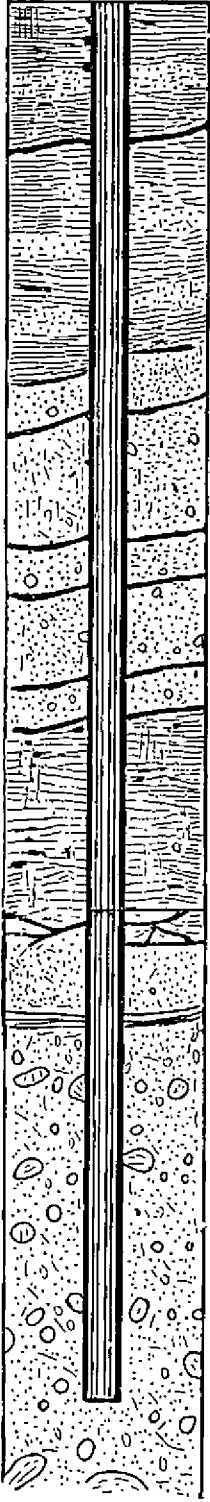
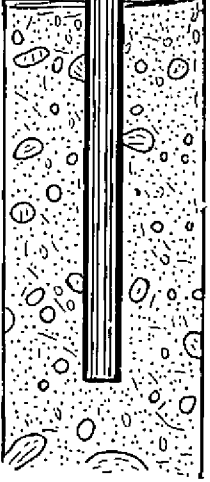
REMARKS.

No water tapped in this bore up to date

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE No. 1.

No. 7 Water Auger, at Goodooga.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			ft. in.
10 0	Shaft (light blue clay)				
17 0	Light blue clay (stiff)				
3 0	Red sand				
10 0	Red and grey sand... ..				
3 0	Light yellowish sand				
7 0	Fine white sand				
3 0	Light yellowish sand.....				
13 0	Stiff light blue clay				
4 0	Light grey clay with gypsum			Fresh ..	68 0
6 0	Light sandy clay				
28 0	Fine drift sand with sandstone boulders				
104 0	Total depth.				

REMARKS.

Fresh water tapped at 68 ft. ; rose to 60 ft. below surface ; rate, 24,000 gals. per day.
The foreman in charge remarks that by the use of proper appliances a supply of at least 2,000 gals. per hour could be obtained from this bore.

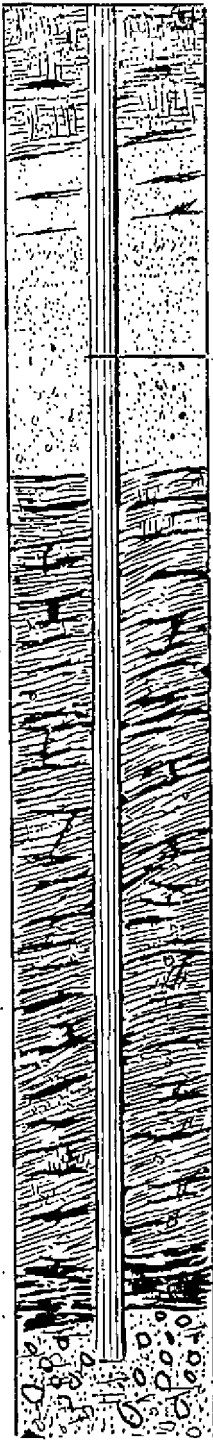
APPENDIX F—continued.
SECTION OF BORE NO. 2.
No. 7 Water Auger, at Goodooga.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			ft. in.
10 0	Shaft..... (Clay 5 ft., sand 5 ft.)				
58 0	Sand				
23 0	Sand with clay bands about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick.....				
9 0	Drift				
29 0	Drift and sand, with thin layers of clay				
3 0	White sandstone.....				
132 0	Total depth.				
				Fresh	67 0

REMARKS.

Fresh water tapped at 67 feet ; rose to 62 feet below surface ; rate, 24,000 gals. per day.

APPENDIX F--continued.
SECTION OF BORE NO. 1 (IN COURSE OF PROGRESS).
No. 7 Water Auger, at Barrington.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			ft. in.
10 0	Shaft.....				
10 0	Black clay				
4 0	Red sand				
4 0	Sandy clay mixed with limestone				
38 0	Sands of different colours in layers.....				
3 6	White clay				
4 3	Cemented clay, red and white.....				
27 9	Red, grey, and white shale				
80 6	Grey and red clayey shale				
8 0	Black clay				
2 8	Conglomerate				
192 2	To 31st Dec., 1885.				
				Salt	52 0

REMARKS.
Salt water tapped at 52 ft. below surface.

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE NO. A (from 1st Jan., 1885).

Nos. 5 and 8 Water Auger, at Outer Netallie, Road Wilcannia to Silverton.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			ft. in.
212 0	Bored in 1884				
				Salt	80 0
				Salt	120 0
				Salt	195 0
15 6	Fine sand-drift				
4 6	Blue clay and sand and clay mixed				
17 0	Drift sand				
15 0	Drift sand and water-worn pebbles.....				
3 0	Hard blue clay				
21 0	Sand-drift, water-worn pebbles, clay, and stones.				
5 3	Swelling clays				
1 3	Sand-drift				
21 10	Mud and drift				
3 6	Sand-drift and coarse white quartz gravel				
319 10	Total depth.				

REMARKS.

Salt water tapped at 80 ft. ; rose to 70 ft. below surface.

" " " at 120 ft., " 70 ft. " rate, 2,000 gals. per day.

Salt water and drift sand from 195 to 255 ft., rising to 75 ft. of surface.

Brackish water tapped at 290 ft. ; rose to 70 ft. below surface ; rate, 2,000 gals. per day.

" " " 293 ft. ; " 113 ft. " " " "

Bores put down to relieve tubes at Bore A :—

First Bore. 90 ft. deep.

Second " 86 ft. 4in. "

Third " 60 ft. "

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE NO. D (IN COURSE OF PROGRESS).

No. 8 Water Auger, at C.R. 603, Road Wilcannia to Silverton.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			
14 0	Shaft, cemented gravels				
7 0	Red sandstone rock				
2 6	Hard conglomerate rock				
3 8	Hard grey rock				
18 1	Hard white sandstone				
3 9	Hard rock.....				
4 9	Pipeclay				
5 3	Hard rock... ..				
1 0	Pipeclay.....				
7 6	Hard rock.....				
2 6	Hard grey shale				
2 2	Hard rock.....				
1 6	Hard pipeclay.....				
9 4	Sandstone rock				
15 9	Hard white rock.....				
2 4	Hard red and mottled rock				
4 2	Hard white rock.....				
105 3	To 31st Dec., 1885.				

REMARKS.

No water tapped in this bore up to date.

A trial bore was put down near the site of bore D, and bottomed on hard silicious rock at a depth of 34 ft. 6 in.

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE No. 4.

No. 9 Water Auger, at Gorion Station, Narrabri.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface,			ft. in.
10 0	Shaft.....				
11 0	Clay				
2 0	Clay and sand.....				
11 6	Sand				
3 6	Clay				
3 6	Sand and boulders				
2 0	Cemented sand				
59 6	Sand				
3 0	Stiff clay				
5 0	Sand and clay.....				
9 6	Clay and pebbles				
10 0	Sand and clay.....				
9 6	Sand-drift				
14 0	Clay				
2 0	Sand				
39 0	Sand-drift, clay and pebbles				
191 0	Total depth.				
			Rose to 87 ft.	Salt.....	91 0
			Rose to 90 ft. below surface.	Good stock	130 6
			Rose to 82 ft. below surface.	Good stock	155 0
				Fresh	182 0

REMARKS.

Salt water tapped at 91 ft. ; stood at 91 ft. below surface.

Good stock water tapped at 130 ft. 6 in. ; rose to 87 ft. below surface. Rate, 12,960 gals. per day.

Fresh " " " 155 ft. " " 90 ft. " " 3,360 "

Fresh " " " 182 ft. " " 82 ft. " " 12,672 "

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE NO. 5.

No. 9 Water Auger, at Gorion Station, Narrabri.

Thickness of Strata.		Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.	
ft.	in.					ft.	in.
			Surface.				
10	0	Shaft.....					
45	0	Hard dry sand					
22	6	Sand and pebbles					
2	6	Clay					
30	0	Sand-drift, boulders, and clay.....			Salt	91	0
7	0	Sand-drift			Good stock	111	0
5	0	Sand-drift and boulders					
20	0	Clay					
9	0	Sand-drift			Brackish	146	0
					Fresh ...	150	0
151	0	Total depth.					

REMARKS.

Salt water tapped at 91 ft. ; rose to 77 ft. below surface ; rate 7,200 gals. per day.
 Good stock water " 111 ft. ; " 77 ft. " " 9,600 " "
 Brackish " " 146 ft. ; " 76 ft. " " 12,096 " "
 Fresh " " 150 ft. ; " 83 ft. " " 12,000 " "

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE NO. 6 (IN COURSE OF PROGRESS).
No. 9 Water Auger, at Gorion Station, Narrabri.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			ft. in.
9 6	Shaft (clay)				
3 6	Clay				
10 0	Sand				
9 0	Sand and clay				
8 0	Cemented sand.....				
6 0	Sand and pebbles.....				
37 0	Clay, sand, and boulders				
				Salt	82 6
				Salt	90 6
				Good stock	93 0
				Salt	99 6
				Salt	104 6
				Good stock	116 0
74 0	Sand-drift and clay layers.....			Good stock	133 0
				Good stock	143 0
				Good stock	146 6
13 0	Red mullock and pebbles				
3 6	Sand-drift and clay			Fresh	173 0
173 6	To 31st Dec., 1885.				

REMARKS.

Salt water tapped at 82 ft. 6 in. ; rose to 77 ft. 6 in. below surface ; rate, 3,600 gals. per day.

" " 90 ft. 6 in. ; " 74 ft. " " 6,000 "

Good stock water tapped at 93 ft. ; " 76 ft. " " 6,000 "

Salt water tapped at 99 ft. 6 in. ; " 80 ft. " " 4,800 "

" " 104 ft. 6 in. ; " 74 ft. " " 12,000 "

Good stock water tapped at 116 ft. ; " 72 ft. 6 in. " " 12,000 "

" " 133 ft. ; " 74 ft. " " 12,000 "

" " 143 ft. ; " 76 ft. " " 10,800 "

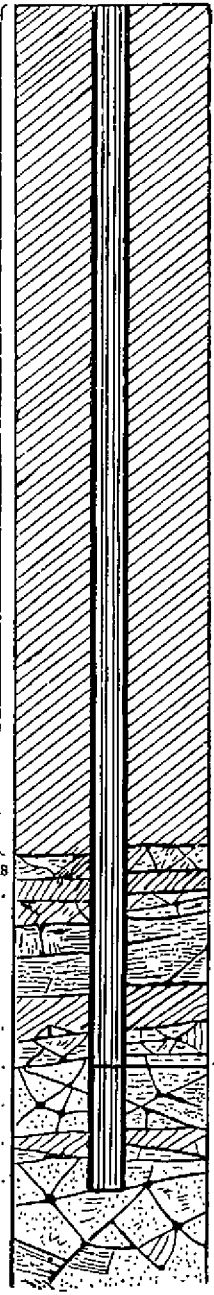
" " 146 ft. 6 in. ; rose to 75 ft. 6 in. below surface ; rate, 12,096 gals. per day.

Fresh water tapped at 173 ft. ; rose to 71 ft. below surface ; rate, 17,280 gals. per day.

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE NO. L (FROM 1ST JAN., 1885).

No. 10 Water Auger, at C.R. 612, Road Wilcannia to Silverton.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			ft. in.
62 11	Bored in 1884				
5 7	Slate, quartz, mica, with fine seams of clay				
5 6	Very hard sandstone				
5 9	Slate and quartz				
0 6	Sandstone				
4 6	Quartz and granite				
2 6	Slate, quartz, and clay				
2 6	Granite and quartz				
89 9	Total depth.			Brackish	80 3

REMARKS.

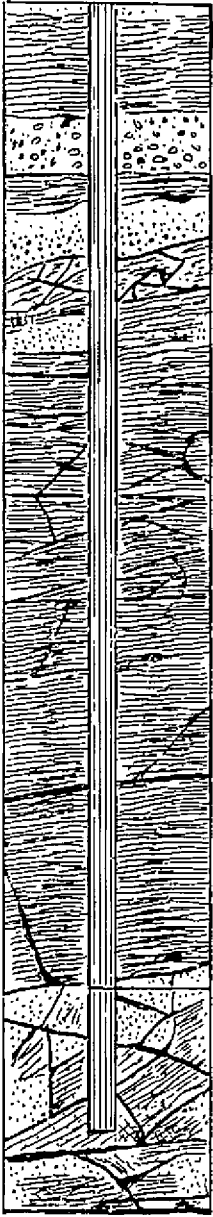
Brackish water tapped at 80 ft. 3 in. ; rose to 71 ft. 3 in. below surface.

NOTE.—This water very brackish, and not fit for stock.

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE K.

No. 10 Water Auger, at W.R. 545, Road Wilcannia to Silverton.

Thickness o Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			ft. in
5 0	Red loam				
3 0	Gravel				
21 6	Clay and sand and quartz.....				
18 9	Hard sandstone				
7 9	Granite and ironstone				49 0
56 0	Total depth.				

REMARKS.

Water tapped at 49 ft.; rose to 39 feet below surface.

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE NO. J.

No. 10 Water Auger, at 64-mile Water Reserve, Road Wilcannia to Silverton.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			ft. in.
2 0	Loam				
8 0	Red clay and heavy gravel				
28 0	Red clay, quartz, sand and brown clay				
9 6	Sand, gravel and clay				
13 9	White sand ..				
19 0	Hard white clay				
10 9	White sand and quartz				
22 9	White and brown sand and clay				
10 0	Blue clay				
6 6	Hard sandstone				
5 0	Blue clay				
7 0	White clay				
8 0	Brown sand ..				
4 6	Fine water-worn quartz				
2 0	White clay ...				
8 6	Sand and pipe-clay				
7 6	Fine white sand				
35 0	Sand and quartz, grey clay, yellow sand, and quartz sand				
3 0	Red and yellow sand				
210 9	Total depth.				

REMARKS.

No water tapped in this bore.

Bores put down to relieve tubes at bore J.

No. 1 bore, 107 ft. 10 in. deep.

" 2 " 117 ft. "

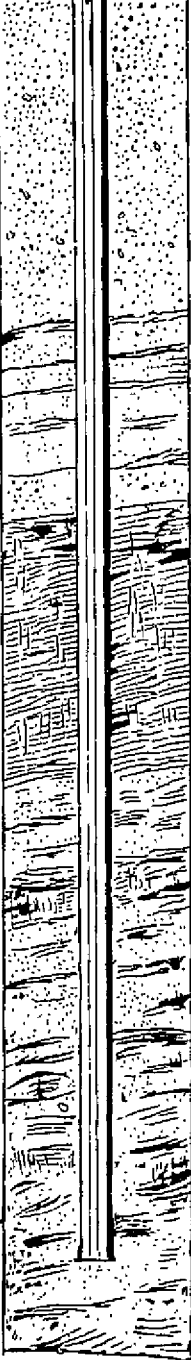
" 3 " 57 ft. "

" 4 " 40 ft. "

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE NO. H (IN COURSE OF PROGRESS).

No. 10 Water Auger, at Yancowinna Plains, Road Wilcannia to Silverton.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			ft. in.
57 0	Red sand				
5 0	Grey sand				
13 6	Yellow sand and loam				
18 0	Grey sand and pipeclay				
8 0	Fine yellow sand				
2 0	Coarse sand and ironstone				
6 2	Grey sandstone				
44 4	White pipeclay				
15 6	Brown clay and sand				
13 0	Yellow clay				
10 6	Brown sandy clay				
10 6	Yellow sand				
46 9	Yellow sandy clay				
250 3	To 31st Dec., 1885.				

REMARKS.

No water tapped in this bore up to date

APPENDIX F—continued.

SECTION OF BORE NO. I (IN COURSE OF PROGRESS).

No. 11 Water Auger, at Gunbar Road, Hay.

Thickness of Strata.	Nature of Strata.	Borehole.	Height water rose from point of tapping.	Quality.	Depth water tapped.
ft. in.		Surface.			ft. in.
23 0	Brown and green clay				
18 0	Green and yellow clay, with very stiff cement and sand seams				
8 0	Fine white sand-drift				
1 0	Coarse sand				
10 0	Stiff grey clay				
10 0	Grey, yellow, and brown ferruginous clay				
10 0	Fine sand-drift, with quartz pebbles			Fresh ...	75 0
4 0	Grey and yellow ferruginous clay			Fresh ...	84 0
16 0	Fine clear sand and fresh water				
7 0	Coarse quartz sand				
13 0	Grey and brown clay				
13 0	Stiff grey clay				
2 0	Marly clay and sand				
17 0	Stiff grey and brown clay				
5 0	Clayey sand				
9 0	Sand-drift			Fresh ...	157 0
13 0	Sandy and marly clay				
21 0	Drift sand			Fresh ...	184 0
6 11	Conglomerate				
206 11	To 31st Dec., 1885.				

REMARKS.

Fresh water tapped at 75 ft. ; stood at 75 ft. below surface.

" " 84 ft. ; rose to 75 ft. below surface ; rate, 3,600 gals. per day.

" " 157 ft. ; " 68 ft. " "

" " 184 ft. ; " 62 ft. " " 2,640 "

The sand-drifts from a depth of 84 feet to 200 feet contain fresh water, rising to within 62 feet of surface, at the rate of about 3,600 gals. per day.

By latest reports from this bore, fresh water was tapped at 240 feet, and rose 140 feet in four minutes ; supply, 25,200 gals. per day. This water forced up a plug of clay 20 feet long over 100 feet up the tubes.



APPENDIX H—continued.

INDEX to Wells and Bores, as published last year, with large additions.

No.	Locality.	District.	Strata.	Remarks.
200	Youngarrina Springs	Albert .....	.....	Well 6 ft. deep; estimated 800 to 1,000 gals. good water per diem.
201	M'Crac's Well, Baongum-yarra .....	„ .....	.....	Well 27 „ 8 or 9 ft. in rock; good supply for stock; too brackish for domestic purposes.
202	Buckley's Well, Yantabulla	„	Bottom on sandy drift	Well 40 ft. deep; water fairly good but slightly impregnated with soda; daily yield about 150 gallons.
203	Rudder's Well, Warroo Station .....	„ .....	.....	Well 20 ft. deep; water rose 10 ft.; very salt.
204	Tynganic Spring .....	„ .....	.....	Well 40 „ excellent water; estimated at about 10,000 gallons per diem.
205	Brindingabba, Moolort Block .....	„ .....	.....	Well 94 ft. deep; watered 12,000 sheep through drought; quality excellent.
206	„ .....	„ .....	.....	Well 120 ft. deep; water excellent; rose 90 ft. in shaft.
207	Kilfera, on Kilfera Block .....	„ .....	.....	Well 150 „ supply 100 gals. per diem; good water.
208	Kenmare Block .....	„ .....	.....	Well 38 „ bore 197 ft.; water salt.
209	„ .....	„ .....	.....	Well 35 „ water very salt; very bitter; no supply.
210	Kilfera Block .....	„ .....	.....	Well 100 „ said to contain powerful mineral poison.
211	Polygonum Hut	Darling .....	.....	On road Booligal to Wilcannia.
212	Barrangan Well	Albert .....	.....	On the "Border Run."
213	Wanganilla	Murrumbidgee .....	.....	On South Wanganella Block.
214	Pretty Pine .....	„ .....	.....	Lower Deniliquin Run.
215	Beefwood Well, on "The Wells" Block	County Yungnulgra, Albert District .....	.....
216	New Well, on Block Byjerk South, Paroo River	County Landsborough, Albert District .....	.....
217	Coolawundy Well	County Yungnulgra, Albert District .....	.....	Well 157 ft. deep; good water.
218	Coparto Well, Block Germano East	County Yungnulgra .....	.....	Well 50 „ water rises to 20 ft.
219	Junction Well, Germano East	Albert .....	.....	Well 80 „ good water rises to 50 of surface.
220	Danbery Well, Danbery North Block .....	„ .....	.....	Good stock water.
221	Minamithoo Well, Dilkoorba North Block .....	.....	.....	300 ft. deep; good water rose to 65 ft. from surface.
222	Parkungi Block	Albert .....	.....	298 „ good water rose to 80 ft. from surface.
223	Pullamico Well .....	.....	.....	236 „ good water.
224	Thackaringa Well	Albert .....	.....	236 ft. deep; good water.
225	Wanga Well .....	„ .....	.....	270 „ „
226	North Ita Well .....	.....	.....	240 „ „
227	Molung West Well .....	.....	.....	20 „ „
228	Moredevil Station	Liverpool Plains .....	.....	Artesian fresh water
229	Myalmundi	Narromine .....	.....	194 ft. deep, good water.
230	Gap Well (45 miles west of Cobar)	South Warrego .....	.....	Salt.
231	Top Well, Newcombe	Muggare Back B Block .....	.....	70 ft. deep; good water.
232	Dungle Well (5 miles north of previous well) .....	.....	.....	70 ft., good for stock; at 75 ft., salt.
233	Walgett Wells	Town of Walgett .....	.....	40 to 50 ft.; good water in black soil flats.
234	Triangi Well	Narromine .....	.....	350 ft.; good water; equal to 5,000 to 6,000 gals. per day.
235	Chapman's Well .....	„ .....	.....	350 ft.; water brackish.
236	Randwick Asylum	Randwick .....	.....	Fresh water.
237	Ringagong Well	Yanko Creek .....	.....	120 ft. deep; fresh water rose 52 ft. in shaft.
238	Gorce Well .....	„ .....	.....	172 „ good water rose 105 ft.

W. H. J. SLEE,
Superintendent of Drills.

RETURN showing Locality, Depths, and Quantity of Fresh Water tapped by Water-augers during 1885.

No of Bore.	Locality.	Depths water tapped.	Quality.	Quantity in gallons per day.	Remarks.
TRAVELLING STOCK RESERVES.					
D	Bourke	427 0	Fresh	4,320	Rose 3' 3" over surface. Most of this bore put down in 1884.
A	Wilcannia	290 0	Brackish	2,000	Rose to 70 feet below surface.
"		293 0	do	2,000	" 113 feet " "
B		110 0	Good stock	720	" 103 feet " "
"	to	120 0	do	1,440	" 105 feet " "
"		138 6	do	1,440	" 105 feet " "
"		142 0	do	1,440	" 105 feet " "
"		145 6	do	1,440	" 105 feet " "
K	Silverton.	49 0	Brackish	not given	" 39 feet " "
1*	Goodooga.	68 0	Fresh	24,000	" 60 feet " "
2	do	67 0	do	24,000	" 62 feet " "
1†	Hay	75 0	do	.....	" 75 feet " "
"	do	84 0	do	3,600	" 75 feet " "
"	do	157 0	do	.....	" 68 feet " "
"	do	184 0	do	2,640	" 62 feet " "
PRIVATE LANDS.					
3	Gorian	95 0	Good stock	480	Rose to 90 feet below surface.
"	do	137 0	do	9,120	" 83 feet 6 inches below surface
"	do	158 0	Fresh	9,792	" 83 feet below surface.
4	do	130 0	Good stock	12,960	" 87 feet " "
"	do	155 0	do	3,360	" 90 feet " "
"	do	182 0	Fresh	12,672	" 82 feet " "
5	do	111 0	Good stock	9,600	" 77 feet " "
"	do	146 0	Brackish	12,096	" 76 feet " "
"	do	150 0	Fresh	12,000	" 83 feet " "
6	do	93 0	Good stock	6,000	" 76 feet " "
"	do	116 0	do	12,000	" 72 feet 6 inches below surface.
"	do	133 0	do	12,000	" 74 feet below surface.
"	do	143 0	do	10,800	" 76 feet " "
"	do	146 0	do	12,096	" 75 feet 6 inches below surface.
"	do	173 0	Fresh	17,280	" 71 feet below surface.

* Foreman in charge states that by the use of proper appliances a supply of at least 2,000 gallons per hour could be obtained from this bore.
† By latest reports (March, 1886) from this bore, fresh water has been tapped at 236 feet, rose 147 feet in fifteen minutes, rate 230 gallons per hour, and at 240 feet, which rose 140 feet in four minutes, driving a 3-foot plug of clay before it, supply equal to 1,050 gallons per hour, and rose to 96 feet of surface. Next day force of water was so great that it drove a 20-foot cylindrical mass of solid clay and sand up tubes over 100 feet in fifteen minutes. Present supply of water in this bore is inexhaustible, and rises to within 60 feet to 90 feet of surface.

W. H. J. SLEE,
Superintendent of Drills.

BALANCE SHEET—WATER-AUGERS.—1885.

JANUARY 1ST TO 31ST DECEMBER.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To value of stock in store at 1st January		937 4 5	By amount receivable		438 17 10
" Working expenses exclusive of officesalaries, storewages, rent, superintendent's travelling expenses and expenditure excavating service tanks at 18 miles from Bourke		5,121 0 0	" plant issued	437 18 9	
" office salaries	801 0 0		" tubing do.	444 1 0	
" store wages	215 2 0		" stores do.	267 14 7	1,149 14 4
" rent	101 0 3		" value of stock in store at 31st December		1,643 13 3
" superintendent's travelling expenses	101 17 4	1,218 19 7	" cost of work performed on stock routes	6,042 2 8	
" expenditure excavating two service tanks at 18 miles from Bourke		163 8 3	" cost of boring for private persons in excess of amount receivable thereon	22 7 4	6,064 10 0
" plant purchased	693 9 4				
" tubing do.	798 15 0				
" stores do.	363 18 10	1,856 3 2			
	£	9,296 15 5		£	9,296 15 5

Certified correct—

J. S. McNEIL.

D. McCULLOCH.

Drill Branch, 6 May, 1886.

W. H. J. SLEE,
Superintendent of Drills.

Balance-sheet

BALANCE-SHEET—DIAMOND DRILLS.—1885.

JANUARY 1ST TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1885.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To value of stock in store at 1st January	892	15	11				By amount receivable other than inspection fees and charges for sections				9,644	15	1
„ value of diamonds on hand at 1st January	2,202	5	9	3,095	1	8	„ inspection fees	33	12	0			
„ working expenses, exclusive of office salaries, store wages, rent, Superintendent's travelling expenses, hand-boring, and other expenditure							„ charges for sections	4	4	0	37	16	0
„ office salaries	800	19	0				„ plant issued	1,279	1	10			
„ store wages	215	1	8				„ tubing „	100	11	5			
„ rent	101	1	6				„ stores „	954	0	2			
„ Superintendent's travelling expenses	101	16	11	9,619	18	6	„ diamonds used				2,333	13	5
„ hand-boring	161	9	0				„ value of stock in store at 31st December	1,015	16	11	829	9	7
„ other expenditure	153	8	9				„ value of diamonds on hand at 31st December	1,755	7	5			
„ plant purchased	1,605	3	6				„ cost of boring in excess of amount receivable thereon				2,771	4	4
„ tubing „	291	10	0										
„ stores „	560	0	11								1,471	4	3
„ diamonds „													
				2,456	14	5							
				382	11	3							
				£ 17,088	2	8					£ 17,088	2	8

Certified correct—

J. S. McNEIL,

D. McCULLOCH.

Drill Branch, 6 May, 1886.

W. H. J. SLEE,

Superintendent of Drills.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
NEW SOUTH WALES.



ROYAL COMMISSION ON COLLIERIES.

REPORT

ON THE ACCIDENTS AT

LITHGOW VALLEY COLLIERY.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,

14 *July*, 1886.

SYDNEY: THOMAS RICHARDS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1886.

DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO.

SCHEDULE.

1. Evidence of witnesses examined.
2. Minutes of the Commission.
3. Reduced plan of the workings of Lithgow Valley Colliery.
4. Report by Messrs. Swinburn and Usher.
5. Report by Messrs. Jones, Curley, and Usher.
6. Section of Coal-seam worked.
7. General Section of Western Coal-measures.
8. Plan showing position of Collieries in Lithgow Valley.
9. Plan showing arrangement of Bratticing at second accident.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON COLLIERIES.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACCIDENTS AT LITHGOW VALLEY COLLIERY.

June, 1886.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable CHARLES ROBERT BARON CARRINGTON,
Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and
Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of New South
Wales and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

The Commission appointed to make a diligent and full inquiry into the causes of the accidents that recently occurred to the Ferndale Colliery, in the District of Newcastle, in this Colony, and also to report upon the condition of the collieries adjacent thereto,—also to make an inquiry into the disaster that happened at the Lithgow Colliery, and to report upon the working and ventilation of the coal seams, and more especially the thin coal seams of the said Colony—have concluded their inquiry into the cause of the accidents at Lithgow Colliery in February and April last, and, with the aid of evidence transcribed from the shorthand writers' notes, have unanimously agreed upon the following statement descriptive of the mine and nature of the accidents, also a *résumé* of the operations and of the evidence taken, and their findings or report on the same. These, together with the documents detailed on the margin hercof, the Commission have the honor to present to Your Excellency.

A general meeting, at which all the members of the Commission (except one) attended, was held in Sydney on the 29th day of April, when, at the request of the Honorable the Minister for Mines, the Commission agreed to open the inquiry into the Lithgow accident before that of Ferndale. Accordingly, they proceeded to Lithgow, and at once commenced their investigations. After spending two days in minutely inspecting the underground workings of Lithgow Valley Colliery, to which access could be obtained, in examining the colliery plan, and in obtaining necessary information from the Government officers, the colliery owners, and their officials, and in discussing and arranging the form of procedure and the evidence required from witnesses, the Commission formally opened their inquiry into the causes of the accidents referred to, on the morning of Monday, the 3rd day of May ultimo, and continued their examination of witnesses till Wednesday, the 12th May, when, from the lack of further evidence, the inquiry was closed.

During these sittings thirty-four witnesses were examined. On the completion of the work of transcribing the shorthand writers' notes the Commission again met, at Newcastle, on Wednesday, the 26th day of May, and, while the preliminaries
for

for commencing the inquiry into the accident at Ferndale Colliery were being completed, the various points brought to their notice during the exhaustive inquiry and examination of witnesses at Lithgow were discussed, together with two special reports by members of the Commission, being the result of—

- a.* An examination of the workings of Lithgow Valley Colliery, with the view of discovering (if such existed) the presence of photo. or light carburetted hydrogen gas (the fire-damp, stythe, or choke-damp of miners), and
- b.* An inspection by those members of the Commission on the condition of the coal workings on the adjoining estate of Eskbank along its southern boundary, to ascertain whether an actual connection exists between the abandoned coal workings at Lithgow Valley and Eskbank Collieries, sufficient to permit the passage of water or of air between these two collieries; points which, from the remarks to follow and the exhaustive evidence, illustrated as they are by maps, plans, sections, and documents appended hereto, Your Excellency will readily perceive are of importance in forming opinions on the possibility of the underground fire in the first-named colliery being fed by air derived from the abandoned coal-workings of the latter, and on the consequences that may befall that colliery should an attempt be made to extinguish the underground fire in Lithgow Valley Colliery by flooding that mine.

In obtaining evidence, collecting and preparing information bearing upon the lamentable accidents that occurred in Lithgow Valley Colliery—the first on the 13–14th February ultimo, whereby three men, including the manager of the mine, lost their lives, and the second on the afternoon of Monday, the 19th day of April ultimo, whereby five men lost their lives—the Commission sat thirteen days, from the 29th April to the 13th of May, both days included; and the sittings, while taking evidence, averaged eight hours each day, irrespective of the necessary work of preparing points to be elucidated on the following day. This occupied much time, and could only be accomplished after the arduous investigations of the day had ended.

Lithgow Valley is the name given to the deep hollow at the foot of the Great Zigzag on the Great Western Railway, and is distant 94 miles from Sydney. This valley marks the western line of the Blue Mountains—a broad belt of sandstone—once an extensive plateau, which, by the incessant operation of natural causes of climate and time, has been worn and eroded into a confused theatre of tortuous valleys or glens, bounded by profound precipices, the depths bristling with dense primæval vegetation, and obscured by a blue mysterious haze that has given to this broad mountainous belt its name. The mass of the Blue Mountains is composed of the Hawkesbury Sandstones, that rise to an elevation of about 5,000 feet above sea-level, and overlie the coal-measures of the Colony. The latter measures in vertical thickness about 600 feet, and are for the most part composed of sandstone, conglomerate, and arenaceous shales, the top being marked by a stratum of red aluminous shale. Throughout this thickness the coal-seams are found in stratigraphical order or succession. The coal-beds of the Western Coal-field are no doubt identical with those that occur in the Newcastle and Southern Coal-fields; but, on account of the character of the separating or intervening strata, the work of identifying or correlating the beds in the several districts has not hitherto been attempted.

The

The Western Coal-field is therefore a part of the great coal-field of the Colony that has by some stupendous force been elevated many thousands of feet above the original level.

The profound valleys, such as those of Kanimbla, the Grose, Jamieson, and others, which form the feature of this broad mountain belt, have been denuded out of and through the great thickness of the Hawkesbury Sandstones—the coal measures, and below these into rocks evidently of Devonian age.

The coal-beds in the Western District have a general but a very low angle of dip or pitch to the east of north. Very few faults or dislocations of the strata interrupt the continuity of the beds. This angle of dip and rise gradually brings the coal-beds to the horizon towards the west, so that at Lithgow, at an elevation of 2,900 feet above the sea, the lowest coal-bed of the series is underlying the bottom of the valley, and preserving its natural rise, comes to the surface a short distance from the railway station.

The line of outcrop of the Lithgow coal-seam is marked by, and can be traced under, a low escarpment of pebbly sandstone that stretches in a north and south line across the valley, and is continued some distance further under the cover afforded by the extension of the carboniferous sandstone in that direction. The coal-seam measures about 10 feet in thickness (see section No. 6). It is divided by thin layers or bands of stone. The roof consists of a remarkably thick and strong post or bed of sandstone, with a few shale or “chitter” layers contiguous to the top of the coal. The true floor is composed of a very hard close-grained sandstone. The part of the seam worked is shown on section No. 6, and will be seen to consist of from 5' 4" to 6' of coal; from 6" to 18" of worthless splinty coal being left on the floor, called “bottoms,” and from 3' to 4' of coal on the roof, called “tops” or “top-coal”; this lies immediately under the sandstone. The coal in appearance is dull and comparatively lustreless; it is hard and has a cubical fracture, and contains apparently a high percentage of ash.

This coal has been worked for many years at the Bowenfels, Lithgow Valley, Hermitage, and Iron Works Tunnel, and at the Eskbank, Vale of Clwydd, and Zigzag coal-pits, and is in extensive demand. The estates owned by the proprietors of the collieries enumerated, together with the position of their working shafts, and, in the case of Eskbank and Lithgow Valley, the area and position of the coal worked, is approximately shown on plan No. 8. On referring to this plan it will be seen that the line of outcrop of the seam crosses the western part of the estate belonging to this Company, at a point a few hundred yards south of their northern boundary.

About fourteen years ago a tunnel (position shown on plans Nos. 3 and 8) was begun on the outcrop of the coal-seam, and continued almost due east, following the dip of the seam; this has continued to be the main outlet by which coal has been won. By referring to plan No. 3 the method of winning and working the coal-seam may be seen and followed. The tunnel has been driven due east and almost direct to the dip (the pitch of the seam averaging about 1-34 in that direction) for a distance of about 52 chains=1,144 yards from the outlet.

The method of winning the coal has been that known as bord and pillar, leaving pillars varying from 4 to 20 yards to support the superincumbent strata. About 120 acres (with the exception to be referred to) have been worked in this way, the pillars remaining intact. The

The ventilating currents are shown by arrows, and are actuated by two furnaces. It will be seen that the main inlet for fresh air (intake) is the tunnel, and that the "returns" for the exhausted air are two in number, and are shown by arrows pointing towards the west. Both of these "returns" pass over ventilating furnaces, and are shown on plan No. 3. The ventilating current has been guided and controlled by stoppings composed of slack or small coal, strengthened in some cases by timber.

The coal-seams throughout the Colony enjoy an enviable immunity from the presence of fire-damp—only in comparatively few instances has any accumulation of this gas been seen in any of the collieries. The presence of "fire-damp" has never, it would appear, been observed in this or in any of the adjoining collieries, although it has been repeatedly looked for (see evidence of J. Davies, R. Grant, Jos. Campbell, and Mr. Inspector Rowan, and special report No. 4).

In respect to the mode of winning coal, the size of pillars, and the methods employed to induce and control the ventilating currents, this colliery appears not to have in any way differed, but to have followed the practice of this and the other mining districts in the Colony.

To the north of the main tunnel the coal workings were extended to and stripped the boundary of the adjoining colliery of Eskbank. While doing so it would appear that the workers in Lithgow Valley discovered an encroachment that had been made from the lands of Eskbank. This, of course, forms a link of communication between the two collieries. As the tunnel in Lithgow Valley proceeded it became necessary to deal with the water that collected in the dip workings; and advantage was taken of this encroachment, and the fact that the coal-seam formed a hollow or "swallow" contiguous to that spot, to discharge the water removed from the dip workings into this hollow, and from thence it percolated and found its way into the adjoining coal workings in Eskbank estate, from whence it was pumped. Another hollow of some extent, to the north of the tunnel and contiguous to the boiler, is partially shown on plan No. 3. A third hollow is shown on same plan, near to the left-hand furnace. These hollows were full of water. The limits of the second-named hollow seem to have covered a greater area than is shown on the plan, and to have crossed the tunnel. It was from this reservoir that the supply of water was derived that was used to play upon the underground fire.

The Lithgow Valley mine was managed for several years, prior to the accident of February, by Mr. John Doig; and the owners, who were personally ignorant of mining, and who practically never entered the mine, reposed the utmost confidence in the ability and judgment of Mr. Doig. To him they delegated the full control and management of the colliery in all its branches and details. (*Vide* evidence of Mr. T. Wilton and Mr. E. Gell, corroborated by Mr. Inspector Rowan, Mr. Dixon, S. Passmore, and others.)

Mr. Doig appears to have been a man of much decision of character, but one remarkable for his reticence. The reasons he had for pursuing a given course do not seem to have been required of him, or if asked were not given. Unfortunately Mr. Doig lost his life in the accident of 13th and 14th February. The evidence that he, had he survived, would have given, the Commission feel, might have cleared up many points referred to in the inquiry that appear only to have been known or could have been satisfactorily explained by him.

After

After entering the main tunnel a small split of air was allowed to enter No. 7 cross-cut (see plan No. 3), a few yards below or to the east of the right-hand furnace. The bulk of the air was carried down the tunnel, and at F, 38 chains from the outlet, or 36 chains from the right-hand furnace, another split of air of uncertain amount was taken to supply the boiler furnace—to be after mentioned. Opposite F a secure stopping had been put across, and effectually stopped the passage of air into the main level, marked and known as Tyndall's heading; this stopping was composed of timber, and was air-tight. The main body of air coursed past this point, and was conducted in the tunnel as one stream to the bottom, where it was split or divided. About 2,000 feet per minute was taken to supply the few men who were kept working in bords to the north of the tunnel. This current ventilated about nine bords, until it impinged against a solid barrier of coal, left, it is alleged, to prevent the water in the hollow referred to from reaching the lower workings. The air current was then bent to the south till it reached within one pillar of the main tunnel, when it was again swerved to the west and curved round the boiler at F. At this point it was joined by the smoke and heated gases, and any air that escaped over or alongside the boiler; and again turning to the right, then to the left, it was conducted over the accumulation of water in the hollow, as delineated by arrows on plan No. 3. After leaving this hollow this return or flue enters an empty bord, and follows this for many chains, and, before entering the left-hand furnace, it again crosses another hollow filled with water to within a few inches of the roof, and finally enters the left-hand furnace and escapes to the outer air. With respect to this left-hand return, it appears that from the boiler upwards towards the furnace it has not been travelled or inspected for years. The reason for this is that the level of the water in these hollows reached within 12 or 18 inches of the roof; and this, in the opinion of the Commission, formed an important factor, not only in causing quantities of smoke to collect in the main tunnel spoken of by the majority of the witnesses, but in hampering the easy and rapid exit of the sudden displacement of foul gases, on the 19th of April, by the furnace which caused the death of five men in the second accident.

The right-hand or south return air-ways are also shown by arrows on plan No. 3. This is the principal air-way in the mine, and in the districts ventilated by it nearly the whole of the men worked. Reference to the plan will show that to ventilate the south side workings below the cross-cut the air is divided or split into two currents; the principal current enters Sam's heading, and is conducted through the bords above that heading. A smaller current was permitted to pass this heading, and at the bottom of the tunnel this was divided, one portion going to ventilate the northern bords, as narrated; the other portion was conducted to the right, and, after ventilating the few bords below Sam's heading, joined the main stream of air that was introduced by that air-way.

The conjoined currents then ventilated the working bords, and, crossing No. 1 cross-cut by an overcast, was carried direct to the right-hand furnace and escaped up the ventilating shaft. The bord in which this furnace was built was continued to the left, and passing out to day, constituted the second outlet prescribed by the Coal Mines Regulation Act. With respect to the ventilating furnaces. The left-hand furnace was practically kept for inducing a draught in the flue from the underground boiler, and was of small area. The sectional area of the return was about 30 cubic feet, being that of an air-way about 7 yards wide, with an open
space

space about 18 inches between the level of the water and the top-coal. The exact area of this could not be accurately ascertained, and considerable differences of opinion existed as to the height of the open space above the water (see J. B. Turnbull's and Inspector Rowan's evidence). Under these circumstances the Commission have taken the area suggested by Mr. Inspector Rowan. The area of the left up-cast shaft is about 24 cubic feet.

The right-hand furnace was of larger area, and was capable of rarefying from 10,000 to 12,000 cubic feet of air per minute, and of maintaining an adequate ventilating current for the number of men employed. Both of these furnaces were built quite close to the main tunnel, and communicated therewith by a narrow passage, closed not by a double but a light single door. These furnaces have been built in the centre of an ordinary bord. The ashes drawn from them do not seem ever to have been removed. In the case of the left-hand furnace these were wheeled down the return and tipped into the water, over which the return air and gases passed; while at the right-hand furnace the ashes, after being soaked with water, were built up in one large pile against the coal pillars. A large heap had, at the date of the inspection by the Commission, accumulated, and it was brought out in evidence that on one occasion a fire had occurred here; but that the warning thus given of danger had been disregarded, and no attempt was afterwards made to remove them from the mine.

It has been already explained that the mode of winning the coal in this colliery was that known as bord and pillar, and was systematically pursued, and that, following this system, about 120 acres of coal had been worked, leaving the pillars standing to support the roof. The pillars left in this colliery are of ample size. Over a very considerable portion of the area worked the pillars left to support the superincumbent strata measure about 20 yards square, against 7 yards of bord worked; so that nearly two-thirds of the whole coal-seam has been left unworked. To the north of the tunnel, and adjoining Eskbank boundary, pillars over the space of about one or one and a half acres have been wholly taken out. The probable position of this space is shown on the plan No. 3. It is doubtful also whether some pillaring operations have not been conducted contiguous to the encroachment from Eskbank; at any rate, the pillars there are very much smaller than those left in other parts of the mine. No very accurate information could be obtained by the Commission as to the state of the pillars in this part of the workings.

It would, however, appear that considerable falls of the roof had taken place near to this, and that the open waste or goaf was (when last visited by R. Grant, R. Davis, and others) full of carbonic acid gas (the choke-damp or stythe of miners).

It may not be out of place, although anticipating future recommendations connected with other branches of the inquiries entrusted to the Commission, to remark that to have such extensive areas of pillars intact is not only a waste of national resources, but an instance of defective and of a wasteful and thoughtless system of mining. Were it made a rule that all collieries should take out pillars in districts, and as soon as possible after they are formed, the roof would subside equally, and, closing upon the small coal and rubbish, would leave no open spaces where falls could occur or quantities of poisonous gases could accumulate. A large area of open goaf may be considered as a storehouse or magazine purposely left for the storage of black-damp or white-damp. These deleterious gases are given off
by

by all coal-seams, and are also the results or the products that represent the waste of animated existences, or are generated by the use of explosives or from the burning of coal or oil. A carefully devised and conducted mine should, where circumstances will permit, have none of these open spaces from whence, on the occurrence of a sudden and unforeseen accident, large quantities of gases inimical to human life could—as in the case of the accident of 19th April at Lithgow Colliery—be forced into a main intake, and there to asphyxiate five men in their nervous struggle to reach daylight and a place of safety.

At F, in plan No. 3, a small boiler about 15 feet in length was erected about three years ago. This boiler supplied steam to a special pump that forced the mine water into a hollow or depression on the north side of the tunnel, from whence it was supposed to find its way into the coal workings of the adjoining estate. Such, however, was the state of the underground arrangements that there is a strong probability that a proportion of this water did not reach Eskbank, but returned to the lower hollow, and was thus repeatedly pumped. This boiler was erected in an ordinary bord 38 chains from the tunnel-mouth, or in bord No. 36, and only a few feet off the main tunnel.

It has been mentioned that some inches of a coarse splint coal is left unworked next to the floor of the coal-seam; the Commission ascertained this on the occasion of their first inspection of the colliery, and particular attention was directed to this circumstance during the examination of witnesses. Samuel Passmore and Henry Grant, on being interrogated on the point, thought that this coal had been lifted at least *under* the boiler, but were uncertain. These men had not seen it erected. Grant affirmed that this coal had not been lifted in front, where the hot ashes were raked out. The evidence of R. Davies, the former deputy, left no doubt on the mind of the Commission that this boiler had actually been built (*vide* R. Davies' evidence) upon 15" of coal.

The top-coal had not been taken down above this boiler, a space of about 20' or 2' only intervening.

The sides of the coal pillars were not protected. An open space of about 8' existed on the left-hand side of the boiler seat. Across this, and in a line with the front of the boiler, a brick stopping had been built, leaving a small door-way, which was closed by a piece of bag. Through this opening access could be had to the flues and back of the boiler; a brick wall was likewise carried up to the roof in front.

Behind, two 18" fire-clay pipes were joined into one a few feet from the damper, carried the smoke and waste gases back for 15 yards or so into the left return. The top-coal had not been taken down, except over a space measuring 6' square at the end of the fire-clay flues referred to. These fire-clay flues were supported on brick pillars and trestles of iron rails, at a height of about 3' above the floor. The joints of these pipes were said to have been cemented. It would appear that the tail or the end of the water from the hollow behind approached the back of the boiler, and that these pipes discharged the waste gases above the water. This precaution seems to have satisfied the management. Abundant evidence was adduced (see S. Passmore, H. Grant, R. Davies, R. R. Druery, and others) that along the left side of the boiler, and also below the flues, a considerable quantity of small coal had accumulated. The temperature arising from the fire and waste steam was in these positions very great, and this was sufficient to cause the top-coal and the

unprotected coal pillars to crumble, and the small coal resulting from this disintegration, instead of being removed, was allowed to accumulate, and, being heated to a high temperature, supplied the materials for an underground fire on slight provocation. The flues appear to have been too small, considering the sooty character of the coal, and thrice every week the attendants required to clean these out in a somewhat primitive fashion. They depended on the men whose duty it was to clean these flues discovering a fire, if it occurred, behind the boiler. Soot had accumulated at the end of the pipes, which was never removed, although it was known that in it fire occasionally smouldered.

Very soon after the erection of this underground boiler—about three years ago—a fire was discovered in the accumulation of small coal referred to behind the boiler and under the pipes. This was after some difficulty extinguished by means of buckets and water.

Some months elapse, and the witness (R. Davies) describes another fire that occurred, and as the circumstances appear to be nearly identical with the accident of 13–14th February, it may be narrated thus:—

Fire was discovered on the Sunday afternoon; the man in charge going down to raise steam was arrested by a wall of smoke in the main tunnel, about 3 chains above the boiler. The witness, having been joined by the manager, stirred up both furnaces, and opened a communication from the right of the tunnel, so as to permit the body of air to rush directly into the right-hand furnace. The effect of this was that the left-hand furnace, inducing an air current from below, drew the smoke from the tunnel; that enabled the boiler to be reached and the fire extinguished; this was a work of some difficulty. It would appear that Davies after this felt anxiety as to danger arising from this boiler, and expressed his fears to Mr. John Doig of the likelihood of a recurrence of this accident, but did not suggest to Mr. Doig to have the small coal removed.

After these two fires *no steps* were taken to remove the inflammable materials from around the boiler.

A third fire is spoken of by the night engine-man, H. Grant, who also suspected the recurrence of the fire, but did *not* express his fears to Mr. Doig.

About six weeks or so before the accident of 13th–14th February a serious fire was again discovered among the same accumulation of small coal among which the previous fires had taken place. To extinguish this fire R. R. Drucry and Sam Passmore were employed the whole of one day. Mr. Doig was present during these operations, and, remarkable to relate, the man in whom was reposed such implicit trust did not report these occurrences to the Inspector of Mines, or even to his owners, but deliberately disregarded these repeated warnings of danger, and took no steps whatever to remove the cause of these fires or prevent their recurrence. It is scarcely credible that a man who for years was a colliery manager could have been guilty of such culpable negligence.

It does not appear that the Government Inspectors had investigated the manner in which this boiler was erected, nor had they travelled, or attempted to travel, the left-hand return. It is right for the Commission to mention that the Government Inspectors do not seem to have been averse to perform their duty in a thorough

thorough manner. The boiler, it is supposed, was erected in the interval that elapsed between the last visit of Mr. Inspector Dixon and the appointment of the present Inspector, Mr. Rowan, to this district, and that Mr. Rowan took it for granted that Mr. Dixon had satisfied himself that all was right. Had the occurrence of these fires been reported to Mr. Rowan, doubtless a thorough investigation would have resulted in that capable officer compelling the manager to make the structure and its accessories secure and safe. It is remarkable that the accumulations of small coal referred to and the presence of the top-coal above the boiler escaped the attention or failed to excite suspicion in the mind of the Inspector.

It has been explained, when describing the character of the left-hand return, that the air from the northern bords, together with the gases and smoke from the boiler fire, passed for some chains in length over a "swallow" filled with water, the surface of which reached within 18" or 20" of the roof; the air and products of combustion then passed through open bords, and again, for a space of about 3 chains over another hollow, in which water had collected to within a few inches—14" to 18"—of the roof. The water no doubt had the effect of reducing the temperature of these gases, and proved a drag or impediment to the free passage of the ventilating current over its surface; in consequence, whenever the left-hand furnace was allowed to burn down (as on Saturday nights), the smoke, instead of continuing to pursue its proper course, as it would have done under more favourable circumstances, remained motionless, or was drawn into the tunnel or "intake" and lodged in the inequalities of the roof where the top-coal had fallen. A small cloud of smoke hung in this situation and was seen by workmen in proceeding to their work, and it remained until the sudden and uncertain eddies caused by the rapid motion of trains of skips dislodged it, when it was swept away by the ventilating current. This was of itself a clear and unerring sign of a defective "return."

The last recorded fire had been extinguished, but the warning of danger had been disregarded; the materials for another conflagration remained untouched, and were doubtless augmented by the inevitable crumbling of the roof coal and from the coal pillars. The defective state of the left return does not seem to have impressed the management, and large quantities of ashes continued to be piled against the coal pillars in the tunnel. Just opposite, and for some distance below, this boiler [to the east] the tunnel was of unusual width [from nine to ten yards], notwithstanding about this time the Manager commenced to bisect the corner pillar just below the entrance to the boiler, thus increasing the width and abstracting the support which the corner afforded to the roof. The fool's paradise which those in authority had so long enjoyed could no longer exist: the easy state of chronic indifference and utter disregard of all warnings of danger culminated on Saturday, the 13th, or Sunday, the 14th of February last.

On the afternoon of that day (13th) S. Passmore, the deputy-day engineman and furnace-man, damped down the fire under this boiler, passed behind the structure to attend to some detail, and, he affirms, left the boiler "all right," and went out of the mine about 4 o'clock p.m. One and a half hours or so thereafter, four miners (Geo. Hall, Wm. Hall, Walter Riddle, and Joseph Buzzza), who were working in the bords to the right of the tunnel at the very dip of the mine, discovered a small quantity of smoke in the road adjacent to their working places; they remarked this, and wending their way to the tunnel found that it increased in quantity, and continued to do so as they proceeded upwards. As they approached the boiler they were obliged to stoop to clear the increasing volume of smoke; in doing so Wm. Hall became unwell. On arriving at the boiler, and getting into uncontaminated air, Wm.

Hall

Hall continued on his way, while his son George went into the boiler and discovered that smoke was rolling outwards, some coming over the top of the boiler. On arriving at the mouth of the tunnel these men saw S. Passmore, the deputy, conversing with Charles Younger, the banksman (now deceased). The Halls informed Passmore that a great quantity of smoke had collected in the tunnel, and was coming from the boiler. These men did not, however, specially impress upon Mr. Passmore that something very serious and unusual had occurred, but continued on their way, Mr. Passmore remarking "all right," or that "smoke had often been there before," or words to that effect. Mr. Passmore admits the verity of these men's statements; he impressed the Commission, as did the whole of the witnesses, most favourably. Mr. Passmore appears to have been an unusually dutiful and faithful servant, earnest and truthful. The miners referred to likewise gave most intelligent evidence, but the Commission cannot do otherwise than express their surprise at the incurious minds possessed by these men, and the apparently incorrigible indifference of Mr. Passmore in not at once proceeding to this boiler, which he was well aware had been the scene of former fires, and satisfying himself that all *was* "right." No doubt in the honest belief that the smoke referred to by the Halls was nothing more than that which he knew always collected in the tunnel, Mr. Passmore went home.

On Sunday, the 14th, as was his custom, he went to the colliery and proceeded down the tunnel. About 23 chains from the mouth, or about 15 chains from the boiler, his progress was arrested by a dense wall of smoke that completely filled the roadway. This he endeavoured to penetrate, but finding it to increase in density he returned and found that a slight current of air was going downwards. Mr. Passmore, apprehending that something serious had occurred, returned to bank, called upon Charles Younger, the banksman, and sent for John Doig, the manager. On their arrival the three men proceeded into the tunnel, inspected the smoke, and endeavoured to beat it back with their coats, but finding this impossible they returned to the right-hand furnace. Passmore was then requested to fire-up this furnace, and finding no coal convenient he proceeded to the face to procure fuel, where he became overpowered with choke-damp, and had to be removed from the mine and restoratives applied, with the effect that he recovered. The deceased William Rawe and the witness William Martin (who, on the day following, with Henry Grant, behaved with such conspicuous bravery in recovering the bodies of the ill-fated men), hearing from Charles Younger's wife that something was wrong in the mine, at once proceeded down the tunnel and offered their services to Mr. Doig. The four men again attempted to waft or beat back the smoke in the tunnel by means of brattice-cloth, but in this they were unsuccessful. They then resolved (and it seems incredible that they did so) to enter No. 2 cross-cut and attempt to work their way down to Tyndall's heading by way of the right-hand return. On arriving at the junction of this cross-cut William Martin felt overcome by the smoke and black-damp, and expressed his inability to proceed. The three men, John Doig, manager, Charles Younger, banksman, and William Rawe, miner, for some unaccountable reason, left their stock of oil at the junction, and proceeded on their perilous and foolhardy journey, William Rawe requesting Martin to inform his family where he was. William Martin returned to his home, went to bed, informed no one of the proceedings of the evening, and in the morning resolved that he would not go to his work that day.

On Monday morning, 15th February, Patrick Sheedy and another, arriving very early, proceeded down the tunnel into No. 2 cross-cut and commenced work in
their

their bord, and remarked nothing very unusual in the ventilation. They continued at work until warned by one R. R. Druery of the accident, and the presence of black-damp in the mine. Other workmen on passing down the tunnel, and discovering the wall of smoke, came out and spread the alarm. The workmen assembling, sent for Charles Younger, when they were informed that he had gone into the mine with Mr. Doig and Rawe on the afternoon before, and had not returned.

Mr. Gell, one of the proprietors, who resided close by, was then apprised of the situation, who in turn informed Mr. Wilton, the commercial director of the Company. On arriving at the mine, Messrs. Gell and Wilton found the workmen in a state of consternation, and for the first time heard of the accident and of their Manager and the other two men being in the mine. They then ascertained that some of the men, feeling the want of a leader, had sent for Mr. J. B. Turnbull, Manager of the adjoining colliery of Vale of Clwydd. Whilst waiting his arrival some of the men suggested that the train of skips that was at the time in the mine should be drawn out, in the hope of restoring the ventilating current. When this was attempted the engine-man discovered that the tail-rope was fast, and in consequence the engine would not move. Suspicions of a fall in the tunnel (afterwards verified) appear to have been assigned as the cause of this. Meantime telegrams were despatched to the Mining Department and to Mr. Mackenzie, Examiner of Coal-fields, who in turn telegraphed the news to Mr. Inspector Rowan, while Mr. Mackenzie, with Mr. Inspector Dixon, of Newcastle, who at the moment was in Sydney, proceeded to Lithgow by special train. While the body of men waited the arrival of Mr. Turnbull, several of the workmen, realizing the position and the necessity of instant action, with commendable resource, organized themselves into a search party, and led by the witnesses Mr. Rodham, Mr. Norwood, and others, entered No. 2 cross-cut, saw where Mr. Doig and his companions had taken down a stopping, and thinking they had gone to Tyndall's heading, boldly penetrated the right-hand return or "goaf," and proceeded downwards. The party, strange to relate, did not find the air in these returns unbreathable, but tolerably good. The intention of this party was to breach the stopping in Tyndall's heading, opposite the boiler. This, it is also believed, was the purpose that Mr. Doig had in view when he took the unaccountable course of entering the right-hand returns, which, from anything he knew, ought to have been more hopelessly fouled with smoke and carbonic acid gas than the main intake or tunnel, which, in a normal condition of things, ought not to have contained such accumulations of smoke or gas. Had any of these parties succeeded in their purpose it is doubtful whether a man of them would have come out alive. Roddam's exploring party seem to have been to some extent ignorant of these old workings, and the Commission failed to thoroughly satisfy themselves on the exact locality that they reached. Messrs. Rodham and Norwood affirm that they actually did reach Tyndall's heading, when Norwood became affected with breathing the partially fouled air, and the party returned, carrying him to the tunnel. They found no traces of Mr. Doig or his companions, although they must have passed close to the bodies.

Another party of searchers, under James Doig and William Martin, also penetrated some distance into these returns without finding traces of the missing men, and were recalled to put up the stopping.

Meantime Mr. Turnbull had arrived, and having been put in charge by the owners proceeded with a party of men into the tunnel, and having procured bratticing-cloth began operations by opening stoppings on the right-hand side of the tunnel for

a return air-way, carrying down air, and by its means beating, or forcing, or sweeping away the smoke. Mr. Turnbull was not aware that while he was so engaged parties of workmen were already far below him in the comparatively pure air of the right returns, while he, in his endeavours to clear the tunnel, was forcing foul air directly into the returns where these search parties were. Of course Mr. Turnbull was not aware that search parties were in the waste.

About 10 o'clock a.m. John Sheedy met William Martin, and hearing from the latter that Mr. Doig, with Younger and Rawe, had entered the right-hand workings the night before, and had not returned, they resolved to search again for their mates. Although ignorant of the roads, they, on their own responsibility, entered the second cross-cut, passed into the return, and striking by accident the return air-way kept straight on for six or eight pillars, when, hearing a heavy sigh and a groan, they went a few yards off the road and found Mr. Doig. Jno. Sheedy, with a single-mindedness that sheds a nobility on his unassuming courage, first removed the young man Martin, who was affected by the foul air, and placing his lamp on Doig's body found that it would not burn. Mr. Doig was lying in a stratum of choke-damp. He lifted Doig in his arms and carried him part of the way out, when he received help from J. Doig, and the Manager, still alive, was removed to the surface, where, in an unconscious state, he lived for a period of twelve hours, when he expired.

Wm. Martin again returned, in company with Henry Grant, furnace-man, and proceeded to the spot where John Doig had been found. A pillar length off another party, consisting of Wm. Tait and Edward Power, were also searching, when Edward Power discovered the bodies of Charles Younger and William Rowe, both quite dead (*vide* evidence of these witnesses). The bodies bore no marks of injury or of burning; it was but too evident that they died from the inhalation of carbonic acid gas. On this no two opinions exist; they fell victims to their rashness and their zeal. It is most probable that, their oil having failed—their lamps being empty—the poor men had lost their way, and having wandered for hours in the waste workings, more or less charged with carbonic acid gas, they at last, feeble and unable longer to walk, lay down to die. The Commission cannot but express surprise that such an attempt should ever have been made with an intake full of smoke and “stythe,” more especially by a Manager with the experience of Mr. John Doig.

Meantime Mr. Turnbull was making progress in the work of clearing the tunnel of smoke. In the afternoon Mr. Wilson, Manager of the Zigzag Colliery, visited the scene of the accident, bringing the witness R. Davies with him, and introduced him to Messrs. Gell and Wilton as a former deputy, who was conversant with the mine, and recommended him to their notice. It would appear that Mr. Gell, suffering from a chronic illness, was much affected at the moment on account of the terrible loss of life that had occurred, was in no humour to engage in matters of business, and does not recollect saying much, if anything, to Davies (see E. Gell's evidence). Mr. Wilton, with more composure, affirms that Mr. Gell said nothing to Davies, and that he asked him to go and consult with Mr. Turnbull, who was in charge, and explain to him what he would propose to do, or words to that effect. Mr. Davies proceeded down the tunnel, met Mr. Turnbull coming out, asked him to lend him the plan, which he refused to do; Mr. Turnbull proceeded to the surface, and remained there some hours. Mr. Davies thereupon went down to the tunnel—and here the statements of the two witnesses are at variance. Mr. Turnbull, who had never before been in the mine, positively affirms that he was taking down the smoke at the rate of 40 yards an hour, and that when he met Davies it was down

to

to within 3 chains of the boiler (*vide* evidence of J. B. Turnbull); while Davies, with an intimate knowledge of the tunnel, as positively affirms that when he entered the tunnel the smoke was not less than fifteen chains from the boiler, and without hesitation marked its position in the tunnel as it stood at point G, plan No. 3. Misconceiving his status, and unaware of the state of the tunnel (discovered subsequently), Mr. Davies, pursuing the course that Mr. Doig and he had successfully followed on the occasion of the first fire, at once opened the brattice in No. 2 cross-cut, also the right-hand door leading to that furnace, fired-up the left-hand furnace in the expectation that, as narrated (page 10), the smoke would be drawn out by that channel, and with an intrepidity which cannot but be admired, entered alone these right-hand wastes, and remained in them so long that a search party was being formed to look for him when he appeared. Mr. Davies positively asserts that on his return the smoke had, on account of his efforts, receded in the tunnel. Mr. Turnbull, on the other hand, asserts that his actions undid all that he (Turnbull) had done, and that the ground so lost could not be recovered. An angry altercation ensued between Turnbull, Davies, and the Examiner of Coal-fields. The last-named gentleman appears at this stage to have advised closing the mine, and Mr. Turnbull, notwithstanding his statements that the alleged lost ground could not be recovered, set to work to convince the Examiner of Coal-fields that the source of the fire could be speedily reached—a lingering suspicion existing that the origin of the fire was at or near to the boiler. Mr. Turnbull asserts that for three hours he again swept the smoke out of the main tunnel at the rate of 40 yards per hour. Mr. Mackenzie does not corroborate this (*vide* evidence of parties). The Commission are inclined to think that Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Dixon did not receive the ocular demonstration referred to, and the whole of the parties, sceptical of their ability to reach the seat of fire, agreed to close the mine.

One Norwood, a miner, who had been engaged with Mr. Turnbull, having propounded a scheme for separating the workings above No. 2 cross-cut from the body of the dip or east workings (since carried out), Mr. Turnbull requested permission to have some surveys and measurements made with a view to consider, with the Government officials, whether this scheme was practicable.

Soon after this survey was commenced Mr. Turnbull became affected with choke-damp in No. 2 cross-cut, and was removed out of the mine by his companions. At the advice of the Government officials the mine was then closed by brick stoppings across the outlets.

The coal-mine remained closed for the space of four weeks, and during this time certain experiments were made as to the pressure on the stoppings and the nature of the gas that had accumulated behind them. For some reason that could not be clearly ascertained—probably no valid reason existed. Mr. Turnbull believed that fire-damp would be found, and from time to time experiments were instituted with the object of setting this point at rest. As might have been anticipated, no fire-damp was found, but choke-damp or carbonic acid gas issued from the stoppings and extinguished the lamps.

The miners employed at this mine appear to have been a steady and altogether superior class of men. The majority had been employed for years with the firm, and had built for themselves little cottages adjacent to the colliery. A mutual regard and sympathy existed, and they were loath to leave the scene of their avocations. They
were

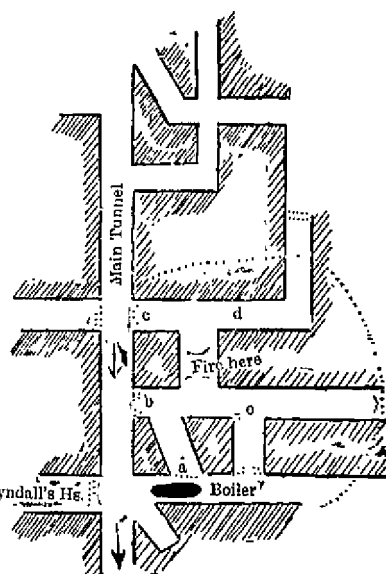
were anxious that the mine should be opened, and the owners, conscious of this, appointed Mr. Joseph Campbell as manager, and consulted the Government Inspectors, with the result that, in the expectation of finding the fire extinguished, the mine was re-opened, and in process of time reached the seat of the fire—the underground boiler. Disappointed in finding the fire still burning, but as no provision had unfortunately been made for extinguishing an actual fire, the men were withdrawn, and orders were given to reclose the mine. Bricklayers had actually commenced this work, when the workmen, discussing the position of affairs in groups on the pit-brow, and persuaded that they could of themselves extinguish the fire, agreed to request the owners to permit them to take the work into their own hands. Accordingly, a considerable number being of this mind, repaired to Mr. Gell and Mr. Wilton, who were standing near, and with excellent and commendable feeling informed these gentlemen that they (the men) sympathised with them in their losses and disappointments, and stated that, feeling satisfied that if the work was entrusted to them, and if they were supplied with the materials they required, they would at once recommence operations, and were willing to give a week's trial and ask nothing for their services. Impressed with the chord of sympathy thus unexpectedly struck, the owners consulted the Government officials, with the result that the proposals made by the men (except their gratuitous services) were acceded to, and the volunteers there and then assembled in the tunnel, arranged their shifts, chose their leaders, and at once commenced work.

They beat back the smoke, and when they again got to the boiler it was agreed to extinguish the fire by playing high-pressure steam upon it. The means employed toward this end appear to the Commission to have been of a perfunctory character. A canvas brattice, not even tight, was stretched across the tunnel, and steam was laid on for eighty hours, playing into a portion of the fire. It is difficult to see what good effect could have been expected from the employment of this agent in this way, when no steps had been taken to confine or circumscribe the fire by perfectly air-tight stoppings. On turning off the steam it was apparent that the experiment had entirely failed, and it was only after the work of five all-round shifts that the fire could again be approached, and attacked by the direct application of water. In the interval the fire had increased in intensity; the supply of water from the surface having failed the necessary supply was obtained from one of the "swallows" referred to, which had crossed the tunnel some yards above the boiler. The air was kept to the face by "bratticing" carried down the centre of the tunnel; and by opening stoppings on the right-hand side a return was secured for the smoke.

Opposite the boiler, and extending upwards for about half a chain, a very large fall of rock was observed to obstruct the ventilating current; and the Commission are of opinion that this fall was the cause of the absence of smoke in the right-hand returns that enabled Doig, Younger, and Rowe to wander in these wastes, as well as the search parties who discovered them on the following day. The top-coal under this fall was on fire, and the roof rock was intensely hot. The fire was seen burning, but not briskly, to the left, over the boiler, and along Tyndall's heading. It was necessary to play water on a portion of it, and when cooled it was filled into the skips and drawn from the mine. This very greatly impeded the progress of the operations, during which the fire gained ground.

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The top-coal, with flakes of the superincumbent rock, had fallen from the tunnel to the left, over and behind the boiler. The workmen had removed the main body of the fall in the tunnel, had put out the fire in Tyndall's heading, and had opened the stopping there, in order to give them relief from some of the steam and smoke. They had cleared the burning top-coal off the top and along the left side of the boiler. The coal was seen burning at the back of the boiler above the flues, and the men were on Thursday, the 15th of April, preparing to deal with this, when on the falling of a piece of rock above the corner of the pillar, near to the end of the boiler, the fire was discovered burning briskly in the bord that had been driven at an acute angle towards the tunnel and through the pillar. The position is marked *a* on marginal sketch.



The men opened out this stopping and saw a brisk fire burning in the bords to the rise of the boiler, and fed with fresh air from the tunnel, by way of the boiler. This fire may have spread in the top-coal. Next day, namely, on Friday, the 16th April, the deceased Isaiah Hyde discovered an extension of this fire inside the first stopping, above the boiler, in the tunnel marked *b* of marginal plan. The men were then withdrawn from the fall in the main tunnel, and were employed cutting down the top-coal to give room to play water on the fire. The following shift discovered an extension of the fire in the next bord, further up the tunnel, at *c* on marginal plan, and at once attacked this as explained. The men at this time seem to have got uneasy, and believed the fire had crept up behind them; in consequence, Sam Passmore made a special search in a bord higher up the tunnel than the last named, and proceeded some distance into the goaf, but discovered no fire.

About this time Mr. Campbell, the manager, who had a few days before tightened the stoppings to the east of C in No. 29 stopping (*vide* plan No. 3) accidentally discovered that it was open, and that a quantity of air was escaping over it into the waste, but saw no fire through it. He called the attention of the owners and the Examiner of Coal-fields to the circumstance, and these gentlemen believing that the stopping had been surreptitiously tampered with by some malicious person with the object of endangering life, the owners offered a reward of £50 for the conviction of the supposed culprit. The Commission regret that this received such prominence. Campbell, the manager, Mr. Mackenzie, and others were closely examined upon the point. The workmen in the tunnel do not seem to have noticed any deficiency in the amount of air while this stopping is supposed to have remained open. The furnace-men at the mouth of the tunnel had received instructions not to admit anyone into the mine who was not immediately employed therein, and there is no evidence that they were remiss in their duties. With ten men at work in close proximity, and with no object to gain by doing so, the Commission cannot conceive of the possibility of such an occurrence taking place, except by one of the men employed. The offer of a reward under these circumstances might be construed into reproach on the *bonâ fides* of valorous men, every one of whom the Commission feel satisfied were impressed with a lofty sense of their duty. The state that Campbell found this stopping in is explainable in many ways; and stoppings in a similar state are seen every day within an extensive mine. No injury was done, the escape of air from the tunnel was trifling, and the Commission see no justification for the action that the proprietors were advised to take.

On Sunday, the 18th of April, the workmen had satisfied themselves that with fire in the bords marked *a b c d e* (on sketch plan, page 17) fed by fresh air coming over the boiler they could scarce hope, unless the plan of the operation was altered, to cope with the conflagration, which they had satisfied themselves was confined to the bords and pillars for about 2 chains square referred to above. Having quenched the flames, in that situation, for about a chain back from the tunnel they put in tight stoppings in the two bords above the boiler, with the intention of removing the fall remaining in the tunnel, and afterwards, by an alteration in the circuit of the air-current, to attack the fire at about the points marked on sketch, marginal plan, page 17.

During these arduous operations the Examiner of Coal-fields and Mr. Inspector Rowan were in constant attendance, taking no responsibility, but seeing that the men did not incur unnecessary risk, and ready to withdraw them should unforeseen danger arise. They mingled with the men, remained for hours with the shifts who battled with the fire, and while giving them a helping hand were ever warning the workmen not to endanger their lives. They formed a part of the busy band of toilers who for some weeks laboriously struggled as one man, animated with one desire to successfully accomplish the work they had begun, sharing with these men whatever risk and danger existed, as well as the discomforts of the situation.

The owners and their Manager and subordinates also appear to have shown an equal interest and an unusual solicitude for the safety of the men worthy of all commendation. They were present daily for hours at the very front of the operations, encouraging by their presence, yet urging the workmen to withdraw rather than incur risk, and supplying all their requirements with a willing alacrity. The Commission feel it to be at once a pleasure and their duty to comment favourably upon the part taken by these gentlemen, and refer to the evidence given by the witnesses who were employed at these operations, every one of whom seemed pleased to express their approbation of the help given, and the anxiety felt, by the inspectors, owners, and Manager for their common safety.

On Monday, the 19th April, the men had commenced operations in the tunnel; about 14,700 cubic feet of air was passing to the foot, and everything appeared favourable. The Inspector of Collieries, with a parting word of admonition to the men, left for Sydney.

The position of the bratticing is shown on plan No. 9, appended. About 3.30 p.m. the shift, composed of the following ten men, were at work, namely:—Archibald Durie, Gilbert Kirkwood, Chas. Norwood, John Duncan, William Mantle (all of whom were saved), and of Isaiah Hyde, Lancelot Allison, Thomas Rawe, Thomas Mantle, and Joseph Buzza, who lost their lives. At the hour named a loud crash was heard, supposed to come from a point up the tunnel. The canvas bratticing, saturated with steam and hot water, fell upon and entangled John Duncan, scalding his arms and person. The crash was followed by a strong rush of wind down the tunnel, carrying dust and fragments of grit, and extinguished every light, but does not seem to have knocked down any of the men or overturned a skip. A second crash and second rush of air, less strong, immediately followed, and a gust of air rushing over the boiler carried quantities of smoke and gas back upon the men. Gilbert Kirkwood, the leader of the shift, at once shouted to the
men

men to run for their lives, and a rush was made for the skips that were standing some distance above. The air current at once resumed its course, but in diminished volume, and carried with it quantities of choke-damp, which speedily began to affect the terror-stricken men. They tumbled into the skips that were provided to carry out rubbish. Some confusion seems to have arisen as to signalling. This was ultimately relegated to Archibald Durie, who, however, considered that the signal had become deranged, while the men on the surface affirm that no signal was given.

On the surface a sudden jet of smoke was seen to emerge out of the left-hand furnace-shaft, and a belch of air and dust came out of the tunnel mouth, but was not repeated; while H. Grant, who is evidently endowed with an enlarged organ of wonder, affirms that he was ejected for over a hundred yards out of the tunnel, and for many yards into the open air. This is an incredible story, and the Commission feel satisfied, as the man received no injury, and was one of the first to run into the tunnel to render assistance, that the incident referred to did not occur. They refer to the evidence of H. Grant, and the reliable evidence of Joseph Campbell, who was standing near the spot indicated by Grant.

Seeing that something serious had occurred, Jos. Campbell considered it prudent to have the skips drawn out of the mine.

Meantime the men in the mine being in the dark, and feeling that the air-current was sluggish and contained choke-damp, and a gust of smoke having only a moment before come from the boiler, and believing that the tunnel had closed hurriedly, got out of the skips and made for the pit-bank. When, however, the skips began to move C. Norwood and John Duncan got into them. As they proceeded some rubbish from the stoppings, that had been blown out, was strewn across the road. Over this the skips were drawn, and in consequence they left the rails. The jolting thus occasioned threw out Duncan. As they were passing him Kirkwood managed to throw his arm over the end of the last skip, and, hanging on with desperate energy, succeeded in being dragged out of danger. Jno. Duncan afterwards caught the rope, and by it was dragged upwards; while Arch. Durie, with William Mantle leading, walked or crept to positions of safety. For a graphic account of the catastrophe the Commission would refer to the evidence of A. Durie and the other four men saved, viz., C. Norwood, G. Kirkwood, J. Duncan, and Wm. Mantle; and for the positions where the bodies of the other five men were found, see evidence of Jos. Campbell, also plan No. 3.

With a promptitude deserving of the highest praise Joseph Campbell at once entered the mine. He was accompanied by H. Grant and Wm. Martin, both of whom for the second time rendered signal service; and after passing several of the saved men the search party, under Campbell, now augmented by many willing volunteers, observing that the stoppings were more or less blown down, and from the openings choke-damp was emanating, hurriedly repaired the breaches, and in this way restored the ventilating current, so that in a remarkably short space of time the searchers were enabled to reach the 23rd stopping from the tunnel mouth.

At this point the bodies of the unfortunate men, Isaiah Hyde and Thomas Rawe, were found, and knowing that no other bodies were in the mine the searchers withdrew, and the smoke and choke-damp remained stationary at the 22nd stopping thereafter.

The

The five men saved from the catastrophe assert that on their progress up the tunnel they passed over some live coal opposite some of the stoppings. The Commission satisfied themselves in examining witnesses that no fire existed so far as is known beyond the 31st stopping, and none was observed through the blown-out stoppings as far down as the 22nd. (See Jos. Campbell's evidence.) They fail to see how the fire centred at the boiler could extend over the "swallow" of water referred to in the time, and can only refer to the apparently reasonable hypothesis set forth by Mr. Inspector Rowan when examined on this point (*vide* Rowan's evidence). On this subject they cannot offer any further remarks.

The evidence is most decisive that succeeding the rush of air after the loud noise that gave intimation to the unfortunate workmen that a serious accident had taken place the ventilation resumed its course, and carried before it down the tunnel waves or quantities of choke-damp that affected all the men. Some of the saved noticed that the state of the atmosphere deteriorated as they approached some of the stoppings a considerable distance up the tunnel.

The evidence of Campbell, the then Manager, clearly explains the state of these stoppings a few minutes after the accident. Portions of the loose material with which they were composed had been blown out across the road. Towards the top of the tunnel very little damage had been done, and that contiguous to the roof. Further down a greater quantity of the packing had been scattered across the road from left to right, thus indicating the source and direction of the force, whilst others had been bodily shifted. So far as one can judge, the chief force of the blast appears to have been concentrated below the 15th stopping, and extended down as far as the place where the bodies of Hyde and Rowe were found, but the evidence of the survivors goes to show that probably below that point damage had been done to stoppings.

As to the cause of this serious accident, as might have been anticipated, two theories have been propounded. It would appear that of the five survivors some were too nervous and agitated to think of a cause. In the case of others, such as A. Durie, the idea of a fall of the roof seems to have shot through their minds; probably none of the survivors really did formulate any cause until their recovery and had time for reflection. How far their own judgment was then influenced by the anxious inquiries and conversations of friends it is impossible to judge. The causes assigned for this accident have been as follows:—

1. An explosion of Fire-damp.
2. A fall of the Roof.

With respect to the first or explosion theory the Commission consider that they have sifted the subject to the bottom. The theory appears to have emanated from men possessing no mining erudition and ignorant of the chemistry of gases, and to have been accepted by some of them as a convenient reason to assign for a most deplorable and somewhat obscure accident—by men who were groping for light, and who were, from their evidence, perfectly ignorant of the laws that regulate the explosion of fire-damp. To some extent this was looked upon as the cause of the accident by the witness Kirkwood, who, however, considered that the gas that did explode was the smoke that issued from the fire. This, the Commission feel, need only be referred to that its utter absurdity may be seen. In justice to this witness he did not insist upon his opinion, nor apparently was he positive that he was treading upon safe ground. The witnesses J. Davies, R. Grant, and A. Durie, likewise, were inclined to
accept

accept this doctrine. The whole of these men had never seen or heard of fire-damp having been seen in the colliery; the former thought that smoke might explode. The second (R. Grant) believed that a reservoir of fire-damp had accumulated toward Eskbank boundary, and in a position where he himself admitted choke-damp—the antithesis of fire-damp—had formerly existed. This man, as may be seen from his evidence on the point, had not considered how many difficulties presented themselves before his theory was possible. He admitted that fire-damp had not been seen, and was ignorant of the nature and composition of explosive mixtures. A. Durie (page 56–57), in his evidence, thought at first that the accident was due to a heavy fall, and he only afterwards inclined to the belief that it might be due to an explosion. On this point he was by no means certain, nor had he cogent reasons for the belief he had subsequently entertained. If the evidence tendered by these witnesses be taken in connection with that given on the point by witnesses such as Messrs. Mackenzie, Rowan, Dixon, Campbell, Turnbull, and Davies, the Commission feel that little remains to be said further than to mention that the whole of the witnesses agree in stating that the ordinary and positive signs or *sequela* of an explosion were absent. No flame was observed, no superheated atmosphere existed, no steam was seen, no evidence of burning on the pillars or woodwork, or on the bodies of the unfortunate men. There was no derangement of the air-current; the force went *with* the wind. The propounders of the explosion theory could not explain: 1st. How it was possible for a mine in which no gas had ever been seen to have an accumulation of this at Eskbank boundary, and why this place should have been chosen by it, so to speak, as a magazine; 2nd. Or where the gas was generated; 3rd. Or how, if exploded, when no light was near; 4th. Or how it was possible for a reservoir of light carburetted hydrogen to get mixed with the requisite volumes of fresh air to render it explosive, with open wastes surrounding it, full of smoke and of carbonic acid gas; or 5th. Nor had they considered that in the event of carburetted hydrogen gas existing it could not explode if, when rendered explosive by the addition of the requisite volume of air, it became mixed with a very small percentage of choke-damp; and, finally, that with light carburetted hydrogen gas in an explosive condition, contiguous to Eskbank or thereabout, it was not possible for an explosion to occur, seeing that to draw it out of its lurking place it *must* pass through wastes filled with smoke and carbonic acid gas, and that at the moment the left-hand return contained or was passing an amount of carbonic acid sufficient to qualify and render inert any explosive mixture. The Commission feel that it is supererogation to remark that the laws that regulate the explosion of photo-carburetted hydrogen gas are fixed and inexorable, and if, as stated, this is qualified with the admixture of carbonic acid gas an explosion is impossible.

The evidence of an explosion was, from the first, not only weak, but was not supported by a single intelligible statement or reason.

With respect to the cause being assigned to the occurrence of a heavy fall of the roof, the Commission feel that they are treading upon solid ground.

Falls of the roof appear to have been of frequent occurrence on the north side of the tunnel; Hen. Grant, in his evidence, refers to his hearing the sound of falls in this locality. While Samuel Passmore refers to one fall that occurred in the waste behind the boiler, when the rush of air, caused by the displacement, blew the doors of the underground boiler open. C. Norwood speaks of a fall that took place behind the boiler only the day before the accident, that blew out smoke and dust, and extinguished lights. Everyone conversant with mining operations knows how frequently heavy falls occur in the old and abandoned workings of a mine.

In

In the present case the fall that suddenly displaced a quantity of air sufficient to partially blow out so many of the stoppings on the left-hand side (northern) of the tunnel, and to have forced open the trap-doors at the furnaces, and displaced the ashes on the grate, and, rushing up the left-hand up east, started the wooden slabbing and clay plaster on the sloping tunnel that connected that up-cast shaft with the chimney, must have been a fall of some magnitude, but not necessarily greater than falls that occur, and are soon forgotten, in mines where the wastes do not contain accumulations of carbonic acid gas.

Mr. Inspector Dixon spoke of a fall that had recently occurred at Lambton Colliery, where the rush of air, had it been directed, *as it was not*, against stoppings, would probably have demolished them. Mr. Inspector Rowan instanced a fall where the rush of air was so great that it forced the winding-cage in the shaft through the "midwall" or partition; while the Examiner of Coal-fields and others described the blast occasioned by a great fall at the Wallsend Colliery as sufficient to knock down horses and men, to level and demolish brick stoppings, and dash the skips about. Other witnesses gave similar incidents from their own experiences, and the Commission, conscious of similar catastrophes, endorse these statements. The Commission feel that although in the present condition of the colliery it is impossible to ascertain the locality, yet they are satisfied that to *a fall of the roof*, and *to that alone*, that occurred towards the left of the tunnel, and probably in the vicinity of the encroachment from Eskbank workings, this lamentable accident is to be attributed.

It is well known that over a considerable area in that neighbourhood the pillars were removed, and from that towards the point G (plan No. 3) the pillars were of small size, and the bords were unusually wide. This part of the mine has been abandoned for years, consequently the timber that originally supported the roof coal must have decayed, and the roof and small pillars, yielding to the decay incident to exposure, must have been considerably weakened, and in a fit state to subside. On account of the fire these old workings must have been filled with steam, carbonic acid gas, and the products of combustion. They did contain before the fire quantities of "stythe." A heavy fall occurring in this locality would suddenly displace a quantity of air and gas that would rush impetuously and unrestrained across the open bords, sweeping before it the contained choke-damp until it found relief. The left return, already passing a full quantity of air across the narrow space that existed between the water and the roof, could not give it vent, but a portion of the force was spent in urging the air in that return onward, forcing the door and displacing the slabbing above the up-cast shaft. The residual force spent itself in blowing the stoppings, and the top of these, being thinnest, and offering least resistance, yielded to the extent required.

The resistance of the water in the lower hollow may have been sufficient to prevent any serious blast to travel over the site of the fire, and the slight rush of smoke after the first blast had ceased may represent the amount of force that was spent in that direction.

The stoppings on the left or north side of the tunnel giving way allowed the foul air and carbonic acid gas from the wastes to pour into the tunnel, and this force caused the "wind" that rushed downwards after the first crash was heard by the men engaged at the fire. The incoming air carried or rolled this heavy gas downwards until it became diffused and met the men on their way out, with the dire results narrated.

Having

Having thus, at some length, described the history, mode of working, character of the same, its condition and arrangements, the Commission, after considering the evidence, have unanimously agreed to present to Your Excellency the following findings :—

First—That the underground fire that occurred on Saturday or Sunday, the 13th or 14th of February of this year, *arose at the* underground boiler, and was in all probability caused by the defective arrangements explained, arising from the stolid and implacable indifference and disregard of the management to the unsafe condition of the underground arrangements.

Second—That John Doig, manager, Charles Younger, banksman, and William Rawe, miner, met their deaths by the inhalation of carbonic acid gas, while in the wastes on the right-hand side of the tunnel.

The reasons that induced these men to penetrate these wastes is inexplicable, and the Commission, although most unwilling to pronounce judgment upon the actions of those who have lost their lives while in the discharge of their duty, cannot come to any other opinion than that the deaths of these three men are due to a grave error in judgment, for which they themselves were alone responsible.

Third—That the second accident, of the 19th April, was caused by a “wind blast,” the result of a fall of the top-coal, or of the overlying rock, of unknown extent, and in an unascertained locality of the old workings to the north of the tunnel—probably in the vicinity of the encroachment from Eskbank—that forced the foul and exhausted air, smoke, and carbonic acid gas, or carbonic oxide gas, that filled these wastes, as well as the foul air of the left-hand return, through the stoppings, into the main intake or tunnel.

Fourth—That Isaiah Hyde, Thomas Rawe, Lancelot Allison, J. Mantle, and Joseph Buzza were killed by the inhalation of carbonic acid gas, and others as detailed.

Fifth—That this lamentable occurrence was a *pure accident*, one that could not have been foreseen, and was unpreventible, for which no one, in the opinion of the Commission, is to blame or can be held responsible.

The Commission have given great consideration to other points connected with the arrangements in this mine, and would most respectfully desire to report upon these to Your Excellency.

The deceased manager, John Doig, was vested with the whole and sole control of the mine and its accessories, and he had not been in the habit of reporting events to the proprietors. The mine gave them no concern, and was on all hands considered to be a singularly safe one, and the proprietors, being unskilled men, were quite willing not to be troubled with details.

The stoppings were constructed of small coal, strengthened in some cases, where required, with timber. They seem to have been carefully constructed; and the fact that no complaints have ever been made by the men about the ventilation; that it exceeded the quantity prescribed by the Coal Mines Regulation Act; that the Inspectors were perfectly satisfied; and that, during the operations for extinguishing the

the underground fire, the quantity of air reaching the men amounted to 14,750 cubic feet per minute: the Commission can come to no other conclusion than that these were sufficient, and served all the purposes of stoppings. In constructing these of small coal this Colliery followed the custom of the district, and of other districts of the Colony, where large daily outputs are obtained.

In the case of returns that convey smoke and hot gases from the fires of underground boilers, the veriest novice in coal-mining ought to have readily seen and apprehended the nature of the danger. It was enough that the pillars of coal over this long return were perfectly unprotected; but to add to the danger by controlling this important circuit by means of stoppings composed of slack coal appears to the Commission to be inexcusable. The condition and character of this return was far from satisfactory, and forms but a link in a comparatively long chain of lax arrangements and indifference for the safety of the mine. This was, it is true, not the cause of the accident, and, at the best, had only an indirect influence in determining the course taken by the blast.

For reasons given, the Commission do not attribute the melancholy loss of life that resulted from these stoppings being partially blown out to the character of the stoppings. The accident was not foreseen, nor could it under any conditions have been anticipated. The residual or marginal force inherent in the blast, after blowing the stoppings, must have been considerable, but it is impossible to estimate what that marginal force was. Brick stoppings, though more workmanlike, offer but a poor resistance to a sudden blast where the energy of the air has been suddenly and forcibly generated. In this Colony such stoppings have been demolished by the air force generated by a fall of the roof. Had the stoppings along the tunnel been of brick it is doubtful whether they would have resisted the sudden shock or push of this "wind" blast; and if they had yielded there can be no doubt that the damage would have been greater, and probably not one of the five men saved would have come out of Lithgow tunnel alive. At the same time the Commission are of opinion that brick stoppings ought in all cases to control the course of every return that conveys the gases from underground furnaces; that all returns should be easily accessible, and should be travellable; and that stoppings of brick, or of some substantial and imperishable material, should control main air-currents. In a future report the Commission hope to give, at length, their views on stoppings as bearing upon ventilation.

The rapper-wire, at the moment after the accident, was, it is believed, deranged. The men requiring its aid were in a state of desperate excitement; probably the signals were not properly managed, but if they were, the Commission see in the damaged stoppings a reason for the derangement of the wire. It was impossible to foresee this accident, and this being so, it is difficult to protect a signalling apparatus from the effects of an accident that could not have been anticipated. The signalling wire seems to have been properly hung, to have been hung in the usual manner, and to have acted before the accident to the satisfaction of the very men who, at the moment of danger, found it, to their horror, unworkable. The wire must have been covered by the *debris* from the blown-out stoppings. To protect a wire in tubes would be to curtail its usefulness, and prevent the possibility of effecting repairs or inspecting its condition; neither would this protect it from all accidents. The Commission, in absolving the management from any blame in
respect

respect to the rapper-wire, would desire to point out to your Excellency that the signalling apparatus was not used for the purpose of signalling the embarkation of men, but was only provided for the sole purpose of indicating when a train of coal-skips was ready to be drawn out of the mine.

The practice of permitting large accumulations of ashes contiguous to a ventilating furnace, as has been the custom at this colliery, is a most unsafe and reprehensible one, and betrays a reckless disregard for the general safety of property; these ought, in all cases, to be removed at once out of the mine.

The Inspector of Collieries appears to have visited this colliery regularly and periodically in accordance with the Act, and found no cause to complain of the manner in which it was conducted. The Commission regret that such a zealous officer as Mr. Inspector Rowan had not his attention directed to the condition and arrangements of the under boiler of this colliery, and also that he did not consider it necessary to make any exhaustive inspection either of this structure or of the state of the left-hand return. Had this been done the Commission are confident that his experience and natural caution would have caused the glaring defects elicited during this inquiry to have been removed, and thus have averted a calamity that has brought sorrow to many happy homes, and cast a gloom over the peaceful village of Lithgow.

Although this may be no part of their duty the Commission hope that Your Excellency will pardon them for remarking, that in their opinion, special provisions ought to be taken by the owners to isolate the portion of their workings to the rise of No. 2 cross-cut, and that have been sealed off from the eastern workings by very strong 27" brick stopping, shewn upon plan No. 3. The doubt that exists as to the exact position of the old bords, on account of the irregular manner that surveys have been taken, is very great. To broach these lower workings that are now full of carbonic acid or kindred gases might lead to grave results. The ordinary flank and straight-in bore-holes in the exploring drifts may not prove sufficient, and a direct safety road and separate opening to the air (a shaft) in advance of the faces should be carried out without loss of time.

The Commission feel it at once their duty and their pleasure to absolve the Inspector of Collieries from all blame or reproach in being ignorant of the occurrence of the previous fires referred to, and which were not reported to him. The anxiety and the good work done by this gentleman during the progress of the operations for extinguishing the fire is beyond all praise, and deserves special record.

The encroachment that has taken place from the coal workings, in Eskbank into those of Lithgow Valley, invests the question of extinguishing the fire in the last-named Colliery with a peculiar interest, and may yet be productive of baneful results. From the Report of the Committee appointed by the Commission to inspect Eskbank southern workings, it would appear that, along the boundary of Lithgow Valley estate, the pillars of coal have been taken out and the roof allowed to fall. (*Fide* Report No. 5.) The Reporters attest, and other Commissions corroborate, that an appreciable current of air is coursing through the crevices of these falls towards Lithgow Valley workings. *If this air* is finding its way into the wastes of this mine, and is supplying oxygen to the conflagration raging there, no other course is open to the owners, if they desire to recover their property, than to form a large dam and
impound

impound surface waters, and at all hazards to flood their mine. If this is done, the Commission have no doubt that, after rising a certain height in the workings, the water will flow into Eskbank. If the fire is fed with air from Eskbank, and flooding is not carried out, there does not appear to be any limit to the extent over which this fire may not eventually travel.

The operations connected with the attempt to extinguish the underground fire in Lithgow Valley Mine appear to the Commission to have been planned and conducted with judgment and circumspection. The work was cautiously carried on by efficient and capable men, every one of whom were conversant with their duties, and alive to their responsibilities and danger. But for the deplorable accident of the 19th of April success would soon, in all probability, have rewarded their long continued efforts. The Commission, from their experience of such accidents, can fully estimate the trying and arduous nature of the work, and can the more readily appreciate efforts that unfortunately came to nought.

In the recovery of the bodies of the eight men who met an untimely death while in the discharge of their duty in this mine the Commission desire to record, that in addition to the men whose names have already been referred to, many others performed deeds of true heroism, that prove them to have been imbued, when facing danger, with that unselfish humanity and chivalrous gallantry that from all time has been the characteristic feature of, and has lent a peculiar nobility and manliness to those immediately engaged in mining pursuits.

Certified under our hands and seal on this the 10th day of June, 1886 :—

(L.S.) JAMES R. M. ROBERTSON, President.
 (L.S.) J. Y. NEILSON.
 (L.S.) JOHN JONES.
 (L.S.) JAS. SWINBURN.
 (L.S.) WILLIAM TURNBULL.
 (L.S.) WILLIAM DAVIES.
 (L.S.) JOHN THOMAS.
 (L.S.) JOHN USHER.
 (L.S.) JAMES CURLEY.

Witnesses—W. HOGAN,
 O. F. FISH.

MONDAY, 3 MAY, 1886.

Present:—

DR. ROBERTSON, M.D., F.R.S., C.E., PRESIDENT.

MR. J. USHER.
MR. J. THOMAS.
MR. J. Y. NEILSON.
MR. J. SWINBURN.

MR. JAS. CURLEY.
MR. WM. DAVIES.
MR. JOHN JONES.

Thomas T. Wilton was the first witness called.

President, before administering the oath, said: We propose, Mr. Wilton, to examine you upon some general points connected with the calamities that have recently occurred at your colliery.

Mr. Wilton: May I be allowed, Mr. President, to ask one or two questions. Of course you will understand what I am going to ask is merely intended for our own protection, and in your interests as well. I want to know, if you please, what are the powers of the Commission? Can you compel the attendance of any one, for instance?

President: Undoubtedly. The Commission have very large powers.

Mr. Wilton: Will the inquiry be a secret one—with closed doors, I mean?

President: Yes, I believe it will be conducted with closed doors, and that the evidence will not be made public till it is complete.

Mr. Wilton: Then I have to ask you can any of us be present, or can we be represented, so as to enable us to elicit the whole truth, because we feel that statements may be made to you by witnesses which perhaps the Commission would be unable to judge the value of under cover of the secrecy with which these proceedings are to be conducted. It might occur that certain damaging, and at the same time untruthful, statements might be made by some witnesses for interested purposes. At the same time, I wish it to be clearly understood that I am fully convinced the desire of the Commission is to have the fullest and fairest inquiry so far as possible.

President: Yes, Mr. Wilton.

Mr. Wilton: Now, unless some care be taken—such care, I mean, as only a trained or skilled advocate can bring to bear in such inquiries—the Commission might be misled by statements which have no truth in fact to support them. This inquiry is placed in a very different position from that of an ordinary Commission. You are charged with an inquiry which may involve us in very serious consequences. Now, in common fair-play and justice, we should not be standing in the position of accused persons with evidence brought behind their backs, and at the same time possibly to have damaging statements made without any chance of refuting them. In a word, we want to know what charges are brought against us. This is the difficult position in which you and we are placed.

President: We have not yet considered that point, Mr. Wilton. Have you any others to bring forward. If not, we will ask you to be good enough to retire while we consider the question you have raised.

Mr. Wilton: Perhaps it is better to finish one or two other matters first. I want to ask you will the evidence be taken on oath?

President: Yes, by every witness.

Mr. Wilton: What I want to get at is this: We have nothing to conceal, and we wish for the fullest and most open inquiry.

President: I think we have already decided that the principals ought not to be present.

Mr. Wilton: And yet, sir, that appears to be the only way in which we could protect ourselves by furnishing you with testimony in reply to anything that may be charged against us.

President: The Commission propose in the event of any serious charge being made to recall any witness against whom such a charge may be made, so that he may have an opportunity of answering it. Any unsubstantiated allegation must go for nothing, and we are anxious to institute the most thorough and searching investigation into the accidents.

Mr. Wilton: Let us suppose that a witness said a man who was dead had told him something or other.

President: Unless that something could be proved it would go for nothing, and surely in the case you suggest the proof would be extremely difficult.

Mr. Wilton: All I ask you, gentlemen, is, to place yourselves in our position and consider how you would like to have an inquiry conducted with closed doors which might involve the question as to whether you were responsible for the loss of several lives through neglecting to supply certain necessary appliances for any kind of works, or some other culpable neglect. How would you like to feel that such things might be said which would leave an impression unfavourable to you on the minds of persons appointed to conduct such inquiry? Besides which, I would point out that no reporters being present statements might be made which would very likely embarrass the Commission in any report that they may make.

Mr. Swinburn: I think we are quite able to judge of those who may come before us as witnesses. We shall be able to form our own judgment of the statements that may be made.

Mr. Wilton: If the Commission would do this—that in case of any charges being made they would kindly give us an opportunity of knowing what those charges are,—that is all I ask.

President: I hope I made it plain to you that I would recall you, or the principal witness, in the event of a charge being made.

Mr. Neilson: As a magistrate, I can assure you that witnesses will only be allowed to speak of facts within their own knowledge. The examination will be carried out here in the same way as in the ordinary Courts.

Mr. Wilton asked if a representative could be present

The President pointed out that if the privilege were granted to the owners it would have to be extended to others.

Mr. Wilton: I do not want any solicitor. We are confident of our own position. But can we have a representative present?

[At this stage Mr. Wilton was asked to retire, while the Commission discussed the matter brought under their notice.]

President: Well, gentlemen, I am not surprised that this point has been brought up. It is one that I expected when the Commission was appointed, and I strongly urged several members of the Government

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Government to appoint some barrister upon the Commission in order to meet this particular point. I do not think it is a point we need to be surprised at. It is one I should have raised myself, and it is one which we have to consider. As constituted, we cannot cross-examine. It will only be an examination-in-chief. Every member of the Commission has the right to amplify the first examination, and put any question he may think has been omitted. But such a thing as cross-examination is out of our province.

Mr. Usher : Surely, as some member has put it to Mr. Wilton, we have brains sufficient to see if any person exhibited a strong prejudice against the Company, and then we should recall witnesses who might be able to give rebutting evidence.

President : We must do that in common fairness to parties.

Mr. Davies : But I understand he wishes to be represented.

President : No; I think he is satisfied with being given an opportunity of being recalled, if necessary.

Mr. Davies : I want to be more clear as to the meaning of Mr. Wilton. He seems to insinuate that there will be witnesses here hostile to the Company.

President : I think he only raised a hypothetical case.

Mr. Davies : Well, it seems to me that we are here to judge impartially of the value of the evidence.

Mr. Jones : I understand that to be also the feeling of Mr. Wilton. But that if statements considered damaging to the Company were made—and as this is a close inquiry—they should be made acquainted with them, and be allowed to call evidence in rebuttal.

Mr. Curley : In a private inquiry like this the Company will be examined, and they and their witnesses will give the fullest information they possibly can. The other witnesses who may come forward will do the same. How then is Mr. Wilton, or any of the Company, to be informed of what may be stated here unless we supply them with such information. If we give them the information, we afford them an opportunity of producing other evidence in rebuttal of any charges that may be made; and if they had this opportunity, the parties giving the information they object to would need to be informed of the nature of the evidence, in order to allow them an opportunity of supporting the testimony they had given in chief.

President : Gentlemen, Mr. Wilton probably misunderstands the objects of the Commission. It is not to place any one in danger. We cannot cast anyone in damages, or fine. Our duty is simply to report to the Governor, and to state our impressions as to the cause or causes of certain accidents.

Mr. Jones : I think we all understand that. If we like to recall one witness, we can recall another.

President : Certainly, if a man makes a serious statement, we may say, "Are you in a position to prove it?" If he says, "I am not personally, but it was told me by another," then he must produce that other. If the other cannot be produced, then we have to consider what value should be attached on the evidence of the person who in the first place made such a statement.

Mr. Davies : The question Mr. Wilton put as to the powers of the Commission seemed to embrace his meaning.

President : We can easily satisfy him on that point by handing him the Commission for inspection.

Mr. Davies : Concerning Mr. Mackenzie, sir, I think it right that I should express the opinion that it is out of place that the Chief Examiner of Coal-fields should be Mr. Wilton's guest. I know it does not come within our power to do anything in the matter. But it seems very much out of place.

President : I think we may all have an opinion on that subject. But at the same time, as you say, it is not a part of our Commission to deal with it. However, I tell you what is part of our power. You can put questions to the Chief Examiner when he is before us as to any question arising out of or depending upon that. I think it is probably imprudent for him to do so, and you can examine him upon that. It would be no fault of Mr. Wilton, for instance, if he, out of a spirit of hospitality, invited the members of this Commission to take up our residence with him. It would be our fault if we did so. Do not press this side issue.

After some further conversation Mr. Wilton was called in, and,—

The President explained the feeling of the Commission in reference to the representations laid before them on behalf of the Company. He said, looking at the matter in all its aspects, we think it would be undesirable for any representative of the Commission to be in the room while the inquiry is proceeding. At the same time, in the event of any point being raised such as you, Mr. Wilton, have hypothetically put before us, you must have perfect reliance on the oath we have taken, and upon our judgment and spirit of fairness as to the recalling of any witness where it would seem desirable to do so. I think, Mr. Wilton, you may feel at ease with this assurance.

Mr. Wilton expressed himself as perfectly satisfied, and was then examined.

Thomas T. Wilton sworn :—

1. *President.*] Mr. Wilton, will you state to us the names of the owners of the Lithgow Valley Colliery? The Lithgow Valley Colliery belongs to a registered Company consisting of eight or nine shareholders, and registered under the Companies Act.

2. Two accidents have occurred at the Lithgow Valley mine, I believe, during the present year? Yes.

3. Can you give the date of the first accident? Either on the 14th or 15th February last. It was on a Monday morning that the discovery was made that something had gone wrong in the mine.

4. How many men lost their lives in connection with the first accident? Three (3).

5. What were their names? John Doig, the manager; Charles Younger, the banksman; and William Rowe, a miner.

6. Can you give us the date of the second accident? It was about a fortnight ago.

7. Can you give us the date? I think it was on the 19th of last month, but there has been so much confusion I cannot be certain.

8. How many lost their lives on account of that accident? Five.

9. Their names? I cannot give you their christian names. I can give you some. There was Isaiah Hyde, Launcelot Allison, and Mantle—whether William or Thomas I don't remember—and a man named Buzza, and young Rawe.

10. Mr. Doig was the manager who was lost in the first accident; how long had he been manager to your

your Company previous to the accident? I suppose ten or twelve years. I cannot tell exactly, but I know it dated somewhere from 1875.

11. Did you consider him a capable manager? Yes; he was a very excellent man.

12. Who is your present manager? Mr. Campbell.

13. When was he appointed? Shortly after the date of the first accident.

14. A few days, I suppose? Yes, after the first accident we took all the men over to the Hermitage Colliery.

15. Returning to Mr. Doig, late manager of the Lithgow Valley Colliery, will you state what powers you or your Company gave him as manager? He had entire control and all power.

16. Was he endowed with all powers as to ordering material for the use of the mine, for example? Yes, certainly, unless any very serious expense was involved. If any sudden necessity arose for his getting anything, he would go to the accountant, and say you must get so-and-so (whatever it might be), and he would order it.

17. What powers did he possess in the case of an emergency as to the purchase or ordering of material? Well, no special provision was made for that, because the occasion never arose. Besides, Mr. Gell, one of my partners, was living here, and was nearly always on the ground, and in nearly all cases reference was made to him. Last year Mr. Gell was away, and then they were in constant communication with me, and I was telegraphed to if any immediate cause arose. But, so far as our experience goes, there never has occurred such an emergency as you suggest.

18. Were the proprietors conversant with the condition of the mine? No.

19. Have you special rules for the colliery? Oh, yes.

20. Could you lodge copies of them with the Commission? Yes, certainly. I may say that the owners were not at all conversant with mining.

21. Did you not in any way control the operations of the mine? Not at all; there was one general instruction given as to the management.

22. To whom did you delegate the conducting of operations? To the manager—that was to keep on with the main headings, for we were anxious to define our boundaries.

23. You delegated the control of all your mining operations above and below to the manager? Yes. I may tell you that it had been a matter of common remark that since we had been working the mine we had had no trouble at all. We had infinitely more trouble given to us about other branches of the business. But, as I have said, we do not understand the practical work of mining, and we left it to Mr. Doig. I do not know one of the people except to see them on pay-day.

24. Do you know if the mine was inspected regularly by the Inspectors of Coal-fields? I believe so.

25. Did Mr. Doig intimate to you or to the Company that such inspections had been held? No, I have heard nothing about it. As I have said, the mine was managed by him, and gave us no trouble; the coal regularly came out, and the matters you refer to were taken as ordinary details. If the inspectors came I never knew of it; I never saw one; but they may have been there for all that.

26. Have the Company ever received any official complaint from the Inspector or Examiner of Coal-fields as to the condition of the mine? No, never. At one time we were told that we ought to have a second opening to the day.

27. Who told you? The Examiner of Coal-fields, I think, or Mr. Rowan.

28. When was that? It must be some years ago now.

29. How many years ago? I do not know; it may be two or three years; another witness will be able to tell you that.

30. What other witness is that? Mr. Gell, I should say; or Mr. Campbell ought to know. At that time we looked upon it that we should be compelled to undertake the work; but other people did not believe that a second entrance was necessary.

31. When you received this communication from the inspector, what course did you pursue? We immediately complied with his request.

32. Did the manager ever report the mine to be in a defective or dangerous condition? Never.

33. Are you acquainted with the provisions of the Coal-fields Regulation Act—have you ever read the Act? I have read the Act through.

34. Then, Mr. Wilton, you are aware that the owners are compelled, under the Coal-fields Regulations Act, to keep an accurate plan of the mine? Yes.

35. Who did you appoint to make plans of the mine? Mr. Doig.

36. And were you satisfied that this work was performed regularly? Yes, or we should have had notice from the Government authorities.

37. Have you ever received any official or other complaint from the examiner or inspector as to the condition of the plan? No, unless something of a general complaint that it was not presentable, but no complaint in any way impugning its accurateness.

38. When was that complaint made? There was no formal complaint; it was more the result of a conversation.

39. Then do I understand you to say that you have received no actual complaint? Yes, never.

40. This is the plan of your mine, I believe, Mr. Wilton [pointing to plan on the table]? I believe so; it was frightfully knocked about on the day of the accident, as you may see.

41. Are you aware of the provisions of the Coal-fields Regulations Act as to the scale which colliery plans should be drawn up on? Yes, 2 chains to the inch, I believe.

42. This is the only plan of your colliery, is it? That is the only plan I know of.

43. You do not possess a working plan and a finished or office plan. Can you explain why the plan of the workings has not been prepared to the scale prescribed by the Coal-fields Act? No; I fancy this colliery commenced before the present Act came into force, and I suppose it was carried on with this plan in accordance with the way the work was commenced.

44. Do you know whether the manager and surveyor took regular and periodical surveys of the mine? I do not, really. I can only say that, from the absence of any complaint, I believe it was done. No complaint was made by any Government official on the subject.

45. I believe you have an underground boiler in your mine, Mr. Wilton? Yes.

46. What was the object of putting it there? For pumping operations.

47. You had a pump connected with it? Yes.

48. Was it within your knowledge that the arrangement of this underground boiler was defective and unsafe? No; I do not know anything about it.

49. Is it within your knowledge that a fire, or several fires, had occurred in connection with this boiler before

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before the fire of the 14th or 15th February of this year? No; we have heard it since, and were very much astonished.

50. When did you hear it? Since the 14th of February. The manager was a very reticent man, and I suppose did not think it worth his while to say anything about this. They appeared to have been small fires, because they were put out instantly.

51. Then you know of no precautionary measures taken against the occurrence of fire in that particular part of the mine? No; as I have told you, I never heard of a fire having occurred until lately.

52. Who was the underground manager of this mine under Mr. Doig? I do not know. Oh, yes, there was a man named Passmore.

53. He had to look after this particular fire. He was the fireman, and I suppose would carry out the instructions of Mr. Doig? I do not know; Doig was a man who would wholly trust to no one.

54. Do you know whether Passmore travelled the mine and superintended operations? I really do not know; he may have done so.

55. But were not the ordinary means adopted—was there not a system to follow? Doig made an excellent system for working the mine.

56. He was an anxious manager? Yes, very much so.

57. What was done after the accident, Mr. Wilton? When did you arrive? Well, a message was sent to Mr. Gell first, and he sent one of his daughters to the Hermitage for myself.

58. Was this on Friday or on Monday? It was on Monday morning. I received intimation of the accident at about a quarter past 7 o'clock, and I went over as quickly as I could.

59. Yes, and what next? Well, I found Mr. Gell waiting for me at the mouth of the tunnel, and of course there was a great commotion.

60. Yes? Before we—that is, Mr. Gell and myself—came on the scene the men had sent for Mr. J. B. Turnbull.

61. Can you account for the men having sent for Mr. Turnbull? I have no idea. Of course the proper step would have been to apprise us first.

62. What did you discover on the Monday morning when you went down? Did you ascertain that the fire was discovered? Only that the men could not get into the pit, and I heard that a message had been sent to Mr. Turnbull.

63. Had he arrived? No.

64. Did you ascertain that there were men in the pit? Not immediately. I heard from Mr. Gell that there were men in the mine, and then I was told that three men were in, namely, Doig, Rowe, and Younger—that they had gone in on the previous evening, and had not come out again.

65. When did Mr. Turnbull arrive? About a quarter of an hour after I arrived.

66. Well, was there a consultation? Yes.

67. And I suppose there was a resolution arrived at? Yes; Mr. Turnbull expressed his regret, and said that he would be anxious to do anything he could for us in the way of rescuing the men; and we placed him in charge, and told him to do anything he thought necessary.

68. You gave the fullest power to Mr. Turnbull? Yes; we were very grateful to him for his assistance.

69. What action was taken thereupon? Well, one of the men described the workings to Mr. Turnbull, who then asked for the plan to enable him to better understand. We went to the manager's (Doig's) office, and found the door locked; Doig had the key in his pocket; we burst the door open and found the plan on the table; then a miner—I do not know his name—pointed out to Mr. Turnbull certain things.

70. The nature of the workings and airways? Yes; the underground workings; and he explained where he thought the men had been making for in order to get out.

71. Can you recollect who that man was, Mr. Wilton? I do not know at all.

72. Did you not then ascertain that one of the men who had gone in on the previous night had returned? Yes, we heard that, but I did not see him.

73. Who was that man? I think it was Wm. Martin.

74. What post did he fill about the mine? I do not know.

75. Well, after the consultation at the office, what was done? Mr. Turnbull took charge, and they got canvas and props to try to make a brattice, in order to get down to a point at which they should branch off, for the purpose of making an exploration in search of the men; but while this was going on, I believe Martin and Sheedy and another miner made an exploration on their own account, and Doig was discovered still alive, the bodies of the other two men being found within 27 yards of where Doig was discovered.

76. Do you know the part of the mine where Doig and the bodies of the other two men—Rowe and Younger—were found? I do now; it was in the direction of the two cross-cuts to the south.

77. How long did Doig live after he was brought out of the mine? He was breathing for eleven (11) hours afterwards.

78. Did he make any statements? He never regained consciousness.

79. Can you describe the details of the operations taken after that? I must tell you of another remarkable thing that occurred. Mr. Turnbull was engaged trying to get down to the brattice, when he came back to go to lunch. His object was, I think, to get at the fire, and he was pushing forward his brattice with that view. During his absence at lunch, however, a man entered the mine, passing the man in charge and saying that he had instructions from Mr. Gell to do anything he could to assist in the operations; I think the man's name is Davies. When Mr. Turnbull came back he complained of what this man had done. He had torn up the stoppings in places which Mr. Turnbull had closed, and had taken down a portion of the bratticing, and, in fact, had brought about such a state of things that it was useless to attempt to do anything more. Mr. Turnbull came to us to complain of this interference. I may state that this particular man was brought to us by Mr. Wilson of the Zig-Zag Colliery.

80. What was his christian name? I do not know.

81. Was it Robert? I cannot say. After the appointment of Mr. Turnbull, Mr. Wilson introduced this man to me, and said he would be a capital man to assist us in the emergency; that he had been an underground manager in the mine; that he knew the whole of the workings, and that we should avail ourselves of his services. He (Mr. Davies) expressed his willingness to do anything he could. I know I told him that we had placed everything in the hands of Mr. Turnbull, but no doubt any knowledge of the underground workings he possessed would be of value to Mr. Turnbull, and that if he would kindly

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go and assist that gentleman we should be very glad; but I spoke both to him and Mr. Wilton, and told them that as we had placed Mr. Turnbull in charge of operations we could not place any one else in the same position and have a divided authority; I know it has been alleged that Mr. Gell, my partner, gave Davies authority, but the facts are as I have stated them.

82. Who alleged this? The man Davies. When Mr. Turnbull challenged him for undoing this work he said that Mr. Gell had given him instructions; now Mr. Gell never gave him those instructions; I was the only person who spoke; I and Mr. Gell were together, and I told Davies what I have told you; I asked him to refer any suggestion he might have to Mr. Turnbull; it was after Mr. Turnbull left that he went into the mine and opened the stoppings, as I have described to you; I do not know with what object, but I do know that the effect was to prevent our getting at the fire at all; he was round the works so long that a search party was about being formed to go in search of him when he came out.

83. What time was this? About from 4 o'clock; then Mr. Turnbull accused him of this thing; I never saw him, and did not actually know how it occurred until later on.

84. After Mr. Turnbull came, what happened? Well, Mr. Turnbull intimated that on account of the action of this man he was unable to get down to the seat of the fire.

85. That is to say, Davies had by his action undone the work of the morning? Yes, that was the result.

86. And what took place next? A special train was sent up from Sydney with the Examiner of Coal-fields and Inspector Dixon. A consultation then took place, and it was suggested to dam the mine up; previous to that a man named Norwood suggested a plan by which men might be started to work at the second cross-cut. Mr. Turnbull came up to see the Examiner and Inspector, and suggested that this might be done, and an attempt was made with this idea of carrying the air up to the second cross-cut—that is, an exploration was made to see whether this was feasible. Then Mr. Turnbull became affected by the foul air himself, and had to be carried out of the pit's mouth, and it was sometime before he recovered. After this, we thought it would not be right to incur any more danger, and it was resolved that the mine should be sealed up. A water-gauge was inserted in one of the stoppings, and tests were periodically made.

87. What stopping was the water-gauge put in? A brick one in the main tunnel; one was also put across the furnace, on the right-hand side.

88. What pressure did the water-gauge show? It never showed any from first to last.

89. And did you ever suppose it would? No.

90. How long did the mine remain sealed up? For three weeks. The tests made showed her to be full of carbonic acid gas.

91. What induced you to re-open the mine? We re-opened the mine because we were led to believe the fire was out.

92. By whom were you led to believe that? Well, everybody thought so; ourselves, and also Mr. Turnbull. Everybody believed the fire was out.

93. Did the miners think so? Well, we would not ask the miners. But they were anxious to go to work.

94. Who gave orders for the re-opening of the brick stoppings? No direct orders were given. It was generally understood.

95. Was no request made to you to re-open the mine? The men were constantly asking when we thought it would be opened. The general impression when it was closed was that it would not be for very long. Mr. Campbell was then placed in charge.

96. Before commencing operations, did you communicate with the Government? Yes; and asked for the assistance of the Government officials, urging that they should be allowed to take charge of the mine; but this the Minister declined to accede to.

97. Have you copies of the communications that passed to and fro? I cannot say; but I can give you the substance of the Minister's reply to our communication. It was that the Government would take no responsibility whatever; that the inspectors would be present to see that nothing was done to endanger the lives of the men; but that the Government would take no responsibility as to the re-opening.

98. Did the inspectors accordingly visit the mine? They proceeded to Lithgow.

99. Was this before you commenced the work of re-opening? No; I travelled up with the inspector. We had determined to open it on a particular day, and it had been delayed in order that tests might be made in the usual way. It was then decided to commence operations at 8 o'clock at night, because we did not know what might come from that furnace, and we did not want a crowd about. Operations were commenced at about 8 o'clock at night, in the dark.

100. Did you organize shifts of workmen from among the miners? Yes.

101. Did you put before them the danger that was incurred in the operations upon which they were entering? Yes, repeatedly.

102. Were they perfectly aware of the condition of the mine? I can only tell you what they were told.

103. Did you believe, Mr. Wilton, that they were conversant with the danger attachable to the operations? It was only reasonable to suppose so. Nobody anticipated the terrible result that followed.

104. When was the mine re-opened—the date I mean? I really cannot remember; things have got so mixed up. It must be about six or seven weeks ago—the 6th or 7th of April.

105. Well? Operations were commenced. They made their way down the tunnel by bratticing, beating the smoke back, and meeting with nothing but carbonic acid gas and smoke. They carried on in this way until about a week after they got down to the seat of the supposed fire, and saw a glimmer and flickering at the end. This was about 3 o'clock in the morning.

106. I have to ask you this: During the progress of this work, did the owners in any way stint the supply of material—was any requisition that was made to you promptly complied with? Undoubtedly; it was to our interest to do everything we could to facilitate the operations; but apart from that, we should have done so, and did actually do so.

107. What were the general instructions as to providing material? That they were to have all necessary appliances, and that no risk whatever was to be run. In speaking to the men, when it was decided to carry out this work, I myself told them, when they were all assembled, that the whole property was not worth one human life. I begged and prayed of them not to rush into any danger whatever—to be very careful in everything that was done. I have repeatedly said that, and Mr. Gell and myself have urged the different shifts as they went in, if not for their own sakes, for ours, to run no risks.

108. Did you visit the mine yourself? I always went with the men; I was in three times a day. I thought it my duty to be there; they will tell you so themselves.

- Mr. T. T. Wilton. 109. When you got to the seat of the fire, what steps did you take? When they first commenced they thought there would be nothing but the debris of the fire to remove, but on inspection it was discovered that fire existed in the vicinity of the boiler and further down. They sent for Mr. Mackenzie, who had gone away about 11 o'clock, and the inspector, Mr. Rowan, and the manager. Individually, I did not know anything until the following morning. The manager also sent for Mr. Gell; all went down the mine, and when they saw the fire they said it would be better to close the mine up again. The men were withdrawn, and when I came down at 9 or 10 o'clock on the following morning the matter was under discussion. The men were all at the mine, and were of opinion that it would be a great pity if any one was to run away from the fire, and that the proper thing was to tackle it.
- 3 May, 1886. 110. What men were there—can you mention their names? No, I cannot tell you the names; but all the men that were there expressed the opinion that it would be desirable to try and extinguish the fire. In fact they came to us with the request that we would give them permission. They said they could stamp it out.
111. Who came to you, Mr. Wilton—it is important that the Commission should know? I really cannot tell you the names; they will tell you themselves. They were all standing about, and one of them was spokesman. Perhaps Norwood will be able to tell you.
112. Then, I understand from you, that, notwithstanding the opinions of the inspectors and the manager, the men held meetings among themselves, and came to you in a body, and requested you to allow them to try and put the fire out? Yes; they called us up—they seemed to have had some consultation—and said something to this effect: that we (the Company) had been put to a great deal of expense, and they were quite sure the fire could be put out, and they offered to work a week for nothing if we would allow them to make the attempt.
113. It would be desirable, Mr. Wilton, if you could condescend upon some of the names of those who made this requisition to you. It is highly important that we should know. I suppose it would be no trouble to you to ascertain their names? I think I can get you the names of the miners; but the thing is well known, and you will experience no difficulty in finding out their names.
114. Very well. Then in answer to the requisition, what did you do? It did not really rest with us; it was in the hands of the Government officials. I may say that we had been receiving communications by letter from all of the Colonies making suggestions as to the best means of grappling with the difficulty. Among them was one from a miner in Gympie, and I think some one in Melbourne suggested the application of steam, giving an instance at Home where all sorts of efforts had been made to extinguish a fire in a pit, when an engineer came from Glasgow and, applying steam to the smouldering mine, the fire went out like magic.
115. I know the place; but was it not steam in connection with something else? We had a recommendation from another party, namely, the pouring in of carbonic acid gas by means of the furnace. There was a man working with us who wanted permission to put out the fire at an estimated cost of £40, with two or three men besides himself, the method being to supply steam. We thought the suggestion might be worth a trial, especially having a regard for the safety of the men; consequently we laid our plan before the Examiner of Coal-fields and the inspector, the idea being to attach pipes to the boiler and pour steam on to the fire, and thus extinguish it. There was a discussion of about two hours as to whether it would be likely to be a success or not. The Government officials did not think it would be of much value, but admitted that it would be worth a trial. Accordingly the attempt was made. This was on the Saturday. We had to go down some 400 yards, but we had a strong force of men on, and carried down our brattice with us, as ground had to be recovered by forcing the smoke back. Eventually the connection with the piping was made, and the men withdrawn. The stoppings they had commenced to build in the mouth of the tunnel were taken down again, because it was thought that the fire would be put out in about four days. At the end of the four days the steam was shut off. The men were continually moving the stuff from the tunnel till they got down upon the fire. We suspected that the whole thing had been lit up again. It was intended to reserve the opening to the left-hand of the furnace to the very last, so as to avoid the danger of the fire relighting.
116. How many men were on each shift? Eight or ten at this time.
117. With an overman to each, I suppose? Yes.
118. And the general instructions were to allow no risk to be incurred if it could be avoided—I think I understood you to say that? Oh, certainly.
119. Do you know the names of the foremen or leaders of the different shifts? There was Kirkwood and John Davies, I know. There was one to each shift, but I cannot remember the names of the others. I happened to call on Mr. Gell after lunch, and he informed me that the men had been over to him and said they could not get along, and proposed to open the left-hand furnace. I do not know whether the men had heard us talking that morning, but we had been in consultation as to whether we should open that left-hand furnace. The work was going very slowly, and great difficulty was experienced in getting a proper and effective return.
120. Was the right-hand furnace going then? Yes, all the time. It was lit almost immediately after we opened the mine. We had been talking about opening the other furnace, Mr. Gell being present, and the examiner, inspector, and manager happening to be there, and I fancy the men must have heard it. When they came to Mr. Gell, he told them, "Very well, open it"; but to our amazement when we came back we found that they had opened this left-hand furnace and made no provision for lighting the fire. We at once took steps to remedy the mischief; first bratticing up behind the furnace, we got kerosene bags and wood and lit the fire, by which we established a good air-current. We were thus able to push on, and found ourselves amid a perfect wall of stuff, including great stones as big as pianos.
121. Sandstone? Yes, a terrible mass. There was also steam and smoke, and so on, and much heat. We played water on it to cool it down, and the stuff was broken up and lifted into skips and carried away, as we were anxious to get it removed.
122. What was done to extinguish the fire? They played on the hot mass for half an hour. First of all water was used from the steam-pipe, to which a hose was attached.
123. There was not much force in that? The water of the pump began to give out. Then some of the men informed us that any quantity of water was to be got by sinking. Accordingly we put down a hole and water came, but then a question arose, was that the water we had been pumping in? However, Mr. Gell started away at night to get a fire-engine from Sydney, and we got one. Meanwhile there was a waterhole outside, and the water came in from the old workings. Then the process of removing the debris

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debris was carried on, and as this was done the smoke and steam could be seen going up. The process was terribly slow, as they had first to play on the mass for a time, then wait till the steam cleared off, then commence with the skips, and so on again. Still we seemed to be gaining our way. At last we came upon unmistakeable evidences of fire. One of our objects was to get to Tyndall's heading, because we knew we should get a measure of relief from the smoke. When we got there there was a stopping in about a chain, and they made a rush for this, and took the stopping away.

124. That was the first stopping on the right? No. 36, at the seat of the fire. When we got up to No. 34 the tops had been taken away. There was a great current of air coming here. A permanent brattice was put across the main tunnel outside Tyndall's heading. The object was to discover if any fire existed in Tyndall's heading. So far as we knew, everything had been thus far confined to the dip side of the workings.

125. That is the fire, I presume—you suspected the fire to be confined to the dip side round the boiler? We suspected the boiler to be the seat of the fire. We pulled away this stopping I have referred to, and smoke and steam were hanging about 4 feet high. Then a strong current came in and swept over our heads.

126. Did this current come down the main tunnel? I cannot say; I know it was very strong, blowing the light away almost at right angles. There was a smaller stopping at Tyndall's heading; it was in about half a chain, and when this stopping was removed we could see evidences of fire on the floor, going towards the direction of the other stopping. A timber stopping with a man-hole was erected contiguous to the main tunnel. It was the opinion of everyone that if we could once get to Tyndall's heading and remove that stopping we should get immediate relief. At some period it was suddenly noticed that there was fire on the floor in Tyndall's heading near the stopping. Then the timber stopping was seen suddenly to light. Water was played on that, and it was extinguished. An exploration was made some distance beyond this by the manager, who satisfied himself that ignition had been caused by the hot air. It was thought we were gaining rapidly, and operations were directed towards the fire at the boiler. There was nothing appalling in this work except the circumstance of men working in such an atmosphere. It was like a Turkish bath. They unbarred the brickwork of the boiler, removed the greater part of the fall, and uncovered the pumps. Then we noticed the fire; it was one mass of debris. On removing this debris, we suddenly came upon the fire on the floor. We were afraid that this fire might extend in the direction of the main tunnel, but there would be no air-course above the debris. The large fall referred to had closed the main tunnel below the entrance to the boiler. The necessity was to attack the fire, and, if possible, get behind it. The men were at this work, and I went away from here on Thursday, and remained away until the time of the accident.

127. When you left the mine on Thursday operations were centred on removing this fire? Yes. The last time I was in the mine they were more intent on stopping the run (along Tyndall's heading) and removing the debris. That was being removed when I left, and subsequently it was removed. They were trying to get behind the fall from the boiler, and from Tyndall's heading.

128. You are quite certain, Mr. Wilton, that this large fall you have been describing blocked up the main heading? There is no doubt about it.

129. Was there a split of air through Tyndall's heading previous to the fire? No.

130. In your opinion, this fall was sufficient to stop the course of ventilation? Yes, completely.

131. When you left on Thursday shifts were engaged endeavouring to get behind the fall from Tyndall's heading and from the front of the boiler? Yes. [Here the witness further described the details of operations.] Operations were also directed to removing the debris from Tyndall's heading. Up to the last Tyndall's heading was always considered safe.

132. Were men operating in this way when the accident occurred? Operations were proceeding in this way when the accident occurred.

133. Then, Mr. Wilton, we will come to the time when you arrived on the scene. Tell us about that? I heard the news in Sydney, at 5 o'clock, and proceeded by the mail train on the Monday night. If I had been there I should certainly have been one of the victims, because I always went into the mine at 3 o'clock.

134. What had been done when you arrived? They were all paralysed. All the men were out within half an hour. Terrible excitement prevailed for a time. Subsequently a consultation took place, and it was decided to seal up all the lower portions of the mine, to the dip and No. 2 cross-cut.

135. Who was present at the consultation? The Examiner of Coal-fields, the inspector, myself, and Mr. Gell.

136. A consultation, consisting of the proprietors, the manager, and inspector. Well, Mr. Wilton, what was done? The question was, could we not rescue some portions of the property, and, instead of opening up at another place, could we not make use of the present roads—the first and second cross-cuts. Mr. Usher was present when the matter was considered later.

137. The suggestion had been made before? Yes, a long time.

138. Whose suggestion was it that these stoppings should be put in? The brick stoppings—it was our own, I think. We decided that we would put in 27-inch stoppings. Relays of men were put on, and a great amount of work done.

139. In carrying your operations down the main tunnel, was your attention ever directed to the stoppings between it and the back headings? No.

140. Did they appear to be tight? Yes. I may mention here that one thing happened which was really awful. About three or four weeks ago the manager had taken down some men, and had made secure three stoppings—either 29, 30, and 31; or 27, 28, and 29. But 29 was the one which was made up. Next day the manager was in the same place getting some timber, when he noticed his light draw the way it should not draw. On searching for the cause of this he found that this stopping which he had made secure the day before had been torn or cut away 13 feet or 14 feet, by 6 inches deep. The stopping had apparently been carefully scraped away. The effect was to break the current of air, and as there had been some complaint that the air was not so good, it was evident that the act of taking down the stopping was the result of fearfully malicious design.

141. Did you suspect anyone? I do not know that anyone was suspected. A reward of £50 was offered by the owners for information which would lead to the detection of the guilty party, but up to this date no information has been received.

142. Mr. Davies.] Do I understand that Mr. Wilton saw this? No. It was reported to me by Mr. Campbell. But the inspector saw it.

- Mr. T. T. Wilton. 143. How could a man remove 6 inches of the stopping from the top at such a distance? I do not know, but a man might work for hours there and never be discovered.
- 3 May, 1886. 144. *President.*] When you arrived after this second accident, did you proceed into the tunnel on the Tuesday morning? Yes; I and Mr. Mackenzie went in about 22 chains, and were then confronted by a wall of black-damp. I did not notice much difference in the tunnel. There was a little coal spread over the bottom of it. I understand that before they had to throw open the stoppings that had been destroyed by the concussion.
145. Was there anything observable besides the stoppings? Only where the coal had been thrown out from the left-hand side to the right, and shifted the stoppings on the right-hand side.
146. In other words, the small coal that obstructed the tunnel bore evidence that it had been thrown from the left-hand side? Yes, that is it.
147. Have you ever received any suggestion to flood the mine after the fire? I know that it has been spoken of by people. I have read everything I could get on the subject, and I get confused by what I read and hear, there being so many contradictory opinions expressed. I was told, for example, that it would be useless to attempt flooding the mine, and a case was cited where flooding had failed.
148. Is there any communication between the Lithgow Valley mine and the Eskbank Colliery? We discovered some years ago two encroachments, one larger than the other, not very far from one another. These encroachments were to our dip, and the water ran through them, also air. The Eskbank people had fallen their country when we came to it, and immediately our men holed through they reported it. We have a document from them taking an amount of responsibility for these encroachments.
149. In view of this encroachment, what effect would the flooding of your mine have upon Eskbank? I should imagine they would get the water. They say they do not, as it is, but the impression of our late manager was that they did. On the other hand, I have heard that all their water difficulty is got right in an hour.
150. Do you pump any water out of that portion of your mine? I think we have been pumping our own water.
151. Where do you pump your water to? We used to pump up to this encroachment, I think, and there is a pipe which carries the water out to the creek. Other people can tell you more about that than I can. The water difficulty was becoming a difficult one to deal with. The manager said about six months ago we should have to put a shaft down from the main tunnel and pump from there; it would answer the purpose of an air-shaft as well. I told him he had better wait till Mr. Gell came back, as he was the best man to decide about such things. When Mr. Gell came back a spot was selected for this shaft, at the head of the workings; the contract had been let for about a fortnight, and the shaft was going down when the first accident occurred.
152. The second outlet to your mine is contiguous to the main tunnel; how many yards separate? I suppose about 20 or 30 yards; it comes with the return to the right-hand furnace.
153. In the event of any accident occurring to or contiguous to the main tunnel, might it not affect the second outlet? I do not think it would be possible.
154. How long previous to the first accident was it that Mr. Doig asked you for this second shaft? I do not remember. When he mentioned it to me first Mr. Gell was away in England, and I asked him if it was a thing he wanted to be commenced at once, and suggested that it might wait till Mr. Gell's return; the next I heard of it was when the contract had been let.
155. *Mr. Usher.*] Do you know if any dams have been erected by the Eskbank people at the point you have referred to? I do not know at all.
156. *Mr. Curley.*] Was it the custom, Mr. Wilton, to receive any written official reports, periodically, from the manager of your colliery? No, we never had anything of that kind.
157. So that everything that was done between the Company and the manager was done in a verbal way; is that what I understand you to mean? No occasion ever arose for anything of that kind.
158. But you must have had consultations? No, we never had any consultations with the manager.
159. For example, now, you have just said that Doig came to you about putting down this shaft? Well, he came to me and saw me, and I may have met him on the road, for I was up very often, as I had the responsibility of everything thrown upon my shoulders while Mr. Gell was away, and if he wanted anything out of the ordinary run he would come to me and tell me. I always saw him at pay-time with the accountant. Nothing of a grave nature ever happened; anything else was looked upon as ordinary charges of the mine, and he could have anything he wanted.
160. Have you ever heard of fire-damp—light carburetted hydrogen—being seen in this mine? No; the ventilation of the mine was exceptionally good.
161. You have received no complaint or notice of fire-damp having been found in the mine? I never heard of such a thing.
162. *Mr. Jones.*] Did I understand you aright, Mr. Wilton, that the Minister for Mines refused to accept any responsibility in connection with the opening? Yes.
163. Did the inspectors accept any responsibility when the men volunteered to put out the fire? I do not know. I do not know where the responsibility was. They simply allowed the operations to go on. It was not considered there was any danger.
164. Then do I understand you to state now that all the responsibility rested on the inspectors? Oh, no! It was clearly understood, because Mr. Mackenzie gave us distinct notice that they would accept no responsibility whatever.
165. When the men applied to you to be allowed to make the trial, I understood you to say that when this was done you told them that all the responsibility rested with the inspector? No, that is scarcely correct. The Government officials came here to see that we did not run the men into danger. It was in their hands to say whether we should send the men into the mine or not. We could not say to the men, "Go in there." We had to say, "May we do this thing? Will you let them make the trial?"
166. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Then you took no responsibility—the men took it all upon themselves? I do not know that our first question was, "May we make the trial?" the first suggestion having come from the men. Had we taken it upon ourselves entirely, of course the owners would have been responsible for any accident that might occur.
167. Who had charge of the mine at the time? The manager, Mr. Campbell, and ourselves.
168. And he (the manager) allowed it to be opened? No; it would not be putting it correctly to say that he allowed it to be opened.

169. Who was it then, Mr. Wilton? The inspectors and the manager; it was agreed, after consultation, that the trial should be made.
170. Did the inspectors and the manager have charge? No, we had charge. They had ordered the mine to be closed, and when we arrived it was nearly closed.
171. *President.*] In other words, Mr. Wilton, the Government officials put no difficulties in the way? No. At the same time they had no hope in the scheme; indeed they ridiculed it.
172. *Mr. Davies.*] Did the men take possession of the mine forcibly? No; they asked for permission.
173. Then who gave them permission? I have already stated that it was a sort of general permission. We could not act without the authority of the inspectors.
174. *President.*] There was a consultation held between the owners, inspectors, and the men? No; we only wanted to know whether the Examiner and the inspectors would consent.
175. Then you appeared on behalf of the men before the Examiner? Yes; and in the interests of all involved. I may tell you this, that during the subsequent operations, for a fortnight the men were continually hoping that the Examiner and inspectors would keep away—that they would not come. This was for fear of being stopped.
176. Do you know that of your own knowledge? Yes; they have often said it to me.
177. The result of the consultation was that the Government officers withdrew their objections, and allowed you to make the experiment? Yes; to put on steam with the view of extinguishing this fire, and at the time we believed it to be really a very small thing.
178. *Mr. Davies.*] I want to be a little more clear about one point. When Mr. Doig wanted anything, did he only apply to you, or did he communicate with anyone else? He would apply to the board, if the board were sitting; but at this time there was only one director and myself left here; the others were in England.
179. Do you know whether Mr. Doig applied to the owners some considerable time ago for this second outlet, some years ago, say? No; the thing is absurd. If he had made application it would have been attended to at once. I know something of the kind has been said, but it is a deliberate, a wicked falsehood. Mr. Doig never asked for any supplies to that mine that he did not get immediately.
180. *President.*] You had perfect confidence in his judgment? Yes; he was a splendid man.
181. Witness (being referred to the plan) said: The shaft was begun about a fortnight before the accident, to the dip of the main tunnel, to a point south-east from Eskbank, and marked on the plan thus: O.X.
182. *President.*] How far was it down? Whatever distance they could accomplish in a fortnight. Since then the men have not touched it. It is of no consequence now.
183. Were the special rules hung up in your office? They were hung up at the mouth of the pit, wherever the Act prescribes.
184. And you say you have never received any complaint from the Government officials as to the mode of working your mine? We have never received any complaint from the Government with respect to our operations, either as to the ventilation or the carrying out of any of the operations of the Act. We have never had a charge brought against us, or been complained about in any direction.

Samuel Passmore sworn and examined:—

185. *President.*] What is your profession or business, Mr. Passmore? Well, my profession has been that of a labourer, sir, until I came here.
186. Have you been engaged about mines? Not until I came to Lithgow.
187. How long ago is that? About five years.
188. How long had you been in the employment of the Lithgow Valley Colliery Company? About three years.
189. Who appointed you? Mr. Doig, the manager.
190. In what capacity did he employ you? As a dayman.
191. Were you employed on the surface? Yes; I was first on the surface for about six weeks.
192. At what were you employed during that time? Making the dam bigger.
193. Subsequently, how were you employed? I was afterwards taken into the pit.
194. And what were your duties when you were taken into the pit? I was employed as underground boss. Mr. Doig told me what to do.
195. What did he tell you to do? To travel along the roads and put up stoppings.
196. The work of a general shiftman, I suppose? Yes, sir. I succeeded Robert Davies when he left the employment of the Company.
197. When did he leave? About eighteen months or two years ago.
198. What were your duties and powers at the time prior to the first accident? I was deputy under Mr. Doig, and had to look after the pump and boiler.
199. Did your duties extend over the whole mine? Yes, all over it, wherever the work lay. Yes, sir; I was instructed by Mr. Doig. He was there every morning.
200. Had you any charge over the miners? The only charge I had was to put them into the bords.
201. Your duties involved the inspection of the working places? Yes, sir.
202. Did you direct operations—that is, did you give the men general directions as to how to work these bords? Yes, according to Mr. Doig's orders.
203. Did you ever inspect these bords under Mr. Doig's instructions? Yes, to see that they were going in straight.
204. How is the Lithgow Colliery worked—on what system? Pillar and stall.
205. Was it your duty to mark off and see that the bords were driven according to the instructions given? Yes.
206. What general instructions were given as to the size of the pillars and the width and length of the bords? The bords were 7 yards.
207. And what pillars did you leave? They were 1-chain pillars.
208. In all cases, were they chain pillars? Yes, they have been all chain pillars since I have been there. When I first went there there was one in half a chain.
209. When you took Davies's place the colliery was working half-chain pillars? No; they were all chain pillars except one.

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210. Since Davies left, what instructions did you receive? I had to take a chain between the bords, and that would leave 14 yards of a pillar.
211. Was this size adhered to? Yes.
212. Were the bords never driven more than 7 yards? Sometimes the miners would go wider.
213. If you noticed them working 8 yards, what did you do then? Generally speaking, Mr. Doig would be there himself. He used to go round every morning. The orders he gave me were that if they were going wide to go and put a chalk in them.
214. Then it was you who measured off the width of the pillars? Yes; sometimes he measured them off himself.
215. Did you ever know the pillars to be of less size than you mention? No. It might happen, but as a rule there was very little difference.
216. What is the width of headings? Five yards.
217. Did you have narrower bords in any part of the mine? No, sir.
218. What was the width of the cross-cuts? About the same as the headings—5 yards.
219. Do you know whether the amount of cover was taken into account when the size of the pillars and width of bords were arranged? No, sir, I do not know that.
220. Do you know if there was any alteration in these dimensions in the deep workings under the mountain? No; I do not know of any alteration.
221. Did you occupy the position of oversman or deputy at the date of the first accident that occurred in this colliery? Yes, sir.
222. Who controlled or had charge of forming the stoppings, and carrying out the ventilation? I had charge, my orders from Mr. Doig being to follow the men up, and carry out the ventilation.
223. Tell us how these stoppings were formed? They were formed of slack. They would run about 7 yards in width on the bottom, and about 2 or 3 yards on the top—some wider and some narrower.
224. In carrying round the ventilating current by means of stoppings, did you find these slack stoppings effectual? Yes, they were perfectly tight; we experienced no trouble with them.
225. Did you ever receive any complaint as to the condition of these stoppings? No.
226. Did you ever receive any complaint from the men as to the quantity of ventilation? No, sir, never.
227. I think you said you had charge of the underground boiler? Yes, sir.
228. Where was it situated? On the left-hand going down the tunnel.
229. How many chains down? I should think about 36 chains.
230. [The position of the furnace is marked by a red spot and surrounded by a yellow circle on the plan.]
231. How was the approach to the boiler protected from the main tunnel? There was a brick wall in front between the boiler and the main tunnel, and there was a brick wall from pillar to pillar.
232. Was there a door in this brick wall? Yes.
233. Was it separated from the tunnel by double doors? No, single doors; but that door [pointing to the plan] was never shut from the main tunnel. The boiler was supplied with fresh air from the main tunnel.
234. What was the object of keeping the door open? I cannot say.
235. What was the size of this door? About 5½ feet by 3 feet.
236. Was the boiler built in an ordinary bord, or in a place specially prepared for it? It was in an ordinary bord.
237. How long is it since it was built? I cannot say; it must be over three years ago.
238. Did you observe the way the boiler was built? No; I cannot say as to that.
239. What was the size of it? It was an ordinary boiler, not very big—about 15 feet long.
240. Can you get round about the boiler, between it and the coal pillar? Yes.
[Here the witness described the position of the boiler and its surroundings by means of a rough sketch.]
241. Examination continued:—You could travel right round the boiler? The distance between the outside wall of the pillar and the boiler about 8 feet; on the other side it was nearer. The boiler was bricked right in altogether.
242. Mr. Usher.] What was the space between the top of the boiler and the roof? About 2 feet.
243. President.] What did the roof consist of? Coal, sir.
244. What did the floor consist of? Coal. I was told that the coal floor was taken out under the boiler, but I am not certain.
245. Who told you? I was told by the brickman and his labourer that they had taken down the foundation.
246. Where the ashes were drawn out of the furnace, was the coal taken away there? No; the coal was left there.
247. Then on cleaning out the fires the ashes would be left on the coal floor? No; there was a brick layer, and underneath the brick the coal.
248. Who had charge of this furnace at or prior to the date of the accident on the 14th or 15th April? That was on the Saturday; I had charge then.
249. In addition to your other duties of inspecting the mine, you had charge of this boiler? Yes; I had charge prior to the date of the accident.
250. What instructions did Mr. Doig give you as to removing the ashes from the furnaces? I had no instructions, only that I was to keep them alongside the main tunnel; he said he wanted them to fill up the swallow.
251. When you cleaned your fires, what did you do? We always threw water on the ashes and drenched them; the pump was close by. She did not make very much ashes.
252. In all cases, were these ashes removed out of the mine? No; they were put on the main road.
253. Were they allowed to accumulate there? Yes, till there was a certain quantity.
254. How many skips, for example? About twenty skips.
255. How long would it take to accumulate twenty skips? I could not say exactly; we used to take a few skips as we wanted them.
256. Leaving the boiler, the smoke and hot gas escaped into the flues; how were these flues constructed? They were 18-inch earthenware pipes, one running into the other; they were carried from the boiler about half a chain; all the joints were mortared up tight.

257. Were these flues leading from the boiler to the up-cast regularly or periodically cleared? Yes; I used to have to go in at the back and pass a wire through with some bushes attached to the end; this used to be done sometimes two or three times a week.
258. You say that these pipes extended for about half a chain? Yes.
259. Where did the smoke go to? To the return air-course.
260. Was that air-course in any way protected by brick? No.
261. Was the current controlled by small coal stoppings? Yes.
262. Then the smoke and heated gas escaped through these earthenware pipes into the ordinary return? Yes.
263. And the smoke and heated gas coursed up this return, and impinged directly upon the sides of the coal pillars and stoppings of small coal? Yes, sir.
264. Was there any small coal lying on the floor of the return? I cannot say.
265. Was this flue regularly travelled from the boiler up to the furnace? No.
266. Was it never inspected? No; you could not inspect it without stopping the boiler.
267. As a matter of fact, this return that carried the smoke and heated gasses into the left-hand up-cast was not regularly inspected? No, sir.
268. Of your own knowledge, do you know whether it contained any accumulation of soot? Not so far as I am aware, only at the end. There was a good deal of soot at the end of the pipe where it entered the return.
269. Then this flue was never regularly cleaned? You could not get at it to clean it.
270. Then it never was cleaned? No, sir.
271. And the smoke and heated gas had been passing through that return for how many years? For three years.
272. Did anyone ever travel the left-hand return? You could not travel it for water. Here (pointing to the plan) were the pipes, and here was a great body of water at the end of them, over which the smoke passed and went up round till it reached the open.
273. Did you understand the plan, Mr. Passmore? I understood very little about the plan, because it was never shown to me.
274. Do I understand you to say that the return air and smoke crossed over the top of this water? Yes.
275. How far does this water extend? The earthenware pipes that conveyed the smoke from the boiler to the return rested on brick pillars, and from the end of these pipes the smoke crossed over a body of water that filled the swallow (or hollow) in the coal.
276. What space was there between the top of the water and the return? About 2 feet. The smoke crossed over this hollow until a point was reached marked "B" on the plan, and opposite the encroachment from Eskbank into the Lithgow Valley ground. Beyond this point the return air-way was clear. It contained at all times a considerable quantity of smoke. The return air-way was clear of water until it approached the left-hand furnace, when it again crossed over a body of water lying in a swallow of lesser extent than that already referred to.
277. You say, Mr. Passmore, that these pipes rested on brick pillars—what height were these brick pillars? They were about three and a half feet high.
278. Who removed the ashes from the boiler to the main tunnel? Sometimes I removed them, and sometimes Mr. Grant. Grant was the night engine-man. We had a lot of water, and were obliged to keep it going. We pumped it up to go down to Brown's pit (Eskbank).
279. Are you quite sure that it had access into Brown's pit? Yes; I told Doig about it. We were certainly under that impression.
280. That is to say, if it did not go there, you were pumping a portion of the same water over again? Yes; I told Mr. Doig about it, and he said it must be so.
281. Was there any slack coal lying in a position contiguous to this boiler, Mr. Passmore? Yes; I believe there was some on the left-hand side.
282. What was the object in keeping this slack coal there? I am not aware that there was any particular object in keeping it there.
283. Did you never think that such an accumulation of dry slack coal was a source of danger? Well, I do not think I ever thought there was really any danger, because I found fire in this direction twice previously, and it was put out immediately.
284. When did you discover this previous fire? About six weeks previously.
285. On the former occasion—that is, the last before the one you have now mentioned—how long ago was it that the fire was discovered? I could not say how long; I think it was in Davies's time.
286. You have suggested that you account for this soot taking fire because of the smoke and hot air discharging at the end of the pipes—were these pipes perfectly tight? The only reason I can give was the soot appearing to be so hot. There was a great deal of it hanging about the end of the pipes.
287. Did you ever observe whether any of this soot hanging about took fire? No, I never observed anything of that kind. When the last fire occurred we found that had occurred (Mr. Doig was there). I told him that the slack had caught fire at the end of the pipes again. I saw the first fire. I assisted Davies to put it out.
288. What was the locality of the first fire? It was just a bit on the top. It might be just half the width of this table from the end of the boiler.
289. Did you have any difficulty in putting out the first fire? No; Davies and I put it out with buckets. But it was very hot in there.
290. Was it always hot? It was very hot at that time, and in fact at all times.
291. Where was the second fire located—was it of a serious nature? No; I and two other men extinguished it. Robert Druery was one.
292. Who was the other man? I think it was William Hammond.
293. What, in your opinion, was the cause of that fire? My opinion is that it originated at the boiler, where there was such a great heat; it was there that I discovered it.
294. How did you discover it? I could not miss it, because I had to go in every day to put water in the boiler, and I was in there several times to sweep the flues.
295. Was it a difficult matter to put the fire out? No; we put it out with buckets of water.
296. Was the coal pillar contiguous to this outlet for the smoke of any size? It was a chain pillar.
297. Have you ever heard of any other fires having been discovered at this point? No.

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298. But you are quite positive that the flues and the return air-course were never regularly inspected? Yes; they were not regularly inspected.
299. Beyond the swallow when the encroachment from Eskbank took place, was there much soot lying in the air-course? Not much.
300. Was it very hot there? It was pretty warm.
301. Did you know of any pillars being taken out there, or did you assist to take out any pillars? No, not in my time, but there have been pillars taken out down on the left-hand side.
302. At what position on that side? So far as I have been given to understand, it was to this left side of the boiler—to the rise of where the boiler stands.
303. Do you know of any pillars having been robbed in that neighbourhood? No.
304. Do you know of any bord having been worked unusually wide at that spot? No; that was worked before I went there.
305. Was the area where these pillars were removed of any considerable extent? I cannot say as to that.
306. Do you know whether the roof caved in in this direction? I have been down with Mr. Doig in these old workings, when the top-coal had come away, leaving only the rock. It seemed to me that there was a very wide portion of ground then—it might be 20, or 30, or 40 yards wide—without any coal pillars standing. The last time I was there was about fifteen months ago, that is about twelve months last Christmas.
307. Have you known of any large falls taking place in that direction? Yes, I have heard some falls in that direction.
308. Was it in the water? No; I never heard falls in the water. I was there one night between 10 and 11 o'clock; I was pumping, and had just put water into the boiler when a very heavy fall came and blew the fire-doors right open.
309. On any other occasion, Mr. Passmore, have you heard falls? Yes, but I never took particular notice.
310. At what time was this? Oh, it was about nine or ten months ago.
311. Was that near the boiler? It was down that way, but not to say near the boiler; the falls always occurred on the north side of the tunnel.
312. How do you account for these falls always occurring on the north side? Well, I have heard them on the right-hand side too.
313. This fall you specially referred to as having occurred about fifteen or sixteen months ago you say was a very heavy fall? I should fancy so, seeing it blew the fire-doors open.
314. Did it ever blow live coals out? No; it blew soot and dust out, but not hot coals. There was nobody there but myself at the time; I told Doig about it on the following morning.
315. What did he say when you told him about it? Oh, not much; he said there must have been a heavy fall somewhere.
316. Did you ever know the pillars in any part of the mine to be so thin that you could put your arm through them? No, sir, but I have known them very thin when we have been working down below the boiler.
317. In any other part? No, only in this part that I have mentioned, on the north side; I have known them to be 4 yards thick, and also 2 yards thick, that is near the boundary.
318. Have you ever seen the bords cut into each other in any part of the mine? No.
319. Who worked that portion of the mine between the present stoppings in the main tunnel and No. 2 cross-cut—was it worked in your day? No, sir.
320. Were there any thin pillars in that part of the mine? I do not know anything about that portion of the mine.
321. Do you think that any connection exists between the Eskbank and the Lithgow Valley Collieries? Certainly I do. I have been told that the Eskbank people broke through in three places.
322. Did the water run from Lithgow Valley Colliery to Eskbank through these encroachments? I believe the water flowed into Eskbank from the Lithgow Valley mine.
323. *Mr. Curley.*] Does this opinion you have formed regarding the communication between Eskbank and Lithgow Valley rest upon information obtained from others, or upon observations which you have made yourself both in the mine and on the surface? My own opinion is that the water was going down there, but I never visited that part myself, as you could not get there for black-damp.
324. *Chairman.*] Then, Mr. Passmore, on the several occasions when you endeavoured to get down towards the Eskbank boundary with Doig you saw appearances of black-damp? Yes; it was full of black-damp down there.
325. Can you state whether the coal-seam dips towards Eskbank? Yes.
326. What swallows lie between—are they full of water? The water runs down that way.
327. Then about west of the boiler, and towards Eskbank boundary, are the workings in the Lithgow Valley Colliery standing full of water at the present moment? Yes; there must be now a quantity of water there.
328. Now, Mr. Passmore, about the right and left hand furnaces—were these kept going continuously? Yes, when the engine was working. The right-hand furnace was the principal ventilating furnace.
329. Can you give us the names of the furnace-men? I used to attend to the left-hand furnace.
330. That is in addition to your other duties of inspecting generally the workings of the mine? Yes. I attended to the firing of the boiler that pumped the water, and also attended to the left-hand furnace.
331. What was the name of the other furnace-man? There was no regular furnace-man at the right-hand furnace. A man named William Richards attended to that. He worked on the roads as well. He was on duty at the time of the accident. The furnaces were not actually kept going continuously. The right-hand furnace was allowed to be damped down on Saturday afternoon and overnight.
332. Did you find the air-current strong at 6 in the morning with the aid of the right-hand furnace? Yes, sir, I did.
333. What arrangement did you make for the removal of the ashes from these two ventilating furnaces? I used to stack the ashes against the coal.
334. Where these ventilating furnaces are built, was 15 inches of coal left on the floor? I cannot say; they were built before my time.
335. Have any ashes been removed lately? No, not in my time.
336. Have you ever discovered any heat or appearance of fire when these ashes were stacked? Yes, on one occasion at the right-hand furnace; that was up against a stopping.

337. Then the ashes are stacked up against a coal stopping? Well, it was up against this coal stopping, and it caught fire, and was put out.
338. When did that occur, Mr. Passmore? It may be about sixteen months ago.
339. That was about the date you discovered the fire at the underground boiler? I cannot say whether it was at that time or not.
340. What measures were adopted to extinguish the fire at the right-hand furnace? We had to turn all the ashes away, and the slack, and get water and put it out that way.
341. And you believed that you had thoroughly extinguished it? Yes.
342. Did not the occurrence of this fire at the right-hand furnace tempt you to remove the ashes altogether? No. Mr. Doig was there all the time. They have not been removed to the surface.
343. When did you discover the fire—this last fire on the 14th of February? I did not discover the fire; I discovered the smoke.
344. When did you first see it? On Sunday evening, from about 5 o'clock till half-past. I was going down the mine to put fresh fire to the underground boiler.
345. How far down did you discover the smoke? I got down a distance of about 20 chains, and could not get any further.
346. What occurred to you when you saw the smoke? Nothing occurred to me then.
347. What I mean is, did you not speculate as to the cause of the smoke? No. I was that much frightened at the time that I went straight out and proceeded to Younger's—that is the man who is dead now—and asked him if he would allow his boy to run for Mr. Doig; I told him there was a great smoke at the tunnel, and that there must be a large fire somewhere in the tunnel. I may say that I arrived on the Saturday evening previous to that, and every thing was as usual.
348. Was there anyone in the mine when you arrived on the Saturday evening? Yes; there was George Hall, William Hall, and Walter Riddle.
349. Did these men discover anything wrong? As I have said, I went down on the Saturday evening to attend to the boiler. I went to the end of the pipes and shut off the valves, and coming back damped down the fire to keep it in; in fact I put everything in working order for a start on Monday, and having done so I went out and was talking with the man Younger, perhaps for about an hour, when these men that I have named came out. George Hall told me that there was a great smoke at the boiler. I replied, that is nothing new. I made this remark because a great deal of smoke used to hang about there after the furnace was damped down.
350. Was that in the main tunnel? Yes; a good deal of smoke used to hang about them.
351. Do you mean on ordinary occasions? Yes. On the Saturday evening there was no sign of anything wrong when I left, and, as I have told you, when I went down on the Sunday evening I could not penetrate into the tunnel more than a distance of about 20 chains. I then went to Younger's house, and having sent for Mr. Doig, I returned to the mine and put fire on the right-hand furnace. After that I went to the left-hand furnace and got fire on that. I had no coal ready, and went to the face to get some; it was there that choke-damp attacked me. Younger then came in, and I told him that I felt bad. I then went over to the furnace, when Doig came in and asked me what was the matter. I said to him, "I think I am dying, sir." I then got out of the mine, and on reaching the fresh air I dropped and was taken home. They gave me some brandy. I really thought I was dying. That is all I know.
352. You have told us that when the furnace was damped down on Saturday evening, that a heavy smoke hung around the furnace in the main tunnel; do you mean to say that the ventilation of the mine was stopped? It was very often when the smoke hung about there. You will find that the men complained of the smoke.
353. What cleared it away—where did the smoke go to? I cannot tell you, only that the furnace cleared it away for the men to work; there was a strong current of air down the main tunnel.
354. Was there any split of air taking in Tyndall's level? It went past Tyndall's level and down to the foot of the tunnel; the main tunnel was very wide just immediately below the opening to the boiler.
355. How wide? Well, from rib to rib it might be about 9 yards.
356. Was there not a pillar removed on the north side? No; there was a split here in this pillar below the boiler.
357. Was the ventilation of the north workings deficient? No.
358. Had you been in the tunnel while the operations for extinguishing the fire were in progress? Yes.
359. A heavy fall occurred in the main tunnel—what was the position of that fall? It seems to me that it fell in the cross-roads.
360. Were the tops down on this part before the fire? No, only the first tops.
361. Was there any timber in to support the roof at this point? There was no timber here (pointing to the plan). There was no sign of the roof coming away at this point.
362. Did this fall that we were talking about just now completely close the main tunnel? It looked to me as if it completely closed the tunnel. If it did not she would have taken her smoke round.
363. That is to say, if the passage had not been obstructed the body of air coming down the tunnel would have carried the smoke away? Yes.
364. And it did not carry the smoke away? No.
365. Where did it go to? It remained there—went up the tunnel.
366. When you went down on Sunday night and discovered the smoke, did you notice whether there was any body of air coming down the tunnel at all? Of course there was air coming down, or I could not have got along.
367. Was the usual current of air coming down? I cannot say that; I met with a fresh breeze until I got into the smoke.
368. Did it not occur to you to examine the strength of the ventilating current? Not at the time; I was too much excited.
369. In travelling through the various parts of the pit in the discharge of your duties, have you ever seen fire-damp? I have heard the miners talk about it, but it has not been seen in these parts, so far as I know.
370. Have you ever heard complaints from the miners about any deleterious gas existing in the mine? No.
371. Have you heard any complaints about the quantity of ventilation? No, sir, because if there had been any complaints they would have gone to Mr. Doig.

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- Mr. 372. But if there had been any complaints you would have heard of it? Very likely I should.
 St. Passmore. 373. And you did not hear of any complaints? No.
 3 May, 1886. 374. *Mr. Curley.*] I think you have said that the men complained of the smoke at the boiler? Yes; that was when they were passing down.
 375. *President.*] Did the smoke pass into the workings? It used to go down the main tunnel a good bit. I have seen it quite thick.
 376. Was the smoke constantly coming out like that? No; it was quite clear sometimes.
 377. That is to say it was more some days than others? Yes. Mr. Doig said it was owing to the atmosphere.
 378. Then, Mr. Passmore, did you consider that the ventilation of this colliery was ample and sufficient? Yes, I considered it so, and Mr. Rowan the Inspector.
 379. What was the distance between one cut and another? It runs a chain from one pillar to another.
 380. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Is that in the ordinary workings? Yes.
 381. Had you ever any difficulty in getting material for the conduct of this mine? No.
 382. *Mr. Usher.*] Are we to understand you to say that there is no brickwork in the coal roof immediately above the boiler? Yes; there was just the coal only.
 383. I believe the ashes were removed from the front side and back of the right-hand furnace between our first and second visits to the mine? Yes.
 384. Why was that done? I cannot say, sir.
 385. *Mr. Davies.*] When Hall came to you and said there was smoke in the mine, did it not occur to you that he would not draw your attention to that if it was a usual thing? No; it might have appeared an unusual thing to him because he was seldom in there at that time.
 386. *Mr. Neilson.*] Do you know anything about a certain stopping having been knocked down by somebody unknown? Yes; I heard about it, but I did not see it.
 387. I think you have stated that it was on a Saturday that you discovered a fire six weeks before the accident? Yes.
 388. Assuming that you had not discovered that fire, what time would you have got back? Any part of the day up to 6 or 7 or 8 o'clock.
 389. Well, supposing the fire had escaped notice up to the Monday morning, it would have had a much stronger hold, I suppose? I have no doubt it would have had a much stronger hold; I think it was on a Friday morning that I discovered the fire, and I put it out on the Saturday.
 390. *President.*] How was that? I tried to put it out on the Friday, but the heat was too great, so I damped the furnace down, and rose no steam next morning, when we were able to get in, the place being cool.
 391. You knew that the fire was smouldering all that time then? Yes.
 392. And yet you left the mine? Yes; I first damped down, as I have stated, and put the fire out next day.
 393. Was it burning briskly? No; it was only smouldering.
 394. *Mr. Neilson.*] And when you went in on the Saturday, how was it? It was smouldering still.
 395. Assuming that this fire is drowned out, would the water necessary to effect this also affect the Eskbank Colliery? Do you mean the fire at the present time?
 396. I want you to suppose that the Lithgow Valley mine was full of water up to the roof,—would that have the effect of flooding the Eskbank property? I should fancy it would.
 397. *Mr. Davies.*] Did you have any conversation about an air-shaft being sunk? Mr. Doig did make a remark to me. I was with him about a fortnight before the accident, when we were pumping to see how much the pump would throw, and Mr. Doig then said to me, "Sam, I am going to get a shaft put down here, and then we shall not be troubled so much with the water."
 398. Was that the first time he ever spoke to you about it? Yes.
 399. *President.*] Was Doig a reticent man—a man who would readily express his thoughts? No; he was a very close man.
 400. And has this shaft been commenced? Yes, it has been commenced.
 401. *Mr. Curley.*] What quantity of ashes was there near the boiler when the fire took place? There were about half a dozen skips.
 402. At the right-hand furnace I understand there were two or three places where these ashes were deposited—what was the extent of the pillar from where they stood? I should say a chain, that is straight from the furnace.
 403. From the mouth of the furnace to the side of it, do you know the distance? No, I do not know the distance that way.
 404. Did you ever notice Mr. Mackenzie, the Examiner of Coal-fields, often at the Lithgow Valley Colliery previous to the accident? No; I did not know much about Mr. Mackenzie until the first accident.
 405. Did he ever examine the workings, do you know? I never saw him down there, but he may have been with Mr. Doig.
 406. Have you seen Mr. Inspector Rowan there? Oh, yes; I have been round with him several times.
 407. Can you tell me at what intervals? Every two or three months, I should say; I know it was not longer than three months.
 408. Did he ever make any observation to you about these ashes? No, sir; he made no observation to me concerning them.
 409. Did you ever see him visit the boiler you have been speaking about? Yes; he has been in front of the boiler.
 410. And the furnaces? Yes.
 411. Did you see him look at the return at the end of the furnace? No, sir.
 412. Have you ever seen Mr. Inspector Dixon at the colliery? Yes; I have seen him there, but I was then on the roads.
 413. How long ago was that? It was in Davies's time. I was not acquainted with him (Mr. Dixon).
 414. *Mr. Swinburn.*] You have had no complaint whatever from any of the inspectors who have visited the mine? No, none whatever.
 415. *President.*] Were they likely to complain to you, Mr. Passmore? The only complaint I ever heard was about some boards being knocked off in a certain place, and Mr. Rowan said they were to be fixed up again.

416. *Mr. Curley.*] Are you aware whether these small fires you have spoken of were reported to the inspectors? I am not aware, sir; all I know is that I reported them to Mr. Doig.
417. And what did Doig say? His only remark was that it must be put out.
418. *Mr. Neilson.*] Was any report of these circumstances kept in the office? Not that I know of.
419. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Then you put out the fire in accordance with Doig's instructions? Yes.
420. Was Doig with you when you did it? No, he was not with me when I put it out, but he saw that it was out when I had completed the job.
421. *Mr. Davies.*] If anything was wrong, I understand you reported to Mr. Doig? Yes. I did not report in writing. I made my report on the ground. I only made reports if anything was wrong.
422. *Mr. Jones.*] Did you ever notice any person making surveys for Mr. Doig? No, sir; he did that himself.
423. *President.*] Were these surveys made regularly? There was no stated time; I never knew when he would go.
424. *Mr. Usher.*] Did he leave marks in the roof indicating the result of the survey? Yes.
425. *Mr. Curley.*] Did you ever consult together about the desirability of removing these ashes, and clearing them out of the mine altogether? I once suggested that we should move the boiler further down, and he said he would cut the coal down to the rock.
426. How long was that ago? About three or four months ago.
427. Was it done? No. I told him that unless something was done the water would beat us.

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Mr. W. Martin sworn and examined:—

428. What age are you, and what is your occupation? I am twenty-three years of age, and I am engine-driver in the Lithgow Valley Colliery. I have occupied that position since the first accident; prior to that I was employed as a day-man.
429. When were you last in the mine before the accident? I think it was on a Friday night.
430. Did you see anything wrong? Not on the Friday night. I heard on the Saturday afternoon from Mrs. Younger, who told me she had heard the pit was full of smoke. I went to get my mate, William Rowe, and we went into the pit together. I went to the second furnace, and saw Doig. Doig passed the remark, "What did we want there?" I said, we had heard the pit was full of smoke. We then went down to where the smoke was. It was about 8 chains down, and presented a white smokey appearance. We started buffeting the smoke with our coats and bags, in order to see if we could get further down. We kept at that till about 10 o'clock, but made very little progress. We then went out and got some canvas, and then we bratticed up to the first cross-cut and took some more canvas with us to where we had been buffeting with our coats. We held the canvas to the roof to throw the draft over the top. There was a ventilating current running down the heading, though it was not very strong. In this way we made some progress, say about 6 chains, and we got to where the tops had been cut down. When we got there, however, the smoke came back upon us, and we could get no further. Then Doig said it would be well to go down the return on the right-hand side. That was when we came back from where the smoke was. His object was to go back to the second cross-cut, and then take the return, because he wanted to get to Tyndall's heading to open a stopping there.
431. Did Mr. Doig say this was practicable? I did not hear him say so. He said we had better try to go round to Tyndall's heading that way. As we were getting back to the cross-cut, I said I would not go with him, that I could not stay any longer, and I went home to bed. This was on the Sunday night. On the Monday morning, about 5 o'clock, I told my wife I would not go to work, as I did not feel well. At about 6:30 a.m. one of the men came and woke me up to tell me that Doig and Younger had not come out of the pit, and that the pit was full of smoke. He wanted to know where I had left Doig and his companion. When I got to the pit I went inside and proceeded about as far as where I had left the men on the night previous. They had left their things by the second cross-cut. I went down to where the tops were cut down, or close to that point, and I saw all the miners sitting there. I suggested that it would be well to go round the back workings. A search party had already proceeded ahead, and I ventured to go, thinking that I could perhaps tell where the missing men had been going. I went in, accompanied by James Doig and another, and got about 3 chains from the main heading when we were called back again to put the stoppings up. I then asked some of the men if they would go with me round the return. I did not know the road, but would go with any of them. Mr. Turnbull then came forward and ordered us all out, except six men he had with him. However, I went in again, accompanied by Jack Sheedy. He said he did not know the road, but we started and proceeded to the second cross-cut. Mr. Turnbull and his party were below us. We got into where the stopping was down, and we happened to strike the return. We left on the return for about 60 yards or more. When I had got this far I heard heavy breathing, and then a heavy sigh and a groan with it. I went into the bord where the sound appeared to come from, and there I found Mr. John Doig.
432. Was the air foul at this point? No; the air-course appeared to be pretty good.
- [The witness pointed out on the plan where the body of John Doig was found.] Sheedy then pulled Doig out into the return, where the air was pretty middling. I daresay we stayed in the return about ten minutes, and then went out, carrying Doig with us. We met James Doig on the way, and he assisted us to carry Mr. Doig out. I then went back with Grant to show him where we found Mr. Doig, and just before we got to that spot we came on top of the other two bodies. They were both dead. Where they were found the atmosphere was moderately good.
433. You said that you had been engaged as engine-driver—have you any experience of engines? Yes; I have been engaged at engines ever since I left school. I have papers to show it. My experience of mines has been gained in this Colony. I was engaged as dayman in this mine previous to the accident. I was to do anything that was required of me above and below. I used to go into the mine every morning. I had charge of the rapper. I know the underground boiler, but I have never examined it. I have never seen an accumulation of coal about the boiler. There was a door on the left-hand side, that is a doorway; a piece of bag material was hung over it; I never proceeded through that. I had heard that there had been a fire there about a month or six weeks before the accident.
434. Did any reason occur to you as to the cause of this unusual body of smoke that you found in the mine?

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mine? No. I asked Doig the reason, and he thought it was the banking of the furnace. I have not seen any smoke hanging about the entrance to the furnace in the morning, nor during any other time of the day in the main tunnel. I know nothing about the returns or flues from that boiler.

435. Have you heard any man complain about poisonous gases or fire-damp, or choke-damp? No.

436. When Doig was found, were you engaged with Mr. Turnbull in extinguishing the fire? No, not when Doig was found.

437. Were you one of those who undertook to work with Mr. Turnbull in extinguishing the fire? No. The last work I did inside of the mine was to find Doig. I can say nothing about what occurred in the mine since then.

Thomas Doig sworn and examined:—

Mr. T. Doig.
8 May, 1886.

438. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am a miner, employed at the Lithgow Valley Colliery.

439. How long have you been employed there? About four years.

440. Before that, were you working anywhere as a miner? Yes, in Newcastle, for about the same period.

441. Are you any relative of the late manager? He was my uncle.

442. Have you had any complaint to make of the quantity or quality of the ventilation in the mine? None whatever.

443. Have you ever seen any accumulation of fire-damp in this colliery? No.

444. Or of carbonic acid gas—choke-damp? I have seen what they call the black-damp.

445. When and where? I never saw it before the late fire.

446. Then you have no complaint to make as to the quality of the ventilation? No.

447. Or of any other matter connected with the working of the colliery? No; we got everything we wanted.

448. Coming to the first fire in February, what do you know about that? I went in on the Monday morning about 6 o'clock, and met a few more men, who said there were three men in the pit on the Sunday night.

449. This was before Mr. Turnbull came? Yes.

450. Where was the smoke standing in the tunnel, as near as you can tell? About 150 yards back from the furnace, below the second cross-cut.

451. How far below the second cross-cut? About 25 chains, or close on 30 chains from the tunnel mouth.

452. That would be a considerable distance down the tunnel, within 6 chains of the boiler, would it not? Yes, about that.

453. You knew that Mr. Turnbull was endeavouring to put back the smoke? Yes; I was there.

454. Do you know how far the smoke stood down the tunnel when he had given it up? Yes; it had been put back about I daresay close on 3 chains below the starting-point.

455. When you went in at 6 o'clock on the Monday morning, what did you do? We were looking for the men. I went down to what is called the top flat, below the second cross-cut, broke the stopping, and went through there; this was on the right-hand side, about the mouth, and before Mr. Turnbull came.

456. Did the air come in there? There was a little air coming in; the smoke was very thick. We went up there a considerable distance, came back again, and went into another place; then Mr. Turnbull came and started bratticing to get down; and another party went in at the cross-cut.

457. What party was that? Martin and Jack Sheedy. They found John Doig.

458. Did you go to the spot? No, I did not go to the spot where they found him.

459. Did you form part of the other search party? No, we were attending to Doig.

460. Did you take any other part in connection with the first fire? No.

461. Do you recollect the men holding a meeting? Yes.

462. Can you tell us why that meeting was held? On the Saturday morning when we came down, that is, the first time the fire was seen, we tried to open No. 35 stopping, but the black-damp was so bad we had to give it up. The men made headway for a time, but then it was concluded to close it up, and we were withdrawn. The men then went up to the office, after holding a meeting, at which an opinion was expressed that they could put out the fire, seeing they had already got close to it. They saw Mr. Gell, one of the proprietors, and told him that if they were given permission they would put out the fire. The result of this meeting was that we were allowed to proceed with the work.

463. *Mr. Curley.*] Are you speaking of what you know yourself? Yes; I was one of the parties.

464. *President.*] Were you one of those who formed a deputation to Mr. Gell? Yes.

465. Who managed the different shifts? The men themselves, I believe, and they selected their own leaders.

466. You are perfectly certain of that? Yes.

467. Did Mr. Campbell take an active part in the operations? Oh, yes, when they started.

468. Did he suggest leaders to you? I cannot say whether he suggested them, as I said, I believe the men selected them themselves.

469. And then you proceeded to work? Yes; we got down to the seat of the fire, and when we came up to Tyndall's heading we saw a mass of loose coal burning, and we took it out. There was a chain-burning by Tyndall's heading. In the main tunnel was a large fall which obstructed the ventilation. Very little air came along that direction. There was also fire about the boiler. We got right to the back of the boiler and saw fire burning there. Some stone and coal had fallen there.

470. Did you get that removed? We got to the end of the brickwork of the boiler, and that is where we branched off.

471. There was a split pillar to the left-hand of the boiler going in—do you know whether that was closed with the stopping? I do not know, I am sure.

472. Did you see fire extending to the left-hand side? Not before we broke through. When I was having a smoke in the main drive one morning, two pillars back from the boiler, I heard something crack. I pulled some of the stuff away from the stopping, and could then see a blaze through the stopping, that is No. 34. We cut the tops through, and tried to put it out, but did not succeed, and that is why we knocked off. I was not present at the accident; I knocked off at 6 o'clock that morning. As to the second accident, I heard of it at 3.10. I was between the town and the colliery going home. I returned to the colliery straight and went in.

473. Had the bodies been got out then? They had not been got out. The ones that were rescued were close to the tunnel mouth, having pulled themselves out.
474. Were the rescuing parties in the pit when you arrived? There were a few there, Mr. Campbell and others. They could not get down until they closed some stopping. The first man we came upon was Buzza, who was about 18 or 19 chains down.
475. Can you point out the spot? I do not know whether I can, as I was very much excited at the time. When we got Buzza we brought him out; and the others, I think, were found a little distance off. I helped to take Buzza out; the others were got out shortly afterwards.
476. In going down the tunnel, did you see any fire in the blown-out stoppings? No; I could see nothing but smoke.
477. Then you know nothing about the positions where the other men were found? No.
478. Is that all you can tell us about this matter? Yes.
479. Did you see any evidence of fire or flame in the tunnel when you were going down? No.
480. I think you have told us that you never saw any fire-damp in this colliery? No, I have never seen any.
481. Have you ever heard of any? No.
482. *Mr. Davies.*] I would like to be a little clearer as to the reason why you were stopped. I understand that the manager or the inspector stopped you: Was that owing to the prevalence of black-damp? I think it was on account of the black-damp, but the men were dissatisfied when a start was made to shut up the mine.
483. So far as you know, you had no idea of any danger? No; I had no idea of any danger, except it might be from the top-coal; the top could not be seen.
484. *Mr. Jones.*] Have you worked in various parts of the mine? Yes.
485. What was the usual width of the bords? Seven yards.
486. Do they ever exceed that? Yes, sometimes; they might perhaps be 8, but they were supposed to go only 7 yards.
487. Did you ever see a bord of from 12 to 13 yards? No.
488. *Mr. Curley.*] When you were down there eight or nine days ago, did you notice any fire on the left-hand side of the tunnel? No, I did not.
489. Did you notice whether any tops had fallen? No.
490. Did you notice how high the small coal was blown out? It varied. In some places you could walk in if you kept your head down; in other places you could not, because it was blown out very much.
491. Are you quite certain about that? Yes. In one or two places it took us a long time to close the stoppings up.
492. Did you ever go from the main heading into the back heading through any of these stoppings? Not before the first accident. I never went through any of these stoppings.
493. You could see through them? I could not see anything through them.
494. Did you look into them? Well, we were right in front; we must have looked right into them.
495. Did you never venture to go through? No.
496. Or see anything? No.
497. *President.*] The object of your closing the stoppings was to get down to the mine? Yes.
498. *Mr. Neilson.*] Previous to the second explosion some person found a spark of fire in one of the stoppings when it was opened out. Is it not so? Yes; that was No. 34.
499. When you got through, could you see the extent of the fire—the far end of it, I mean? We could see so far right up the bord towards the boiler; but I do not know how much further it went.

TUESDAY, 4 MAY, 1886.

Present:—

THE PRESIDENT.	Mr. SWINBURN.
Mr. USHER.	Mr. CURLEY.
Mr. THOMAS.	Mr. DAVIES.
Mr. NEILSON.	Mr. JONES.

William Hall sworn and examined:—

500. *President.*] What is your occupation, Mr. Hall? I am a miner.
501. How long have you been connected with mining? For fifty-seven years, between the old country and the Colonies.
502. How long have you been in this Colony? Thirty-one years. I first went to the diggings, but have been coal-mining since.
503. Had you a thorough knowledge of coal-mining in the old country? Yes, a thorough knowledge.
504. Where are you working now? In the Lithgow Valley mine. I was getting coal before the first accident.
505. On the Saturday before the first accident you were the last man in the pit, I think? I was the last man in the pit that night; my son was with me; he went out ahead of me.
506. What did you find on your road out? I found some smoke hanging about the top of the rock. It had got almost down to where we were at work. We were working down in the dip below the fire a long way.
507. Where did you find this smoke? I found the smoke the first shift from ours. I noticed a queer smell. It was thick at the boiler, but most dense further along; I have seen smoke there before, but never in such quantity.
508. Did you see any fire? No; and never heard of it at this place before.
509. Was the ventilation going down the engine-plane as good that Saturday night as usual? I cannot say.
510. Did you give any one notice of what you had seen? Yes; I gave notice to Passmore.
511. Had you anything to do with the rescuing of the first party? I had nothing to do with the first accident, except that I went in to help to get the men out. I did not hear of it till breakfast time, and then a lot of us went in to get the men out, and we had not got far in the headway when we found them.

Mr. W. Hall.
4 May, 1886.

Mr. W. Hall, 512. Did it strike you then that the smoke you saw had had something to do with the accident? It did after the accident occurred. John Sheedy brought Doig out, at 11 o'clock on the Monday morning. 4 May, 1886. When we got down the second time the air was stronger, and then we found the bodies of the other two men.

513. *President.*] Can you point out on the plan the position where the men were found? [Dictated by the *President.*]

The witness, on the plan being inspected, pointed to a position two pillars to the south of that pointed out by Martin as the place where Charles Younger and William Rowe were found.

514. *President.*] Was the smoke confined to the main tunnel? There was some smoke down the main tunnel. Mr. Turnbull had been putting some bratticing up there then.

515. How far did you proceed down the return air-course? I went no further than where we found the bodies of the men.

516. Did you see their lamps? I did not see their lamps; but there were two lamps hanging on William Rowe's hat. They had no oil in them, and then it was we came to the conclusion that they had lost their way.

517. How did you account for the bodies lying dead in a portion of the mine without smoke, and where other persons could live? The smoke had been there. When the first party went down it was full, but that was before the bratticing had been put up.

518. You felt no effect of choke-damp when you put your head down? Not when we fetched the men out.

519. Did you work at the re-opening of the mine? Yes; we were not satisfied at the mine being closed up, and we applied ourselves to try to get the fire out.

520. You have had long experience in collieries, and you knew that this mine was full of smoke and poisonous gas; you knew that Doig, Younger, and Rowe had been killed by inhaling poisonous gas; and that the mine had become so full of this gas that it was thought fit to abandon operations: Now, when you made a requisition to the owners to be allowed to re-open the mine for the purpose of attempting to put out the fire, did you keep before yourself the fact that there was danger in the work? No; I did not think there was danger, if we kept the air along with us.

521. Did you keep in mind the nature of your employment, as a man of experience? Yes.

522. You knew what you were doing, and going to attempt to do? Oh, yes; I was aware of what I was doing myself.

523. Supposing that any accident had happened to you in the discharge of your duty, were you willing to take the risk of that? Yes; I was myself. I was determined to keep myself safe.

524. Had you plenty of material supplied to you for carrying on the operations? Yes; we had everything we wanted.

525. The fact that there was an underground fire, was that a proof in your mind that gas did not exist? I am sure there is no gas in that coal.

526. Have you ever tried for gas? Yes; I have tried with my lamp, but never found any trace of it.

527. During your operations, did the inspectors and owners and managers pay you frequent visits? Yes, every day. They frequently warned us also not to place ourselves in the slightest danger.

528. From your experience in the old country, in the case of an accident from an explosion or other cause, have you ever seen a management more anxious for the safety of the men than the owners of the Lithgow Valley Colliery were for your safety in this mine? No; I never saw better people for doing their duty to the men.

529. And about the inspectors—you have seen many of them no doubt—did you think the inspectors did their duty? Yes; I believe so, certainly.

530. Did they share your dangers with you? Yes; I have seen Mr. Rowan come right in with us frequently. He repeatedly told us to be careful, and generally looked after our safety.

531. Were you on shift when the second accident occurred? No; I was on the shift before; I was coming on the shift to relieve these men.

532. Were you satisfied with the ventilation of this mine? I was satisfied that so far as we went we had plenty of air. I never complained, and never had cause to complain. I have worked in other collieries in Lithgow. The ventilation is much the same there.

533. Have you ever seen explosive gas in the district of Lithgow? No.

534. Do you know how the stoppings are constructed? Yes; they are composed of slack.

535. Do you consider them sufficient? No; I do not consider slack stoppings are sufficient.

536. But do they answer their purpose? I have always been used to brick stoppings at Home.

537. However, if these stoppings are carefully put in, do they answer their purpose? Yes.

538. Have you seen the effects of an explosion of gas in the old country? Yes; I have been in it.

539. *Mr. Davies.*] Where was that Mr. Hall? In the Farm Pit, Staffordshire.

540. *President.*] Have you ever seen the bodies of men killed by an explosion of gas? Yes.

541. What appearance do they present? I have seen the bodies roasted and the hair burnt off. I have had my own hair burnt several times.

542. Did you see the bodies of your unfortunate companions in this late accident? Yes.

543. What opinion did you form as to the cause of their death? I thought they were smothered by black-damp.

544. Did you think they had been killed by flames? No. I believe that the black-damp was blown upon them through the stoppings, in consequence of something that had happened in the mine.

545. After having had time to think over it, Mr. Hall, what do you think was the cause of the fire in this mine? I think it came from the boiler somewhere.

546. *Mr. Davies.*] You say you have been in an explosion yourself, Mr. Hall? Yes.

547. Have you not seen men who have been in an explosion without their hair being singed at all? Yes.

548. *President.*] That is from after-damp. Was the ventilation after this accident like what you would expect after an explosion? No.

549. *Mr. Thomas.*] Did those men look as if they were asleep? Yes, just like that.

550. *Mr. Davies.*] Have you had any conversation with Mr. Wilton this last day or two as to the evidence you are giving here to-day? No; I never had a talk with Mr. Wilton about anything.

551. The statements you have made emanate entirely from yourself? Yes, entirely from myself, from my own knowledge. I have never been taught by anyone. 552.

Walter Riddle sworn and examined:—

552. *President.*] You are a miner? Yes.

553. Where were you last employed? In the Lithgow Valley Colliery. I was there for fourteen months, and about the same time in the Vale of Clwydd.

554. When did you last work in the Lithgow Valley Colliery? On the night before the first accident happened, Saturday night; I was working past the boiler; I left work about 5.45 p.m.; coming out towards the main tunnel I observed smoke; it became thicker towards the furnace; it was travelling with the air, and was very thick at the boiler; when we got past the boiler there was hardly any at all.

555. Did you go to the boiler? No. We thought there was something wrong, and, personally, I thought there must be a fire in behind the boiler. I thought so because that was where the smoke came from.

556. Had you any reason to suspect that the place was dangerous before that? No; I had never been behind the boiler, and had never heard of a fire occurring there before.

557. Are you quite sure of that? Yes.

558. When you came out of the mouth of the mine, did you report to anyone? No; except that we told the man who was standing outside. The manager was not there, he had gone home.

559. Did you follow him home? No; we told Younger, that was the man.

560. Did you not tell anyone else? No; it did not strike us that anything very serious had happened. I first heard of something seriously wrong on Sunday at 5 o'clock. I proceeded to work again on the Monday evening. I did not know that Doig had been killed; he was brought out before I knew.

561. Have you had any experience of fire-damp or choke-damp? No.

562. Had you any reason to complain of the ventilation of this colliery? No.

563. Were you engaged at the operations that followed the events of 14th February? No; I did not go in any more. I am not working at the mine now. That is all I know about it.

564. Do you know if there is any difference between the mode of working the Lithgow Valley Colliery and that employed in the Vale of Clwydd? No; I believe there is not any difference. The width of boring and the size of the pillars are the same, and the stoppings and ventilation are equally good.

565. Were copies of the different rules distributed among the men? No; they were put up at the tunnel mouth.

Mr.
W. Riddle.
4 May, 1886

John Davies sworn and examined:—

566. *President.*] What is your business, Mr. Davies? A miner.

567. How long have you been a miner, and where? I have been thirty years a miner, between this Colony and the old country.

568. Where have you been engaged at Home? In Rhondda, in South Wales, and Cwm Avon.

569. How long have you been in this Colony? Eight years last December.

570. Where have you been working since you arrived in this Colony? I have worked in Newcastle; then a few months at gold-mining; and then I came to Lithgow.

571. In what collieries have you worked since your arrival? I have only worked in Lithgow Valley mine.

572. Have you ever been down any of the other collieries at Lithgow? I have been working in Lithgow Valley for six years.

573. Were you engaged in coal-getting? Yes.

574. Had you any charge? No, I had no charge.

575. You have had considerable experience as a miner at Home. Have you had any experience of explosive gas? Well, yes. I have been nearly all my life-time at work where there was gas. We had to use safety-lamps.

576. That is, you are skilled in the discrimination of explosive gas called fire-damp? Yes.

577. During the whole of the years that you have been engaged in the Lithgow Valley mine, have you seen any appearance of fire-damp? No.

578. You are perfectly certain? Yes, and I have tried for it many times.

579. What induced you to try? Just for my own satisfaction.

580. Did you suspect that fire-damp was present? No, I did not. I wanted to test the thing, and then I was more satisfied. About six months after I started here, I was in one part of the workings, and I thought to myself, "I wonder if there is any gas here," and I made the trial with a naked light, but I could see no sign of anything in the shape of gas. I tried a number of times.

581. During the time that you have been employed in Lithgow Valley mine, have you ever seen any smoke in the workings? No, I never saw any smoke, not before the first accident.

582. Not in the main tunnel? Well, in the morning sometimes we saw a little sign of it by the boiler, but not in the workings.

583. At the boiler, where there any tops taken down? Not by the boiler—it was up the tunnel about half a chain.

584. Did you see smoke hanging about the boiler like a cloud? No.

585. Or lower down the tunnel? No.

586. Suppose that smoke was hanging about the main tunnel where the tops were taken down, or about the boiler, where would that smoke be eventually taken to? When the skips would start to work it would be cleared away with the current of air.

587. That is, the suction of the skips when in motion would produce an air-current? Yes.

588. Was there usually a good strong current of air in the tunnel? Yes, there was a strong current of air.

589. Did it make an impression on the flame of your lamps? Yes; I have had my lamp put out scores of times.

590. Then how do you account, as a practical and experienced miner, for the smoke lying in the tunnel in the mornings? After the boiler was damped down at night a little of it would work its way out of the furnace-doors.

591. The point I want to bring to you, Mr. Davies, is this: The main tunnel was the main in-take? Yes.

592. Then how do you account for the smoke going against the ventilating current, and lodging here above the boiler? Well, there being no break in the roof, the smoke or gas would work back.

Mr. J. Davies.
4 May, 1886.

Mr. J. Davies, 593. What, against the current? Yes; because it follows the bottom more than the top.

594. On a Monday morning, was it your custom to go early into the mine? I would go in about half-past 4 May, 1886. 5 o'clock.

595. Was the air as free on Monday mornings as other mornings? I never saw any difference.

596. In the working places, was the ventilation sufficient? Yes, in all the places where I have been working there was; of course in some places there would not be so much as others.

597. Did you ever have any conversation with the manager about the question of ventilation? No.

598. Did you ever make any complaint to the manager as to the amount of ventilation? Well, at one time about the stoppings, that they ought to be filled up; but that was nothing, as we had sufficient air. I only mentioned it because I could see what was wanted to be done.

599. At the time when you called the manager's attention to the stoppings, were you in any apprehension of danger? No.

600. Did you ever observe any choke-damp in the workings? No; I never found any.

601. Have you ever travelled the returns? Not all of it; I have travelled some part of it.

602. Did you see any choke-damp there? No, never.

603. Then we are to understand that you have never made a complaint about the ventilation. I suppose if there had been an insufficiency of ventilation you would have complained? Certainly; I should complain to the manager, or the underground boss.

604. Now, about this underground boiler you have incidentally mentioned—have you ever examined it? No; I have not examined it much. I have been several times at it, and was round at the left-hand side.

605. Have you observed any accumulation of small coal on the left-hand side? Yes, there was a body of small coal there.

606. What was the object of putting small coal there? For one thing, they had been cutting some part of the top-coal away, and a little bit of the bottom had been lifted, and the coal was shifted to one side.

607. How did you gain access to the left-hand side? So far as I remember, we used to have a long wire, and pass it through with a brush attached to the end of it. I believe I went in to give Passmore a hand.

608. Then tell us how that operation was accomplished—did you put the wire in in front, and draw it towards the boiler? I think he used to put it in the front, and I would draw the wire across towards the main tunnel, right through.

609. Was it drawn right through the fire-grate? So far as I know, but I cannot say positively.

610. Coming to the front of the boiler,—there was a brick building across the front of it, we understand? Yes, level with the front of the boiler, and there was another one close to the roof. There was a bit of a door through which to get behind the boiler, but whether it was of wood or canvas I cannot remember.

611. Have you ever heard of any fire occurring at this boiler previous to the serious fire of February? Yes; I forget how long ago, but there was a bit of a fire there.

612. Was it months or years before this accident; you can tell that, I suppose? I believe it was about eight or nine weeks before the accident. I did not see it. Passmore told me there was a bit of a fire there, and I heard some of the men talking about it; they did not say much. I asked Passmore if he put the fire out, and he replied that he had. I said, "You had better see that the fire is out, or it might bring you into trouble;" and he said, "I am quite sure of it."

613. Then you, as a cautious man, predicted danger from that fire? Yes.

614. Were you quite satisfied when he informed you that the fire was out? Yes.

615. Was Passmore a reliable man, in your opinion; could you rely upon his word? Yes, so far as I had seen of him, you could rely upon his word. I never could find anything wrong with the man.

616. Was Mr. Doig a reliable man, so far as you could see? He was.

617. Did Mr. Doig and Passmore show an interest in the safety of the men? Yes. I have no complaint to make of the management.

618. Did you consider it a dangerous mine to work in? No, it was, in my opinion, one of the safest mines that I ever worked in.

619. Was the roof a good roof? Yes. In some places it was a bit heavy, but we used to put timber in then.

620. Comparing it with the mines you have worked in at Home, you considered it a safe one to work in? Yes, certainly. There was much more danger attached to the operations of mining in the old country where I have worked.

621. Have you ever paid attention to the stoppings of this mine? Yes; I have noticed them several times. They were composed of slack.

622. Is that the usual way to put up stoppings in coal-mines? In this country, yes. But in most places where I have worked the stoppings were made of stone or brick—that was where there was gas.

623. Were the stoppings used in Lithgow Valley mine made air-tight? Well, I do not think they ever could have been quite air-tight, because the material would slacken from the roof a little.

624. Is it a bad practice to let a little air go through the stoppings—do you know whether it is good mining to ventilate the waste? I am not well acquainted with English. [The question was put in Welsh.] *Witness.* I do not think so.

625. *President.* What was the last day you worked in the mine before the accident? Before the first accident I was working between No. 1 and No. 2 cross-cuts.

626. Were you working on the Saturday? Yes.

627. When did you come out of the mine? I hardly know—I was on the back shift.

628. When did you first hear of the accident? On the Monday morning. I did hear on the Sunday night that Passmore had come home bad, and I went to see what was the matter. He was in bed, and he told me that something came over him by the flue, and that he was so bad that he could scarcely travel home. He also told me that there was so much smoke in the tunnel that he could not go down. Then he went to the flue, and there was smoke going up, or something.

629. Did that surprise you? Yes, I was surprised.

630. Did you form any opinion as to where this smoke came from? No, I could not do that.

631. Did Passmore give you any opinion as to what was the cause of this? No.

632. What did you do on the Monday morning? I went down to the pit; there were a few men there, and just as I was going to enter the tunnel two or three men came out and said it was full of smoke.

633. Who were these men? George Hopkins was one, and I cannot say whether Norwood was one of them or not. Then I thought of John Doig, and told one of the men to run over to Mr. Younger's and see if he was at home. We made up our minds that he must be in the mine. Mr. Campbell was there at the time, and James Doig. Then we thought to work the "set-in" to restore the ventilation. We started the engine and felt the rope drag; we could not work it. We then rushed into the main tunnel, down to the smoke.

Mr. J. Davies.
4 May, 1886.

634. Was it the tail-rope that got tight? Yes. Well, we went in as far as we could, and began to open one or two of the stoppings on the side of the tunnel, but we soon saw that we were doing wrong, and we closed them up again, and went out. We talked about going for Mr. Turnbull, and some of the men went to Mr. Gell.

635. Did you form one of the rescuing parties? Yes. We went in search of Doig and his party. We proceeded into No. 2 cross-cut, and opened up the first bord on the left-hand to the cross-cut, leading into a bord running parallel with and to the south of the tunnel.

636. What was your object in opening up a stopping that had never been opened up before? We thought, as the smoke was so thick in the main tunnel, that by opening up the stopping we could take the smoke to the first floor, and make that an air-course.

637. Well, proceed. What did you do? We worked our way down till we came to Mr. Turnbull, who had a brattice, and within a few minutes after this the cry was that they had found Doig.

638. A party of rescuers had preceded you? Yes.

639. Well, what did you do then? I went out.

640. And that finished what you had to do with the first accident? Yes.

641. Then the mine was closed up; is that so? Yes, a day or two after that, and it remained closed for some time.

642. And then it was re-opened, and operations commenced for restoring the ventilation and putting out the fire? Yes, it was re-opened. They thought the fire was out.

643. Did you work in the mine after the opening? Yes, the whole of the time.

644. During this time, Mr. Davies, did the proprietors, Mr. Wilton and Mr. Gell, visit you? Oh, yes they were there.

645. Did they show anxiety for your safety? Yes; they were there during my shift. They told us to be careful, and look after ourselves.

646. They cautioned you not to run any risk? Yes.

647. Just about this time, or rather before, did you hear that someone had pulled down a stopping in the main tunnel? No; I never heard of or saw it.

648. At the time when it was resolved to close up the mine, did the men hold a meeting? On the Saturday morning a number of men were on the top of the pit, and we were talking about the possibility of putting out the fire.

649. You did not want to be daunted? No. So we went to the Company's office, and we told Mr. Gell that we believed we could put the fire out if they would provide us with material. I was one of those who went. Mr. Gell thanked us for our sympathy. He said he was going to see the inspectors.

650. What means did you intend to take to extinguish the fire? We thought to brattice up with canvas, make the stoppings secure, and then, by carrying the air down with us as close as possible to the fire, we thought to put a pump on the flat, and put the fire out that way. Some of us knew that there was plenty of water in the swallow.

651. Did you think you were likely to run any danger? No.

652. Do you know the effect of choke-damp upon the human system? I never proved it upon myself.

653. If there was any danger attending the opening up of this mine, were you prepared to take the risk of that danger when you went to Mr. Gell? Well, I could not see any danger if we were allowed to have our own way, because we would carry the fresh air with us.

654. But supposing danger to exist, whatever danger there was, were you prepared to take the risk? Well, I ran the same risk with the others, but I could not see any danger.

655. A hundred and one things might have occurred that no man could foresee? Oh, yes.

656. Very well, the consent for you to make the trial was given, and did you carry the air down with you? Yes; we carried it right to the fire.

657. Did you get all the material you required from the owners? Yes, we got everything we wanted.

658. You continued these operations on for some time—can you say how long before the accident? No, I cannot say.

659. Do you know the date when you resumed operations? No, I cannot say.

660. Were you on shift when the accident occurred—that is the second accident? No. My shift was from 12 o'clock midnight till 6 a.m.

661. When the shift came within sight of the fire, where did you think the fire was located—did it seem to you to be on the right or left hand side of the tunnel? So far as I could see, it was just in the centre of the tunnel.

662. What was burning there? We could not see that, but we saw two flames.

663. Did you ever get up to that? Yes, when we carried the brattice on. The fire was opposite the boiler.

664. Did you see a fire burning in a pillar a few yards up the left-hand side of the tunnel from the boiler? Oh, yes, the last few shifts I did—on Sunday and Monday mornings.

665. You saw a fire there? Yes, in the pillars on the left-hand side.

666. Did you see the fire on the outside or the inside? On the inside, working out towards the tunnel.

667. Did you see this through a stopping? Yes. It was on Sunday morning. I had been on by the boiler, and had come out for a spell, when I heard something roaring at No. 35 stopping. Kirkwood was there. So we looked down, and we saw the bit of the flame at the bottom of the pillar. The stopping was on fire, and working out towards the tunnel.

668. You could see from the stopping into the bord? Yes.

669. Did the fire seem to extend up towards the mouth of the tunnel? Yes. I made a bit of a hole, and looking through it we could see the fire flaming up towards the north.

670. Well, Mr. Davies, was that fall in the main tunnel, in front of the boiler, a heavy fall? Yes; I could see that heavy rock and tops of coal had fallen away, but I could not see the roof for the sulphur and smoke.

671. Did you direct your operations to the removal of the debris? Yes; it was in my shift.

672.

- Mr. J. Davies. 672. What effect would that heavy fall in the main tunnel have upon the ventilation? So far as I could see, it would stop it altogether.
- 4 May, 1886. 673. After the fire had taken place, when you came to Tyndall's heading, were the stoppings there intact—tight I mean? There was only one stopping in Tyndall's heading, so far as I could see, and when I went close to it I found it tight.
674. What was it formed of? Slack.
675. Was there any timber? No, I did not see that, but I believe Campbell told me there was timber there.
676. Have you ever seen an explosion of fire-damp? Yes.
677. What is the effect of it—do you hear a report? Yes, there would be a report and a flash of light. I have experienced it in Wales. I was thrown down before the flame.
678. And did it pass over you? It threw me right before it till I came to the air-course, and when I passed the air-course the flame was done.
679. Have you seen the bodies of men who have been killed by fire-damp? Yes.
680. What appearance did they present? I have seen them with the skin burnt off, and all their hair singed.
681. Did you see the bodies of the unfortunate men who were killed by this accident—did you see the bodies of Doig, for instance, or Younger? I saw Doig just before he died.
682. Did he present the appearance of a man who had been killed by an explosion? No.
683. Did you see the bodies of any of the victims to the second accident? I saw the bodies of Lance, Allison, and Rawe.
684. Did Rawe appear to have died from the effects of an explosion? No.
685. What do you think was the cause of his death? I would fancy that his death was caused by black-damp.
686. Have you ever seen the body of a man killed from black-damp in the old country? I have seen one, that is all.
687. What appearance did the body present? Very much like that presented by the body of Tom Rawe.
688. Did you see Allison's body? Yes.
689. What appearance did it present? Well, Allison seemed to be a bit burnt. His moustache was a little burnt, but there was no sign of burning at the back of his head.
690. He had bruises about the face, had he not? Yes.
691. How would you account for Allison's appearance? Well, I should think he had fallen into a fire. If he had been in an explosion his hair would have been burnt back and front.
692. Were his clothes burnt in any way? I did not take much notice.
693. Was his body burnt at all? His left arm looked as if it had been burnt.
694. Well, Mr. Davies, towards the last shifts that you worked in the tunnel near the boiler, did you hear of any falls occurring in the gob (waste)? I did not hear any falls there. At about 4 o'clock on Monday morning—the last shift—the canvas door we had put across No. 35 stopping blew out, and the heat came out.
695. Did you hear any noise before it was blown out? No, except a slight noise from the canvas.
696. Was there any light put out? No, I think not.
697. Did any gas come out? No, only a body of heat.
698. Were the Government Inspectors present during your operations, and did they remain for any length of time? They were sometimes in longer than I was myself.
699. Who attended most regularly, was it Mr. Rowan or Mr. Mackenzie? Both were in, but Mr. Rowan was in most.
700. Did he give you any assistance? [The question put in Welsh.] Yes. He was there looking after us, and he was very cautious not to let us run into any danger.
701. Then you have no complaint to make against Mr. Rowan or Mr. Mackenzie? Oh, no; not at all. I consider they were doing their best.
702. Mr. Thomas.] Have you ever worked in a pit (in Wales) where you dare use a naked lamp? Oh, yes; but that was when I was a boy, at Cwm Aron; we worked there with a naked candle, and used to test the gas with a naked candle. [Several questions put in Welsh.]
703. Mr. Curley.] What was the number of shifts you worked, say at the second accident, from the time of commencing until this last disaster took place? I cannot remember exactly. I was three weeks at night shift, and it may be a day or two, or perhaps three.
704. How many hours were the shifts? Four shifts in twenty-four hours.
705. Can you say who had principal charge of these shifts? No, I cannot.
706. Who had charge of the shift you were on? I had.
707. Are you employed in the Lithgow Valley mine now? Yes.
708. What position do you occupy now? Well, I was doing brick-work last week.
709. Mr. Curley.] You have had some experience at Home in fiery mines; had you not an idea that there was some very serious danger in connection with the fire in the opening out of this mine? No, I could not see it, if we carried the air-current down with us.
710. But you know from experience that it takes a certain quantity of pure air to produce an explosion? Yes. But after the test being made with a safety-lamp, I could see no danger, so long as we kept air with us, and kept the black-damp away.
711. Had you a safety-lamp? No, none of my shift had, but I heard that some one had tested with a safety-lamp.
712. Are you aware whether any attempt was made to discover gas during your shift, either by yourself, the inspector, or anybody else? No. I do not remember.
713. President.] You have already told us that you have tested the workings for gas? Yes; that was some time ago.
714. Mr. Curley.] The question I am asking is whether, after it was decided to re-open this mine, any attempt was made by the inspector, or any one else, to discover gas by means of a safety-lamp? Not with a safety-lamp.

715. *President.*] With any other lamp? Yes.

716. *Mr. Jones.*] You have stated that you did not anticipate any danger; but did you accept whatever risk there might be from a possible accident? Yes.

717. *President.*] Were you satisfied that the owners, inspectors, and managers did everything that man could do to ensure your safety? Yes; they could not have done more.

Mr.
J. Davies.
4 May, 1886.

Henry Grant sworn and examined:—

718. *President.*] What is your occupation, Mr. Grant? I have been a miner all my life.

719. Where have you been employed? I was employed in Lanarkshire, Scotland.

720. And how long in this Colony? Seven years. I worked for a few weeks in the Eskbank, and then I came to Lithgow Valley. I was working as a dayman, and attending to the little engine at the underground boiler.

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H. Grant.
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721. Was it your duty to visit the working-face? No.

722. Have you ever seen fire-damp in any of the mines you have worked in? Yes. I was working at Moss End, 10 miles from Glasgow. I have had experience of fire-damp in the old country.

723. Have you ever experienced it in the Lithgow Valley Colliery? No, never. From what I have seen, I should say that black-damp was present; but certainly no fire-damp.

724. Where would the black-damp be? In a part of the old workings.

725. Have you ever heard of fire-damp being seen in the Lithgow Valley workings? No, I never have heard of such a thing.

726. Did you ever put up any stoppings? I have occasionally, when I have been sent for.

727. Did you put them up carefully? Yes. We made them as tight as we could in the ordinary way. Sometimes they would shrink a little, and if we saw them draw air we would return and make them tight again.

728. Did you think them efficient stoppings? Well, I never saw slack stoppings till I came here.

729. What sort of stoppings did you see elsewhere? Brick stoppings.

730. But did these slack stoppings answer their purpose—was the ventilation sufficient? I was not often in the face; I can only speak of the main roads.

731. However, you were careful to make them as tight as you could? Yes.

732. Was Doig very particular on that point? So far as my knowledge allows me to judge, I think he was very particular on that point.

733. You say you attended to the underground boiler and engine? Yes, at night. I was engaged pumping the water.

734. How was the boiler built? It was placed in the centre of a bord, and enclosed by a brick building.

735. Was the coal pillar protected by brickwork? No.

736. What did the pavement consist of? A portion of it was coarse coal 18 inches thick.

737. Was the floor taken up under the boiler? Not that I am aware of; I cannot say.

738. But you can speak of that part in front of the boiler—was it taken out where you cleaned the fire? No; it was not cut away to the rock. The coarse coal was not raised.

739. Well, in front of the boiler, was there a brick building? Yes, from pillar to pillar.

740. How many feet of a passage existed between the left-hand side of the boiler and the coal pillar on that side? About 8 or 9 inches.

741. How did you get access to that side of the boiler? A bit of screen cloth protected it.

742. Was there any close and air-tight building between the boiler and the tunnel? The boiler was protected by two walls.

743. When you came to the boiler down the tunnel, you raised this screen to get there? Yes, there was a screen.

744. In raising this screen, and coming to the side of the boiler, was there an accumulation of small coal there? Yes, a portion was fallen off. It was not removed in my time.

745. Where did the flues of the furnace commence? They commenced from the back of the boiler, and took the smoke direct from the fire into the old workings. They were about 14 or 15 yards long, I think.

746. How did you clean these flues? We had some wire about as thick as a pencil, to which was attached some bush, and this was pulled through from the back and returned again.

747. Did you ever, from curiosity or duty, travel the return road when cleaning these pipes? No. I was only too glad to get out on account of the smoke and heat.

748. How were these fire-clay pipes supported? They were held up by iron rails.

749. What was lying on the pavement? A sort of small coal and soot.

750. Would small provocation raise a fire there? Yes. I have seen it at this spot twice. There was no flame though. The fire was always put out, as we had plenty of water. I do not know how long ago it is that these fires happened. I saw one six or seven months before this accident happened, and I heard of one six or seven weeks before the accident.

751. Then you have heard of one fire and known two to have occurred yourself, that makes three fires under these fire-clay pipes? Yes.

752. Was this boiler divided at one time by a cut-through? Yes; there was a place where Mr. Doig once took us to take coal out for the furnaces.

753. Was that in the corner of the boiler, just between the corner and the main tunnel? Yes.

754. Was the pillar to the left-hand side split with a cut-through? I do not know; I never went down that way—that is, I never went that side of the pipes.

755. Have you seen smoke hanging about at the furnace? Yes, but I cannot say how it came there.

756. Are you aware whether the left-hand furnace that took the air was kept going at night? It was damped down at night.

757. That is, on Saturday night it would be damped down, and the boiler was also damped down? Yes.

758. Supposing a fire had occurred anywhere in the vicinity of that boiler, from any cause, on Saturday night, when would it be noticed? That I cannot say. I arrived at 5.25 on Saturday morning, and never knew about anything occurring. I was not back until the Monday morning—that was when I heard of the accident.

- Mr. H. Grant. 759. Supposing, Mr. Grant, that the main current of air was from any cause directed into the boiler, and at the same time small coal below these flues was smouldering, what would be the effect of the fresh air rushing in? It would have the effect of kindling it.
- 4 May, 1886. 760. Did the construction of that boiler ever raise doubts in your mind as to its safety? Well, in any other underground boiler that I have seen in the old country all the top-coal was taken down to the rock, but in this instance I trusted to its being surrounded by water.
761. Do you consider that these flues (the return air-course) were selected and arranged with a due regard to safety—should not the small coal have been taken out from below these pipes? Well, if they had been properly cleaned out the smouldering would not have occurred.
762. Quite so. But supposing you had been manager, and your attention had been directed to such a smouldering as you have mentioned, would it not have occurred to you to remove that small coal to prevent another such fire occurring? Yes. If I had been "boss" I would have had it removed.
763. Would you also have cleared out the accumulation of small coal round and about the boiler? Yes.
764. Would you have taken down the tops? Yes, that certainly ought to have been done.
765. Above these fire-clay pipes, was the top-coal hanging? Yes.
766. Well, supposing the top-coal had broken away in this place from the effects of heat, what would have been the probable effect? It might have taken fire.
767. Do you think it would have been reasonable to suppose in connection with the late accident that something like this did occur? I cannot say that exactly, because everything was right when I was there.
768. What width was the bord that the flues went through? Fourteen feet, I think.
769. Were any of the tops down at all? A portion of the tops were down where they travelled in to inspect the flues.
770. But I understand you to say that above the fireclay pipes none of the tops were taken down? No, it was all coal.
771. Were the tops supported by timber in the flues? I was never there.
772. Did any portion of the tops break away? Not in my time.
773. Did you consider that this was a perfectly safe boiler? No, I did not consider it a safe boiler, owing to its close proximity to the roof and the quantity of steam and heat generated.
774. *Mr. Neilson.*] Concerning the flue in the old bord where the smoke used to go away, has that place ever been cleared of soot? No, I believe not.
775. *President.*] Were you one of those who took part in rescuing the men Doig, Younger, and Rowe? Yes, I was there, and formed one of the exploring party. Martin was also one. I turned down No. 2 cross-cut to the right, and the men were found 12 or 13 yards off the first cross-cut.
776. Did you follow the air in going down to Younger and Rowe? Yes; the ventilation seemed to be pretty well restored. They were lying clear of smoke and damp.
777. Are you certain as to the position where they were found? Martin is quite positive in his statement as to where he found Doig, and traced with his finger on the plan to a point below No. 2 cross-cut; he pointed to a place considerably below—that is, to the east of No. 2 cross-cut. Do you still say it was not below, but above No. 2 cross-cut? The two that I saw lying there were above the cross-cut, but Doig was below.
778. The first cross-cut is a few yards below the right-hand furnace? Yes. [At this stage reference was made to the plan.] Dictated by the President: I am still of opinion that Younger and Rowe were found between the No. 1 and No. 2 cross-cuts, and not in the position indicated by Martin and Hall.
779. Did you take any other part in the operations at the mine? No, not then.
780. After Doig and Younger and Rowe were found, what did you do about the mine? I was put on to attend the furnace.
781. When was that? Just after they opened up the mine the last time.
782. Was the left-hand furnace kept going? Yes, at last it was; it was the right-hand furnace that I attended to.
783. Did you attend shift on and shift off until the accident occurred? Yes; I was there during the day-time between 8 o'clock in the morning and 4 o'clock in the afternoon.
784. Were you on duty at the time the last accident occurred? Yes.
785. How were you apprised of that accident? I was sitting on the road at the right-hand furnace, and I never rightly knew where I was until I looked up and found I was lying up against the drum at the mouth of the mine. I was sitting on some bricks at the place I have stated, when a rush of wind came and carried me out. A young fellow was there at the time, and he saw me.
786. Is there not a gate or fence near the mouth of the mine, Mr. Grant? Yes, the fence was up.
787. Is that not of a permanent character? It is only a slight structure; one-half was kept shut.
788. How do you account for the fence not being blown away? I cannot say as to that.
789. Do you think it possible for a person of your size and weight to have been shot along a distance of 100 yards by such a rush of wind? Well, I thought it was nigh on to that distance.
790. Then, supposing that you had been blown 100 yards out of a tunnel and through these gates, over rollers and over rails, and beyond this again 50 or 60 yards in the open air, how do you account for having escaped without considerable bruises or broken bones? I was shaken a great deal.
791. Do you think it possible that a man could be blown out of a mine through gates and up the open cut without an injury. You know one-half of the gate is always kept shut? I know; I struck my head against it.
792. Would not such a blast have blown the gates off? Well, I got plenty, and that is all I can say.
793. What I want to know, Mr. Grant, is, after considering the matter calmly, do you think it was possible? Certainly I do. I know you think I am telling you a story.
794. No, but I think you are deceiving yourself? No, I don't think I am. Jim Rowe was just the same way, and the boy was just the same. Jim Rowe had been sitting with me on those bricks when the blast came, and he said he was tossed over to the other side. As soon as I came to myself I ran for the furnace-door, and having got it open the smoke was coming back again; and when we went to the left-hand furnace-door we found the small coal had been forced up against it, and we could not get it open. After that I assisted to get out the dead men.
795. What space of time intervened? So far as I can learn, about half an hour. I had looked at my watch a few minutes before that, and it was then just a quarter past 3.

796. Then your watch was not damaged at all when you were blown out of the mine? No; I had it kept in a little box; it was not damaged at all, and was still going.
797. Neither you nor your watch were injured? Well, I have been pretty bad since; the doctor says my system was shaken.
798. You are sure you did not run a portion of this distance? No, I did not run; I was blown out, and fell on my side.
799. Was the furnace still burning when you got back? It was scattered all over; I got it right in about a quarter of an hour; I had Jack Sheedy to assist me.
800. Was the fire completely blown out of the grate? It was all out and driven all over the place; we put it in with shovels.
801. *Mr. Neilson.*] You are quite sure that the force of the blow was going up the tunnel, and that you were blown to that distance? Yes.
802. Which way was the air going at the furnace? Whenever I got the door shut it took the draught, and the air went down.
803. You were perfectly satisfied that you had the two doors shut at the left and right hand furnaces, and the current of air was restored at once? Oh, yes, sir.
804. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Where were you sitting when this explosion took place, or whatever you term it? I was sitting on some bricks close to the door of the furnace, on the side of the main tunnel.
805. *Mr. Neilson.*] You said that the whole of the fire was blown out—was it blown out at the front or the back? It was driven to the back, and front, and sides.
806. Where did you find the live coal? All along the front it was smashed up, and we put it in with the shovel.
807. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Can you account for some of the fire being at the front and some at the back? The blast would lift it to one side.
808. *Mr. Curley.*] You have stated here that had you been manager you would have fixed that boiler differently; did you ever suggest to the manager the propriety of making some alteration? No. My own opinion is that the top should be taken down for greater security; but it would not be my place to make such suggestions when the manager could see for himself.
809. Did you ever suggest anything of this kind to the Inspector of Collieries? No, sir; I know my place.
810. Then you knew of your own knowledge, and from your past experience, that this was likely to be a source of danger, and knowing this you still thought it was unnecessary to report such a thing to the inspector? I did not report it to the inspector because I had no right to interfere with another man's duties; if I had not been pleased with it myself I could have left it.
811. Then you were pleased with it? Yes, it was my work; I never saw Mr. Rowan, or any of them, when I was there.
812. *Mr. Curley.*] Did you notice whether any of these ashes accumulated at the furnace were strewn about? I do not know whether I had any ashes in my head at the time; I paid little attention.
813. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Did you observe any flame or light when the rush of air came? No; it was only just a mass of smoke and dust.
814. Can you assign any reason for this? No. I never was down beyond the furnace. I know no more about that than yourself.

Charles Norwood sworn and examined:—

815. *President.*] What is your calling, Mr. Norwood? I am a miner.
816. Where have you worked in the Colony? I have only worked in the Lithgow Valley mine; I have worked there for six years.
817. Do you know anything about fire-damp or choke-damp? I have worked a little in fire-damp at Home, but I never saw it in Lithgow Valley.
818. Where did you work in the old country? In the county Durham.
819. Have you ever seen explosive gas? Yes; I have seen it burn a man; I was working next to him at the time.
820. Well, did you consider the Lithgow Valley pit a safe one to work in? I did.
821. Had you any fault to find with the management of the mine, in connection with the character of the working; as to the size of the pillars, for instance, and the width of the bords, and the class of stoppings? No, I had no fault to find in any way.
822. Have you ever worked to the left-hand of the tunnel? Yes.
823. Do you know of any reported encroachment upon Eskbank? No, but I have heard something of it.
824. Have you ever heard of or seen any pillaring in the workings to the left-hand of the tunnel? No, I have never heard of any being taken out to the left or the right either, but it might have taken place without my knowing.
825. Have you ever inspected the underground boiler? No.
826. Did you ever hear of an underground fire having occurred there before February? Yes, but I did not see it.
827. Did the fact raise any fears in your mind as to the safety of the mine? No, it did not.
828. Where were you when the first accident happened? I was at home; I left home about half-past 4 in the morning. When I went into the mine I was met by the smoke; I was with Hopkins at the time, and after staying there a little while we retreated. We then went into No. 2 cross-cut; three men were supposed to be in there, as we had been informed by Martin that he left them at 2 o'clock, and it was thought they were somewhere in the cross-cut; we went on as far as Tyndall's heading, but the damp or smoke took effect upon us and we returned; we then went down the tunnel again, and fell in with Campbell and another man; Campbell asked me if I would go in again to find the men, and I did so accordingly, after breaking a stopping, but I lost the use of my legs and was carried out.
829. Did you take any other part in these operations? Not in the least.
830. After the stopping was removed from the mouth of the tunnel, were you employed as a worker to extinguish the fire? Yes; I went on my own account.
831. You worked for some time, until you saw the fire burning, when something occurred which determined the owners to close up the mine, and we have heard that the miners then held a meeting and came to

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- to some resolution; what do you know about that? I cannot say much about it, as I was not there; I have heard that they did hold a meeting.
832. And petitioned the owners to be allowed to extinguish the fire on certain terms—is that not so? Well, I cannot speak with certainty about that.
833. Who chose you as a worker? No one chose me, but I was one of them. A certain line of action was agreed upon, and the men chose their own leaders, but I was not there when it was agreed to.
834. As a matter of fact, permission was given to re-open the mine, and operations were resumed? Yes, permission was given, I suppose, by the inspectors.
835. Did you anticipate that any danger attended this work? Yes, there was a little danger attending it, of course.
836. Had you ever seen a plan of the working? Yes, I did see a plan of it, but I am not much of a scholar, and cannot say anything about it.
837. As a working miner, do you understand the underground workings? Yes, I know all the bords and headings that have been worked since I have been there.
838. Well, having got down to the seat of the fire, did you notice a fall in the main tunnel? Yes.
839. Was it a heavy fall? No.
840. Could you see over it? Yes.
841. Did you think it blocked up the tunnel? No, I cannot say that; it was not a heavy fall of rock; it consisted mainly of tops, and we sent it outside.
842. Coming to the boiler, were the tops on fire? Yes; they were all down and burning, and we put them out.
843. Did you see any fire in the old workings to the left? Yes; and a little burning inwards towards Tyndall's heading.
844. When you were in at the boiler, did you notice the direction of the fire then? Yes; there was a little on the right and also on the left stretching towards the back of the tunnel.
845. Have you ever travelled the flues from the boiler? No, never.
846. In the course of your operations in connection with extinguishing this fire, did you hear any falls in the water? Yes. I have seen and heard them. I saw one on the Sunday before the last accident; it was over the boiler to the left. It was a heavy fall, and had the effect of putting my light out, as I was at work with the hose at the time, and it drove us back.
847. Then you were on shift when the accident occurred? Yes; it was about 3 o'clock, or a quarter past. I should have gone off at 6 o'clock.
848. Did you hear any noise or sound at the time? No; some of my companions said they did, but I could hear nothing.
849. What was the first intimation you had that anything was wrong? A heavy blast of wind came down the tunnel, carrying with it small coal and dust.
850. Have you ever experienced a similar blast to that? Never in my life.
851. How long did the blast last? As far as I can tell, the blast passed away quickly, and the smoke and stythe came gradually. We then went for the skips and pulled the rapper-wire; but the skips did not move, and then we all got out and travelled as fast as possible to the mouth of the tunnel. The strongest men took the lead, I suppose. I was behind, with Duncan next to me. The last thing I remember was Duncan telling me to "come on"; but I said I could not; I was pretty well done. I was lying down when the rope moved; I hung on to it; and as one of the skips came along I got into one of the skips.
852. Did you see any fire on the road? Yes, and I saw fire in the stoppings; but we could not take much notice.
853. Was the fire in any considerable quantity? It looked as if a few hot cinders had been thrown out of the grate. It was scattered towards the right-hand side. As far as I can say, the fire was about 20 yards ahead of the skips, and 200 yards from the fire.
854. Did you foresee any danger just previous to the accident? Well, I never saw any danger as regards what did occur.
855. Do you think anyone could have anticipated such an occurrence? Well, I cannot speak for anyone else. But if I had anticipated it I should not have been there. I was under no compulsion to go.
856. Did the owners and inspectors show a reasonable regard for your safety? Oh, yes; as far as I could see. They told us not to run any danger, and frequently told us to be careful.
857. Had you any complaint to make as to the quantity of ventilation or anything else? No.
858. Would you have complained if there appeared to you to be anything wrong? Yes, of course I should.
859. Do you think the inspectors could possibly have foreseen and prevented the catastrophe? No, I do not.
860. Could you throw blame upon anyone for the accident? No; I do not see that I could.
861. Then you think this was a pure and unpreventable accident? Yes, I do; I do not think anyone could have anticipated it.
862. *Mr. Davies.*] At what time did your shift go on that day? At 12 o'clock. Mr. Wilton, Mr. Rowan, and Mr. Campbell were there. I think Mr. Mackenzie was away that day.
863. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Were they there at the change of each shift? Yes.
864. Did you consult with them at any time, or with those that were leading you? Oh, yes. We generally consulted with them as to how the work was best to be done.
865. Did you take upon yourselves the whole of the responsibility? Yes; we took the responsibility, with Campbell for a guide.
866. *Mr. Davies.*] Who did you recognize that you were under at the time of the accident? I considered that we were under Mr. Campbell at the time of the accident.
867. *Mr. Curley.*] Who had charge of your shift? Mr. Kirkwood.
868. Did you ever hear Kirkwood mention anything about the plan of the mine? No.
869. Or discussing the plan with the manager or inspectors? No, not in my shift.
870. *President.*] Did I understand you to say that Campbell engaged you to work at these operations? No, he did not engage us; but we were working under him.
871. Would he not select the leaders if he were your boss? Of course he would.
872. Do you know whether the men agreed to give their services for a week for nothing? No. I know that I did not. I believe I heard so.

873. The owners did not accept of your generosity—they paid you? Yes.

874. *Mr. Jones.*] Have you any knowledge of any pillars being taken out at any place other than the left-hand side? No.

875. *Mr. Curley.*] Where was the locality of the fire you have referred to? It was to the left of the boiler.

876. How far from the boiler? About 5 or 6 yards.

877. *Mr. Usher.*] Did you ever observe that any of the pillars were less than 1 chain in width? No, I never did.

878. You never saw any half a chain thick? No.

Mr.
C. Norwood.
4 May, 1886.

WEDNESDAY, 5 MAY, 1886.

Present:—

THE PRESIDENT,	MR. SWINBURN,
MR. USHER,	MR. CURLEY,
MR. THOMAS,	MR. DAVIES,
MR. NEILSON,	MR. JONES.

Thomas Rodham sworn and examined:—

879. *President.*] What are you? I am a miner, and have been employed in the Lithgow Valley Colliery for four years.

880. Have you worked as a miner in any other collieries? No.

881. At what bords have you worked in the Lithgow Valley mine? I have worked in the rise heading (Tyndall's); at Sam's heading (represented on the plan as the return air-course); I have also worked in the cross-cut where they are going to start now.

882. Where were you working before the accident? Within a chain of the main heading where the skips come up.

883. Contiguous to the tunnel face? Yes.

884. What was the last day you worked in the mine? On the Saturday, and left off at 1 o'clock.

885. Did you observe anything strange in the ventilation? Not in the least.

886. Did you notice anything in passing the boiler? No.

887. Nothing unusual? No; I noticed nothing different from any other day.

888. In passing to your work in the situation you have described, did you ever notice any smoke over the boiler on Monday mornings early? There was always a little in the morning when the fire was damped out, but we never took any notice of it.

889. Have you ever known that smoke to be carried round the workings? No, it never came round to us.

890. Did you take any part in rescuing Doig and his companions? Yes; I went up the rise heading that is next to the second cross-cut.

891. How did you get into the rise heading? We broke a stopping in the main tunnel.

892. Was Mr. Turnbull on the scene before you went down? No.

893. Who went with you? Charles Norwood, Mr. Campbell, and Langford.

894. What did you do when you broke this stopping? When we came to the air-course we turned to the left, and then to the right, until we came to Lewis's heading, and then on to Tyndall's heading. When we got there the air was fairly clear, and was travelling out round from the main drive.

895. Were you one of the parties who found Doig? No.

896. Did you take any other part in this investigation? No, not until we started to put the fire out.

897. Were you one of those who volunteered to make the attempt? Yes. When it was determined to close up the mine we held a meeting opposite to the pit. We came to the opinion that we could put out the fire, and we went to the office and told the owners that we would work for nothing for a week in trying to put it out. They said they could not give us leave unless they obtained permission from the inspectors. They then interviewed the inspectors on the subject, and permission being obtained from them to open the mine the men formed shifts and appointed leaders.

898. Did you apprehend any danger in connection with this work? Not in the least.

899. But supposing any danger to exist, did you agree to take the risk of it? Yes, or we would not have volunteered to work for nothing.

900. What bargain did you make with the proprietors when you volunteered to do the work? That is all the bargain we made.

901. In the course of your operations, did you obtain from the proprietors everything you wanted in the shape of materials? Yes, everything.

902. Well, when you got down to the seat of the fire, did you observe that anything unusual had taken place at the main tunnel? Nothing but the falls at the top.

903. Was not that unusual? Oh, yes.

904. Was it a large fall? Yes, it blocked up the tunnel, and the ventilation seemed to be stopped.

905. Did you ever direct your attention to the underground boiler? Yes, and have passed and repassed it hundreds of times. I believe there was one fire in its vicinity some time ago.

906. Did you see it? No, but I heard of the men putting it out.

907. Do you know if it was of a serious nature? No.

908. Did it ever occur to you that this boiler was a source of danger? No; I never thought it was dangerous.

909. Did you see any fire at the fall of coal? The coal was not burning in my shaft.

910. Do you know whether it was burning? I cannot say.

911. Did you in passing that boiler ever look up towards the left-hand? No; I saw fire to the right of the boiler when I was working there lately, and I have seen fire on the left and parallel with the main tunnel when going up that way.

912. Coming to the main tunnel, and for days before the accident took place, did you see any fire on the side of the main tunnel? No.

913. Did you hear of any fire being discovered in the main tunnel? No.

914. Did you form one of the shift that was on when the accident occurred? No; I was not on that shift.

Mr.
T. Rodham.
May, 5 1886.

Mr.
T. Rodham.
5 May, 1886

915. When you were working down at the face of the tunnel, did you hear any sounds as of falls? No.
 916. During the progress of your operations, did your inspectors and owners visit you? Yes; the inspectors used to visit us regularly.
 917. Did they remain any length of time? They would remain in ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, perhaps.
 918. What did they do? Well, I suppose they were looking after our safety.
 919. Did they seem anxious for your safety? Yes; the owners were in every night when we were working at the fire.
 920. Did they seem anxious so promote your endeavours? Yes; they did everything they could, and told us not to run into any kind of danger.
 921. Was Mr. Campbell, the manager, also present, and if so, what part did he take? He went in with us, and worked along with us many a time.
 922. Well, as to the supplying of materials, and the attendance of the inspectors, owners, and manager, was everything done that could be done to assist you in carrying out the work, and to secure as far as possible the safety of the men? Yes, undoubtedly.
 923. Have you had any experience of poisonous gas? No; I have been twenty-five years in mines, but never had any experience of that kind.
 924. Were you thoroughly satisfied with the ventilation of this mine, and with the character of the stopping? Yes.
 925. And you did not think this mine a dangerous one to work in? No; I thought it one of the safest mines I ever worked in.
 926. During these operations for extinguishing the fire, did you ever hear any sound of a fall in the roof? There was a bit of a fall straight ahead of us.
 927. But not in the old workings? No.
 928. Have you ever heard whether a large portion of pillars towards the left of your operations had been removed? Not to my knowledge.
 929. But they might have been removed without your knowledge? Yes, they might have been removed, but I think not during the time that I was working there.

Archibald Durie sworn and examined:—

Mr. A. Durie.
5 May, 1886.

930. *President.* What is your occupation, Mr. Durie? I am a miner.
 931. How long have you been following that occupation? About seventeen years; I have been coal-mining ten years.
 932. Where have you been working as a coal-miner? In Newcastle, and in the Lithgow Valley District.
 933. Are you a native of the Colony? No; I am a native of Scotland, and was born in Stirlingshire.
 934. What part of Newcastle were you working in? In Minmi, Woodford, and Greta.
 935. In the course of your occupation as a coal-miner, have you ever had experience of fire-damp? No.
 936. Or choke-damp? Well, no, not till the late accident.
 937. Did you see any fire-damp at Minmi? No, not while I was working there. I did see it once when I was on a visit there—my uncle showed it to me. He had a safety-lamp with him, and it filled with fire.
 938. What appearance did it present? It showed a red flame.
 939. How long have you worked in this district? About three years and ten months.
 940. In what mines have you worked here? Only in the Lithgow Valley Colliery.
 941. Have you ever been down any of the adjoining mines? No.
 942. Then your experience of the Lithgow District is confined to the workings in the Lithgow Valley Colliery? Yes.
 943. Were you employed as a coal-getter in that mine? Yes, for the last three years.
 944. In what portion of the mine did you last work? Down in the lower workings.
 945. Did you draw a cavil over all the districts in the mine, or only a certain section of it? We cavilled over the whole mine.
 946. Have you been working all over the mine? Yes, with the exception of these two cross-cuts.
 947. Then you have never been working in No. 1 or No. 2 cross-cut? No.
 948. But in all the others? Yes; I worked in every other heading in the pit excepting those.
 949. What width were you instructed to drive the working bords? From 7 to 8 yards.
 950. And leave what thickness of pillars? I believe they are supposed to be a chain.
 951. Have you ever known the pillars to be of a lesser width than that? No; I cannot say so in any bords that I have been working.
 952. Then you have never seen pillars of a less width? No.
 953. Have you ever seen evidence of crushing in any of these pillars? No.
 954. Have you ever seen choke-damp in the working places of Lithgow Valley Colliery? Never bad enough to put the light out; I have seen the air very thick at times down in the dip workings, about 100 or 150 yards off the main road.
 955. What were the stoppings composed of? Of slack.
 956. Were they carefully put in? That I cannot say—I never put in any of the stoppings.
 957. Did it ever occur to you that they were carelessly put in? I think some of them were not very strong. They required trimming up now and then at the top.
 958. Did you ever complain of these stoppings to the manager? No; I did not think it necessary.
 959. Did you ever notice the Government Inspector paying official visits to the mine? Yes; I have seen him several times where I was working.
 960. Then this impression as to the ventilation was not strong enough to induce you to complain to the manager or the inspector? No; I did not consider the ventilation was bad enough for that.
 961. Have you ever had occasion to complain of the ventilation in any of the places in which you were working in this colliery? No. Sometimes the air would be a little dull and thick, but if any mention were made of it additional ventilation would immediately be put on. If any complaint were made to the manager the subject-matter of it would be at once attended to.
 962. Did you think this mine a well-managed mine? Yes, I did.
 963. Did you think it was in any way a dangerous mine to work in? No; on the contrary, I thought it was the safest mine I had ever worked in.

964.

964. Had you ever seen smoke in that portion of the mine you were working in, to the extreme right? *Mr. A. Durie.*
No, never.
965. When did you last work in the mine? About four or five days before the accident; I was off *5 May, 1886.* through sickness on the day of the accident.
966. Then you were not working on the day of the accident? I was not working on the Friday or Saturday. The accident happened on Sunday.
967. In going to and from your work, did you pass the position of the underground boiler? Yes.
968. Had you the curiosity to inspect it? No.
969. Have you never been in there? No; I was at the colliery when it was being built, but I did not inspect it.
970. Do you know whether the bottom coal was lifted when the boiler was being built? I do not think it was.
971. Have you ever been round the sides of this boiler since it was built? I was about half-way round by the side of it. There was a canvas door which the men had to go through to clean the flue at the back. I remarked that it was too hot for me, and went out; that was not long after it was built.
972. Do you know as a fact whether the top coal was taken down? I know as a fact that it was not.
973. Did you ever go into the flues when the boiler was being built? No.
974. Do you know whether the tops were taken down there? No.
975. Going down the main tunnel and looking towards the boiler, could you see the fire? Oh, yes.
976. I believe there was a brick wall built in the line of the tunnel—is that so? Yes.
977. And there was a doorway there? Yes.
978. Was there a wooden door hung there? Yes.
979. Was it kept open or shut? It was mostly kept open.
980. You are quite sure about there being a door? Yes.
981. Was that door there three or four days before the accident? I cannot speak with certainty as to that. I was there when it was put up shortly after the boiler was built, but I have not seen it closed for a long time.
982. Was the canvas door that you have referred to air-tight? It was like a little trap-door that a man could crawl through.
983. Have you heard of a fire or fires having occurred at this boiler previously? I never heard of anything of the sort until the first accident, and then I saw it in the papers.
984. But have you never heard any of the men make a remark about a fire having occurred at that boiler before this accident? Well, yes, I believe I did hear a man say that he got scalded in putting out a fire there.
985. Did you ever suspect any danger was likely to arise in connection with this boiler? No, I did not.
986. I understood you to have said that you never assisted in constructing the stoppings in this mine? No, I did not.
987. Did you consider that these stoppings answered the purpose of stoppings in directing the ventilation? Well, so far as my opinion goes, I considered that they should have been constructed of brick.
988. Where had you seen brick stoppings? At Minmi; in fact, I never saw any others until I came here.
989. But you have never complained of the ventilation or of the stoppings to the manager or to the inspector? No.
990. Well, did you consider the ventilation of this mine sufficient? Yes; as a general thing, it was well ventilated.
991. Then if the ventilation was sufficient, is the lesson to be drawn from that that the stoppings answered or did not answer their purpose? They answered their purpose certainly.
992. As a matter of fact, then, the ventilation being sufficient, you did not see any cause for complaint—is that the correct way to put it? Yes.
993. How far back from the last stopping was your working place? That I cannot say; it would take about a week to work through where I was working, and then the air would be better.
994. [Further questions on the subject were answered by the witness, and dictated thus by the Chairman:—It was shown on a sketch that the witness was working in a bord that in a few days would have holed through in another working place, which would have conducted the air through his road and rectified the ventilation.]
995. *President.* When did you become aware of the accident of the 14th February? On the Monday morning; a little boy came to my place and told me there was something wrong in the pit.
996. Did you take any part in carrying down the air under the direction of Mr. Turnbull? No.
997. Did you take no part in connection with the operations connected with the first accident? No; I had nothing to do with the operations until the brickwork was taken out. I was working at the furnace, and worked a shift on the Saturday night. Very little progress was made on account of the smoke and damp.
998. Did you continue working until you got to the proximity of Tyndall's heading? Yes; we kept on working until we came to within about a chain of it; then we could see the fire right in front of us, in the middle of the road. We were stopped then. I forgot what happened, but I know that it was a good bit after that before we got to Tyndall's heading.
999. Was it not determined to abandon the mine? No, not at that time.
1000. Do you remember what stopped your progress at that point? I am trying to recollect. I do not exactly remember whether it was then they put the steam on or not. In my opinion the application of steam was not a success.
1001. Well, Mr. Durie, for some reason it was determined to close up the mine, and the men did not approve of the proceeding, the result being that a meeting was held at the mouth of the pit—is that correct? Yes; the men agreed to try and put the fire out. Seventeen of us went as a deputation to the owners; we saw Mr. Gell and Mr. Busby, and I told him that we could put out the fire, and that we would do it for nothing if he would find us the materials to work with.
1002. Did you consider that you ran any danger in carrying out these operations? No, not in the least.
1003. But supposing there actually was risk and danger to be apprehended, were you prepared to take the responsibility? It would depend upon how much the danger was.
1004. But you were the judge of it? So far as we could see, I did not see any danger.
1005. Well, supposing that danger did exist, and you could not anticipate it, did you undertake the responsibility? Yes, we undertook the responsibility; I did for one.

Mr. A. Durie. 1006. In the prosecution of your endeavours to put out the fire, how did you arrange the shifts? There were eight men on each shift of six hours, with a leader on each shift.

5 May, 1886. 1007. Can you mention the names of the leaders? Gilbert Kirkwood was the leader of our shift; John Gibson, senior, was leader of the shift that relieved us; then there was John Davies and either John Gell or Joseph Williams.

1008. Then the shifts were arranged by yourselves? Yes, they were arranged by ourselves; they all worked harmoniously together, and with a common object.

1009. After thinking this matter over, Mr. Durie, can you suggest anything which might have been done during this time to avert the disaster? No, I cannot.

1010. Did the owners provide you with all necessary material to aid you in your attempt to extinguish the fire? Oh, yes, we got everything we wanted. Mr. Wilton was advised that steam was the best agent to put out the fire, and they put steam on, but it did not answer, that is, it had not the effect that was expected, and we afterwards tried water.

1011. Do you attach blame to any one? No; we had everything we required to make the attempt.

1012. Well, you got down in the course of time, and recovered the ground you had lost? Yes; we reached the seat of the fire; we reached Tyndall's heading.

1013. Could you see whether the stopping was tight? No; the previous shift reached it first, and the fire had reached up to it.

1014. Did you, on going down to the boiler, notice anything opposite to it in the main tunnel? Yes; there was a heavy fall there which obstructed the tunnel; it reached close up to the roof.

1015. Did you observe any smoke and air going over the fall? No.

1016. Do you know when this fall took place? No.

1017. Was it there when you arrived at the seat of the fire? Yes; and we heard several small falls in the main heading from time to time.

1018. When you got down to the seat of the fire, what course did the return air take? It went round by Tyndall's heading, where we took down the stopping; a portion returned by the boiler. The same day that the stopping at Tyndall's heading was taken down I knocked out some brickwork on the boiler side, and found the smoke coming out thick. We saw the fire right over the boiler in the return—in the flues; it was burning briskly; there was fire to the left-hand side; it was all over the top of the boiler, and covered the whole space of the bord that had been cut out for the boiler. The fire seemed to be burning on the top-coal.

1019. Did you direct your attention to the left-hand side of the tunnel, a few yards up from the boiler? Yes; we were filling from the large fall in the tunnel and from the side of the boiler at the same time, and half a chain back from the boiler, and further up the tunnel, a fire was observed through a little hole in the stopping.

1020. Do you think that this fire you mention had eaten its way up through the pillar that had been split opposite the boiler? When they cleared the stuff from the left-hand side of the boiler they opened a stopping and could see the fire distinctly burning up towards the mouth of the tunnel.

1021. What progress had you made when this fall took place on the day of the accident? We had got down rather more than a chain, back from the boiler. A fire was found here by another shift the night before the accident; the whole of the bord was one mass of flame; we opened it up and cut through the top-coal which was burning, but we could not play the hose on it as it was eating towards us; they therefore cut through the tops in order to get the hose to operate, and they could then see fire for about a chain in any direction they liked to look. We extinguished the fire where we discovered it last, and then put it out in the one next to that, and we then played the hose over the boiler; but we had to clear away the stuff in the straight-down. An air-tight canvas stopping was placed in the cut through where the last-mentioned fire was smothered, and also in the cut-through a half a chain below that, where they had discovered the fire a few days previously; attention was then directed to the removal of the fall in the centre heading with the object of taking the ventilation current away from the fire. The next proceeding was just a few minutes before the accident; the men were about three-quarters of a chain from the boiler, preparing to erect the canvas in front of it to take the air off that side altogether; one man was at the hose, others were at the brattice, and there were four of us at the pump; Kirkwood, the leader, being seated alongside of the pumps; he had just risen with the object of going out of the mine when there was a loud report, and all our lights were blown out; the report sounded like that which would be produced by a heavy fall, and it seemed to me at the time to come from about the middle of the tunnel, behind us; but we found out afterwards that it was not so, for in that case of course we could not have got out.

1022. Well, after that, what happened? Kirkwood sang out, "Come on, boys, there is something wrong," and we all ran, and had got about 25 yards when there was a second report—a very loud one, like a cannon going off.

1023. Did you think it was in the same direction as the other? Yes, it seemed to come from the same direction. When I first heard it there was a strong pressure of air coming in, and when the second report sounded it seemed to be very close; a powerful rush of wind followed, and I expected to be blown off my legs; that lasted about two or three seconds; I then ran again, and when I had got about 25 yards further the air became very thick and I could scarcely breathe, and I was then I sang out for them to run. We kept on, and some one sang out to get into the skips; several of them got in, and some one pulled the rapper-wire, which I heard fly back. I afterwards got out of the skips and pulled the rapper, but it did not work, and then one of the Mantles sang out, "Come on, boys, let us try and save ourselves." We then proceeded to go out—William Mantle was first, Tom Mantle second, I was third, and Kirkwood was fourth. I knew the positions of the men from their voices; I did not hear the voices of any of the other men. Kirkwood ran against me, and I heard his matches rattling; and William Mantle said, "Do not strike a light whatever you do."

1024. Did you think there was fire-damp in the mine? No, I never thought it was fire-damp.

1025. Did you think anything at the time as to the cause of this phenomenon? Yes; I thought it was a heavy fall right across the main tunnel, and that it would block us in. Mantle seemed to be of the same mind, by what he said afterwards. We had got about 20 or 30 yards from the skips when I fell over Tom Mantle. I said, "Are you all right?" and he replied, "Yes," and I never heard him speak after that. We then saw fire, and I said to Bill Mantle, "We are done for," and he replied, "Yes, I am afraid we are cooked." I thought it was the tail-end of the fall. When I came up to the fire I made a rush to

to get through it, as there appeared to be a streak of better air beyond. After that, we got down low, and crawled along; I believe it was assuming that position that saved our lives; I think the other men must have kept on their legs too long. Mr. A. Durie.
5 May, 1886.

1026. *Mr. Davies.*] Then you found relief when you got down near the ground? Yes; I found I could breathe better. When I had gone a little further I felt someone coming up behind me, and it turned out to be Jack Duncan. I asked him if any of the other men were following, and he replied that he did not know. I crawled out then, and met Campbell and George Rowe coming in.

1027. *President.*] Then did William Mantle get out before you? Yes.

1028. Do you say that you met Campbell and George Rowe? Yes; at least I thought those were the men I met, but I have been informed that I was wrong.

1029. You say that in going up the tunnel Mantle called your attention to some fire. When you got up to that fire, what did you find it to be—was it coal burning? Yes, red coal, like what would be taken out of a fire-place. The fire was about 3 or 4 inches in depth.

1030. Can you say what position in the tunnel it was in? I reckon it was about 250 yards from the boiler.

1031. About 10 chains? Well, I am only guessing. It seemed to be at the particular spot where the tops had been cut up to the rock.

1032. You have told us that your first impression was that it was a heavy fall in the centre of the tunnel? Yes.

1033. And you discovered that that was not the case? Yes.

1034. Have you since formed any opinion as to the cause of this catastrophe? Yes; I believe it was an explosion.

1035. Of what? Of gas of some kind; I cannot say what.

1036. Could it not have taken place from a fall? Yes; I have seen heavier falls than that.

1037. Would it be reasonable for any other person to have an opinion that the accident was the result of a fall? Oh, yes.

1038. Can you give us your reasons for thinking it was not a fall? I could not see where a fall could take place back there and bring the fresh air in from the mouth of the tunnel.

1039. But it appears that a force was applied to the ventilating current at some point between you and the daylight. Would not that accelerate the ventilating current? I suppose it would.

1040. Did you observe that the stoppings were blown down as you came up the tunnel? No; I did not.

1041. But you have heard since that they were blown out? Yes; I know since that several stoppings were blown out on the left-hand side.

1042. With the knowledge before you that these stoppings were blown out, do you not see a reason for the return of the air after the first rush? The only reason I can see is that when the fresh air struck up against this fall it rebounded on to us. It seemed to me that the air went about half a chain out of the tunnel before it started to come back again, and took its regular course.

1043. Then the fresh air was going in the tunnel in its regular way, but a considerable portion went into these stoppings? Yes.

1044. The effect of that would be to draw the smoke and damp up to the point where the air was gaining access? One portion was driving the noxious gas down on to us.

1045. If the stoppings had not been knocked out, would the effect have been different—that is, could the men have got out? Yes, I am quite sure of that. If the stoppings had not been blown out, and made a passage for the foul air, we should have had no trouble.

1046. In other words, Mr. Durie, the carbonic acid gas was pouring out of the stoppings, and the air current was driving it in front? Yes.

1047. And you were meeting this current which was charged with and poisoned by the noxious gas? Yes.

1048. In your opinion, could this accident have been foreseen? No; I do not think it could have been foreseen.

1049. Did you ever anticipate any danger? Not in the slightest. The only danger I anticipated was from the roof, which we could not see for the smoke.

1050. During the progress of the operations for extinguishing the fire, did the owners show reasonable concern for your safety? Yes, they did so; they could not have been more anxious and careful.

1051. And can you say the same for the inspectors? Yes; I have heard Mr. Mackenzie warning us several times, but Mr. Rowan was there more often than Mr. Mackenzie, and he (Rowan) was continually warning us. Mr. Wilton was frequently in the mine.

1052. Did the inspectors seem to understand the serious import of their duty? Well, that I cannot say—I do not know what their qualifications are.

1053. Still you say that they frequently warned the men against running into danger, and that of course would be a part of their duty? Yes.

1054. Do you think that this accident, from whatever cause it arose, could have been foreseen and prevented? No, I do not think it could.

1055. And you do not think the inspectors could possibly have anticipated the catastrophe? No; I do not see how they could.

1056. Do you think everything was done that should have been done for the safety of the men? Yes; both the inspectors and the proprietors were particularly careful.

1057. Have you any complaint to make against any one in reference to this catastrophe? None whatever.

1058. *Mr. Neilson.*] In creeping out of the mine on the occasion of the accident, was the air hot above and cool below? It seemed to be about the same, very hot above and below; I thought my inside was burned out.

1059. *Mr. Curley.*] When it was resolved to grapple with the fire, was the plan of the mine produced previously—I mean amongst the men and the inspectors and the proprietors—with a view of discussing the system of ventilation, the nature of the returns, &c.? No. I never saw the plan until Mr. Fletcher showed it to me when he came up after the accident.

1060. *Mr. Usher.*] You have made a statement with respect to seeing fire at different places in the tunnel—how long do you think it would take for the fire to get such a hold as that? I can scarcely answer that question. We know it would take some weeks at all events, and we know for a fact that it had been burning six weeks. When we opened these two stoppings half a chain and a chain back from the boiler the fire was travelling at a great rate: it was like looking into a coke oven or a blast furnace. The first fire, when we got down to it, would not more than cover this table.

- Mr. A. Durie. 1061. *Mr. Jones.*] When coming out of the tunnel, did you notice how far these red coals extended up the tunnel—I mean the live coals that you noticed on your passage out, and which you say were about 3 or 4 inches in depth? They extended for about 10 yards, I think; they were scattered all along the road.
1062. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Did you ever travel from the left-hand furnace in the return towards the boiler? No.
1063. Do you know anything about the return at all? No.
1064. Are you aware whether any pillars were taken out on the left-hand side of the tunnel? Not that I am aware of.
1065. Can you give any reason why such a big fall should take place if there were no pillars taken out? No, I cannot; when I said it was a fall in the early part of my evidence I explained that it was only the impression made upon me at the instant; I have since thought it was an explosion.
1066. Where did you think the explosive gas came from? I thought it was gas generated by the burning fire.
1067. *President.*] Supposing you were assured that a large area of pillars had been removed in the position where you heard these falls, would it cause you to alter your opinion? Yes, it would, but not otherwise.

Wm. Tait sworn and examined:—

- Mr. W. Tait. 1068. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am a wheeler; I have been twelve years in the Lithgow Valley Colliery; I have been four years a wheeler; before that I was a miner.
- 5 May, 1886. 1069. Have you ever worked in any other collieries? Yes; I have worked as a miner in the Eskbank, Vale of Clwydd, and Bowenfels.
1070. Generally, is the mode of working coal in Lithgow Valley Colliery different from that adopted in the adjoining collieries? No; I do not think there is any difference.
1071. Is there any difference in the stoppings used in this mine from those used in the adjoining collieries? No, I think not; I have helped to put the stoppings in; they were carefully put in, and could not have been better constructed.
1072. Did you find the ventilation good in the workings where you were engaged? Yes. I had no fault to find, and I never heard any of the other men making any complaint.
1073. Have you seen this underground boiler? Yes.
1074. Have you examined it? I have been in the back part of it; I did not see anything particular; I did not notice whether the tops were down; I was in the right-hand return, but not the left.
1075. Did you ever hear of a fire having taken place at that boiler before? Yes; I have heard of a fire being there, and that it was put out.
1076. Did you ever hear whether the bottoms were taken out? No.
1077. When were you apprised of the first accident? On Monday morning, at twenty minutes to 6 o'clock; I was in the stable when one of the men came to me and said I had better not take the horses in as the place was full of smoke. I said to my mate, "We had better go in and see what is the matter." On going to the pit I went in to a distance of about 300 yards from the mouth of the tunnel, passed the second cross-cut, the air there being quite clear. We found some difficulty when we attempted to get down beyond the smoke; we heard that the late manager and Younger and Rowe were in the direction of the second cross-cut; meantime Martin came out and said John Doig was found. At the request of Mr. Turnbull, I then agreed to lead a party to go round the old workings, to seek for the other men; I took six men, and sent a party of seven with a man named Sheedy; I went up No. 2 cross-cut to the last stopping, and within 20 yards of the face; I went straight down the return, and when down 200 yards the other party came up, and as our lights met they shone upon the bodies of Younger and Rowe.
1078. Was Hall with your party? No; I do not believe he was there at all.
1079. Were you employed in any other way in the mine? I was engaged in trying to put the fire out.
1080. Individually, did you consider there was any risk attached to that work—was there not danger to be apprehended? I could see no risk.
1081. But whatever risk there was, or might be, did you agree to accept that risk? As an individual I did not suppose there was any risk; if it did exist it was unknown to me. I was not prepared to take any risk, because I could not see any danger.
1082. Do you mean you could see no danger whatever? Well, I could see a little danger, but I would not go into it. For instance, I saw a certain amount of danger in the rock overhead, but I tapped it with my bar, and if necessary it was taken down.
1083. Did you see the fall that extended up the main heading? Yes, the heaviest portion of it was right opposite the boiler.
1084. Would you think that fall blocked up the tunnel? In my opinion it did; the smoke was not going over the top of it.
1085. Did you direct your efforts towards the boiler? Yes.
1086. What did you see there? Coal and rock had fallen there.
1087. Was there any fire? Yes; we put it out, and sent the stuff away in the skips.
1088. Did you observe any fire in the direction of the old workings? Yes, both straight down and to my left.
1089. How far to the left did it extend? About a chain I consider.
1090. After that, and going back into the tunnel, did you see or hear of any fire to the left of the tunnel? Yes, we went back about a chain and opened a stopping, and there was fire in there as far as the eye could reach. I did not hear of any stoppings being opened further back.
1091. Had you any reason to complain of the amount of ventilation supplied to you while you were at work? No; it was a little warm, of course, down at the fire, but that we anticipated naturally; the air was perfectly good outside the brattice.
1092. Did you think any danger was likely to arise? No.
1093. Did you hear any falls occurring at this time to the left of the tunnel? I heard falls both straight down and to the left of the tunnel.
1094. Can you localize the position of this fire you saw burning; was it on the top of this large fall, or did it extend further? It was extending upward; it was straight over the fall; I consider the top-coal was burning and falling down.
- 1095.

1095. Have you known a fall similar to that in your experience? I have known a great fall of tops in the Eskbank pit. Mr. W. Tait.

1096. Did you see the bodies of the men who were taken out of the pit after the accident, and if so, what appearance did they present? I saw no signs of burning except upon Allison. 5 May 1886.

1097. Might not the marks upon Allison have been caused by other means—might they not have been bruises? Well, I may have been mistaken. Yes, they might have been bruises. I did not notice that the hair was scorched. I knew Hyde; his body showed no signs of bruises; the face looked just the same as if he had been asleep. I believe all of them had some marks on them except Hyde; Tom Mantle had one on his right temple.

1098. Well, did you go into the tunnel to recover the bodies? Yes; I saw Henry Grant at the mouth of the tunnel; he said he thought it was an explosion.

1099. Did he say what happened to him? No, he did not; we stayed there till the skips started, and five skips came out.

1100. What did you do then? We went into the tunnel; the air was very thick; we got down to within 50 yards of where the bodies were found. The first man we came to was William Mantle, a living man; he was struggling along the road, and we fetched him out. I then ran in and put a stopping upon the left-hand side, thinking that would be the best means of driving the air down to the men, and I helped to put up four more; while I was putting up the stoppings the other men passed me; I heard someone say, "Here they are!" The air by this time had very much improved.

1101. *Mr. Curley.*] Who was the manager of your shift? John Gibson was supposed to be leader, but he was bad and could not attend, and I believe Rodham was acting in his place.

1102. Previous to your commencing operations to grapple with the fire, did you know anything of the plan of the mine? No; I never saw it.

1103. Was the mode of operations ever discussed between the management or the inspectors and yourselves? Not that I am aware of.

1104. *President.*] Do you know the geography of the mine? I believe I know the mine pretty well.

1105. You are not a surveyor? No.

1106. But you have an accurate knowledge of the geography of the mine? Yes, from one end of it to the other, where I have worked—on the right-hand side.

1107. *Mr. Jones.*] You have worked in various bords? Yes.

1108. Do you know of any pillars having been taken out in any direction? I have no knowledge of any removal of pillars; I believe they were split down behind the boiler.

1109. Have they been taken out or split in any other part of the mine? I do not believe any were taken out to the right-hand side.

1110. *President.*] Could they have been taken out without your knowing it? Oh, yes; that is quite possible.

1111. Or before you entered the employment? Well I would not say that, because the tunnel was not 50 yards in when I commenced.

1112. Do you know of any pillaring having taken place towards Eskbank? No; I believe, though, there were some pillars split to the left of the boiler.

1113. Would that weaken the pillars? Yes.

1114. *Mr. Curley.*] Do you know whether both furnaces were kept going during these operations? Yes, I believe they were both kept going; in fact I may say that I know they were.

John Dixon sworn and examined:—

1115. *President.*] You are an Inspector of Collieries. Mr. Dixon? Yes; I am Inspector of Collieries for the Northern District. Mr. J. Dixon.

1116. Would you state, Mr. Dixon, what has been your experience in coal-mining? I have been engaged in mining for about thirty-three years. I have had experience of coal-mining in the north of England, in a place called Haswell; that was a fiery mine. 5 May, 1886.

1117. Then in this Colony, how long have you been connected with coal-mining? Well, I daresay I have been engaged in and about the mines for about twenty years.

1118. When were you appointed inspector? In 1882; about four years next June.

1119. In the discharge of your duties as inspector, did you ever visit the collieries in this district? Yes.

1120. How often? Only twice before Mr. Rowan was appointed.

1121. You inspected officially the different collieries in this district—will you name them? The Bowenfels, Lithgow Valley, Vale of Clwydd, and Eskbank.

1122. Generally speaking, was the Lithgow Valley Colliery constructed on much the same style as the adjoining collieries as regards the mode of ventilation and character of the stoppings? Yes.

1123. And also as regards the size of the pillars and width of the bords? Yes.

1124. Then it was in no way singular in comparison with the other collieries of the district? No; I did not remark anything singular about it.

1125. In the matter of ventilation, for example? I had no fault to find in that respect.

1126. How long is it since you last visited the mine? It must be something over three years.

1127. Are the stoppings that direct the air current similar in construction to those employed over the whole district? So far as I can remember, yes; I think I only went in twice.

1128. Can you tell us the general thickness of the coal-seam? The coal-seam worked in Lithgow Valley is about 6 feet; of course there is the top-coal; that would be about 3 or 4 feet; on the floor there is a foot of wild coal, and then you come on the hard rock.

1129. Above the top-coal, what is there? Conglomerate.

1130. No bands of shale and sandstone? No.

1131. While you were inspecting the district, in what part of the Lithgow Valley Colliery were the workings centred? Principally what I would call straight down; there was only about one split there straight down in the main tunnel.

1132. Were any workings started towards Eskbank at that time? I do not know; the working was straight, so far as I can remember; but only having been twice there I could not be expected to get a very good grip of things.

1133. Do you consider the Lithgow Valley coal-seam to be of an inflammable nature? No; I never heard of it, or came across it.

1134.

- Mr. J. Dixon. 1134. Is it a gassy coal, in the sense of coal-seams, such as you worked in when you were a boy?
 No.
 5 May, 1886. 1135. I mean does it give off light carburetted hydrogen or fire-damp? I should say not.
 1136. Have you ever heard that carburetted hydrogen gas had been seen or heard of in connection with this mine? I have never heard a breath of it.
 1137. Would you be surprised to learn that it has been seen? I should be very much surprised, according to the nature of the coal.
 1138. When you visited the Lithgow Valley Colliery, were your visits of such a nature that you would be likely to have seen fire-damp if it existed? Yes; I have been in every working place and part of the return, and I think I should have found fire-damp if it had been present.
 1139. Have you ever received any complaint about the condition or ventilation of this mine? Not a breath of complaint from any source.
 1140. Had you ever any cause to complain about its condition or ventilation? Never. I found it a very nice little mine, and one easily worked, that is without any special difficulties.
 1141. Do you consider it was a dangerous mine to work in? Not at all.
 1142. Did you know Mr. Doig, the late manager? Yes; I knew Doig for many years.
 1143. In your opinion, was he a capable manager for the mine? Well, he was a man who had had a good deal of experience in this district.
 1144. Was he a careful manager? I always found him a careful man.
 1145. Was he a man who considered the safety of the men? I believe he had the welfare of the workmen at heart.
 1146. So far as you know, did he enjoy the confidence of the owners? I think so.
 1147. Had you confidence in him? To manage a mine like that I had.
 1148. Do you of your own knowledge know whether his requests for material for carrying on the mine were readily responded to? So far as I know, he never made any complaint about that.
 1149. Was he sole manager of the colliery? That I cannot say; so far as I know, he alone was manager.
 1150. Then, so far as you know, all power was vested in him? Yes.
 1151. While visiting the colliery, did you ever have occasion to inspect the plans of the mine? No; I never saw the plans up here; I never had occasion to ask for them here; I have seen a tracing.
 1152. When did you see the tracing? I was in Newcastle then, and I think I saw it in the Colliery Record Office with Mr. Mackenzie.
 1153. Did you ever direct your attention to the scale of the plan? No, I did not; I know it is not on the usual scale.
 1154. Is that an objection, Mr. Dixon? I have no objection to it so far as I am personally concerned.
 1155. Are you aware whether the plans were regularly kept up? I cannot say that.
 1156. Would that devolve more upon the Examiner of Coal-fields, Mr. Mackenzie? No; as a rule I take the plans round periodically to be kept up, but I cannot say as to this one.
 1157. Had you any reason to suppose that these plans were inaccurate? No; such a thing never entered my head.
 1158. Did you ever have reason to suppose that the plans were not kept up to date? No.
 1159. Did you receive complaints as to the ventilation? No; I never heard a complaint, and I was among the men a great deal.
 1160. And, in point of fact, you never did complain to the manager as to the ventilation? No, I never did.
 1161. Did you find a readiness on the part of the manager to carry out your wishes? I did.
 1162. Then as to these stoppings in this colliery, what are they composed of? Of small coal—slack stoppings.
 1163. Are they the same in other collieries in the district? Yes, they are all about the same.
 1164. I suppose there is always a large quantity of small coal left in the process of working? Yes, a large quantity in some cases.
 1165. And they utilize a portion of the small coal for making stoppings? Yes.
 1166. Do you consider these small coal stoppings effectual for ventilating this class of mine? I do not consider small coal stoppings effectual anywhere.
 1167. Is it possible to ventilate such a colliery with such stoppings? Yes, it is possible, as proved by experience.
 1168. What is your reason then for saying that you do not consider them a proper class of stoppings? My reason is, that the further the workings extend the greater would be the pressure on the stoppings, and there is a danger of a waste of air. I consider that all main-road stoppings should be of brick or stone and plaster.
 1169. Have you the power as inspector to dictate to the manager as to the material to be used in the construction of these stoppings? No; I do not think there is a word in the Act as to stoppings.
 1170. Do you know any country where inspectors are invested with such powers? I think they are in England.
 1171. Are you sure? I think so; I have the Act at home.
 1172. Had the underground boiler been fixed when you visited the Lithgow Valley Colliery? I cannot remember that boiler; I have puzzled my head over it a good deal. If I did see it, it has gone from my memory. I do not know where it was fixed.
 1173. If you cannot remember having seen the boiler, of course you will not recollect whether you ever inspected it. Did you ever see the flues leading from that boiler? I have not.
 1174. Do you consider it safe for smoke and hot gas to impinge against the coal for such a long distance? Not by any means.
 1175. Have you any experience of underground boilers? Yes; there is one at work in Newcastle. But it is built up with brick, and there is a well of water to drop the ashes into. The soot is carried upon flat sheets of iron, and is swept up every day. The flue is carried on sheets of iron, and the smoke and waste go circulating with the return. Nothing can get near the roof or sides.
 1176. Do you consider it safe? Yes, or I should have something to say about it.
 1177. Is the return air-way in the mine you mention regularly travelled? Yes; there is plenty of room; it is the largest in the Glebe, and is very easily travelled.
 1178. The brickwork goes from the surface—how far? 8 feet on each side. From the flues there is nothing but the bare coal.
 1179.

1179. When you stated that you considered it unsafe for smoke and hot gases to impinge against the coal pillars, it must be unsafe in the case you have cited? I understood you to say that the smoke came direct out of the chimney out on the coal. Mr. J. Dixon.
5 May, 1886.

1180. Do you know anything about this underground boiler in Lithgow Valley Colliery? Nothing but what I have heard.

1181. Have you formed any opinion as to whether it is a dangerous boiler. Is it within your knowledge that fires have occurred at this boiler? No, not except the recent one.

1182. If the return air-ways conducting the smoke of the boiler were not regularly cleaned, and the soot caught fire, would that be a source of danger? Undoubtedly it would.

1183. When did you arrive at Lithgow Valley after the accident? On Monday, the 15th February, after the bodies were got out.

1184. Did you assume any responsibility or take any charge? No; Mr. Turnbull had charge when I got up.

1185. Can you describe the position of affairs when you arrived? The operations underway were that Mr. Turnbull was trying to force his way down to the seat of the fire as soon as possible, by means of bratticing; but when he heard that we were on our way he suspended operations till we should arrive to applaud or condemn the action which he had taken. My own opinion was that the fire was not far away, as I believed it had started on the Saturday night, and, if such was the case, if we could only get to the seat of the fire it might be got under. On arrival, however, I learned that somebody had gone into the pit and broached a stopping, and a cry was raised that this man (Davis) was down the tunnel and was lost. Mr. Turnbull then sent in a search party; we followed it for some distance, and while we were waiting for breath these men came out with one lamp between them to the east of the old workings. Davis had done this unknown to Mr. Turnbull or anybody else; the consequence of his action was that the smoke backed up the tunnel; and all the time I was there we were not able to get as far as Turnbull had put in his brattice. My counsel then was to shut the place off, and it was shut off so far as the tunnel was concerned; after this I left, and I was not there again until after the second accident.

1186. Did you see the deceased manager? I did; I was there when he died.

1187. And also Younger and Rowe? I saw Rowe.

1188. What appearance did the bodies present? Well, it is past all power of description to describe what Doig was like. He seemed to be in awful agony, his body being drawn up, and yet he was insensible, as if he was strangling all the time; he was also discoloured in the skin.

1189. What was the appearance of Rowe's body? Quite peaceful, as if death had taken place quickly.

1190. Were there any marks of burning? No.

1191. Do you think it likely that those men died from the effects of an explosion? No.

1192. How do you account for their being in the positions found? I believe, in the first place, that the fire occurred at the boiler on Saturday evening after it had been damped down, and at the time Hall and his father came out the fire had caught hold, inasmuch as one of them turned sick, and had to stoop down in order to get out; in the meantime, from Saturday night till Sunday evening, when Doig and these men went in the smoke had backed away, and when they went in, finding the place full of smoke, Doig probably said—"There is no chance to get along here, let us try some other plan"; and I suspect he went into the second cross-cut; he would naturally conclude that he might by this means get down to Tyndall's heading and reach the stopping there. Then, having got a good distance down, and the lamp going out from want of oil, they, in my opinion, must have lost themselves; meantime, I am under the impression that a stopping must have been broached somewhere down there, and the foul air came through and enveloped them; then possibly Doig, being the younger of the three, struggled away some distance, making for fresh air to the second cross-cut, and that meanwhile the stuff was thickening so fast that the older men succumbed. Doig, as we know, lived for several hours afterwards.

1193. Then, Mr. Dixon, how do you account for so much smoke backing up the main tunnel? We have had evidence that when the operations for putting out the fire had enabled the men to get down to the seat of the fire they saw, and partially removed, a very large fall in the middle of the main tunnel.

1194. Do you think the occurrence of that fall had anything to do with the backing-up of this smoke? Yes, and I believe there was a fall behind the boiler interfering with the left-hand return.

1195. In your opinion, was it an error of judgment on the part of Doig to go off the main in-take and down the return, where, as the pit was full of smoke and choke-damp, you would naturally expect the poisonous gases to be swept round? Yes; the poor fellow is dead, but if you want my opinion, I should say it was an error of judgment; he should have kept out of the smoke at all events.

1196. In other words, as the greater proportion of smoke and damp would be there, you mean to say that his travelling in that direction pointed to an error of judgment? Yes, that is my opinion.

1197. *Mr. Davies.*] You of course formed that opinion in calm moments—Doig was doubtless full of excitement at the time? Of course—I can easily put myself in his place.

1198. *President.*] When did you arrive at the scene of the second accident, Mr. Dixon? The day after it occurred; the accident occurred on the 19th April, a Monday, and I arrived on the Tuesday.

1199. Did you inspect the bodies of the unfortunate men who were the victims of that accident? I saw three of them.

1200. What appearance did they present? Just as if they were in a nice sound sleep.

1201. You do not think they died in agony? No; I do not believe they did.

1202. Have you ever seen people succumb to the effects of carbonic acid gas? I have seen people insensible from it, but not die.

1203. Have you seen the bodies of men killed in an explosion of fire-damp? I have seen them very near dead from such cause; the appearances are very terrible to look upon.

1204. Did the bodies of three men present any such marks? No, none of them.

1205. What appearance would you expect those killed by an explosion to present? I should say they would be charred—burnt to a cinder almost.

1206. *Mr. Davies.*] What about the effects of after-damp? The effects of after-damp would be the same as choke-damp.

1207. *President.*] Did these bodies present any of the appearances of being scorched by fire-damp? No.

1208. You have heard a description of the occurrence that preceded the last unfortunate calamity; to what

- Mr. J. Dixon. what can you ascribe that blast of air and gas? I have thought the matter out for many an hour since and I have come to the conclusion that it was caused by an immense fall to the north of the main tunnel.
- 5 May, 1886. 1209. At what particular point would you say? Somewhere in the vicinity of the fire.
1210. Have you ever heard of a similar occurrence? I have been in falls where I was nearly carried off my feet; I may mention one that occurred just before the Lambton miners' strike, in the Newcastle district, when a big current of air came right away from the back.
1211. After a fall, is the current of air readily restored? Yes, almost immediately.
1212. That is one way of diagnosing a fall? Yes, I should say so from my experience.
1213. In your experience, and looking at the accident in a perfectly dispassionate manner (I am aware that you were not present to direct operations at the moment of the accident), do you think that such a disaster could have been avoided under any circumstances? No, I do not; every man carried his life in his hand.
1214. Could it have been foreseen? No; I should say not, under the circumstances.
1215. Had you confidence in the skill of those who were superintending the operations? Yes.
1216. Mr. Thomas.] Do you think there is danger of another fall taking place of two or three times the magnitude of the last? Undoubtedly there is danger of another fall.
1217. Do you think the barriers that have been erected are sufficient to resist a heavy fall? I would not undertake to decide; I do not know the thickness of the barriers; I think 27-inch barriers backed up with small coal behind ought to be sufficient to resist almost anything.
1218. Mr. Swinburn.] Are there any pillars between the boundary of Eskbank and Lithgow Valley mines taken out do you know? I believe an acre of pillars has been taken out there.
1219. Supposing the Lithgow Valley mine were flooded in order to extinguish the underground fire? I should think the water would tail into Eskbank.
1220. I believe the lower workings of Lithgow Valley are driven to the northern boundary? The lower level goes right in towards Eskbank boundary, and I should think the Eskbank people are also forward to the boundary.
1221. Would you not think there would be a liability for water to pass through say a narrow pillar under pressure? If the pillar were any way thin no doubt it would work through. That is the cause of all the trouble.
1222. Mr. Neilson.] Have you had any similar experience in this Colony, Mr. Dixon—as to the fire, I mean? Yes, twice. In Brown's A. A. Company tunnel and Greta.
1223. Was there not a great similarity between the fire at Minmi and this? I think so. It was owing to an accumulation of soot.
1224. Mr. Davies.] Two opinions have been expressed as to the cause of this accident, whether it was occasioned by an explosion or a fall. You believe it was a fall. Now, Mr. Dixon, questions have been asked as to the state of the bodies after the accident. Is there any difference in the appearance of a body after death from black-damp and that of a body after death caused by after-damp? I do not think it; there is a similarity.
1225. Then might these men have died from the effects of fire-damp? Certainly not from fire-damp.
1226. I do not mean the immediate cause of death. I am speaking about after-damp? That is a different matter.
1227. President.] But after an explosion, Mr. Dixon, I believe a mine presents evidences of that explosion? Yes, certainly.
1228. The atmosphere also gives certain indications. What is the state of an atmosphere after an explosion—is it high or low? It is very high.
1229. What course does the explosion take when there is a reservoir of carbonic acid gas? The blow is against the wind. A vacuum is formed, and then there is an inrush.
1230. I believe you inspected the tunnel as far as anyone could penetrate after the accident. Did you see any evidences of an explosion of fire-damp? No; I saw no evidences of fire having burned or scorched anything.
1231. Mr. Curley.] In the event of these stoppings having been built of brick or stone, would that have had a tendency to prevent what occurred? No, I think not; if it had not found vent there the blow would have found vent up the main tunnel.
1232. President.] What distance is it from the right-hand furnace to the mouth of the mine? Between 30 and 40 yards, I should say.
1233. And from the mouth of the tunnel to the drum, what is the distance? Perhaps 50 yards.
1234. We have been told that a man was blown from the seat he was occupying at the furnace right out of the tunnel and out into the air as far as the drum, and yet he was amongst the first to go into the tunnel again. Do you think that possible? I do not credit it.
1235. We also have to consider this, that a light structure, such as the gate at the mouth of the tunnel, remained quite uninjured? Such a force of wind would have blown it away, especially as it presented such a broad face to the blast.
1236. Mr. Curley.] But you were blown off your feet in the Lambton mine by a rush of air? Yes, but that is different to being blown a hundred yards.
1237. Mr. Usher.] Did you pay any attention to the size of the pillars on the occasion of your two visits to Lithgow Valley mine? I did pay some attention. I found all the bords and headings were alike—they were driven about the same width.
1238. If the pillars are of the extent shown on the plan, how could such an extensive fall have taken place? I believe this fire has eaten its way round the pillars and weakened them. I believe it has wound its way round and round and weakened them all the way along.
1239. Mr. Swinburn.] Then you think the fire has been there for some time? I do not; but I think it has done its work since February.
1240. Were you ever behind the boiler in the return? No; I do not speak from experience.
1241. Mr. Jones.] Did you ever measure the pillars? No, I do not think I did.
1242. Mr. Swinburn.] How did the fall bring the carbonic acid back to suffocate those men? If we get a fall through the stoppings here, and get an extra pressure on the lower ground, the carbonic acid gas is pressed in, and by-and-by it comes back; besides which, it was, I believe, working back from the fire to the left-hand working, and it would meet them as the current returned.
1243. Then there must have been a large proportion of the mine locked up without ventilation? At the times

time I examined the furnace, after the fire occurred, I could see the men labouring as if they had as much as they could do to live. Mr. J. Dixon.

1244. *Mr. Curley.*] You have just said, Mr. Dixon, that you, as inspector, had no power to compel the proprietors to use other than slack stoppings? Yes, I did say so. 5 May, 1886.

1245. You have read the 25th section of the Act, I suppose? Yes, many a score of times.

1246. Have you ever ordered that brick stoppings should be erected in any colliery when the order was not complied with? I have never used that section for a stopping in the ordinary sense. I have used it many a time, but it can only be applied in cases where there is danger.

1247. The 25th section of the Coal-fields Regulation Act provides:—

"If in any respect (which is not provided against by any express provision of this Act or by any special rule) any inspector finds any mine or any part thereof or any matter thing or practice in or connected with any such mine to be dangerous or defective so as in his opinion to threaten or tend to the bodily injury of any person such inspector may give notice in writing thereof to the owner or agent of the mine and shall state in such notice the particulars in which he considers such mine or any part thereof or any matter thing or practice to be dangerous or defective and require the same to be remedied and unless the same be forthwith remedied the inspector shall also report the same to the Minister. If the owner or agent of the mine objects to remedy the matter complained of in the notice he may within seven days after the receipt of such notice send his objection in writing stating the grounds thereof to the Minister and thereupon the matter shall be determined by arbitration in manner provided by this Act in relation to the special rules and the date of the receipt of such objection shall be deemed to be the date of the reference. If the owner or agent fail to comply either with the requisition of the notice given by the inspector when no objection is sent within the time aforesaid or with the award made on arbitration within twenty days after the receipt of such notice or the making of the award (as the case may be) he shall be guilty of an offence against this Act and the notice and award shall respectively be deemed to be written notice of such offence. Provided that the Court if satisfied that the owner or agent has taken active measures for complying with the notice or award but has not with reasonable diligence been able to complete the works may adjourn any proceedings taken before them for punishing such offence and if the works are completed within a reasonable time no penalty shall be inflicted. No persons shall be precluded by any agreement from doing such acts as may be necessary to comply with the provisions of this section or be liable under any contract to any penalty or forfeiture for doing such acts."

Notice by inspectors of cause of danger not provided for by the rules.

The Witness.—That section only applies where there is danger.

1248. *Mr. Curley.*] That may be your opinion, Mr. Dixon, at all events we have the statement that you have never tested the matter? Never in relation to brick stoppings.

1249. Virtually then you have never tested the power which the clause gives you? Oh, yes, I have, but not in relation to stoppings; if I thought they were dangerous I would, and then the manager could appeal to the Minister.

John Bewick Turnbull sworn and examined:—

1250. *President.*] What is your profession, Mr. Turnbull? I am a colliery manager, and am at present manager of the Vale of Clwydd Colliery. Mr. J.B. Turnbull.

1251. Where have you gained your experience? I served my apprenticeship in the North of England. 5 May, 1886.

1252. Have you had any experience of fiery mines? Yes.

1253. You know what fire-damp is, and the effect it will produce? I have seen it, and experienced a little of it.

1254. And carbonic acid gas, and its effects? Yes.

1255. What experience have you had in this district? I have been here about three years.

1256. Have you inspected all the collieries in this district? No; none whatever except my own.

1257. Have you any knowledge of the workings of the Lithgow Valley Colliery? None whatever, only by seeing the plan.

1258. Is the working of the coal-seam in your colliery attended with any special danger? No; there are portions near to the rise where the roof is bad.

1259. What about the dip workings? The roof is good, never saw a better.

1260. Has the seam in the Lithgow Valley mine the same character as the seam in your colliery? I think it has a more tender roof—that is, the top-coal.

1261. How many feet do you work? I am working, in my left-hand district, 5 to 8 feet in the dip workings.

1262. So far as you know, is not the seam much the same as that in the Lithgow Valley mine? It seems to me to be a different class of coal.

1263. But it is the same seam? Yes, the same seam continues right through.

1264. Do you leave any coal on the roof? Yes, about 4 feet 2 inches; that is the tops.

1265. Do you leave any on the bottom? None whatever.

1266. What width do you work your bords? Eight yards, and leave 4-yard pilla

1267. What kind of stoppings do you use? Well, there is a stone band on top of a portion of the coal, and we work up to that, but when it comes down we use it for stoppings.

1268. What thickness do you build these stoppings? From about 4 inches up to 10 inches.

1269. Do you consider these stoppings sufficient for the purpose? Yes, they are very good stoppings; we generally back them up with small coal.

1270. Are they liable to consolidate after being put up? I never found any set. They come down an inch or two in some places, and then we fill them up again, utilizing for this purpose the small coal.

1271. Do you think the working of the Lithgow Valley coal-seam is attended with danger? If they work their coal on the same principle as I work mine, I should say there was no danger, certainly.

1272. Say they were leaving chain pillars and 7-yard bords, would you consider that dangerous? No, I would not.

1273. Have you ever heard of any danger attending the working of the Lithgow Valley Colliery? None whatever.

1274. Did you ever hear that any of the men had apprehended danger? Not with regard to the pressure of the mine.

1275. You have said that you saw the plan of the Lithgow Valley mine, Mr. Turnbull—did you see it before or after the accident? I saw the plan on the morning of the first accident, at 8 o'clock.

1276.

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1276. Do you recollect the date. The reason I ask the question is, that you are the first witness from whom we could ask that question? It was on Monday, the 15th February.
1277. The fire was discovered on Sunday, the 14th, and you were sent for on the 15th? Yes.
1278. It is a matter of history how you were sent for, Mr. Turnbull. Then, when you were examining the plan did you hear, or did you inquire, as to whether any pillars, or any considerable area of pillars, had been worked to the north or left-hand side of the tunnel? No. I, on arrival at the mine, went into the left-hand furnace, and attempted to go down the left-hand return, to see if the statement was right as to the area of the return.
1279. Could you proceed any distance for the water? I think I got about 12 or 14 yards. The tops had been standing and the bottoms filled up with ashes, there being about 9 or 10 inches on the top of the water.
1280. As a matter of fact, it was impenetrable—you could not proceed? No, I could not get there. I think the ashes had been wheeled from the furnace into this water, which naturally made it level until it reached the top, and then of course they could not get any further. I threw a stone and found the bottom of the water there.
1281. Do you know whether the body of water extended to the Eskbank boundary? It could not get out of the swallow.
1282. Returning to the inquiries you made when first you were sent for, did you ascertain whether any of the rise pillars had been taken out or worked to the left-hand side of the tunnel? I never made any inquiry as to the pillars. I do not know whether they had been stripped or removed. I went past the furnace, but could not get further after proceeding for 10 or 12 yards.
1283. Was there any return by the left-hand furnace? Yes, there was.
1284. The furnace was burning? Yes.
1285. Did you go into the right-hand furnace? Yes, when first I went into the mine.
1286. Was there much gas passing? Yes, very strong.
1287. Did you see the influence of the gas upon the flame? Yes, a beautiful blue flame; I put it down to fire-damp.
1288. Was the fire dull or lively at the time? It was very dull.
1289. Had fire-damp been passing over it, would the fire have been dull? No; I should think it would have been bright.
1290. Then, do you desire to change your opinion as to the character of the gas? I cannot say, because I did not take very much notice as to the character of the gas when I first entered the mine—I was more anxious to discover the men who were inside.
1291. You went into the right-hand furnace to satisfy yourself as to the state of the return? Yes.
1292. Well, what next did you do? I went past the furnace about 30 yards; when I got to the furnace the trap-door was standing wide open.
1293. Then I can readily understand how it was burning brightly. And when you got down this 30 yards, did you observe a large accumulation of ashes? Yes; I went through the ashes to get into the return.
1294. What was the state of the return at this time? Well, a man could live in it for an hour or two.
1295. What did you then do? I then came out and shut the furnace-door, and authorized the men to put bags on the top of the furnace-door. I then went out to the next cross-cut, and found that it was open; some canvas had been pulled down. There was at this time about 3,000 or 4,000 feet of air coming out and going down to the furnace. I authorized that to be put up. No. 2 cross-cut was also down, and I was half inclined to close that up when I was told that there was a party of men in there. I then proceeded further down the tunnel, made all the stoppings good on the way down, till I came to the seat of the smoke. When this party of men who had been in No. 2 cross-cut came back they told me that Doig and some others were in the right-hand district. I then broke a stopping on the right-hand side and one on the left-hand side. I then formed a party of men, and sent them into the cross-cut, and when they had been in about an hour they told me that they had got Doig. It was Sheedy who told me, and I instructed him to send a party of six or seven men for the other missing men; and I watched to see that the smoke did not come back.
1296. Did you ascertain whether Doig was found? I tried to go myself, but could not get there.
1297. Why were you prevented? Because of the foul air, so I went and increased the ventilation by taking down a right-hand stopping. Where the bodies were got out I went down myself. (*The plan examined.*)
- [The witness's explanation of the operations on the plan were dictated by the President, as follows:—
“The point where Doig, Younger, and Rowe were found, Mr. Turnbull believes to be a spot indicated on the plan by marks ○ ○ considerably to the south and east of the situations referred to by Martin, Hall, and Durie].
1298. *President.*] Well, Mr. Turnbull, Doig and the other men being found, did you think it was an error of judgment for these men to go into the return when they knew that the mine was full of smoke and gas? Well, I cannot say; I can only tell you that I would not have done it myself.
1299. To put it in another way: Do you, with the knowledge before you of the pressure in the main in-take of smoke and gas, consider it a safe proceeding to go into the return as these unfortunate men did? No, certainly not.
1300. Did any of the men report to you that the return was comparatively free from gas? Never.
1301. Did any of the men report to you that previous to your arrival they had reached or approached Tyndall's heading? I think Martin said they had been so far along the cross-cut. I then said I would go. But after trying and failing in the attempt, I came back and put on more ventilation. The search party would never have got there had I not put the ventilation in.
1302. Well, Mr. Turnbull, statements have been made here that before you arrived on the scene a party of men had been down to Tyndall's heading, and returned, and suffered inconsiderably, to put a mild term upon it? Yes; Sheedy was one, I have heard, but I would not be quite sure.
1303. When the bodies were got out, what did you turn your attention to? I came out and met Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Rowan. I explained to them what I had done, and they approved. I told them that I was going down the tunnel at the rate of 40 yards per hour. We went to the Company's office, and there met Mr. Wilton and Mr. Gell, and I asked them to go into the mine. When I got into the tunnel I found that the smoke had come back 400 yards from the point I had reached when I went away.

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1304. You left the smoke at what point? About 3 chains back from the boiler. It seemed that a man named Davies had opened the furnace-door, and pulled down the stoppings, and the canvas was pulled down in the first and second cross-cut. The men told me that Bob Davies was in the mine, trying to get round behind the fire, and Mr. Dixon and I came to the conclusion that he must be lost, and we went off to find him, but met him and some others coming out. After Doig was found I went out and formed a party of six men, and another of seven, to seek for the bodies of Younger and Rowe. I told them I would watch the ventilation, and for them not to go beyond a certain point. Shortly afterwards they came and told me that the bodies were found.
1305. What was the ultimate effect of the action taken by Mr. Davies in opening the stoppings? Well, it simply undid my work. After the bodies were got out I went up to the office, and on coming back again found that the smoke had returned 400 yards up the tunnel. It was utterly impossible to get down to where my canvas was fixed, whereas I had expected to get to the seat of the fire at 6 o'clock at night.
1306. Did you do your work over again? No. Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Dixon decided to close the mine. I drove the smoke, however, back 150 yards in their presence.
1307. You came to the conclusion then that you were making progress against the fire? Yes; I told them I would have done that.
1308. Do you think the fire would draw any air from Eskbank? I know the water from Lithgow Valley mine runs that way.
1309. Does it run freely? That I cannot say.
1310. When the inspectors decided or advised the owners to close up the mine, did you take any further part? No, I did not.
1311. Did you come to any conclusion on the subject of closing the mine? Well, if they had asked me to close the mine, and I had authority, I should have told them I would not do anything of the sort.
1312. Yet, in the face of that, Mr. Mackenzie came to the conclusion that it would be advisable to close the mine up? Yes.
1313. And is that all you know about the fire in Lithgow Valley mine, Mr. Turnbull? That is all.
1314. Supposing there is any opening out of Eskbank into Lithgow Valley mine, will it feed the fire that is burning at the present time? Of course.
1315. Do you think Mr. Gell gave Davies permission to interfere as he did? He says he did not. Mr. Wilton also says that Mr. Gell did not tell Davies to go into the mine.
1316. Do you think Davies made a mistake? I cannot say that.
1317. *Mr. Neilson.*] At all events it was done? Yes, it was done.
1318. *Chairman.*] Well, I can quite understand your feelings in getting your work undone in this way. But I would like to know a little more about it. You say you were in the act of rapidly regaining your lost ground? Yes, I was down beyond the fall of tops, and if I had got it down to where the tops were up I could have put more pressure on.
1319. Have you ever seen this underground boiler? Never.
1320. Well, the smoke on leaving this underground boiler went into the left-hand return? Yes.
1321. The left-hand return, so far as we have ascertained, crosses over more than a hundred yards of water, the height of which has not been ascertained. What would the effect on the return air be after damping down the furnace? It would naturally stop the pressure altogether.
1322. It would cool down the air and restore the equilibrium? Of course it would.
1323. Would that be sufficient to drive back some of the fumes from the boiler? It would go into the in-take itself.
1324. Then as to another point, a considerable current of air was wont to go down the main tunnel, I suppose,—what would the effect upon the boiler be if the main tunnel were closed up by a fall? It would stop the pressure again.
1325. What would be the effect upon the returns with a fall stopping the ventilation below the boiler, and with Tyndall's heading stopped with air-tight stoppings. What condition would you expect to find the returns in? Very bad.
1326. Then I understood you to say that you left after Messrs. Mackenzie and Dixon told you that they had determined to have the mine closed? I promised them that I would see to having it closed.
1327. Did you tell Mr. Mackenzie your opinion as to that? No; I did not say so to Mr. Mackenzie, it would not be my place. I promised Mr. Gell and Mr. Wilton that I would assist them in closing up the mine. They would have left it closed up yet.
1328. What induced them to open it? Well, I had nothing more to do with it, my Company prohibited me from acting. I told Mr. Wilton that I would undertake to open the mine, if they could get permission from my Company, and if they would provide me with the material I wanted. Mr. Wilton did not get permission from my Company, and therefore I never went.
1329. Did you think it was a right course to open the mine? I did not take it into account; I never interfered in any way with them. I did make a remark at one time, and of course I put my foot into it, so I vowed I would not say anything more.
1330. What was that remark? Oh, it was just a little private remark.
1331. Can you mention it? I do not think I could at the present time.
1332. Well, unless it has a distinct bearing upon the case, I do not think it will be necessary? It has nothing whatever to do with it.
1333. *Mr. Curley.*] Have you any idea of the *modus operandi* employed in the attempt to put out this fire? None whatever, except that I heard they had put on a steam jet at one time.
1334. *Mr. Neilson.*] Do you know anything about this last accident? No. The last word I had about the matter was when I saw Mr. Wilton in the office, and when I told him that I would undertake to open the mine, but must have the reins in my own hands.
1335. *Mr. Curley.*] Who was the party you left in charge when you left the mine to go to the office to see the owner? Ify. Scully. He had to watch the place where I had the bratticing.
1336. *Mr. Davies.*] Did this man Davies say anything? No; Scully never reported to me. Davies had got in himself.
1337. *Mr. Curley.*] You know the positions of the two furnaces in this mine? Yes.
1338. Do you consider they indicate good management? I would not like to say; it is possible they have an opinion as well as myself.
1339. Did you notice the ashes about the furnace? Oh, yes.

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1340. What do you do with your ashes in Vale of Clwydd? I have them taken direct from the furnace and put them on the main road.
1341. Would you consider it as a safe proceeding to stack these ashes in the mine after drawing them out of the furnace? All I can say is that I would not do it myself.
1342. *Mr. Usher.*] Did you ever measure the section of air in the main overcast in the morning? No, never.
1343. *Mr. Swinburne.*] Were you satisfied that the return at the left-hand furnace, at the time you saw it, was what it ought to be? I only penetrated about 12 or 14 yards; I could not go any further for water.
1344. What was the area, so far as you could ascertain? From the furnace to where the tops are up, I suppose it is about 20 feet by 5 feet.
1345. Was there a quantity of air passing through when you were there? Not very much.

THURSDAY, 6 MAY, 1886.

Present:—

THE PRESIDENT.
MR. USHER.
MR. THOMAS.
MR. NELSON.

MR. SWINBURN.
MR. CURLEY.
MR. DAVIES.
MR. JONES.

John Gibson sworn and examined:—

Mr. J. Gibson.

6 May, 1886.

1346. *President*] What is your occupation? I am a miner.
1347. Where did you learn your business? I had a good deal of experience in Lanarkshire, in Scotland. I have been eighteen years in this country, and have worked for some time in Newcastle.
1348. Have you ever had any experience of fire-damp? Yes; I was more or less in it the whole time I was in the Old Country.
1349. How long have you been working in this district? Five years, three years of which I worked in the Lithgow Valley mine.
1350. Do you consider this mine a safe one to work in? Yes.
1351. Is it a good roof? I never worked in a better.
1352. And how about the ventilation? It was very fairly ventilated.
1353. Have you ever seen any fire-damp there? No.
1354. Is it a coal you would expect fire-damp to exist in? No; I should scarcely expect it from the workings; I never saw anything of the kind in the district.
1355. So far as you know the coal does not give off this gas? No, it does not.
1356. Do you know the situation of the underground boiler? Yes.
1357. Do you know of a fire having occurred there before this last accident? Yes, just before last Christmas; it was not a serious matter.
1358. Was there an accumulation of small coal opposite the boiler? I did not see it.
1359. Did you ever travel through the return on the right-hand side? Nobody ever travelled there, so far as I know, since I was there. A certain portion of air escaped by the mouth of the boiler; there never was a door there that I could see; a bit of a bag was hung up there sometimes, and that was all.
1360. Would this cause the air to escape? There was not much of a draught that side; it occurred to me that there was something wrong with the return.
1361. Did you think that was a safe boiler? Well, I did not pass an opinion upon it at the time, but I have seen more of it since, and I think it should not have been there.
1362. But at the time it raised no suspicion in your mind? No, not a bit.
1363. Did you ever see smoke hanging over that boiler? Yes, many a time.
1364. Did that raise a suspicion in your mind that something was wrong? No, it happened many a time.
1365. When were you told that the first accident had occurred at this place? I was at home at the time, and was not going out that morning, or I should have been there; it was about 8 o'clock when word was sent to me; I went to the tunnel and went in as far as I could go; Mr. Turnbull and others had been in before me; of course I could do nothing more than go by his instructions.
1366. Did you search for any bodies? No; I saw them brought out.
1367. From your experience, did you think it strange for the manager and his companions to go into that return when the main tunnel was full of smoke? He might have had a purpose.
1368. Supposing the main airway to be full of smoke, what condition would you expect the return to be in? Well, it would be full of smoke; I thought Doig and his party had been a long way down the workings, and the smoke came down to them while they were there, and I think, perhaps, their oil had failed; probably they were going down to get more oil when they were overcome by the foul air.
1369. How did you come to think that? I inferred it from what Martin told me.
1370. When the brick stoppings were taken down, after the mine had been sealed up, was work resumed? I was not there the last week before the accident.
1371. Did you get down to the boiler when you were employed before this? Yes, I was often there.
1372. What was the condition of the main tunnel opposite the boiler, between that and Tyndall's heading? The top-coal was all down.
1373. Did the fall interfere with the course of the air? Yes, until we cut a way through.
1374. Did you see any fire in Tyndall's heading? No; there was fire right ahead of us; we could see a spark here, and that was like stars shining.
1375. When you ceased working it would appear that the great body of fire was discovered? Yes, so far as I could learn, it was.
1376. When the operations had extended down almost to the boiler, for some reason or other the men were suddenly withdrawn from the tunnel, and it was determined to close up the mine—can you tell us what was the reason of that resolution? No, I cannot.
1377. Do you know if that was the case? Yes, it was the case, but I was not on that shift at the time.
1378. In connection with the operation of putting the fire out, you, I believe, were selected as leader? Yes, they selected me as one.

1379.

1379. Had you any fear of danger in connection with this work? No, I had no fear of danger, except, perhaps, in connection with the rock above. Mr. J. Gibson.
1380. That of course was incidental to your calling? Yes. 6 May, 1886.
1381. Was any pressure brought to bear upon you? Not that I know of; I went just as the others went; I had no apprehension of danger.
1382. During the course of operations, did Mr. Campbell, the manager, the inspectors, and the owners visit you? Yes, very often; I went on at 6 o'clock at night and came off at 12, and I saw them there both when I went and when I left.
1383. Did they appear anxious for your safety, and supply you with all necessary material? Yes.
1384. So far as you can judge, did it appear to you that blame was attachable to any person on account of this last accident? I cannot see that blame could be attached to anyone.
1385. You have thought of it seriously, I suppose? Yes, many a time.
1386. Have you paid attention to the stoppings in this colliery? Yes.
1387. Have you ever seen the same stoppings elsewhere? I never did at Home.
1388. Have you ever seen any like them in any other place in the district? I believe there were similar stoppings in the ironworks' tunnel, but very few stoppings were used there.
1389. Did you think those stoppings served their purpose? Yes, they served their purpose so far, yet there was nothing secure about them.
1390. Do you think there would be extra security in timber in case of fire? Well, the draught would not have got through.
1391. Would timber go quicker than small coal? I do not think it would go quicker than small coal and dust.
1392. *Mr. Neilson.*] You know the left-hand furnace? Yes.
1393. Does it take any more air than what goes over the boiler? Oh, yes.
1394. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Were you ever down in the workings at the left-hand side? Yes; I have worked down that side.
1395. Were you ever over that portion near the boundary of the Eskbank Colliery, and if so, was there any water down there? Yes, there was any amount of water there.
1396. Are you aware of pillars being taken out down in that direction? They were not taken out in my time, but I know they have been taken out.
1397. How did you come to know? I was told by the men who took them out.
1398. Who were they? Robert Grant was one of them.
1399. To what extent were they taken out? I cannot say as to that, but I think I was told that a good many had been taken out.
1400. *Mr. Neilson.*] Have you had any experience of big falls? Yes, I have seen many a big fall. I saw a big fall at the Co-operative Colliery, Wallsend, when the props and dust and things were thrown 100 feet above the surface.
1401. *Mr. Jones.*] Have any pillars in this part of the mine been taken out? Not that I am aware of, the bords are all of the usual width, 8 or 9 yards, some might be more, some might be less.
1402. *Mr. Curley.*] Did you ever suggest to the management or inspectors the propriety of putting up brick stoppings? No. But I think I did on one occasion say, "I do not believe in those stoppings, and if I had my way I would have them constructed of brick on each side of the main drive."
1403. *Mr. Davies.*] Was this said to the proprietors or inspectors? I think Mr. Wilton and Mr. Rowan were with me at the time.
1404. *Mr. Curley.*] How long ago was this? I think it was about a fortnight before the late accident, my attention having been called to an escape in one of the stoppings.

Edward Power sworn and examined:—

1405. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am a coal-miner. I have been at it about eight years, on and off. I have worked in the Vale of Clwydd, the Ironworks Tunnel, the Eskbank, the Hermitage, and the Lithgow Valley mines. I worked in the Lithgow Valley mine for about three years. Mr. E. Power.
6 May, 1886.
1406. Are you acquainted with fire-damp? No.
1407. Have you seen choke-damp or black-damp? Never, until the late accident.
1408. From your experience, is the mode of conducting underground operations at the Lithgow Valley mine similar to the methods applied in the other collieries? Well, I always thought it was conducted better in the Lithgow Valley mine.
1409. In what way? Well, for better air; the men seemed to be more contented.
1410. But the mode of working is about the same as to the width of the pillars, &c.? Yes, it was similar throughout the district.
1411. Did you ever have reason to complain of the ventilation? No.
1412. Have you ever seen any smoke hanging about any part of the mine? Yes, I have seen a little where this boiler was. It would hang on the top in the morning before the set started to work.
1413. Did you hear of an underground fire taking place at this boiler some weeks before the accident? Yes, I did hear the men talk about it. I did not see it, because I was working in this new cross-cut.
1414. Did you ever surmise that the underground boiler was unsafe, or did you ever think about it? Well, I wheeled there for some two years, and I made a remark to the boss one time that the tops might possibly catch fire.
1415. Were they taken down? No.
1416. Who was the boss? John Doig.
1417. What did he say? He said, "No, they won't catch fire."
1418. Where did this fire originate that took place a few weeks before the accident? I heard it was behind the boiler. I heard it from the men who were engaged in putting it out.
1419. When did you become acquainted with the first accident? I was, I believe, the first man in the pit. At about 3.45 on the Monday morning I was going down the main heading and came to the smoke. I made an attempt to rush through, but found I could not get in further.
1420. Did it make you cough? Yes. I laid down on the side of the road till the miners came. We stopped till five more men came up, and I said we had better go and stop the horses. I went for that purpose

Mr. E. Power. peso to the stables, and told the man in charge that he had better not take the horses to the pit, as the tunnel was full of smoke.

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1421. Did you form one of the parties who went in search of Doig and his companions? Yes; I was with those who started for Rowe and Younger.

1422. Where did you go? We went into the new cross-cut, and through a stopping into the old working.

1423. Was the air bad? No; the air was very good, I think; the light burned well.

1424. Where did you go after passing through this stopping? We went through some old bords, turned to the right for about 3 chains, and we found the men in a bord off the cut-through.

1425. How were they lying when you found them? Younger was lying on his face, and Rowe on his back. They were very close together.

1426. Did you see their lamps? I saw two lamps alongside of Rowe.

1427. Was there any oil in them? I did not look.

1428. Did you test the quality of the air near the floor where you found the bodies—I mean did you put down your light? No; I did not take it off my hat.

1429. Did you see any of the men test the air? No; but I did hear one of them say, "Come away, chaps, the air is not very good here."

1430. Did you take any part in the subsequent operations—did you volunteer to work with Mr. Turnbull, for instance? Not with Mr. Turnbull; but I worked at the mine, when it was re-opened, the whole time.

1431. When you got down to the position of the boiler, did you notice a fall in the main tunnel? Yes. It was a large fall, which obstructed the air-way. No air could get over the top till some of the rocks were removed.

1432. Do you recollect that something transpired after you had got down to the boiler which determined the owners or the Government inspectors to close the mine? Yes.

1433. What had you been using for extinguishing the fire up to this date? We were using water, and were getting on very well, only there was a lot of black-damp and smoke to contend with.

1434. Then you did not know the reason why it was determined to abandon the attempt to extinguish the fire? No; but the miners thought it had not been properly tried. They believed the fire could be put out, and consequently made an application to Mr. Gell to be allowed to make the attempt. He said he was quite agreeable, and then went to see Mr. Mackenzie about it.

1435. How long after that did you receive permission to make the trial? We commenced at 9 o'clock that night.

[The witness here described the process of selecting the shifts and appointing leaders.]

1436. Did you anticipate any danger from this work you had volunteered to undertake? No; I did not see any danger at all till we got down to the fall—this suggested danger in the roof, but we used to sound the roof as we went along and put props up.

1437. Is that the usual mode of heaping up loose stone? I never saw any rock timbered in my life before.

1438. Did they take down any rock? No; they tried to take some down, but it would not come. Then they played the hose on the roof to clear the smoke away, and while thus playing on it the rock came down and filled fifteen skips.

1439. Did you undertake this work of your own free-will? Yes.

1440. Were you at work when the accident occurred? No; I was going on to relieve that shift.

1441. When you got down to the seat of the fire, did you notice any fire in Tyndall's heading? No, I did not; but I believe there was fire in it.

1442. Did you see any fire about the boiler? Yes; I saw fire on both sides. I also saw fire in the stopping which had been opened in the main tunnel this side of the brattice. That fire was put out as far as we could reach, but I formed the opinion that the next shift would not be able to put it out with water, as it had got too firm a hold. I saw this on the Sunday night.

1443. Were you ever in the mine again after that Sunday night? No, not until I came to brick these stoppings up.

1444. Mr. Neilson.] Was the fire at the stopping on the left-hand side of the tunnel spreading right across the bord? Yes, and working in the pillar right round as far as we could see.

1445. President.] Then it had evidently worked round from the pillar first? Yes.

1446. Mr. Curley.] How far would that stopping be from the flue on the main tunnel? About a chain.

1447. President.] Did the fire burn as if extending up parallel with the main tunnel? It was going towards the main tunnel. One of the men said to me as we were going home, "They will never put that fire out, and I will not go back any more."

1448. While you were working, did you hear any sounds as of rocks falling in the waste? I heard cracks which I imagined came from the bottom of the coal that was burning. It sounded as if something was splitting with the heat.

1449. Mr. Curley.] Did you report to the manager the condition of the fire every time your shift came out of the mine? No.

1450. Was the manager present during your last shift? No; he was at home ill.

1451. Mr. Neilson.] Was the manager in the mine between the time of your going out and the time that the accident took place? Yes, he was.

R. R. Druery sworn and examined:—

Mr. R. R. Druery.

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1452. President.] What is your occupation? I am a miner. I gained my experience first in the North of England, in the county of Durham. I have been about nine years in the Colony following my occupation as a miner.

1453. Have you had any experience of fire-damp? Yes, at Home.

1454. In what mines have you been employed in this district? I have worked in all excepting the Eskbank.

1455. Speaking generally, are all the Lithgow collieries worked in about the same manner? Yes, they are mainly worked on the same principles.

1456.

1456. When were you last employed in the Lithgow Valley mine? At the time of the first accident.
 1457. And for how long before the accident? Seven or eight months.
 1458. Was the ventilation sufficient in the mine while you were employed there? I had no complaint to make where I was engaged.
 1459. Have you ever seen explosive gas in the Lithgow Valley mine? No.
 1460. Have you ever heard of it having been seen there? I cannot say that I have.
 1461. Not having made any complaint about the ventilation of the mine, then you considered it sufficient? So far as I was personally concerned, yes.
 1462. In going to and from your work, have you seen this underground boiler? Yes. I was called upon six weeks previous to the first accident by the underground manager, Mr. Passmore, to assist him to put out what was supposed to be a fire. The fire was burning behind the furnace, below the flues, among some slack. It appeared to drop off the tops or sides of the pillars.
 [Witness described the process of extinguishing the said fire.]
 1463. Did you suggest the advisability of removing the slack? I suggested it to Mr. Passmore several times. He said that the manager had seen it.
 1464. Did you continue to work in the mine? Yes.
 1465. Did you consider the boiler a source of danger? I did not consider it a source of danger in the state in which I left it.
 1466. Have you formed any opinion as to the source of this fire? Yes, I think it came from the furnace, probably owing to some of the soot having caught fire on the roof and sides.
 1467. Then there was a considerable amount of soot on the roof and sides? Yes.
 1468. Did you ever travel in the left-hand return? I considered it impossible; I have been just at the end of the pipes.
 1469. Do you know the size of the shaft that leads from the left-hand furnace? I have been given to understand it is 6 ft. in diameter.
 1470. Had you ever seen smoke hanging about the boiler prior to this accident? I have seen steam and smoke hanging about the roof.
 1471. Do you consider the mine was a safe one to work in? I was not engaged as a miner; I was a day-worker.
 1472. Did you ever travel pretty well through the mine? Oh, yes.
 1473. And do you consider this mine, generally speaking, a safe one? Yes.
 1474. Was the roof a good one? Yes; the rock cover was the best I ever came in contact with.
 1475. What part, if any, did you take in finding the late Mr. Doig and his companions? On the Monday morning I went to work as usual; I was then engaged at the extreme end of what is known as the second cross-cut. On going in past the return I found the air thicker than usual. This was about 5.30 o'clock.
 1476. Did you think anything was wrong? Yes; it led me to believe there was something radically wrong, and I went to warn the men who were working in the face. They acted upon my advice immediately, and they, knowing the cross-cut road better than I did, took the other way round. Going back again I was knocked down three times in succession by the stibbe.
 1477. Did you take any part in the recovery of the unfortunate men who fell victims to the catastrophe? I went home, and on running back again I noticed a number of men who were sitting at the side of the tunnel, and I asked them if any instructions had been given to get the men relieved. They said no. I then sent for Mr. Turnbull, and on his arrival, about 7 o'clock, we all went to the office to get the plan. The door was locked, and had to be forced in; then we found the plan on the table. After the plan had been inspected and discussed, Mr. Turnbull asking me a number of questions, which I answered to the best of my ability, we proceeded to the pit again.
 1478. Do you know that before this time one or two parties had penetrated the right-hand workings as far as Tyndall's heading? I heard it spoken of, but did not place any reliance on it.
 1479. Were you one of the parties who found or searched for those men? I was at the time engaged in the main tunnel with Mr. Turnbull, trying to get in as far as possible. I was among the second party, and we went into the return of No. 2 cross-cut to the left. Having gone in as far as we could, we came back, and then we heard Mr. Turnbull and some others saying that the men had been found.
 1480. Did you take part in any subsequent operations after the mine was closed up? No.
 1481. You were not connected in any way with the last operations? No.
 1482. *Mr. Curley.* Did you hear Mr. Turnbull receive any instructions from the proprietors? I did not, only to make the best he could of it.
 1483. After you mentioned about the position of this boiler to Mr. Passmore, and you found that nothing had been done, did you complain to Doig? I never mentioned the matter.
 1484. Had ever such a thing as check-inspection taken place in connection with this mine by the miners themselves? Not that I am aware of.
 1485. Do you know that the miners have that power under the Act of 1876? Yes.
 1486. Do you think that there would be any difficulty in carrying that out? Not that I can see.
 1487. *Mr. Jones.* You are not aware that the men ever tested the matter? No.
 1488. *Mr. Davies.* During the eight months you worked at the colliery, did you see the inspectors there frequently? I can safely say I saw them twice.

William Mantle sworn and examined.

1489. *President.* What is your occupation? I am a miner. I have been working in the Lithgow Valley mine, and was previously employed at the Hermitage Colliery. I have also worked in the Eskbank and Vale of Clwydd.
 1490. Are the workings in the different mines in this district in which you have been employed all conducted on the same or similar lines? Yes; the stoppings are composed of the same materials, and the bords are about the same width.
 1491. And as to the ventilation? They are all about the same.
 1492. Then in the matter of the Lithgow Valley mine ventilation, did you find that sufficient or otherwise? I found it quite sufficient. I had no cause to complain, nor have I heard anyone else complain of the ventilation.
 1493. Have you had any experience of fire-damp or choke-damp? No; I have never heard of it; I have heard of black-damp though.

Mr.
W. Mantle.
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Mr.
W. Mantle.
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1494. While engaged as a miner at this colliery, have you seen the inspectors of collieries paying visits for the purpose of inspection? Yes.
1495. Have they spoken to you? Yes.
1496. Had you ever cause to make complaints to them about anything? No.
1497. Then what part did you take in the first accident? I was not at the first accident.
1498. Have you seen the underground boiler? Yes, I have seen it, but never inspected it.
1499. Did you ever hear of a fire occurring there before this last accident. No.
1500. Were you employed at the last accident? Yes.
1501. Were you down at the seat of the fire? Yes.
1502. Did you see a fall in the main tunnel? Yes; it was a large fall, and a portion was on fire.
1503. Did you hear about a fire in Tyndall's heading? Yes.
1504. Did you hear about the stopping in that heading being on fire? Yes, and it was put out.
1505. Did you see a fire in the neighbourhood of the boiler? Yes. The tops had fallen at the back of the boiler, and were on fire. There was fire at the side of the boiler also, and the corner of a pillar had taken fire.
1506. Did you get to the back of the boiler? No.
1507. So far as you went, did the fire extend to the left-hand side of the boiler? Yes.
1508. Did you see a fire in the left-hand side of the tunnel, near the boiler? Yes. It was a heavy fire, and it had got a good hold of the coal.
1509. Were you employed on shift when the accident occurred? Yes. About five minutes before the accident I was holding the hose to the fire, I and my brother. I came back after being relieved by John Duncan, and had not been back more than five minutes before the accident happened. It was like a clap of thunder, and was followed by a rush of air which extinguished the lights. My hat and lamp were blown away. I was not knocked down, but it gave me a great shock. I then heard one man say, "Take to the skips." At this time we had all got hold of one another. Every one thought we were going to be crushed to death. We went for the empty skips, but they would not move, and I then pulled the signal wire, but it did not seem to act properly. We then got out of the skips and made for the mouth of the tunnel.
1510. Did you see any red coals on your way out? Yes, about 13 or 14 chains from the boiler. It extended over 4 or 5 yards, perhaps a little more or less.
1511. Did you experience any difficulty in crossing this? No; it was just a scattered fire.
1512. Did the second rush of air contain a greater quantity of damp than the first? Yes; I believe it did, because the feeling of suffocation increased.
1513. Did you see any stoppings blown down? Yes, a number of them, and I believe the fire was blown out from the stopping.
1514. An hour or two before the accident happened you say the ventilation was sound, and that an hour or two previous to that you opened a stopping on the left-hand—which way did the fresh air take—did it rush through the stopping into the fire? Yes.
1515. Did you extinguish this fire? Only to a certain distance.
1516. You closed up the stopping? Yes, we bratticed it up again to exclude the air.
1517. Did you foresee this calamity? No, I did not. I had never been in anything of the kind before. The last shift I got frightened of the roof coming down, as we could not see it for the damp and smoke.
1518. That was a danger reasonable to anticipate of course? Yes.
1519. Do you blame anybody for this accident? No, I cannot blame anybody for it.
1520. Did you ever hear either the management, inspectors, or the owners asking you not to run into any danger? No.
1521. Were they ever present during your operations? Yes.
1522. Did they show any anxiety for your safety? I have not heard them, but I have heard other men say they did. I might have been out of the way at the time though.
1523. They were present, however? Yes.
1524. And giving you a helping hand when it was required? Yes.
1525. Then have you formed any opinion on this subject—can you attach blame to anybody? No; but I believe that if the skips had come out we should all have come out right enough.
1526. But the rapper-wire might have been interfered with by the stoppings being blown out, might it not? Certainly it might.
1527. Then you do not attach any blame to the engine-man? No.
1528. Was the rapper-wire free previous to this accident? Yes, I believe it was, because the skips were travelling in and out.
1529. How long before? About an hour.
1530. Could you have signalled with it five minutes before this accident happened? To the best of my belief, I could.
1531. Then the wire got disarranged by the accident? Yes, I suppose so.
1532. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Then the skips were there to take the debris, were they not? Yes.
1533. *Mr. Ourley.*] What was the stopping composed of that you bratticed up again? It was composed of slack.
1534. What was it put up for? To travel the air in the right course.
1535. And there was a fire raging at the inside of it? Yes.
1536. *Mr. Jones.*] How many of these skips were there? There were five in the set.
1537. *Mr. Swinburn.*] How could these skips come out, the stoppings being blown out and 2 feet of small coal lying across the tramroad? They must have been pulled over the top.

John Sheedy sworn and examined:—

- Mr. J. Sheedy.* 1538. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am a miner, and have been employed in the Lithgow Valley mine, where I worked for fourteen years.
- 6 May, 1886. 1539. Have you had any experience of fire-damp at any time? No. I have not worked in the old country. I am a native of the valley.
1540. Have you had any reason to complain of the ventilation of this mine? No; nor have I ever heard any complaint made.
1541. Have you ever heard of any underground fires at the Lithgow Valley mine before February last? No.

1542. What part did you take in finding Doig, Younger, and Rowe? I was in bed when my friend came back from there and told me that a fall had taken place, and that there were three men inside. I put my clothes on and went down the pit and into our own bord to the face of the cross-cut, taking a shovel with me in case I might want it. The air at that time was very good. It was about 10 o'clock in the morning.
1543. Was Mr. Turnbull present? Possibly so. I did not see him. I went in of my own accord. Seeing a light come up from No. 2 cross-cut, I sang out, "Who's that"? It was William Martin, and he asked me where I was going, and I told him to look for the men. We struck the return and followed it down for about 5 chains, so far as I could guess. There was a heading about 2 chains off the return. Here I cooceed, and almost at the same time we heard a sigh.
1544. How far were you off the return when you heard the sigh? It would be about 4 chains.
1545. And you had proceeded about 5 or 6 chains down the cross-cut? Yes. I said to Martin, "There is one of the men there"; and I ran up and said, "It is Mr. Doig."
1546. Do you understand the plan of the mine? No; I am a poor scholar.
1547. However, you adhere to this statement that after leaving the cross-cut you went straight for 5 or 6 chains, then you went a few chains down to the right, and there found Doig? Yes.
- On being further examined the witness admitted that he and his companion did not know exactly what they were doing or where they were, although he knew his way. In fact he could not locate the exact spot.
1548. Doig was then carried out? Yes. Where we found him the black-damp was about 2 feet over his face, that is, he was lying in a little over 2 feet of foul air. I put the light down, and it immediately went out.
1549. Did you return for Younger and Rowe? No, I did not. I was affected by the gas, and when I got out I fell down.
1550. Did you work at the mine after that? Yes; at the right-hand furnace. I went on as soon as the men next re-opened the mine.
1551. Did you have any difficulty in keeping the fire alight? The fire burned right enough, but it would not stop in very long.
1552. Did you open the door to give yourself air? Well, I could always keep in myself, but the chap who was with me could not. The air that kept the furnace alight was return air. The damp did affect me, but it was not sufficient to put the fire out.
1553. Was there a large quantity of air passing up the return? Yes, a good quantity.
1554. How often did you clear that fire? I used to clear it every ten minutes.
1555. Were did you put the ashes? I put them a short distance from the fire.
1556. Have you ever known these ashes to take fire? No.
1557. Have you ever felt any heat among the ashes? No.
1558. Did you speak to the manager about keeping so many ashes there? No.
1559. *Mr. Jones.*] You have been engaged for a long time in the Lithgow Valley Colliery? Yes.
1560. Had the pillars in any part of that mine been taken out? Not to my knowledge.
1561. What is the width of the bords? Twenty-one feet.
1562. Did they ever exceed that width? Not to my knowledge, so long as I have been there.
1563. You have never heard of bords being driven too wide then? No.
1564. And never heard any complaint as to that? No. I think it was the best worked place in the valley.
1565. *Mr. Neilson.*] You have had no experience outside the valley? No, excepting Mount Pleasant.
1566. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Have you ever been down the left-hand side of the main tunnel? Yes.
1567. Do you know if there is a connection between Lithgow Valley mine and Eskbank? Yes, there is.
1568. Have you ever seen much water down that part of the district? No; but I believe the water runs into the Eskbank Colliery.
1569. Do you know if any pillars were extracted in that part of the district? No; I do not know.

Gilbert Kirkwood sworn and examined:—

1570. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am a miner.
1571. Where have you followed your occupation? I worked as a miner in Scotland.
1572. And how long in this Colony? About two years.
1573. Where have you been engaged since you came to this district? I have worked at the Vale of Clwydd and in the Lithgow Valley mine, where I was fireman and overman.
1574. Have you had any experience of fire-damp in the old country? Yes.
1575. While you were engaged as a worker in the Vale of Clwydd, did you ever see any fire-damp? No.
1576. Nor in the Lithgow Valley mine? No.
1577. Did you ever suspect its presence? No.
1578. Do you think the seam of coal is likely to generate fire-damp? I do not think so.
1579. Have you had any experience of choke-damp? Yes; but I have never seen it where the air was good.
1580. But choke-damp rests in the old workings, as a rule. How long were you working in the Lithgow Valley mine? About eighteen months.
1581. Have you had any reason to complain of want of ventilation? No; there was always good air when I was there. I never had reason to complain of the ventilation, nor of the character of the stoppings. I think the stoppings were carefully put up.
1582. Have you ever heard the miners complain about the want of ventilation, or of the presence of fire-damp or choke-damp? No.
1583. In going to and coming from your operations in the mine, had you occasion to pass the underground boiler? Yes; I passed it every morning.
1584. From your experience as a former deputy, were you curious to see how that underground boiler was built? I never went in to see it, but I did not think it should be there; that is, so far in the workings. I never travelled the return, and I never was in the left or right hand return.
1585. Coming to the first accident, when were you first apprised of it? I was not there at the time. I appeared on the Monday at the accident when the bodies had been taken out.
1586. Did you take any part in the operations that were conducted by Mr. Turnbull? No.
1587. The mine was sealed up a day or two afterwards, was it not? I suppose it was.

Mr.
G. Kirkwood.
6 May, 1886.

1588.

- Mr. G. Kirkwood.
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1588. And it remained closed for some time? Yes, but I cannot say for how long.
1589. Were you employed in connection with the operations after re-opening? Yes.
1590. Do you know anything about one of the principal stoppings being interfered with? I never knew one from the other. I had heard of a stopping having been opened at Tyndall's heading, but I cannot give positive evidence about that. Mr. Campbell told me. I never saw it myself.
1591. When you got to the source of the fire, did you see anything in the main tunnel that attracted your attention? I saw the smoke and a fall when we went down to where the fire was burning.
1592. At this time, we understand that operations were then suspended for a time—do you know the reason why? No.
1593. At all events, we have heard that a meeting of the miners was held after it had been determined to close the mine. Do you know anything about that? I was not one of those who collected at the pit bank, but I was told by some of them of the course which it was proposed to adopt.
1594. Were you a worker? Yes.
1595. Did you at that time anticipate any danger? No.
1596. Was any pressure brought to bear on you to engage in the work? None whatever. The men selected me as one of the loaders.
1597. Did you enter that mine as leader of a shift of your own free-will? Yes, but I always thought that the Company had to pay me; I did not believe in volunteering. I was doing all I could to put out the fire to benefit myself.
1598. Did the owners show a sympathy and regard for the safety of the men? Yes; we got everything we required, and we were told not to run into any danger.
1599. Did your employers visit you during the operations? Yes; they were hardly ever out of the pit, and they showed considerable anxiety for our safety.
1600. Some time elapsed while you worked on in order to gain the seat of the fire, and your efforts were at last rewarded by your being able to bring your operations down to the seat of the fire, and you got past Tyndall's heading. Did you see any fire there? Well, no; there was a little fire in one of the pillars, but it was soon put out. I was not in the shift that first approached Tyndall's heading.
1601. Did you hear that the first shift saw a fire there? No.
1602. Do you know whether the stoppings in Tyndall's heading were on fire? No; the stuff that we lifted came out quite clean, without any appearance of burning.
1603. As to this fall in the main tunnel, would that interfere with the air-course? Yes; I think it did obstruct the air-course, because when we got to Tyndall's heading the air was more clear.
1604. Did you turn your attention to the left-hand beside the boiler? Yes; there was fire there. The tops were down, and we put them out and removed them.
1605. How far was this to the back of the boiler? It was just at the back that we noticed the fire going up behind us, and on the left-hand side a portion was on fire, and an attempt was made to put it out with water, but it was not entirely successful.
1606. Did you observe any fire through the corner of the pillar above the boiler? Yes.
1607. Did you think the fire had a firm hold? It was flaming when I saw it last there. We had to brattice down the tunnel with canvas in order to reach the fire, the return being on the right-hand side, where the stopping was taken out.
1608. Where were you at the moment of the accident? I was sitting down at the time about 18 yards above the boiler.
1609. What was the first intimation you received of something unusual happening? Well, there was a shock like a great sigh of wind. This was followed by a second report, much heavier than the first.
1610. Did it knock you down? Yes. I thought at first that the bratticing had given way, and I was in the act of rising when a rush of air met me and knocked me down, and blew my hat and lamp away.
1611. What did you suppose had happened? Well, I scarcely knew. I thought it was a blast.
1612. Arising from what? Arising from the smoke. I did not suppose that there was any gas in that working, but I thought the blast might have been occasioned by the smoke rising from the furnace.
1613. Have you ever heard of a smoke explosion? No.
1614. If you inhaled black-damp, would it choke you? Yes.
1615. Is not the action of choke-damp precisely the same when applied to fire—will it not extinguish it? Yes, I suppose if I put choke-damp on a fire it would extinguish it.
1616. During your long experience, have you ever witnessed the effects of a large and heavy fall? I have seen many a fall. The heaviest one in my experience was in a pit where the workings were 9 feet in height, and it extended over three or four rows of pillars. We were all knocked down, but it did not do any more damage. The workings did not contain choke-damp.
1617. Supposing the waste between these pillars you have mentioned had been filled with choke-damp, what would the effect of a fall have been? It would have put the damp on top of us, and fouled the air-course.
1618. Well, as to this last accident, did you suspect any danger? No.
1619. Did you anticipate this calamity? No.
1620. You looked upon it purely as an accident? Yes.
1621. Did you think any blame could be attached to anyone on account of the accident? No; everything was done that could be done. Messrs. Rowan and Mackenzie were there every day, and did all they could to assist the men, and look after their safety.
1622. And did the owners exhibit due regard for the safety of the men? Yes; they could not have been more considerate.
1623. *Mr. Jones.*] Of your knowledge, have the pillars in any part of this pit been taken out? Not to my knowledge. I know very little about the workings. I have not been very long in the mine.
1624. *Mr. Davies.*] Were the inspectors in during the last shift you worked? Yes, they were in the fore-part of the shift.
1625. You have not been intimidated in any way, have you? Certainly not. I get nothing but what I work for, and I don't care for anybody.
1626. *Mr. Jones.*] Was permission sought from the inspectors or manager or owners before the mine was re-opened? I do not know anything about that. I was not there. I considered that I was working for the owners.
1627. *Mr. Thomas.*] I understand you to say that either the inspectors, the manager, or the owners, were

were always in attendance at the mine? Yes, they attended every day. I have seen one of the owners sitting there for five hours. I have not seen Mr. Gell so often.

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G. Kirkwood.
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1628. *Mr. Curley.*] About this boiler: I think you said you have sometimes thought it should not be there? I never bothered my head about it, nor did I say anything about it—I had nothing to do with it.

1629. But if you had anticipated danger from that boiler, would you not have spoken to some one about it? I never thought about there being any danger from it.

1630. Why did you think it was in the wrong position then—you have already said something to that effect? Well, I had never seen one in such a position before.

1631. That is, it was a little singular? Yes, that was my reason.

1632. Do you know what distance it is from the mouth of the tunnel? I cannot say; I never measured it.

President.] 36 chains down the tunnel.

1633. *Mr. Jones.*] Were the inspectors present when the stoppings were taken down on the second occasion? I suppose they were, but I was not in the first shift.

1634. *Mr. Usher.*] What was the size of the pillars in the mine where these falls had taken place? I cannot say; I never measured any of the pillars.

1635. What was the width of the bords? Some were 6 yards, and some were only 5 yards, some were 7 yards, and some went as high as 10 yards.

John Duncan sworn and examined:—

1636. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am a miner, and have followed that occupation for fifteen years. I started working in mines in the north of England.

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J. Duncan.
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1637. Did you in the north of England ever become acquainted with fire-damp? I have never seen fire-damp.

1638. Have you any experience of choke-damp or stythe? I have found it in places where the pure air was not going its proper course.

1639. That is in the gob? Yes.

1640. How long have you worked in this district? Fifteen months.

1641. In what collieries? I have worked in the Eskbank, and at the Ironworks Tunnel, and at the Lithgow Valley mine.

1642. Is the same seam of coal worked at all three places? Yes, so far as I know.

1643. Is the same system of working pursued at all three places? Yes, just the same. The same size of bords, and the same width of stalls.

1644. Did you consider it a dangerous or a safe seam to work? I thought I was as safe as I am sitting here.

1645. Had you any cause to complain of the ventilation of the mine? I have had to say nothing in regard to that.

1646. Or about any other danger that you considered might exist? No; I never spoke to anybody.

1647. Do you know the underground boiler? Yes.

1648. Did you ever examine it? I never saw it until this late accident.

1649. From your own knowledge, do you know whether a fire occurred at that boiler before this last fire? No.

1650. Have you ever travelled the air-courses in the Lithgow Valley mine? I have never been anywhere excepting my own bord.

1651. Did you take any part in the search for the late manager and his companions? Yes; we went along the second cross-cut down to the bord on the left-hand side; then we turned again to the right and across as far as we could get, and made our way to the left again. We could not get further in that direction, so we went to the right and straight ahead.

1652. You turned off to the cross-cut and went straight down to the cast? Yes. We found the men lying about 10 yards from the heading.

1653. Have you formed any opinion as to how the men came to be in that position? Well, I think they had gone down as far as they could, and their lamps going out for want of oil, they lost their way in the endeavour to get out.

1654. Was the air in the passage where the bodies were found as pure and breathable as in the return? I think they were found in the returns.

1655. I understood you to say off the return? No, 10 yards up the return.

1656. Before you went in with the search party for Younger and Rowe, had Mr. Turnbull directed fresh air into that portion of the workings? So far as I know, he did. We opened the stoppings and closed them according to his direction.

1657. Do you think his action had any influence on the character of the ventilation when you arrived at the bodies? I think it must have had, because we could live in the air, and the men were dead when we found them.

1658. It is a matter of conjecture as to why they were found in that position, is it not? Yes.

Plan examined for the purpose of indicating where the bodies were found. Witness is uncertain as to the position pointed out by Mr. Turnbull, but he believes it to be about the spot.

1659. Well, Mr. Duncan, the work was abandoned, and the resolution was arrived at that the mine should be closed up—is that so? Yes.

1660. Did you hear anything about any stopping having been surreptitiously opened? No, I do not know anything about it.

1661. Well, with regard to this meeting of the men which resulted in their volunteering to put out the fire if the mine were re-opened—do you know anything about that? It was reported to me. I think it was Archie Durie who told me that the men were up at the pit, and were going to volunteer to put the fire out; I said I would do my best to assist with the others; I was not present when it was put to the meeting, but I understood that the miners were to take the matter into their own hands, and that if they succeeded in putting the fire out they would be compensated by the Company. I agreed to go with the majority. After we obtained permission to re-open the tunnel we assembled and took the shifts.

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shifts. There were eight men in each shift, I think; I was one of the first, and there were four men picked for leaders.

1662. Who picked them? I do not know. They were down in the tunnel, and four men were called in; I think Kirkwood and Gibson were among the number, I forget the others. The leaders took no more special interest in the work than the men.

1663. In doing this work, did you agree to take whatever risk attended it? Well, I knew what the work was, but apprehended no danger; I knew that the only thing to contend against was the smoke.

1664. Did you not consider that in putting out the fire some danger might arise? It never struck me.

1665. At the same time you took your own risk? Oh, yes; I consider that I was running my own risk.

1666. Well, the miners having arranged their own work, did the owners show any concern for their safety? I think the men had it nearly all their own way, working the thing in a practical manner; the owners were in occasionally. I do not think they apprehended any danger. Mr. Gell was right in the midst of it, and if he had apprehended any danger I suppose he would not have been there.

1667. Did they counsel you not to run any risk? Yes. Mr. Wilton said he would rather lose the mine than ever hear of a man's head being hurt.

1668. Did you obtain all the materials you required for carrying out the operations? Yes, we had everything we wanted.

1669. Well, the work proceeded in this methodical manner till you got down and approached the neighbourhood of the boiler, did it not? Yes.

1670. When you approached the boiler and the cross-roads at Tyndall's heading, what appearance did the tunnel present? It was quite clear behind; sometimes there was a little smoke in the roof.

1671. There was a fall opposite the boiler? Yes, a heavy fall.

1672. Do you think it blocked the air-course? Yes, I think it did to a certain extent.

1673. Did you keep both furnaces going? Yes, and obtained plenty of air for the purpose of our operations. In fact when we put on the second furnace it turned the flame of the lamp. We directed our operations to Tyndall's heading, because we saw we could get a direct return for the air. There was a fire in Tyndall's heading. The stopping was 10 yards off the main tunnel; we put the hose on to it; and opened the stopping at the mouth of Tyndall's heading, which gave us relief, the smoke passing round to the furnace.

1674. Did you see any fire at the large fall in the main tunnel? Yes, we saw some fire there.

1675. What did you see at the boiler? We saw fire on the right-hand side of the boiler.

1676. Did you observe any fire to the left-hand in the old workings? Not just then.

1677. When did you observe it? A day or two after that a man named Hyde said he could see fire in that direction. There was a stopping down about 9 yards back from the boiler.

1678. Was this on the main tunnel? Yes. We did not see any fire that time; but the next shift opened the stoppings and applied the hose, and, as we thought, put out the fire. A day or two after that a fire was discovered further up the heading. Of course it was opened in the same manner. Tops were cut down and the hose played upon it, but without effect.

1679. Was that fire still burning when the fatal catastrophe occurred? Yes, so far as I know.

1680. Up to this time, was every precaution taken for your safety? Oh, yes, but I could not see any danger. The only thing I saw to be rather afraid of was the roof.

1681. Did you take precautions to ascertain the condition of the roof? Yes; we had a long iron rod to sound it, and put props in occasionally to support it.

1682. Did the Inspectors of Mines visit you? Yes, and remained with us two or three hours at a time.

1683. Then you have no complaint to make of the Inspectors of Mines so far as the performance of their duties went? No; so far as I know they did everything they could to put the fire out, and they used to caution the men occasionally. I quite believe they performed their duty.

1684. Coming to the catastrophe, can you tell us about that? Well, when the men were engaged putting the canvas up to carry the air into the main tunnel, I had just relieved William Mantle about five minutes previously. He said, "Some of you boys come to the pump," and I went to the hose. The men behind me were putting the brattice on. I was just going to shout to the men to knock off, as we were going to have something to eat, when I heard somebody shout, and turning round I saw some canvas fall away, and the men shouted to me to run. Then the other brattice gave way. The steam from the fire used to play on the brattice, which was smoking and hot, and it fell on my arm. It came away on the top of me, burning me, and I could not fight my way through, but I managed to get out and run against the pump; then a rush of air came through, and I got down on my knees and crawled along.

1685. Was it a strong rush of wind? It was. Before the rush of wind I heard a noise like a dead sort of report, something like a cannon going off at a good distance; that was followed by another noise, but not so loud. By this time I was making tracks for the skips.

1685a. What did you think these two reports were caused by? I had no time to think about reports or anything else.

1686. As you proceeded up the tunnel, what took place next? When I got up Norwood was feeling for the rafter-wire in the tunnel; he said, "I cannot find this wire" (the signal wire), and I jumped into the last skip beside Buzza. The men were shouting that the tunnel mouth was closed in.

1687. Why did they think that? I did not think much about it. The air was not very bad then. I passed Norwood sitting on the road. At this time choke-damp was coming in very strong down the tunnel. I was crawling on my hands and knees as well as I could, getting weaker every moment. Then I came to Mantel, Rowe, and Buzza; Mantel was gasping for breath; he was pleading with Rowe and Buzza not to leave him. I went past, and had struggled about 20 yards further, when Mantel said: "I cannot go on; I am done." Rowe said, "I am done, too." I was creeping along as fast as I could, but at last I felt that I could not go any further. I told Rowe to lay aside out of the way. Finally I got hold of the rope, and I knew no more till I got outside. The skips went by, and I tried to grasp the last one, but I could not get up. I got hold of the rope again, and I held on till the skips stopped. I received a good supply of air from underneath the skips. At last, after a great trouble, I met Campbell proceeding down the tunnel; I told him that the men were down there; then someone took me out of the tunnel mouth.

1688. You say the rush of air was preceded by two reports? Yes; there was a report first, then a rush of air, then another report.

1689. What position of the mine did they come from? They came down the tunnel.

1690.

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1690. Can you say which side of the tunnel? No.
1691. Was the rush of air attended by any flash or flame? I never saw anything of the kind.
1692. Did some of the force get expended about the boiler? Yes.
1693. In proceeding up the tunnel, did you see any red-hot coals? Yes, in two places.
1694. Opposite where? I cannot say that.
1695. Was there a large quantity of live coal? There were three or four pieces scattered over the tunnel.
1696. Can you ascribe that rush of air to any cause? Well, the only reason I could give is that there must have been an explosion.
1697. How do you know it proceeded from an explosion? I cannot prove it.
1698. In your experience in mining, have you ever seen the effects of a heavy fall—have you ever felt a heavy wind blast? Yes, I have, at Home, at Westwood; everything fell before the rush of wind; the lights were blown out, but there was no black-damp.
1699. Have you ever seen any gas in this mine? Never.
1700. When you stated that an explosion occurred, that is only your opinion? Yes.
1701. Did you ever think of the possibility of its being due to a heavy fall of rock? Yes, that might have been the cause of it.
1702. Have you ever heard of pillars being taken out to the left tunnel? No.
1703. Do you know whether the pillars to the left of the tunnel have been robbed or split? No; I have not been down there at all.
1704. It is a strong roof, I believe? Yes.
1705. Does the fact that you have not seen gas in this mine raise doubts in your mind as to the improbability of an explosion having taken place? Well, so far as I am concerned, I thought that perhaps a fall had taken place on the left-hand side, which would have a tendency to prevent the smoke going away, and it caused it to accumulate behind, and then perhaps a fall came and burnt through the stoppings.
1706. But would a fall, forcing smoke out through the stoppings, constitute an explosion? I do not know that it would constitute an explosion; I never saw any explosive gas in that mine.
1707. Do you think explosive gas could exist in the proximity of a fire? I do not know.
1708. Do you know whether fire-damp will explode when a light is applied to it? Yes, I know that.
1709. Do you know whether it is likely or possible for fire-damp to exist in proximity to a large underground fire and not explode? Yes, up to a certain time.
1710. Have you ever seen or known smoke to explode? No.
1711. Have you ever seen or known smoke to be used to put out a fire? No.
1712. Do you know that it is done? I should think it might be.
1713. Would choke-damp put out fire? I think it would.
1714. Then if smoke is composed, for the greater part, of choke-damp, do you think it would be likely to put out a fire? Yes, if in sufficient quantity.
1715. Do you think this accident could have been foreseen or prevented? No, I do not.
1716. Do you think, from the care and anxiety that the manager and inspectors were showing for your safety, that they would have been likely to forewarn you of danger if they had supposed it to exist? Certainly.
1717. *Mr. Neilson.*] Was the first rush of wind you experienced perfectly fresh? Well, I could scarcely tell as to that, owing to my being entangled in the canvas; but when I got outside of it I thought it was like Paradise.
1718. That is, you judge by comparison? Yes.
1719. After the second rush you found the black-damp, or whatever it was, coming down upon you? Yes, mixed with the fresh air, until we got to the skips.
1720. How many stoppings were blown out? I was in the dark, and could not see anything.
1721. It was the out-by stoppings that were blown out, was it not? Yes.
1722. *Mr. Usher.*] Do I understand you to say that you never saw fire-damp in the colliery you worked in at Home? Well, I was only a boy at the time.
1723. Did they not use safety-lamps? They used Jordie lamps with the lamp inside.
1724. *Mr. Jones.*] Have you any knowledge of pillars being taken out in the direction where you heard the report coming from? Not in the least.
1725. *Mr. Davies.*] Could they have been taken out without your knowing it? Oh, yes; I had not been working there at all.
1726. *Mr. Jones.*] What was the size of the pillars where you were working? About 20 yards.
1727. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Did you ever see any one bord holing into another? No; they were just about the usual size, 20 yards.
1728. *Mr. Usher.*] Were they never less than that? They were not exact to a foot.
1729. *Mr. Jones.*] If the bords exceeded their width, was there any complaint made? Yes; some of the men were taken off occasionally for doing so.
1730. *Mr. Davies.*] Who controlled the operations when you went to the pit? The Company gave power, I think, to Mr. Campbell to instruct.
1731. Well, did he control operations? To a certain extent he did; but he knew that he could do nothing in the case, as the men understood exactly what to do.
1732. Do you mean to say that the men did what they thought proper, or did the loader of the shift control the shift? Well, he was working the same as the other men; all they had to do was to carry the canvas in. Every man was anxious to proceed with the work.
1733. Did the inspectors watch over your safety? Yes.
1734. No once forced you to enter the mine? No; I went in with the majority.
1735. Previous to this, did you ever have any conversation with the inspectors as to the safety of the undertaking? I never said anything to them more than passing the time of day; they could do nothing in the case whatever.
1736. Do you know who the men were who went as a deputation to the proprietors to ask permission to re-open the mine? Archibald Durie was one, and there were some others whom I do not recollect.
1737. Then there was no pressure brought to bear upon you? No, none whatever.
1738. Then if anything had happened to you you would have had none to blame but yourself? Well, we never dreamt of anything; but I suppose we took whatever risk there might be.

- Mr. J. Duncan. 1739. *Mr. Usher.*] Did you never expect to get any pay? After the first day or two I did.
 6 May, 1886. 1740. Did you ever work in the in-by side of the boiler? Yes.
 1741. Did you ever observe any smoke in the main air-course? No; I never was in the air-course on the other side.

Robert Davies sworn and examined:—

- Mr. R. Davies. 1742. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am an innkeeper at present.
 6 May, 1886. 1743. But before that, what was your business or occupation? I was a miner.
 1744. How long ago is that? Two years ago, to the very day.
 1745. Where did you work at that time? In the Lithgow Valley Colliery.
 1746. In what capacity? I was deputy under John Doig.
 1747. Who succeeded you? Mr. Passmore.
 1748. Were you deputy when the underground boiler was put in? I was.
 1749. Did you superintend the operations? Only by instructions from the manager.
 1750. What instructions did you receive? He was there all the time attending to it himself.
 1751. Was the boiler placed in an ordinary bord? Yes.
 1752. Did you lift the bottom coal? No; the bottom coal was not lifted.
 1753. Did you protect the boilers from the pillars? No.
 1754. How was the smoke conducted from the boiler? At first it came out and struck against the roof.
 1755. Did you take down the top? No.
 1756. Then it struck the top? Yes; and he thought it advisable to have earthenware to run the smoke to the water. There were about 10 feet square of the roof taken down where the smoke came out of the mouth at that time.
 1757. How long was the boiler in operation before you ceased to act as deputy? About eighteen months.
 1758. Did you consider that boiler safe? No, I did not.
 1759. Did you mention your opinion to Doig? I said we would have bother with it.
 1760. What did he say? He said he did not think so.
 1761. Did any fire occur in your time about the boiler? Yes; two fires occurred.
 1762. When was that? I cannot give the date.
 1763. Where did the fires occur? In the slack. Sparks from the flue dropped on the soot and kindled it. That is how I account for the fire.
 1764. Did you ever travel the return way from the end of the clay pipes to the furnace? No; not these past five or six years, because it was so full of water.
 1765. Might that water not rise and cut off the air return? No; because it would run to the other workings before it got high enough to do any damage that way. There were about 20 inches or 2 feet between the water and roof.
 1766. Do you think that that was a good way to conduct the return-way across water? No; I did not think it was.
 1767. Could you not have made a return air-way parallel to and nearer the tunnel? Yes; it could have been taken alongside the tunnel to within $1\frac{1}{2}$ chain of the boiler.
 1768. Where did you learn your business, Mr. Davis? In the Newcastle district and here.
 1769. Then you were never a miner in the old country? No, never.
 1770. You have had no experience of fire or choke damp or any gas given off in mines, have you, Mr. Davis? I have experienced black-damp in that colliery. It came from the out-let running into Brown's colliery.
 1771. Out of the encroachment? Yes.
 1772. Does the water flow from the Lithgow Valley mine to Eskbank? Not very freely.
 1773. Do you know whether any pillars were taken out on the left-hand side tunnel? Yes.
 1774. About what area would you say? About $1\frac{1}{2}$ chain or 2 chains.
 1775. How many pillars were taken out? About three pillars.
 1776. Was that any distance from the boiler or tunnel? [Plan examined, and witness pointed out the locality.] A short distance to the north and west of the pillar the tops have fallen over a considerable area.
 [Examination of plan continued, and witness, in pointing out the course of the air-way, indicates a spot, about 60 yards from the left-hand furnace, where the water rises to within 12 inches of the roof.]
 1777. Did you consider this mine a dangerous one to work in? No, I did not.
 1778. Have you ever seen any gas in this mine? No; I have not seen any gas—only black-damp.
 1779. Yes, that is in all mines. Was this a well-ventilated mine in your time? Yes.
 1780. Did you ever make any complaint as to ventilation? No.
 1781. Did you ever receive any complaint from the men? Occasionally; but whatever might be complained of would be rectified in a few minutes.
 1782. Then there was no serious complaint? No, none whatever.
 1783. Did the Government inspectors pay you visits in your time? Yes.
 1784. Who were the Government inspectors? I believe they were Mr. Dixon, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Rowan.
 1785. Did they make a minute inspection of the mine? Yes; they inspected all they could.
 1786. Was your attention ever drawn to the furnace, as to whether it was of ample capacity, for example? The furnace that is worked from the boiler does not interfere with the ventilation at all.
 1787. As to the other one? There was ample capacity in that.
 1788. Have you ever been in any other mines in the district? No.
 1789. When did you resume your connection with this colliery? Did you come to the colliery when you heard an accident had occurred? Yes; I came to see Doig when I heard that he was alive. While I was there Mr. Gell and Wilton gave me orders to go into the mine and do what I could.
 1790. Did they tell you Mr. Turnbull was in the mine? Yes; and I was to get the plan from him, as I would know all the roads better than he could possibly do by the plan. I went in and met Mr. Turnbull and asked him for the plan, but he would not give it to me. I told him that I had been instructed to do the best I could under the circumstances, and that I would give him help to the best of my ability.

1791. What did he say? He did not listen to me.

1792. And what did you do then? I went to the main heading, to where the smoke was accumulating, and I found three men there—namely, David Owen, Peter Owen, and William Hall.

1793. What did you do then? I did the same as I had done previously, to get the fire out when the smoke accumulated in my own time. We found that the right-hand furnace was stronger in power than the little one; I got to the back of the furnace, opened the doors, leaving the air to come out in that way, so as to give the other a chance.

1794. You thought the fire was behind the boiler? Yes, I did.

1795. When was this previous occasion you refer to? About two and a half years ago.

1796. How did you discover that fire? I accidentally went in on the Sunday and found smoke in the main heading, the same as this time.

1797. How far up did it come on that occasion? About $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 chains up.

1798. Then it did not come up so far as on this occasion? No.

1799. Well, what did you do then to put out the former fire? I opened the doors of the right-hand furnace and stirred up the fires in the left-hand furnace, and I found that it drew away the smoke, and that I was enabled to get down, and we then put water on the fire; it was at the end of the pipes, about 30 feet down.

1800. Was it a large fire? There was about a ton of slack burning.

1801. Did you find much difficulty in putting it out? No, not much; we had a pumping engine, and used that to throw water on it.

1802. How long did it take you to extinguish it? About a couple of hours.

1803. Very well, coming to the last occurrence, I believe you took upon yourself the responsibility of undoing what Mr. Turnbull had done? Yes; I was instructed to do so.

1804. Were you instructed to go contrary to Mr. Turnbull's instructions? I did not know what his instructions were.

1805. I thought you said the plans were with him? Yes, so I did.

1806. Did Mr. Gell tell you to take the power out of Mr. Turnbull's hands? No; he told me to go down and do the best I could.

1807. However, you took down a stopping on the right-hand side, I believe? I opened the furnace-door and pulled the canvas off the stopping at No. 2 cross-cut to send the air by the nearest cut.

1808. Had the men been got out at this time? This was 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

1809. Do you know whether considerable progress had been made in putting down the smoke? The smoke was in the same place as on the Sunday, according to the men who were there.

1810. Mr. Turnbull tells us that the smoke proceeded down at the rate of 40 yards an hour, and when he came at 8 o'clock in the morning he was within 3 chains of the boiler? I will show you the exact spot where it was. (*Dictated by President.*)

[*Plan examined.* Mr. Davies, referring to the plan, stated that when he arrived at 3 o'clock in the afternoon the smoke stood in the main tunnel at about 10 chains from the fire, and that he took upon himself the responsibility of opening the door of the right-hand furnace, and of opening the canvas in front of No. 1 cross-cut, and thus cutting off the air from the mine; at the same time he stirred and put fresh coals on the left-hand furnace. Witness explained that this was the mode he had adopted at the first fire, two and a half years ago, to clear the mine of smoke.]

1811. When you extinguished the former fire, did it ever occur to you that it would be prudent to remove the slack where it occurred? The manager was with me in the works extinguishing the fire.

1812. Yes, but did it ever occur to you that it would be prudent to do so? I thought it would be advisable to shift the slack.

1813. Did you say anything to this effect to the manager? No, I did not.

1814. I cannot understand you people at all? The manager was present with me at the time, and did not want me to advise him.

1815. Did you think this was a dangerous boiler after that? Well, I think it is a dangerous boiler to be in where it is.

1816. Would the tops remaining there be a source of danger? At the end of the pipes they were pulled down to the rocks; that was where the flue came out.

1817. Where were the ashes put that you drew from the furnace? They were drenched and put on one side.

1818. Were they not taken out of the mine? No; they were put on the road mostly.

1819. Did you consider there was any danger from the ashes being accumulated? No danger was experienced in my time.

1820. Is that all you know about the accident? Did the inspectors say anything when they discovered what you had done? They censured me.

1821. Did you offer any defence? Yes; I offered the same defence I have offered now, that I had been instructed to go into the mine and do what I could in the light of my experience.

1822. Did Mr. Turnbull say anything? Yes; he censured me in the same way.

1823. What was done after your action was discovered? I cannot tell what was done when I was not in the mine; I only know that I went away when they censured me.

1824. Did you ever return to the mine? No.

1825. *Mr. Davies.* Did Mr. Gell or Mr. Wilton say anything to you about taking down the stopping? No, neither of them.

1826. Did they see you? They knew about it, I suppose.

1827. *Mr. Jones.* Does not the water flow up under the pipes you have spoken of? Had the water not been there, would not the fire have taken a greater hold? Well, yes, provided it had enough time it would have spread over a larger area.

1828. Did you ever see the colliery plans while you were deputy under Doig? Yes, dozens of times.

1829. Did Doig do his own surveying? Yes.

1830. Was there anybody else? No; excepting Mr. Gell on one occasion, who was afraid of this encroachment.

1831. Have you any knowledge of the pillars near No. 2 cross-cut? Passing through the pillars where the men were found, were those pillars all right? Yes, the pillars were all right there, opposite where the smoke was at the time the roof was down on the right-hand side.

1832.

- Mr. R. Davies. 1832. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Did you ever have any conversation at all about the returns? No; I took my instructions, and did no more.
- 6 May, 1886. 1833. Did you ever have a conversation with the management or manager about the return from the furnace to the boiler? No, not exactly a conversation.
1834. Still you were not satisfied. Why did you not report to some official about it. Did you not think it was your duty? I did report it to the manager, and that was all I could do.
1835. Then you did report it? Yes; I reported it to the manager.
1836. *Mr. Neilson.*] Assuming that it is considered necessary to drown out this fire, when the water is put on a level sufficiently high for that purpose, would it not also flood out the Eskbank Colliery? The water must rise more than 17 or 18 inches at least before it flows over to Eskbank Colliery.
1837. Is the Eskbank mine to the dip of the Lithgow Valley Colliery? Yes. (*Dictated by President.*)
- [*On examination of plan.* From the encroachment made on the Lithgow Valley side from Eskbank there is a narrow heading driven down along the boundary to join another heading that at a previous time had been driven up towards this encroachment. The water in this boundary road stands within 17 inches of a point where it would run into and inundate the Eskbank Colliery.]
1838. *Mr. Curley.*] When you met Mr. Turnbull after going into the mine there appeared to be a disagreement between you. Did it not occur to you that the best thing to do under the circumstances would have been to go out again and consult the proprietors, considering that Mr. Turnbull was in charge? I did not know that he was in charge.
1839. When he would not give up the plan, did it not occur to you that the best thing to do would be to go out? I tried to save the mine.

FRIDAY, 7 MAY, 1886.

Present:—

THE PRESIDENT,
MR. USHER,
MR. THOMAS,
MR. NEILSON,

MR. SWINBURN,
MR. CURLEY,
MR. DAVIES,
MR. JONES.

Robert Grant sworn and examined:—

- Mr. R. Grant. 1840. *President.*] What are you? I am a miner.
- 7 May, 1886. 1841. How long have you been occupied in that calling? Twenty-one years.
1842. Where? Most of the time in Scotland.
1843. Have you ever had any experience of fire-damp? Yes; I have worked where there has been fire-damp for over fourteen years.
1844. Have you ever actually experienced it? Yes; while I was working in a large colliery in the Monckland district.
1845. How long have you been employed in this colliery? Seven years, most of the time in the Lithgow Valley mine, and ten months at Eskbank colliery.
1846. As an experienced miner, have you observed any material difference in the mode of conducting the workings in Eskbank colliery and in the Lithgow Valley mine? No, I have not.
1847. Do you consider the Lithgow Valley colliery a safe or an unsafe mine? I considered it safe during the time I was there, but I have not been there during these last fourteen months, having been laid up with rheumatic fever.
1848. Had you any fault to find or any complaint to make in regard to the ventilation? Once or twice I had occasion to complain about the ventilation at Tyndall's heading, but the matter was remedied the next day.
1849. Was it a serious complaint? Well, I do not know what you would call a serious complaint. It is not nice to work in the midst of bad air.
1850. Did you ever see fire-damp in the Lithgow Valley mine? No.
1851. If fire-damp existed in the mine, where would be the most likely spot to find it? It would always be found in the highest level.
1852. While engaged at the Lithgow Valley mine, did you ever work to the left or north side of the tunnel? Yes; I have worked on both sides, from the top flat right down towards the lower level.
1853. Is the top flat situated to the rise of or above the underground boiler? Yes.
1854. Does the top flat approach the Eskbank boundary on the left-hand side? Yes; and goes forward to the boundary.
1855. You have heard of the encroachment, that is the communication between Eskbank and the Lithgow Valley mine, have you not? Yes.
1856. Do you know whether the encroachment came from Eskbank or the Lithgow Valley mine? I do not think it came from Eskbank, for I have heard it said that Doig wanted a place to take his water away.
1857. Do you know the size of the pillars in this mine? I do not think there are any two of one size.
1858. What is the largest size? Some of the pillars, I believe, measure 16 yards, while others only measure 4 yards; some are larger and some are smaller. This is the case all through the left-hand workings. Some of the pillars, I believe, only measure 3 feet.
1859. Do you know whether the pillars were taken out for a considerable area from the left-hand side of the tunnel? I know a good many were taken out.
1860. Do you not think it an extraordinary thing that some pillars should be as much as 16 yards, and others in the vicinity only 3 feet? I had nothing to do with that.
1861. But was it not an extraordinary proceeding? Well, I should not have done it.
1862. Was this area of pillars that you speak of as taken out contiguous to the Eskbank boundary? Yes.
1863. Were any pillars taken out close to the main tunnel? Not that I am aware of.
1864. Have you ever known any of these large pillars being afterwards split? Yes.

1865.

1865. Have you split them? Yes; we split the pillars 7 or 8 yards, the width of the working bord.
1866. Did you work during the operation of putting out the fire? No.
1867. Have you ever heard of any falls occurring in the situation to which you have been referring, that is, when you were working in the mine? There was one heavy fall close to where I was working about three years ago. Coal came away to the rock.
1868. If a strong body of rock broke, would it break suddenly? No; it would give you some warning. You would generally hear a crashing sound before the fall.
1869. You are positive then that for a considerable area of the north workings the pillars have been systematically left of small size? Yes; I have seen two men working opposite to one another and holing through.
1870. What part was that? More to the right-hand side of Tyndall's heading, about 60 yards from the main heading.
1871. Then the pillars are left with more care now than they were some time back? Yes.
1872. Have you ever seen signs of the pillars crushing? No.
1873. *Mr. Neilson.*] Has you experience been confined to Scotland and the Lithgow Valley mine? Yes.
1874. What was the nature of the coal you worked in Scotland, hard or soft? Both hard and soft.
1875. Did you work pillar or stall? I have worked both long wall and pillar.
1876. This is a very open seam, I believe? Yes.
1877. Concerning the statement as to the late manager Doig driving towards Eskbank to get rid of the water—had they any means of pumping the water in the Lithgow Valley mine? They had this boiler for pumping the water up from the main heading to the lower workings.
1878. Was that water pumped to the surface? No; it never came to the surface.
1879. Do you know if this pump was constantly kept going? It was kept going when it would work, but sometimes it would not work for as long as four or five hours at a stretch.
1880. Seeing that the water was not pumped to the surface, where would it go to? It would flow to Eskbank.
1881. You are quite certain that pillars have been taken out on the left-hand side? Yes.
1882. *Mr. Jones.*] You say these places were driven to Eskbank for the express purpose of getting rid of the water? Yes; it was the common talk among the miners at the time.
1883. Was this done before the straight-down road was troubled with water? No; it was afterwards.
1884. Then do you only learn this from talk that took place among the miners? No; there were men working night and day at it.
1885. *Mr. Davies.*] And were the Eskbank people aware of it? That I cannot say.
1886. *Mr. Curley.*] Was this communication with Eskbank that you have spoken about made prior to the erection of the boiler? Yes.
1887. *Mr. Jones.*] How long? I cannot say how long.
1888. Then how do you trace the express purpose that Doig had in getting rid of the water when no boiler was erected? There was a pump connected with a spindle of the fly-wheel, and when an engine was going it pumped the water from the main heading.
1889. *Mr. Neilson.*] What was the character of the roof above the top-coal? Strong rock.
1890. *Mr. Curley.*] Do you know the nature of the return from the boiler up to the left-hand furnace up-cast? I cannot tell the state of it at present; it never was in a good state. I do not think anyone could travel it properly, because it was full of water, and in some places we had to cut the top-coal to leave sufficient space for the air to pass.
1891. Supposing a large fall had taken place, do you think that a very large displacement of air could have come from that quarter between the boiler and the left-hand furnace up-cast on to the main tunnel? No, I do not see how it was possible.
1892. *President.*] Could an explosion have come? Yes.
1893. Are you aware that fire has never been traced within 7 or 8 or 10 chains of that? I do not know that.
1894. If you were told it was so, would you alter your opinion? I do not know how that could be told.
1895. But there were men down there, and you were not? Well, I do not know.
1896. *Mr. Neilson.*] Assuming it to have been an explosion, where would the generated gas, when it was ignited, go to? It would go about the workings, I suppose, but the flame might go round about and still not go near the men.
1897. *President.*] Indeed, what is the usual course of an explosion? Always against the air.
1898. If you were told that in this case it came with the air, would you see reason to alter your opinion? I cannot say, I am sure.
1899. The evidence goes to show that the force of the blast came down the main tunnel? The force of the explosion came out of the mouth of the tunnel.
1900. Did you see it? My own father tells me he was pitched out 50 or 60 yards.
1901. Your father was an overman? Yes.
1902. You have formed a very decided opinion without sufficient data? It is only my own opinion, and every man is allowed to have an opinion of his own.
1903. *Mr. Curley.*] Do you know whether Doig or any other person in the mine went on the top of this large fall you speak of as being near the encroachment in order to ascertain whether there was anything like explosive gas there? Not that I am aware of.

William Hammond sworn and examined:—

1904. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am a wheel-roller by trade, but a miner by occupation.
1905. Were you employed at the Lithgow Valley Colliery? Yes, for three years; I was engaged as a drayman.
1906. Had you any previous experience of coal-working? No; I was never in a mine before that one.
1907. What do you know about the first accident—where were you? I was going to work at 4 o'clock in the morning to bale water. I went inside the tunnel as far as I could, but I was stopped by the smoke, and returning went to the day boss, Mr. Passmore, and told him there was something wrong. He said he was aware of it, that he had been in there, and that I was to go in and fire the furnace.
1908. Did you do so? Yes, I went in and fired the furnace, as he told me.

Mr. R. Grant.
7 May, 1886.

Mr.
W. Hammond.
7 May, 1886.

- Mr. W. Hammond. 1909. Did you know then that Mr. Doig and his companions were inside the mine? Not until breakfast time; it was a good bit afterwards; I cannot say what time it was exactly; there was then a party in search of them, consisting of Hopkins, Rodham, and Norwood.
- 7 May, 1886. 1910. And where did you go? We went into the second cross-cut and got in the air-way and travelled down a good distance. I then told my companions that I would not go any further, as I had been in the furnace where the gas was strong, and felt weak.
1911. How many pillars down from the cross-cut did you go? I cannot say exactly—about a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile, I suppose.
1912. And then you returned? Yes, I returned then and went to look after the furnace again. I fired the furnace as long as I could, and found I was obliged to go out.
1913. Mr. Davies.] At what time did you speak to Mr. Passmore? It was getting on towards 5 o'clock. He said he had been there all night and felt sick.
1914. Did you see Robert Drurie in the mine? I saw him just as I came out of the cross-cut.
1915. Did you have any conversation with him? Yes; he remarked to me, "You should not have gone in there, as I have been in and fell down three times myself."

George Hall sworn and examined:—

- Mr. G. Hall. 1916. President.] What is your occupation? I am a miner.
- 7 May, 1886. 1917. How long have you been a miner? About eight years now.
1918. Where have you been working lately? In Lithgow Valley Colliery.
1919. Have you ever been out of the district? Yes.
1920. Where, and in what part? I was employed in Bundemoona, on the Southern line.
1921. As a miner? Yes, as a coal-miner; and also at Ringwood.
1922. How long have you been working in the Lithgow Valley Colliery? I cannot say exactly how long I have been working there.
1923. Well, about how long? About eight months, perhaps.
1924. Were you employed as a coal-getter? Yes.
1925. When were you last in the Lithgow Valley Colliery? It was on a Saturday; I do not remember the date.
1926. Was it on February 14? I cannot say what date; I believe it was some day in February though.
1927. When did you leave the mine on that day? About 5.40 p.m. My father, Buzza, and Riddle were with me. I came straight through the main tunnel. I was working through the south, and on going up the tunnel I recollect passing the underground boiler.
1928. Did you observe anything in there? When I left my bord to go out there was smoke on this side of my bord. I said to father, "What is this; I never knew anything like this before." Father said he did not know. I then came along, and when we came to the flat we had to make way in order to get out.
1929. Was the ventilation good at this time? Yes, but it was carrying smoke with it, and I had never observed smoke in that situation before.
1930. In coming along the tunnel, did the air still contain smoke? Yes; I went to the boiler-door and had a look in, and there seemed to be smoke coming over the top from the flue. It seemed to be coming through the door on the left-hand side.
1931. Was the smoke dense there? I did not take a great deal of notice.
1932. Did you think it was unusual? I cannot say; I was never in that place before.
1933. Did your father and Mr. Buzza go into the boiler? I do not know; they went ahead of us. We had no skip to fill. I do not think my father did go into the boiler; he was a little sick. I have never seen smoke in the main tunnel upon any previous occasion, and I used to go past every night and every morning. I did not pass the boiler during the eight months because I was employed in the cross-cuts.
1934. What took place after you had seen this smoke in the boiler? After I had looked in there I came out, and it was then about five or six minutes to 6, and I saw Mr. Passmore, who was with a man named Henwood. I said to Mr. Passmore, "There is a great smoke in there, and it seems to come from the boiler."
1935. Did you tell Mr. Passmore that smoke extended down the main tunnel? I told him it was past the flue. He said, "All right," and that was all that passed. I was on night-work at the time.
1936. What impression did you form when you inspected the boiler and saw the smoke coming out from behind it? I never took any more notice of it.
1937. Did you not form any impression as to whether it was something coming from the boiler itself, and that there was a certain reason for it? I did not think a great deal about it at the time; it was apparently coming from the back of the boiler, and was of a blackish colour.
1938. In the course of working in the mine, have you ever found reason to complain of the ventilation? No; I always had good air wherever I worked.
1939. Did you ever suspect danger from this boiler? No.
1940. Did you ever suspect danger from the existence of any poisonous gas? No.
1941. Have you had any experience of choke-damp? I never saw it before this occasion.
1942. Have you ever seen fire-damp? No, I have not.
1943. With respect to this particular case, do I understand you have never had the curiosity to go into this boiler and see whether the coal was protected from the influence of the flames? No; the first time I went there was the occasion I have mentioned when I put my head through the door and had a peep round.
1944. Can you form any opinion as to the origin of this fire? No; I never formed any particular opinion about it.
1945. Have you observed the character of the stoppings that have been put in in this colliery? No.
1946. Do you know what the stoppings were constructed of? Yes, of slack; I have never seen any brickwork.
1947. Did these slack stoppings answer their purpose, so far as you know? Yes.
1948. Do you know what kind of stoppings are put in the adjoining works, Eskbank I mean, and Vale of Clwydd? I don't know.
1949. Have you ever put in any of these stoppings? Yes, a few.
1950. What thickness were they? I do not know exactly; but I should say about 3 feet on the top.

1951. Of course they would be much thicker on the bottom? Oh, yes.
1952. Were you working at the fire when Mr. Turnbull took charge? No.
1953. After the pit was sealed up and re-opened again, were you one of those who were selected to work? Yes.
1954. Did you work the whole time? Yes.
1955. How was the work conducted, that is, what was the length of the shifts? Six hours.
1956. How many men to each shift? Eight.
1957. Was there at any time a greater number than eight men in a shift? There might have been ten, but not more.
1958. Was there a leader or deputy to each shift? Yes; a leader.
1959. Do you recollect when you got down almost to the seat of the fire that you had to abandon the work for a time? When I went to the fire first I kept away a good distance for a while till I could see what it was; I could just see the fire, but did not think there was any danger.
1960. What were you doing? The first time I went I was bratticing down with wood and canvas.
1961. Did you have ample ventilation? Yes.
1962. Was the force of ventilation sufficient to carry down the smoke? Yes; it was sufficient to carry everything before it; we could get down to where the fire was.
1963. What stopped your progress eventually? I do not know; I went to Sydney after that, and did not get back till last Friday.
1964. You had worked down the tunnel by means of bratticing until you got to Tyndall's cross-cut, then something happened which caused the work to be abandoned; don't you know what that was? No, I don't.
1965. Did you know the work was abandoned for a time and the Government inspectors resolved to close the pit up again? Yes; but I do not believe I was in at that time; it was the shift before ours.
1966. Was everything done that ought have been done to assist you in your progress? Yes.
1967. Did you get everything you wanted in the shape of material? We got everything we required.
1968. Did you know there was any danger in undertaking a work of that description, that is, re-opening the pit? I did not see any danger.
1969. Did you think there was no danger in the appearance of the smoke on the lower flat? Yes; until I got up as far as the boiler.
1970. Do you not think there would be danger in a place choke-full of poisonous gas? Well, I suppose there would be; I felt a little bit uncomfortable at first, but afterwards I did not care. The men were anxious that the pit should be re-opened, and there was a meeting in connection with the matter; I was not present myself, but said I would go with the majority of the men. I believe a resolution was passed that the owners should be requested to allow the men to extinguish the fire.
1971. Were you working at Tyndall's heading when the accident occurred? We were working on the left-hand side.
1972. Did you ever hear the reports of falls anywhere in that direction? Yes; I have heard a few falls at the back to the left of the boiler.
1973. Did they appear to be some distance from the boiler? Yes; one or two seemed to be some distance away.
1974. Were the reports very loud? No, not very loud. It used to drive the air back a little, also the smoke, which would come straight in our faces. I was working below the brattice, and the smoke used to come up Tyndall's heading. The pump we had been working was close to the boiler, and the fire was burning on the side of the boiler as I have mentioned; then we got the tops down and applied the water; that was the last shift we worked; it was on a Sunday.
1975. Were the inspectors of collieries there during the course of operations? Yes; they were there day and night.
1976. Who was there? Messrs. Rowan and Mackenzie.
1977. Did Mr. Rowan take an active part in superintending the operations? Yes; he used to be there pretty well all the time.
1978. Did he assist you in any way? Yes.
1979. Did he give you orders? Sometimes.
1980. Was Mr. Campbell there at that time? Yes, and Messrs. Gell and Wilton.
1981. Did they give you instructions what to do? They always told us to stop if we saw any danger.
1982. Did they show much concern for your safety? Yes; they did everything they could, and said they did not want to see any more lives sacrificed.
1983. *President.* Then, from your knowledge, do you consider that the inspectors of collieries know their duties? Yes, I do.
1984. Did they share equal risks with yourselves? Yes.
1985. Did they ever shirk their work? Certainly not.
1986. And they shared whatever danger there might be equally with yourself? Yes.
1987. Has Mr. Mackenzie given you instructions? Yes, he has in some things. I have known him to stop all day, and very nigh all one night. He took as active a part as the others.
1988. Then you have no fault to find or complaints to make so far as the inspectors are concerned? None whatever.
1989. They showed, in your opinion, great anxiety to further the progress of the work and to protect you from danger? Yes.
1990. I understand you to say that you cannot speak as to the cause of the accident, as you were not present in the mine at the time? No. I may say that I am in a Volunteer Company, and went to Sydney to be present at the Encampment. That is why I was away at the time.
1991. Did you see the bodies of the unfortunate men who were killed? Yes, I saw all of them. I helped to take Mantle home.
1992. Were you one of the relieving party that went in to take them out? No.
1993. What was the appearance of the bodies? Did you see Hyde? No; I did not see much of him, as he was quickly taken home. I saw Buzza. He seemed to be smothered with black-damp and smoke.
1994. Did you see any evidence of burning on any of the bodies? The only one I saw was that of Lance Allison. He was burned a little on his face and fingers.

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- Mr. G. Hall. 1995. *Mr. Curley.*] Describe the appearance of the burns? His fingers looked as if they had been burned. I believe he was using the hose, and possibly he got burned that way.
- 7 May, 1886. 1996. Was his hair singed? No; I believe not.
1997. *Mr. Davies.*] When you came out of the pit after seeing the smoke, who was it you reported to? When I came out on the Saturday there was Mr. Passmore, and Mr. Younger with him. There were also two or three more present. I did not see who they were, whether working men or not; but I told Mr. Passmore there was a great smoke in the tunnel, and he said, "That's all right."
1998. *President.*] Had you ever any occasion to make a complaint about the general conduct of the mine? No.
1999. *Mr. Curley.*] Were you among the parties who first went in after the discovery of the smoke? Yes.
2000. Were the inspectors present? Yes.
2001. And the proprietors? Yes.
2002. Did you ever hear them express an opinion as to the nature of the work? No; but I heard the inspectors and Messrs. Gell and Wilton say that if we saw any danger we were not to proceed.

James Rowan sworn and examined:—

- Mr. J. Rowan. 2003. *President.*] What is your profession, Mr. Rowan? I am Inspector of Collieries for the Southern and Western Districts of the Colony of New South Wales.
- 7 May, 1886. 2004. How long have you been engaged in mining pursuits? Since I was nine years of age—about thirty-five years of it.
2005. Have you had extensive experience? Yes; I have been through all branches of coal-mining, both at Home and abroad.
2006. In the working of coal and ironstone you have had extensive experience? Yes.
2007. In what district in the old country? In Scotland—in Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, and Stirlingshire.
2008. During that time, have you had occasion to meet with fire-damp or explosive gas? Yes; I have had a good deal of experience in fire-damp in Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire.
2009. How often do you inspect the mines in your district, Mr. Rowan? Every eight weeks, more or less.
2010. You inspect the mines every eight or nine weeks as a rule? Yes.
2011. In the course of your professional duties you have visited Lithgow Valley Colliery? Yes, I visit Lithgow in the regular circuit of visits.
2012. You visit it periodically? Yes. There is an interval of eight weeks between each inspection when all things go regularly.
2013. When did you make your last inspection before the first accident in February last? On December the 15th.
2014. Then your next visit of inspection was almost due when that accident took place? Yes; it was just about coming round.
2015. Can you give us the date of the first accident? On February the 15th I received a telegram from the Examiner of Coal-fields that the Lithgow Valley Colliery was on fire, and I was there next morning. I got the telegram in Wollongong. I received it on the Monday, and was here on the Tuesday, and went down the mine.
2016. On your arrival I suppose you heard that three men had lost their lives? Yes—Doig (the manager), Rowe, and Younger.
2017. On your arrival, what responsibility did you take? Well, I took no particular responsibility, so far as that goes, except to go into the mine, and give assistance, to see if we could beat back the smoke. I worked hand-in-hand with the other men.
2018. How long were you thus engaged? From 2 o'clock till 6 on the Tuesday morning.
2019. At that time—6 o'clock—what agreement was arrived at? It was agreed upon by the proprietors that it would be better to close up the mine.
2020. Did you agree with them? Yes.
2021. And accordingly the mine was closed up, I suppose? Well, not at that time. Mr. Turnbull, the Manager of the Vale of Clwydd Colliery, waited on Mr. Dixon, the Inspector for the Northern District, and myself, and said that the men of the Lithgow Valley Colliery were very anxious that they should be allowed to go up the No. 2 cross-cut; and after he had laid down his plan in connection with the method to be employed in getting up there, he said he only required six hours in which to accomplish the task. We agreed to allow him to make the trial, limiting the time to the six hours he had asked for. His object was to get up to the face of No. 2 cross-cut in order to see what difficulties there might be in the way of putting up a stopping there.
2022. That is practically what has been done now? Yes.
2023. Did you have any power to stop him from doing so? No; when pressure was put upon us we agreed that the six hours' time should be allowed for the trial, and Mr. Mackenzie and myself stood there to see that 4,000 cubic feet of air passed up the cross-cut from the main tunnel. At the same time we had two men watching where the smoke was, to see if it came back at all.
2024. Then, Mr. Rowan, what did you do? Well, he went up, and I kept watch with Mr. Mackenzie at the cross-cut. I think he (Turnbull) was away about half-an-hour when I heard the cry coming out: "Help!" I told Mr. Mackenzie to stand there, while I went for lights, as it would be no good for men to go in in the dark; and when I got out Mr. Turnbull was out; he was carried out. He had been overpowered by the gas—that is to say, he was at the last stage. He had power in his limbs, but gave way when he got out into the fresh air.
2025. What next took place? It was then decided to hermetically close the mine.
2026. There was a brick stopping placed across the main tunnel? There were four substantial brick stoppings put in—one in the tunnel; one at the right-hand furnace, to separate it from the tunnel; one at the surface up-cast; and one at the top of the left-hand furnace shaft, which excluded the ingress or egress of the air.
2027. During your periodical inspections, did you thoroughly examine the whole of the mines in this district? Yes; I made inspections of the whole of the mines in the Lithgow Valley district, and examined all the working places of the men.

2028. You visited the working places? Yes; I may have passed a bord or so, but I have been in nearly all the working places and travelled the roads. Mr. J. Rowan.
7 May, 1886.
2029. Speaking generally, are the mines in this district around Lithgow all working on the same principle as to width of bords, and thickness of pillars, and the character of the stoppings? Yes, generally speaking. The stoppings are of slack—that is, they are not confined exactly to slack coal; a lot of them are mixed with timber, and many of them are propped up on each side. Nevertheless, we term these slack stoppings.
2030. Have you ever received any complaints as to the way in which the collieries are worked in this district? No; I never received a complaint either by word or letter, except on one occasion a man in the Eskbank Colliery told me something about an engine. They wanted a night watchman put on; the matter was put right. But as to defective working or bad ventilation, I never received any complaint either by word or letter.
2031. Have you ever made any complaints to the manager or owners of the Lithgow Valley Colliery? Nothing but small miscellaneous things, such as a prop here and there being wanted.
2032. Merely incidental matters, I suppose? Yes.
2033. During your inspections, did you notice the state of the workings, the size of the pillars, and the width of the bords? The pillars were about a chain, I think, and the bords 7 yards; I thought them of sufficient size along the main headings; I know in the early history of the mine they have been cut away a little. I never could see anything out of the ordinary way.
2034. Did you consider this coal-seam in the Lithgow Valley mine a dangerous seam to work? In what aspect, Dr. Robertson?
2035. In any aspect. Does it generate gas? Photo-carburetted hydrogen gas? No; I have been through the waste workings myself and in company with others, and I never saw the slightest signs or indications to give me the idea that there was any explosive gas in the mine.
2036. Have you ever heard it said or whispered that explosive gas existed in the mine? No; I never heard such a suggestion made.
2037. The workings of the Lithgow Valley mine are of an extensive character, I believe? Yes.
2038. Can you tell us whether you ever measured the area of the coal that has been worked, and that standing in the pillars? I cannot say that I have.
2039. Have you ever formed an estimate? No.
2040. Have you observed the workings of recent date? Are the pillars left more regular or of larger size? Yes, the system has been very well carried out of late.
2041. What has been the average size of the pillars? About a chain, so far as I could see; I consider they were good substantial pillars.
2042. Did you observe whether the pillars had been robbed or spilt in any of the districts after being formed? No; I did not see anything of that kind, on the occasions that I visited the mine, where the men were working, or round about where they were working.
2043. What was the character of the roof? I have prepared a section, which will best supply an answer to that question.
- [Mr. Rowan hands in a section of the whole coal-seam. See Appendix, plan No. 6.]
2044. Was there any provision made in this colliery for ventilating the waste workings? Yes; it travelled round the front working after leaving the main tunnel and came out of the second way to the day. I have travelled round about that part.
2045. Were they walled off in any way to prevent the men from entering there along the main roads? Yes, stoppings were in along there.
2046. And the back return ways, were the men prevented from entering these wastes? No, there was no prevention? I went there myself several times.
2047. And you say that you found no explosive gas? No sign of it.
2048. On the supposition of this coal generating choke-damp, would these wastes act as a store-house? There might be a little down in the lower part of it; but there is a good current of air always going in the upper portion of the workings.
2049. Have you ever seen or heard of any portion of the pillars over to the right or left hand of the tunnel having been worked? I have heard of some pillars being taken out towards the Eskbank boundary.
2050. Are you aware whether the roof fell in when these pillars were taken out? That I cannot vouch for.
2051. Have you ever been in this portion of the mine? Well, no; the men had not been working there, and I did not consider it necessary to visit the abandoned portion of the mine.
2052. Do you know any reason why this particular portion of the waste was selected for pillaring? I have heard that it was for some reason or other; I think it was to let the water down to Eskbank.
2053. Do you know any part of the mine to be filled with choke-damp or water? I believe there is a swallow of about 3 chains on the left-hand side, and a portion of water lies there.
2054. Do you know whether choke-damp existed in any quantity towards the Eskbank boundary? As for that, I do not know, as I was only round in that direction seeing if anybody was working there.
2055. If light carburetted hydrogen gas had been present there, could it have escaped your observation? No, not in the workable portions of the pit; and from the road I travelled in the return from where the men were working, and, as I have said, I have never seen any indication of it.
2056. *Mr. Curley.*] In this case the return runs, I understand, from the dip to the very rise of the workings? Yes; it will be nearly 70 feet vertically down from where the men were working.
2057. *President.*] Have you been along the boundary of the Eskbank pit? Yes.
2058. What is the state of the pillars there—are they crushed or open on the boundary? There is a large fall along the boundary, and 8,000 cubic feet of air passes along the margin of the workings.
- [Plan of Eskbank produced and inspected. See plan, Appendix No. 8.]
2059. Does any portion of that air come into Lithgow Valley? It passes to the margin of the “cave-in” to the furnace in Eskbank.
2060. You have heard of an encroachment from Eskbank into Lithgow Valley property, Mr. Rowan? Yes, I have heard of it.
2061. Is it to the rise or to the dip of the main tunnel in the Lithgow Valley mine; does the coal dip to the encroachment or rise towards it? The dip is from the entrance to the fall.
2062. Can this encroachment be visited at present? No, I do not think so.

- Mr. J. Rowan. 2063. And we have seen that it cannot be approached from Eskbank? No, there is no possibility of getting to it.
- 7 May, 1886. 2064. Can the water travel through this encroachment? Well, I do not know; it is expected that it did travel in that direction.
2065. If it did not travel there, how could they get rid of the water in Lithgow Valley, as we have evidence that no water in this mine is pumped to the surface? Well, the encroachment being made, no doubt the water will go there.
2066. But are you aware whether or not it does go there? Yes, I suppose it does.
2067. Where is the water in Lithgow Valley pumped to? It is pumped up to where the encroachment is made, and discharged there down to the waste.
2068. Would a great fire raging in Lithgow Valley be sufficient to draw air through this encroachment? It would be a question of fire and heat certainly.
2069. Do you apprehend any danger of fire extending to Eskbank from Lithgow Valley? That is a question I cannot answer upon my oath; I may have an opinion upon it.
2070. Well we want your opinion, Mr. Rowan; do you apprehend any danger in that direction? Well, no; as far as danger goes, that would be a very slow matter; it would give plenty of time and warning.
2071. In other words, it is a matter for futurity? Yes.
2072. Supposing that the Lithgow Valley mine were flooded with water, what effect would that have upon the Eskbank workings? So far as I am aware, there is no encroachment made except at that particular place (referring to the plan); and I believe that part is above the origin of the fire a good bit.
2073. But if the mine were flooded with water up to that part, would the water, after flooding the Lithgow Valley mine, pass into the Eskbank workings? Not until a vertical pressure is put upon it.
2074. Is there any vertical pressure or "head" upon the water that runs at present? I am uncertain as to this.
2075. Is it an open coal? It is a pretty firm coal; it has very few joints in it.
2076. Is it a favourable coal for the passage of water? It might sweat through it.
2077. It would depend upon the head? Yes.
2078. In Eskbank the workings have gone forward to the Lithgow Valley boundary, and we know that the shell that remains between is very thin? Yes.
2079. Of course they have stripped it there? Very much so, as far as Eskbank is concerned.
2080. If at any future time an attempt were made to flood the Lithgow Valley mine, would the same process flood Eskbank? I do not clearly understand you.
2081. Supposing they flooded Lithgow Valley full up with water? If it came up to the level of the encroachment? Yes.
2082. That is, it would run into Eskbank? I suppose so, if the water they are pumping there goes away now.
2083. What means have been taken to fight the fire in Lithgow Valley mine?
- [Mr. Rowan, in answer to the last question, referred to the plan, and his remarks were dictated by the President, as follows:—Strong back stoppings, marked thereon in red ink, have been put in to support the workings to the left of the tunnel, and to the east of No. 2 cross-cut, from the workings to the west of No. 2 cross-cut; that these brick stoppings are further strengthened by 10 feet or so of small coal and debris piled up at the back; and that the left-hand furnace is specially sealed off by stoppings in the return and from the tunnel.]
2084. Mr. Thomas.] Do you suppose the fire is still raging, Mr. Rowan? I think it is still smouldering.
2085. President.] Is it possible to estimate how long the fire will smoulder? That is a question I cannot answer.
2086. It will not burn without oxygen? No, of course not.
2087. Quite so; you see, Mr. Rowan, for the purposes of this examination, the Commission is not supposed to know anything; what would be the effect of its own combustion? It kills it; the coal generates carbonic acid gas, which is fatal to light and life.
2088. I understand that you have had no cause to complain to the owners as to the working of the Lithgow Valley mine? No, except as I have stated, in respect to certain minor matters, which were instantly remedied when pointed out; I considered it to rank on an equality with any colliery in the district, both for ventilation and safety; so far as I could see, there was no visible danger.
2089. You apprehended no danger from any source? No.
2090. Have you received any complaint from the men on the subject of pillars or pillaring, or gas having at any time accumulated in the mine? No; I never received any communication of that kind whatever?
2091. Was this mine in any way singular or different from any of the neighbouring mines? In my opinion, no; it seemed to rank on the average about here; that is, it was conducted in the same way.
2092. Will you describe on the plan the course of the ventilating current?
- [Mr. Rowan, in referring to the plan, indicates the right-hand air-current, as marked by red arrows, the left-hand air-current being marked with blue arrows.]
2093. President.] Then as to the ventilating current, how was it directed; can you tell us how these stoppings are constructed? They are constructed of small coal and timber, and built up in the ordinary way of putting in slack stoppings.
2094. Have these stoppings proved sufficient for the purpose of ventilating this mine? Yes; 7,000 cubic feet of air passes Tyndall's heading or convenient to it, and 5,000 cubic feet of air goes up the No. 2 cross-cut; there has been an average of 12,000 cubic feet of air for the last half-year in and around the mine.
2095. Returning to these stoppings, have you seen the same class of stoppings used in Britain? No, not exactly the same stoppings; we had a great deal of brick in them in fiery mines.
2096. Could any defect in these stoppings be readily rectified? I should say so.
2097. Then you made no complaint to the manager on this subject? No, because I got the requisite amount of air in the mine.
2098. Have you received any complaint from the men? Never a complaint, good, bad, or indifferent, in connection with the stoppings.
2099. Have they been found in conformity with the Act? Yes.
2100. Had you power to dictate as to the class of stoppings to be used? No.
2101. Would this be an arbitrary power to place in the hands of an inspector? I should think so. If I were a colliery manager, and any attempt were made to dictate to me as to the class of stopping to be used, so long as I had a sufficient quantity of air, I should require to know the authority for such dictation.

2102. You think then it would be an arbitrary power to place in an inspector's or any one individual's hands? Yes. Mr. J. Rowan.

2103. You think it would be a power that would be likely to be abused? Yes; I think it would probably be likely to be abused in some cases; of course it would depend upon the man in whom a supreme control of the kind might be reposed, but I would prefer not to have such power. I would prefer to be guided by the law in connection with it. 7 May, 1886.

2104. That is, you would wish it to be first authorized by statute? Yes, because there must be a balance of opinion.

2105. *Mr. Curley.*] Do you know what the law really is on this point, Mr. Rowan? There is no law, so far as I know, in connection with stoppings.

2106. Have you read the Act,—can you refer to a clause in the Act referring to stoppings, and tell us what it says regarding the matter? No, I cannot do that.

2107. *President.*] Did your examination include testing the quantity of air passing through the mine? Yes.

2108. Can you give us the quantity per man that passed? Yes; it would average perhaps 150 feet per man; I may say, however, that my examination appears in the half-yearly report, and will be duly published.

2109. Did it occur to you that the late manager, Mr. Doig, was stinted of his power as to incurring the necessary expenditure in the conduct of the mine? He was a reserved man, but he never gave me to understand that there was anything of that kind, and I had never any reason to press him on that subject. I have no complaint to make about the management of the mine.

2110. In regard to that second outlet, what is its position? Running parallel with the main heading, at the outcrop of the second cross-cut.

2111. Under the existing Act, could you enforce the making of that? No.

2112. At your various inspections of this mine, did you require to see the colliery plans? Yes.

2113. Did you consider them sufficiently accurate? Without any special measurement I had no right to believe but that the workings were fairly represented.

2114. Can you identify the original plan (plan produced). Is this it? I have not a shadow of a doubt, although it is in rather a muddled state, that that is the plan.

2115. By whom was that plan made, do you know? By Mr. Doig, the late manager.

2116. Did you consider Mr. Doig an accurate and skilled surveyor? I cannot vouch for his ability as a surveyor, but the plans were in accordance with the Act.

2117. Do you know when this mine was last surveyed? I cannot say, only I have no doubt that it was surveyed further on than it is dated.

2118. Did you lodge any request to have the plan brought up to date? No; I did not serve him officially with notice.

2119. Did you report this to the Examiner of Coal-fields? I never reported it to him, but he has often requested me to see that they were kept up properly; it was a general order.

2120. Returning to the air-current—the current was produced by means of furnaces? Yes; that was the motive power.

2121. And the positions of these furnaces are shown upon the plan? Yes.

2122. Did you consider the original plan of the colliery faithfully portrayed the workings? I had no reason to doubt it.

2123. Was this plan exhibited to you in its present dilapidated condition? Yes.

2124. Did you ever suggest the propriety of there being a more presentable plan? It was not in that condition before the fire broke out; people were running about with it during the excitement, and I suppose it got knocked about in that way.

2125. Do you know whether the plans of this colliery were kept in accordance with the provisions of the Coal-mining Regulations Act? Well, I often pressed him very much to keep it up, and he always promised that he would; I told him that it was highly necessary to keep it up to date.

2126. For what purpose is the left-hand furnace used? For taking away the smoke and keeping the current going on the left-hand side.

2127. Have you travelled this return? Not that back return—it was looked upon as a chimney flue.

2128. Was the right-hand furnace solely kept for circulating the ventilating current? Yes.

2129. What quantity of air would ordinarily pass over this furnace? I have seen it as high as 16,000 feet.

2130. What quantity could the return waste pass on the right-hand side—the return air-course? Any amount, because it was full of wide bords.

2131. Much more than the furnace could take? Yes; there was no limit to it.

2132. What was its size and dimensions? About 20 yards from the entrance to the tunnel and 7 yards from the right-hand, 9 feet long; heating surface, 6 feet long; shaft, 22 feet deep; chimney-stack, 20 feet, diameter 6 feet.

2133. Were these air-ways during your inspections kept free and open? Yes, free and open.

2134. Can you describe to us the condition of the left or northern return? Well, I have gone down the second furnace a pillar length, but never waded through the swallow of water.

2135. What was the distance between the top of the water and the roof? About 18 inches.

2136. What was the width of the return? At its lowest dimensions about 7 yards; that would give us about 13 feet of an area.

2137. What is the size of the left-hand ventilating shaft? I suppose about 10 square feet, and 6 feet in diameter, giving 24 feet of area or thereabouts.

2138. Do you consider that the left-hand return on the top of the water had an area corresponding to the size of the left-hand shaft? Oh, yes.

2139. Had you any fault to find with the left-hand air-course? No, I did not see that there was any reason to find fault; it did not seem to me that any more water could rise, and there was sufficient area for the return to pass away; that swallow would be about 3 chains in length.

2140. Did you consider that the ventilating furnace was constructed so as to protect the roof and sides of the mine? Yes, and as a proof of it, the top-coal is standing on the top of the furnace yet.

2141. As a matter of precaution, do you think the top-coal should be taken down from the roof of a furnace? That may be a question. But there is 18 inches of space for the air to pass over.

2142.

- Mr. J. Rowan. 2142. Did you anticipate any danger from the state of the roof and sides? No.
- 7 May, 1886. 2143. And you thought that sufficient precaution had been taken to ensure safety in this respect? Yes, it appeared so to me.
2144. Does all the return air pass over the furnace-grate? Yes, it passes over the grate.
2145. Where the return air of a mine passes over the furnace, can you readily detect the presence of fire-damp? Certainly.
2146. Have you ever seen any appearance of gas in this furnace in the ordinary state of the mine? No.
2147. Have you ever seen light carburetted hydrogen in this furnace? Never.
2148. If the return air contained any appreciable quantity of light carburetted hydrogen, would you detect it here? Yes.
2149. By what means? By the "Davy" lamp, or by its effect upon the flame of an ordinary lamp or on the furnace.
2150. If it had been carbonic acid gas, what effect would be produced on the furnace? The effect would be exactly the opposite.
2151. You have said that you had not detected the presence of light carburetted hydrogen in this colliery—have you specially tested for this in the course of your regular inspections? No, except in a cursory way. I have put down the light when travelling the workings. In fact I may say that I have tested for my own curiosity many times, and found no evidences of explosive gas.
2152. Were the abandoned bords in any part of the mine filled with carbonic acid gas? Not to my knowledge.
2153. In the course of working a colliery, what circumstance would be most likely to force out any gases from the waste into the air-passages? Either an explosion or a heavy fall of the roof would cause a displacement.
2154. If light carburetted hydrogen were so forced out, would it show at the furnace? It would depend upon the proportion.
2155. Some of it would likely be mixed to an explosive point, in which case when would it show first in the returns? It would show on the furnace fire.
2156. Supposing it was forced into the in-take air, when would it show? It would take the first light, if air were supplied to bring it up to an explosive point.
2157. And if the quantities were comparatively small? They would pass away with the air.
2158. When a quantity of carbonic acid gas is forced out into an air-way, does it not occupy a defined position in respect to that air-way; would that gas, until diffused through the atmosphere of the mine, occupy a specific position? Decidedly; it would take to its own gravity.
2159. Have you ever known of accidents occurring in the old country from a want of knowledge of these facts? Oh, yes.
2160. Can you recollect any? Yes, in the case of men not taking the proper position. I have seen many cases where men have had to be carried out through ignorance on this point.
2161. The reason of my asking you that question, Mr. Rowan, was, that a certain accident occurred in the district in which you were brought up, and I thought you might recollect it, and be able to tell the gentlemen of the Commission something about it, but I see you have forgotten it? No; I cannot recollect it.
2162. Do you know how light carburetted hydrogen gas is produced. I am asking you these questions for the purposes of this record? It may be produced from bituminous strata.
2163. Have you ever known that gas to be chemically or artificially produced? No; certainly not.
2164. As far as you know, it is one of nature's mysterious works? Yes.
2165. If uncombined with air, will light carburetted hydrogen gas explode? No; it would put out a light.
2166. In a mine where light carburetted hydrogen has not been found, is there any possible way of anticipating the fouling of the air-current by this gas? No; and this is shown in the English Act, which provides that it is only when the pressure of this gas has been actually found that they are called upon to examine for it.
2167. That is to say, in Britain, managers are not called upon to examine until they have seen cause? Exactly.
2168. In a mine exceptionally free from gas, how would you account for the abandoned bords or return air-ways being filled with carbonic acid gas? The material itself generates it, and it sinks to its own gravity in the old workings and lies there.
2169. Does all animal life exhale carbonic acid gas? Yes.
2170. And the results of these products of life in animals, or of combustion, might be carried into the wastes? Yes.
2171. In these wastes where the air is stagnant, would the foul air be likely to liberate the heavier gases? Yes.
2172. Then in this way you would account for the result of animal life and of combustion having a tendency to fill the wastes? Yes.
2173. And in this way a large waste is a great storehouse for waste gas? Yes.
2174. Returning to the ventilating furnaces, are you aware whether the ashes drawn from these furnaces were removed out of the mine—say the right-hand furnace? Well, there is a store of them lying up on the top there, but they told me they were going to put them on the road.
2175. Were these ashes drenched, when drawn, do you know? Yes, they were drenched with water, and put to one side.
2176. Do you consider this storing of ashes to be unsafe? Yes, unless they are thoroughly burned, and soaked with water.
2177. Would you store them up against pillars of coal? Not unless they were going to be speedily removed.
2178. Have you observed any appearance of danger in this case from following the practice? Well, it would be much better if they were removed.
2179. Have you suggested any alteration? Yes.
2180. To whom? To the manager; I told him it would be better to make doubly sure.
2181. What did he reply? He said he would have them taken out.
2182. How long was that ago? Oh, it is since the accident; I thought you were referring to the present; I did not complain before.

2183. As to the underground boiler, what was its purpose? The underground boiler was to pump water from the dip workings to where the encroachment was made at Eskbank. Mr. J. Rowan.
2184. How many chains from the tunnel's mouth is the boiler situated? Thirty-six chains, more or less. 7 May, 1886.
2185. At what distance off the tunnel is the mouth of the furnace? About 12 or 14 feet.
2186. Were the boiler fires open to the tunnel? There was a door there, but it was very often left open a little.
2187. Have you inspected this boiler? Yes, I have, to see that it was in working order, and to ascertain from the furnace-man as to the cleaning of it; he told me it was cleaned twice a week.
2188. Have you ever inquired as to whether the bottom coal was lifted at this boiler? Yes, I made inquiry; they told me that they were not certain, but thought it was founded on the rock; I know myself, however, it is standing now.
2189. Do you consider that the coal at the sides and top is sufficiently protected against fire. Ought it to have been removed? Well, I never saw any particular danger; there is a passage on the side and a passage on the top, and water lying close handy, which, according to Pierce, is a very good thing. Part of the tops were taken down above the boiler.
2190. Have you ever seen the flues of this boiler where they discharged the smoke to the return? I have gone about half a chain along the pipes; they are built upon bricks to carry them off the floor.
2191. Then the smoke was conducted from the boiler through clay pipes into the return air-way, and the return air-way is shown upon the plan with blue arrows? Yes.
2192. Did any portion of the exhaust air of the mine mix with this smoke? There might be a general leakage going through the stoppings.
2193. The air from below the boiler would mix with the smoke? Yes.
2194. Did the arrangement of this boiler ever suggest to you the presence of any danger? No; I did not see any danger to be anticipated.
2195. And of course you did not express any fear on the subject? No.
2196. Do you know whether the pillars in the flue were protected from smoke in any way? No; after it came out of the flue for half a chain length it had free scope outward.
2197. Supposing this mine to the north had given off light carburetted hydrogen gas, would you have considered this method of dealing with the smoke a safe one? No; I should have called it in question very quickly.
2198. Then the gas from the furnace did not pass through any brick flue? No; there is a half chain of 18-inch flue going from that.
2199. You have said that the smoke discharged over the water. Could you proceed down the air-way any considerable distance over that water? I believe you would be in the depths of the swallow there.
2200. How high had the water reached upon the coal? The roof would be 18 inches of space from the water.
2201. Do you think a fire could extend in that direction over this swallow—could it burn the upper coal on the tops? I do not think so; I do not think the tops could catch fire; I do not see how it would be possible.
2202. Well, this boiler is submerged in water—is it likely that a fire could make rapid progress over the tops of this boiler? No.
2203. Would you be likely to discover it in any way? You would be likely to discover it by the smell, say.
2204. Would you discover it from the up-cast shaft? Do you mean in the return air-way?
2205. Yes? Certainly.
2206. Is it your opinion that if the tops caught fire in this situation that its progress in the course of the return air-way would be slow? Yes, on account of the water lying there.
2207. Did the return air and smoke from this furnace, in passing through this return, impinge against the small coal or slack stoppings? No; it had a free opening over the swallow of water.
2208. Was the hollow of any considerable length? Three chains, so far as I can judge from going down; I did not measure it with the chain.
2209. Altogether, did you consider the arrangement of this flue a good one? I cannot say that I found any fault with it; it was built over with brickwork, and it was safe enough for a small engine.
2210. Would the state of the mine have been remedied by putting down a shaft at the dip of the main tunnel? Mr. Doig told me he was going to put down a shaft at the lower end of the tunnel, and take off the drainage water down there.
2211. Did you ever ascertain whether this flue or return was regularly travelled and inspected? They told me that they cleaned the flues twice a week.
2212. The return air-way—was that regularly travelled? I cannot say.
2213. What was the temperature of the return air-way? We did not take temperature, but I should say it would be ninety degrees or so.
2214. In the vicinity of the left-hand furnace-shaft, I think you have told us—what was the nature or capacity of the air-way passing there? When I went down it was about two pillars length; an ordinary heading, about 6 yards, the full height of the coal.
2215. Coming down from that furnace, what was the character of the return? It was pretty good.
2216. How far would you have to go before you got to the water? You would have to go 40 yards from the furnace.
2217. Did Mr. Turnbull ever make a remark on the state of that furnace and return? No.
2218. On the morning of the first accident, did he not say that he went some distance—14 yards—down there, and was stopped by the water? He may have said so, but I have not the slightest recollection of it. I know I passed a good distance down and did not see any water.
2219. Generally speaking, are underground boilers a fruitful source of underground fires? Yes; and I should be glad if all underground boilers were to be worked by compressed air or steam from a surface boiler.
2220. Have you ever observed small coal piled up at the side of this boiler. No; they may have had an ordinary stack of coals there.
2221. I suppose a foul flue would be liable to ignite? Oh, yes.
2222. Then, if they were not regularly cleaned, would not that be a source of danger? I considered that if the flues were cleaned two or three times a week there could be no danger.

Mr. J. Rowan.
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2223. Did they say whether they removed the cleanings of the flue—unless this were done a spark might be a source of danger? Yes, under certain circumstances; but where they would be lying on coals buried in water I do not consider there would be much danger.
2224. Had you heard of any fire at this boiler previous to the last accident? No; I never heard of it until I heard it at the inquest.
2225. How many fires have you since heard of as having broken out at this boiler before the last and fatal accident? I have now heard of two fires.
2226. Were those fires not reported to you? I never heard a solitary word about them; no report whatever was made to me concerning them.
2227. In the case in question, what, in your opinion, was the cause of the fire? Well, we know that on ordinary occasions when cleaning out the fire, especially on Saturday night, they leave a good amount of red coals lying, and then put on their fire. It is possible they may have done so, and as the stock of coal is only put in to supply Sunday there may have been an extra quantity of fire put on to the floor, and the red embers of the half-burnt coal may have ignited and the fire quickly spread.
2228. Have you any reason to suppose that the origin of this fire differed from those that occurred before? I should think so.
2229. We understand that the fires before occurred at the back of the boiler and on top of the water? I never heard that except at the inquest.
2230. Have you any reason to suppose that the north return was closed on the main in-take? No.
2231. When you got down to the seat of the fire, did you see any fall in the main tunnel? Yes.
2232. Was that a heavy fall? Yes, a heavy fall from the top.
2233. Did it stop the progress of the air? Yes, I should think so.
2234. In the light of subsequent knowledge, what effect would that large fall have upon the progress of the fire? It would spread it very rapidly. It would be like putting a bellows to the fire.
2235. Was the fire localized or diffused over a considerable space? It was spread over a considerable space. I saw it burning from the 35th stopping over the main heading.
2236. About what distance back should you say? It is difficult looking through smoke, but I should calculate there would be about 10 yards of it burning.
2237. Did you entertain any suspicion that the fire extended further than you have delineated on the plan? No; we thought that was about the extent of the fire.
2238. Did you entertain any suspicion that it had returned parallel with and a considerable distance up the tunnel? No; but I did see that she had kindled at the fire, and was burning down the heading or across Tyndall's heading.
2239. How did you account for the fire extending across the main tunnel? Simply because there was more relief to be got about that way, and as there was dry material there.
2240. In the early part of your evidence you said that you arrived at the scene of the accident early on the Tuesday morning—who was superintending operations on your arrival? One R. R. Druery was leading a shift of men, and he told me that an attempt had been made to bear back the smoke and open up another stopping.
2241. Was Mr. Druery in charge of operations? He was in charge of that shift of men.
2242. What course did you pursue on arriving? We were trying to get down to the seat of the fire by means of canvas, and to close up the stoppings to the right of the tunnel, but the smoke was so great, and coming out in such volume, that it was determined to seal up the mine; but before it was finally closed, as I have told you, a trial was made to travel up the second cross-cut.
2243. Did you take any responsibility? No; I had written instructions from the Department that the owners of the Lithgow Valley Colliery intended to re-open the mine; that I was to render any assistance that I could, but that I was to take no responsibility for the re-opening, as the responsibility must rest with the proprietors and the manager.
2244. And did you state this circumstance to those in authority when you arrived? I said to them that I was here in answer to a communication as to the re-opening of the mine, and I wished to know what method they were going to adopt.
2245. And you ascertained that? Yes.
2246. After the mine was re-opened, you got down almost to Tyndall's heading, and you then thought it right, or the owners did, to abandon operations—what reason was assigned for that course, for it has not been made perfectly clear? Well, after we reached the 35th stopping, we saw a fire burning across the heading. There was an idea that the mine was merely in a smouldering state, and that it could be dealt with by taking the stuff away in skips, but after seeing this fire, and as we had no appliances such as a pump or water at hand, I reported to the Examiner, Mr. Wilton and the manager being there, and we thought it best to withdraw the men. Mr. Mackenzie and I gave orders accordingly; but on the same morning, somewhere about 9 o'clock, Mr. Wilton and Mr. Gell informed us that the men had interviewed them, and said it was all nonsense stopping the mine, and that if they were provided with a pump and water they would go and stamp out the fire, and do the work for nothing.
2247. Did you hear them make this offer? No; we were informed by the proprietors. Mr. Wilton said he had pipes that he could lay on to four tanks, besides which a miner reminded him of the swallow of water at the fire. These things having been put before us, we said it might be worth the trial, and we let them have a trial in that way; the men were only to work six-hour shifts, with a leading man to take charge of each shift.
2248. Did you select any of those leading men? No.
2249. But you approved of the plan proposed? Yes.
2250. Do you know whether this fire was suspected before Sunday, the 14th? No.
2251. Have you heard any report to that effect? No.
2252. On your arrival on the ground, did you make any investigation as to the cause of the first fire? No.
2253. Did any report reach you that any of the workers had known of the fire or suspected it before Sunday, the 14th? No. But I made an examination of some of the men; I inquired of Grant, asking him if he had seen any fire; he said he had not seen it or suspected it; he said that if there had been any fire he would have detected it quickly, as he was short in the breath. I also asked Passmore, who said he had left the pit at half-past 3 or 4 o'clock, and there was no sign of fire then.
2254. We have particular evidence as to the finding of Doig, Younger, and Rowe—can you point out on the plan where their bodies were found? I can only do so from information I received from one of the volunteers—John Sheedy. I showed him the plan, as he knew the workings pretty well, and he pointed out where they were found. [Position indicated on plan of the mine.]

2255.

2255. Can you give us any idea why Doig and his party should have travelled this part of the workings? Mr. J. Rowan. No; except that he may have had some idea that he could get opposite the furnace and open up a stopping at Tyndall's heading, and by doing that perhaps be enabled to quench the fire with water. 7 May, 1886.

2256. But do you not think that in a mine, as he knew, with the main air-course full of smoke, the opening of a stopping like that would be a dangerous proceeding? It was highly dangerous, no doubt.

2257. And, Mr. Rowan, with a mine or the tunnel full of smoke, what condition would you, as a practical man, expect the main tunnel to be in? That is easily surmised.

2258. Well, say, would it be worse or better? Why, worse, of course. But, of course, one does not like to speak strongly of a dead man.

2259. We quite understand that; and now, speculating on what you have known from subsequent operations, can you assign any reason why the returns where Doig was found were less foul than the main in-take? I can account for that in two ways: In the first place, the general leakage that would be coming through would be very much diluted, and a fall that existed down about the furnace would have some influence on the nature of the returns.

2260. Did you inspect the body of Mr. Doig and his companions? I did not see them.

2261. Was this fall you speak of in the main tunnel below or above the boiler? It was chiefly below.

2262. Then, in view of these facts, can you suggest any reason for Doig and his companions being found where the air was comparatively breathable? Well, no; except what I have stated, that there would be a general leakage coming through (the stoppings), seeing that there was a stoppage in the main way, and it would be so diluted that it would be somewhat free of gas after it had accumulated.

2263. We have evidence that the lamps of these men were found empty of oil—have you any suggestion to make as to that? Well, I suppose they made an effort to get through, and I have slight reason to believe that as soon as he got relief the smoke began to surround him, and in beating a retreat he lost his way, as he was in the dark, their lamps having given out.

2264. Then the reason you assign seems to point to this, that Doig and his companions reached that stopping at Tyndall's heading, and got some relief? Yes, I think so.

2265. But you are not very positive? No.

2266. If you were told that two parties had gone into the mine in search of Doig, and followed or traced his footsteps, and penetrated as far down as Tyndall's heading, where the air was moderately breathable, would you think that your theory was tenable? Well, it is so complicated a matter that it is difficult to have a clear expression of opinion upon it.

2267-8. John Sheedy, in his evidence, stated without any hesitation that he went down to where Doig was found, and found the unfortunate man lying in a stratum of choke-damp—do you think this probable? By that time no doubt all the lower portions were pretty well filled up; I am really loth to express an opinion upon it.

2269. In the course of the operations for extinguishing the fire, were the men liberally supplied with all the requisite materials? They had everything that they required; for myself, I told the men, and I can say it without fear of contradiction, that they were not trying to save life but property, which was a very secondary consideration. I said to them, "You have only one life to lose; be very careful; do not venture one foot when you see any danger." I was at this time going away.

2270. Did you observe the owners of the mine present during the operations? Yes; Mr. Wilton was in daily attendance, and I have been with him as long as six hours at a stretch.

2271. Did he seem anxious for the safety of the men? Yes; I have heard him say that he would sooner lose the whole of the estate than that one man's life should be sacrificed.

2272. You were kind enough to make a plan showing the mode of taking the air down for the purpose of extinguishing the fire—will you be good enough to explain the nature of those operations? The first operation consisted in removing the cover from the road in the up-cast shaft, and taking down the stoppings leading to that furnace. These operations were carried on with safety-lamps. In lowering the lamp down the up-cast shaft from the surface the strength of the gas almost extinguished the light. 3,000 cubic feet of air per minute was passing through the furnace shaft. Beyond the air-current carbonic acid gas existed as a wall, and extinguished the lamp. The next step was to allow about 6,000 cubic feet of air to pass down the main tunnel into No. 1 cross-cut. In order to do this they had to take down a principal brick stopping across the mine. This quantity of air was continued for the period of about an hour, the return air extinguishing the lamp. That, adding to the waste gas of the mine the percentage of fresh air necessary to make light carburetted hydrogen gas explosive, tests were applied with the result that the lights continued to be extinguished. After satisfying ourselves that no explosive gas existed, the right-hand furnace was kindled; thereupon 9,000 cubic feet of air was passed down the main tunnel to No. 2 cross-cut per minute. This was on Saturday the 20th. The furnace was then kept going continuously until Monday morning the 22nd, but no men were permitted to enter the mine. On the Monday morning, I, accompanied by Mr. Campbell, the manager, proceeded down the mine; entered No. 2 cross-cut, and, with 5,000 cubic feet of air, succeeded in pushing the accumulated gas before us for upwards of 100 yards, the safety-lamp test indicating the absence of fire-damp. Later on in the day, feeling assured as to the condition of No. 2 cross-cut, a canvas stopping was placed at the junction of this cross-cut with the main tunnel, and about 1,000 cubic feet of air per minute allowed to scale through to keep this cross-cut clear. Progress was made by opening and closing the stoppings on the right-hand side of the tunnel, pillar by pillar, until we reached the 35th stopping, about 1 chain west of the boiler. The operation of opening and closing the stoppings was necessarily attended with some difficulty and danger. I was so anxious to ensure the safety of the men that I remained with them for eighteen hours at a stretch. On reaching the 34th stopping, on the right-hand side, we were disappointed on opening that stopping not to get relief for the air, the carbonic acid gas rolling out. We proceeded down with the canvas under some difficulty, the smoke being strong until we reached the 35th stopping, when we got relief. The return air and smoke during this time was taken back on the right-hand side of the canvas to stopping No. 32. On approaching No. 35 we then discovered the fire burning across the heading. The fire was burning across the main tunnel from No. 35 downwards. The body of the fire seemed to be about opposite Tyndall's heading. It was at this stage, and having reached this point, that it was considered advisable to withdraw the men. The men and owners, however.

NOTE.—No 34 stopping being in a hollow, the witness desires to substitute No. 35.
576—M

Mr. J. Rowan. however, came to an arrangement, that received the approbation of the Government Inspectors, to re-open the mine. In consequence steam was laid on to conduct water from a hollow above this position (see plan), and this necessitated a stoppage of five days. By this time the smoke and gas had backed up the tunnel to about the 20th stopping. On Sunday, the 28th March, the gas had been beaten down the tunnel to within 20 yards of the seat of the fire, when steam was laid on. The steam was laid on within 10 yards of the seat of the fire. The miners were then withdrawn. On Thursday, the 1st of April, the miners resumed work, they being engaged clearing away the burning coal, and continued to do so until the day of the calamity, on Monday the 19th. A brattice was put across the mine at the nearest point possible to the fire, with the object of driving back the poisonous gas and extinguishing the flames.

[The witness here described the minutiae.]

2273. About this time, were the operations of the men engaged in putting out the fire hampered or endangered in any way by the surreptitious opening of a stopping? Have you heard of such an occurrence? Yes, I have heard something of it. On the 29th Mr. Campbell, the manager, went in to see if he could get some timber for some purpose, and he thought there was a current of air coming through one of the stoppings in the old workings. Looking up to the top of the stopping he found that it had been opened to the extent of 3 inches clear. It so happened that this particular stopping had been thoroughly wedged up two days before. There were in the immediate vicinity certain evidences on the ground of some person having recently been there—about 5 yards from the stopping.

2274. Did you discover a less amount of ventilation coming down? I was not there at the time; but Mr. Campbell drew my attention to it, and told me how he had discovered it. He had thoroughly secured the stopping two days previously, and in his opinion it was not the result of accident. It was stripped right along.

2275. Mr. Davies.] Would it not be difficult for a man to take away a strip like that from the top, if a man had to do it with his hands? It would be to some extent difficult certainly.

2276. President.] Could a man do it with his hands, or would the assistance of an instrument be required? It would not be past arm's length there.

2277. Could a pick be used? I do not know; but, nevertheless, the stopping was stripped as stated.

2278. Was a watch kept to see who went in or out? Yes; and the watchman was supposed to let no one go into the mine without an order from the manager—no matter who he might be.

2279. What conclusion did you come to on the subject? I cannot say; I am not going to express an opinion about it.

2280. Who was the watchman? The furnace-man.

2281. Mr. Davies.] What was the current of air passing down the tunnel on the day of the accident? I tested the air-current by means of the anemometer in the presence of the manager, and Mr. Willis, a clergyman, who had the curiosity to be there, and the instrument registered 26,000 cubic feet of air per minute. At No. 18 stopping I got a register of 14,880 cubic feet.

2282. Where was the balance of the air going? To the cross-cuts, taking the air in that direction. At No. 32 stopping I got 14,700 cubic feet.

2283. Then the stoppings were tight? Well, it was a fair test. This quantity still continued to the seat of operations, with the exception of any allowance for inevitable leakage.

2284. How were the shifts of the men arranged? There were forty men, divided into six shifts of six hours each. Leaders were appointed to each of the shifts.

2285. President.] If any danger occurred, did you take a share of that danger? Yes; I should have shared it fatally had I not been away that same day.

The witness here handed in the copies of two letters appended, viz.: One to John Mackenzie, Esq., Examiner of Coal-fields, and the other to Joseph Campbell, Esq., manager, Lithgow Valley Colliery, marked A and B respectively.

A.

Sir,

Eskbank, April 17th, 1884.

For your information, I beg to say that I will leave Lithgow on Monday, noon, 19th instant, for Wollongong, as there are six accidents which happened during the last month—four in Kembla Colliery and two in Bulli Old Tunnel. Each accident requires to be examined and reported.

To-day (Saturday) I was down the Lithgow mine, and took a register of the air-current, viz.:—At the entrance of the tunnel, 26,000 cubic feet of air per minute; about 18 chains from the entrance of the tunnel, 14,880 cubic feet of air per minute; 32 chains from the tunnel mouth, 14,700 cubic feet of air per minute. The seat of fire has been reached at a distance of 36 chains from the entrance of the tunnel. Forty men are employed (ten men on each shift) clearing out the burning coal and other debris. There is a heavy fall of top-coal and roof behind the brickwork of the boiler; the fire under the fall is still smouldering.

I have, &c.,

JAMES ROWAN, Inspector of Collieries.

John Mackenzie, Esq., Examiner of Coal-fields, Newcastle.

B.

Sir,

Eskbank, April 17th, 1884.

Before leaving Lithgow for Wollongong, and in accordance with the provisions contained in the 25th section of the Coal Mines Regulation Act (1876), I hereby give you notice that the Lithgow Valley Colliery must be thoroughly ventilated before the miners resume work (for the purpose of getting coal); and all entrances to any place not in actual course of working, and suspected to contain or be liable to engender dangerous gas of any kind, shall be walled or fenced off, and a danger signal placed at such entrance so as to prevent access thereto.

I have, &c.,

JAMES ROWAN, Inspector of Collieries.

Mr. Joseph Campbell, Manager, Lithgow Valley Colliery.

2286. President.] You have already told us about this fall in the main tunnel—was it entirely removed? No.

2287. Did you see any fire among the abandoned workings from the boiler towards the waste, parallel with the main tunnel? I went down twice, my last visit being on Monday morning. I am not aware that I did see it. The fire seemed to have a good hold to the left of the main tunnel.

2288. Did you suspect that the fire had eaten up at the back of the main tunnel for any considerable distance? I do not think so.

2289. Did you give any advice to the men, and explain to them their dangers and perils? Yes; I worked with them and stuck to them all the time.

2290. In the course of the work, did you hear or see any falls in the old workings? No.

2291. Under whose directions did the men work? Under Mr. Campbell, the manager.

2292.

2292. Can you tell us the names of the five men who were killed at the second accident? I do not know all of them. There were Buzza, Thomas Rawe, Thomas Mantle, Isaiah Hyde, and another (L. Allison). Mr. J. Rowan.

2293. When did you arrive after the accident? I arrived by the mid-day train. 7 May, 1886.

2294. Did you inspect the main tunnel at all? Yes—the stoppings were blown out from the left-hand side.

2295. About what was the number of the stopping at which the force of the accident seemed to concentrate? We only got down to the twentieth stopping owing to the smoke. Here there was a lot of debris and confusion.

2296. Have you ever considered what the calamity might be due to? I am of opinion that a great fall had taken place in the interior of the back workings, on the left-hand side, and that this caused a displacement of the carbonic acid gas and smoke, which by the force of the blast found its way through the weaker points on the main current.

2297. Do you think that this could be referred to as an explosion of fire-damp? I really cannot see where an explosion of fire-damp could under any circumstances take place there.

2298. Did you observe any signs of an explosion. None whatever.

2299. Do you know what the state of the atmosphere was immediately after the accident—I mean from inquiry? Going down on the following day there was a great deal of smoke and vapour in the main tunnel.

2300. Would that be due to an explosion? No, certainly not. It was just as if a mass of abomination had been disturbed, and it was all blown up together.

2301. You have stated that you did not see and did not hear that the fire had crept up behind the main tunnel? Not further than the first pillar length.

2302. Have you heard any of the survivors state that whilst making their escape they passed over red-hot ashes in the tunnel at or about the twenty-fourth stopping? I have heard it, and give them credit for thoroughly believing that they think they saw it. But I can quite understand how men in such a state might imagine that they went over ground which in reality they had never passed over.

2303. Had fire-damp existed, was this twenty-fourth or twenty-fifth stopping a likely stopping for fire-damp to lodge? It is quite foreign in principle to suspect such a thing. It would have been away in the higher galleries of the workings.

2304. It has been said that there was a second blast almost simultaneously with the first, and coming from behind the boiler. What would that indicate to your mind? Well, when the great concussion of air took place there would be a certain amount of atmosphere in the main heading, and I believe that the effect would be felt at the top just where the opposite current was coming down, and to my mind it was the effect of re-action.

2305. Supposing that explosive gas was projected with sufficient force into the main tunnel, what course would the blast take? The explosion would be secondary.

2306. Supposing explosive gas was projected into the main tunnel, where would the force of the explosion be most noticed—would it go with or against the air? Well, I am of opinion that it would go in the direction where it would find the readiest course.

2307. In any case, Mr. Rowan, what are the physical signs of an explosion—would you see a flash of flame, or what? Well, if it had been an explosion that had caused that amount of damage I believe the flame would have shot out of the tunnel mouth. The explosion would be caused by the oxygen from the atmosphere.

2308. Does that indicate the course that an explosion generally takes? Yes.

2309. And is not that a reason why the course of an explosion is generally against the air-current? Yes.

2310. What is the state of the atmosphere after an explosion? It raises the temperature of the atmosphere.

2311. Are you aware what the state of the atmosphere was, what temperature existed immediately after this accident occurred? I am not aware.

2312. Do you know whether any length of time transpired between the accident and the finding of the bodies? So far as I can understand, the men were all out in about an hour.

2313. How can you account for red-hot ashes being strewn across the tunnel—you say the men must have deceived themselves; how do you account for it? I should say that ashes had been blown from the fire owing to the concussion of air.

2314. How could they have been carried across the chain of water you have indicated? Well, by that time it is likely the coal would have been burning on the top of the water; I believe it was a reality to the men themselves, and I give them credit for saying it in good faith; but I do believe they were mistaken in the distance.

2315. Did you see the bodies of these five unfortunate men? Yes.

2316. Did you form any opinion as to the cause of their death? Yes; I was of opinion that they died from the effects of carbonic acid gas.

2317. Was this accident expected by you? No, not in the least.

2318. Then, do you think it can be due to any defect in the carrying out of the Coal-mines Regulations Act? I do not think so; there was a fire in the mine to be put out, and the men accepted all risks in the same way as a fire brigade would do in putting out a fire on the surface.

2319. Then you think the accident was due to causes beyond human knowledge; would it have been prevented had every line, word, or clause of the Coal-mines Regulation Act been rigidly complied with? It could not have been prevented.

2320. If you had heard or observed that the Act was evaded, would you have taken action? Yes, most decidedly; I should have seen there was danger to life and limb, and would not have allowed it.

2321. Have you ever heard whether any of the men foresaw this accident? No.

2322. Have you ever heard it said that such an opinion existed? All the opinions I ever heard were in connection with the re-opening; some said it should be filled up with gas, but they were all rumours and reports.

2323. If it were reported to you that a statement had been made that the accident was due to the neglect of the owners, managers, or inspectors, would you give such statement an unqualified denial? Most decidedly I should.

2324. We understand that the workings to the rise of No. 2 cross-cut are sealed off from that portion of the mine where deleterious gases exist by brick stoppings? Yes.

2325.

- Mr. J. Rowan. 2325. In prosecuting work in this No. 2 cross-cut, are you sure that in continuing its present direction it will not hole through on some of the bords to the old part of the mine? No; No. 2 cross-cut is to be driven at a different angle, and if it did go through anything there would be 12 feet of solid that would be an ample barricade, in my opinion.
- 7 May, 1886. 2326. *Mr. Usher.*] Would the flooding of the abandoned workings be the best way of dealing with this conflagration? Yes, I believe so.
2327. *Mr. Neilson.*] Do you know whether the Lithgow Valley Colliery pumped any water to the surface? It does not pump any water to the surface.
2328. What is the use of that engine down below? I have no doubt they put it down with the intent of pumping water into the Eskbank Company's ground.
2329. In case of it being decided by the owners or anybody else that the Lithgow Valley mine was to be flooded, would not the Eskbank Colliery be drowned out? When the water comes up to that level in the Lithgow Valley mine we all know where it will go then.
2330. Does the Lithgow Valley Colliery make water? Yes.
2331. And no water is pumped to the surface? No.
2332. Is there any other colliery or creek where the water can get to? No, I do not think so; I believe it goes to Eskbank.
2333. Are the Eskbank workings extensive? Yes, pretty extensive.
2334. Then it will take an immense amount of water to fill them up? Yes; but no such a thing could happen till the water came up to the level.
2335. How long is it since you left Wallsend, Mr. Rowan? Three years.
2336. Were you in the Wallsend or Co-operative Company in 1879? Yes.
2337. That was a large fall at Wallsend? Yes; I was there at the time.
2338. Did you hear of the effects of that fall? Yes; the skips were knocked out and the men injured.
2339. *President.*] Can you tell us the resisting power of those brick stoppings which have been put in in the Lithgow Valley mine? No, I cannot; I know they are put in substantially, with 10 yards of debris and small coal to back them up.
2340. In your opinion, supposing a similar fall to that which has recently occurred, or one of double the force, were to take place, are these stoppings of sufficient strength to resist the effects—of course I am merely assuming that it was a fall? Well, we do not know the balance of the force of the last fall, because it had light material to remove. Seeing that these stoppings are so substantial they ought to withstand a great pressure, but I could not say how much they would stand.
2341. Supposing another fall was to take place of sufficient force even to remove these stoppings, what would be the result? The result would be that it would roll in upon the main air-course and up the cross-cut.
2342. I think you told us in your evidence that the heaviest pressure appeared to be at No. 20 stopping? I cannot properly judge, because I could not get down any further than about the twentieth stopping. For all I know they may have been heavier down below.
2343. In that case, whether this was an explosion or a fall, it must have come from the left-hand side, somewhere either to the north, or down towards the Eskbank boundary? Yes.
2344. As a practical man, and apart from all chemical reasons, an explosion of gas is always directed where there is the largest quantity of air to feed it? Yes.
2345. Was there any fire or indication of fire-damp on the props or brattice, in the straight run or tunnel? No; there was nothing to indicate the presence of an explosion. The props were not singed.
2346. Is the heat from the Lithgow Valley fire likely to draw a considerable amount of air from the Eskbank pit falls? It may possibly be so. But when we believe the mine to be hermetically sealed up we cannot suppose there would be any great quantity of fire burning there. If the fire were raging we might look for something of that kind.
2347. *Mr. Curley.*] What is the state of the mine, with regard to the in-take and the outlet, at the present time? Up No. 2 cross-cut, right along the working face, and back to the furnace, there are two ways to the day, and altogether three openings at the present time.
2348. Has the Company ever made any reports to you about these accidents? No, not in an official way. We have talked over them, but there have been no written communications.
2349. Do you consider that in compliance with the present Coal-fields Regulation Act? Well, I think there should be a little consideration taken in a case like this. We were all there. The country knew of it. I have no doubt when they settle down they will send a report.
2350. *President.*] Who telegraphed to you, Mr. Rowan? I received a telegram from Mr. Mackenzie, the Examiner of Coal-fields, and he got his information from Mr. Gell.
2351. That appears to be all right; you got the information from your superior? Yes.
2352. *Mr. Curley.*] Well, Mr. Rowan, although you knew of this accumulation of ashes at the right-hand furnace, you never made any official complaint to the management with the view of remedying these matters, or did not imagine they wanted remedying? I considered that they were sufficiently informed. I certainly never made an official complaint. I never saw or heard of any fire there at the boiler.
2353. Did you ever go into the left-hand furnace after the second accident? Yes; we put in a stopping there.
2354. Did you notice whether any top-coal had fallen there? No; I did not see any there.
2355. I suppose you had several conversations with the proprietors about the question of putting this fire out? Yes.
2356. Did it ever occur to you that brick stoppings would have been better, especially as you knew the state of the return? No; I think it would have been worse to have brick stoppings, and for this reason, that the blast would have found a vent on each side, and rolled down in a solid column upon the men, and not one of them would have come out.
2357. *President.*] Have you observed the state of the top of this left-hand air-shaft on the surface? Yes.
2358. What is it covered with? It is covered with inch deals, made air-tight with clay.
2359. After the blast, what appearance did it present? It presented the appearance of having been violently shaken, but the shock had expended itself before it reached that point.
2360. *Mr. Curley.*] Would the quantity of ashes you noticed at the right-hand furnace be a source of impediment to the proper ventilation of the mine? I think not; there was plenty of space for the air to go in.
- 2361.

2361. Would the air-course have been improved if the ashes had not been there? I do not think so; I had no reason to complain of the Vale of Clwydd ventilation, and they have only 10 feet of return.

2362. What is the position of the left-hand furnace shaft? It conducted the ventilation at an angle into a brick chimney. Mr. J. Rowan.
7 May, 1886.

2363. Would not that have a tendency to prevent a strong clear air current going up? No; I do not think so.

2364. Where do you think will be the weakest point in connection with the stoppings at the present time? Well, I believe there will be less force upon the left-hand stoppings, simply because it has a greater way to travel, and must pass many an acute angle.

2365. Still, with the stoppings being up, and if no vent could be obtained, then the concussion would be all the more forcible? This has no connection at all with the old workings. On the former occasion it had two outlets to go down the main tunnel; now it is properly walled off.

2366. Do you think that it was possible for fire-damp to accumulate on top of that fall on the Eskbank boundary? To my mind it is quite clear that light carburetted hydrogen gas could not be manufactured from the burning coal.

2367. Where was this smoke going to (from the fire to the left of the boiler)—which furnace was it going to? I believe the great body of fire burning was sending its smoke in different directions; it was going to Tyndall's heading, passing the other regions, up by the left-hand furnace, and down to the lower workings, which were pretty well full up.

2368. You must admit this, that this force of head coming to these two opposite furnaces must have had tremendous draught power on these old workings when they were closed up? No doubt there must have been a great suction power.

2369. *Mr. Neilson.*] Previous to the fire, Mr. Rowan, what was the ordinary rate of ventilation? I think it was 12,000 cubic feet of air per minute. I think it has gone as high as 17,000.

2370. Could the products of combustion entering into that waste in the neighbourhood of Eskbank boundary, and lodging in the cavities left by a great fall—could these products of combustion be ignited? No.

2371. *Mr. Curley.*] From this big body of fire that was burning, would the air not take the nearest course to the furnace? The air always takes every advantage; it takes the nearest course.

2372. Was there relieving power towards the left-hand furnace for that body of fire? There was a good return; I have seen it as high as 7,000 cubic feet per minute, but you have to take leakage into consideration, as I have already stated.

2373. Did you ever make any experiments as to the power of the draught at the furnace previously? No; it was going on in the ordinary way; the men were working in safety, and I did not think it necessary.

Mr. Curley having asked the witness several questions in relation to the possible existence of fire-damp in the mine, —

2374. *President.*] Supposing, Mr. Rowan, that explosive gas escaped in a cavity of the roof towards the boundary of Eskbank, if the left-hand return acted as a suction power sufficient to draw fire-damp from this cavity, would it not mix with the carbonic acid gas which you have stated filled the workings near to the main tunnel? Yes.

2375. In that case, would the gas explode? No; even one to four would put it below exploding point.

2376. Then you consider the products of combustion were sufficient to render the explosion of fire-damp impossible? Yes.

2377. *Mr. Curley.*] I think you said you had no power under the Act to say what materials these stoppings should be composed of? Yes.

2378. *Mr. Curley* here read sub-section 5 of section 12, of the Coal-mines Regulation Act.

If at any time it is found by the person in charge of a mine or any part thereof or by the Examiner or inspector that by reason of noxious gases prevailing in such mine or such part thereof or of any cause whatever the mine or said part is dangerous every workman shall be withdrawn therefrom and the Examiner or inspector shall inspect the same and if the danger arises from inflammable gas shall make such inspection with a locked safety-lamp and in every case shall make a true report on the condition of such mine or part thereof and no workman shall except in so far as is necessary for inquiry into the cause of danger or for the removal thereof or for exploration be re-admitted into the mine or such part thereof as was so found dangerous until the same is stated by the Examiner or inspector to be safe. Every such report shall be recorded in a book which shall be kept at the mine for the purpose and shall be signed by the person reporting.

2379. *President.*] That does not provide for a particular stopping? There is nothing about stoppings there. That section only contemplates certain action being taken in case of danger being seen or apprehended.

2380. *Mr. Curley.*] But you have power if you apprehend danger? Yes.

2381. *President.*] Did you apprehend danger? No; I did not apprehend danger.

2382. Then the section does not apply. I suppose that is what you mean? Well, if I had apprehended danger I should not have gone there.

2383. *Mr. Curley.*] And you have never refrained for fear of in any way exceeding your duty as an inspector? No, sir, so far as I know.

2384. *Mr. Usher.*] During your several inspections of this mine prior to the two accidents, did it ever occur to you that it would be advisable to sink another shaft to the extreme east of the workings? Well, that was spoken about, and Mr. Doig said he was about to commence a shaft, and do away with the little engine.

TUESDAY, 11 MAY, 1886.

Present:

THE PRESIDENT,
MR. USHER,
MR. NEILSON,
MR. SWINBURN,

MR. CURLEY,
MR. DAVIES,
MR. JONES.

Dr.
C. S. Gibbons,
M.R.C.P.S.
11 May, 1886.

2385. Dr. Chas. Gibbons, M.R.C.P.S., was next called, and, having been sworn, put in a statement of the evidence which he could give, as follows:—On April 19, I was sent for to go to the Lithgow Valley mine, as there were supposed to be men entombed. On my arrival, I attended to those who were brought out alive, and then went into the pit along with several of the searchers. We were obliged to stop some distance from the pit-mouth, owing to smoke coming from the left side of the tunnel; but were able to go on after fresh stoppings had been put in. On coming to the deceased men, I noted the positions in which they were found, and which were almost identical. The bodies were face downwards, with the mouths partly open, as though in the act of gasping, and the pupils were largely dilated. On examination, I found in each case the chest was more or less collapsed, and several small burns about the bodies, which would most likely be caused by contact with flame. From all I saw and found by examination, I formed the opinion that all the five deceased men lost their lives by suffocation, owing partly to a want of air (probably there being a vacuum formed by the heated air), and partly to the inhalation of some noxious gas, which, in my opinion, was carbonic dioxide gas.—CHARLES S. GIBBONS, 10th May, 1886.

2386. *President.*] Then you have come to the conclusion, doctor, that these men died from suffocation? Yes.

2387. And from the inhalation of carbonic acid gas? Yes.

Maurice Asher, L.C.S.I., &c., &c., sworn and examined:—

Mr. M. Asher,
L.C.S.I.
11 May, 1886.

2388. *President.*] Did you examine the bodies of the five men who lost their lives at the second accident? I did.

2389. What opinion did you form as to the cause of their death? I was of opinion from their appearance that they died from suffocation, probably caused by inhaling carbonic acid gas.

2390. Have you had any experience of fiery mines charged with carburetted hydrogen gas? No; I have not seen any victims from an explosion of gas.

2391. Did the bodies of these men bear any marks of burning? Yes; I am of opinion that there were burns on the body of Allison. From the shoulders down to the hands and fingers there were marks which I believe to have been burns.

2392. Have you heard whether Allison was dragged by a rope up a considerable portion of the tunnel? No; I cannot say that I have.

2393. Well, supposing he had been thus dragged along over a rough surface through the tunnel, would that have accounted for the marks you saw? No; I do not think so. The appearance of the marks was exactly similar all over. The edges were well defined, and there was no sign of hemorrhage.

2394. Did his face bear any marks of violence? There were no marks of violence on his face, so far as I could detect. On the back of the head there was an incised wound. I did not notice whether the clothes were torn in any way. I do not think it would be possible for a body to be burned and the clothes remain intact—in fact it is improbable. I believe all of the men had shirts on, although I did not see them until the following morning. I would not be certain that the marks I saw were burns, but they bore the appearance of burns.

2395. Then you are doubtful on the subject, and you are of opinion that the actual cause of death was the inhaling of some irrespirable gas? I am quite certain that the burns did not cause death.

2396. *Mr. Neilson.*] Was the hair or whiskers singed? Not to my knowledge. The hair I know was not burned.

James Doig sworn and examined:—

Mr. J. Doig,
11 May, 1886.

2397. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am a miner. I have been connected with mining since I was about twelve years of age. I have worked in the Lithgow Valley mine between three and four years. I have only worked in that mine in this district. The late manager was my brother. I have had no experience of fire or choke damp. I have never seen or heard of them in the Valley.

2398. Have you ever heard of the miners complaining of the quantity of ventilation in this colliery? No; so far as I was concerned, I was quite satisfied with the amount of ventilation.

2399. Do you know the underground boiler? Yes; I have been working backwards and forwards about it at times. I do not know that it was safe; I have seen coal pretty well all round in the boiler.

2400. Have you ever been at the back of the flues? Yes, two or three times. They were very warm sometimes. I have not heard of any underground fires there, except about eight weeks ago. I heard of one then, but did not witness it.

2401. Did it never strike you that the arrangement of that boiler was not conducive to safety? So far as the management of the colliery goes, I cannot say as to that. I think the present manager knows all about these things. I know that the smoke would accumulate sometimes at night, but it would be carried away with the ventilation currents into the old workings.

2402. Do you know how all these stoppings were constructed? Yes; of slack. Great care was taken in putting them in. I never heard any complaint of their quality. I was in the pit on the Monday morning that the accident took place. When I heard what had occurred, I went as far as I could into the mine—some 20 or 30 yards; then I had to turn back. Mr. Turnbull had not then arrived.

2403. What part did you take as a rescuer of these unfortunate men? I communicated with Mr. Gell, one of the proprietors, and suggested that he should send for Mr. Mackenzie. After that I went to the pit. In the meantime Mr. Turnbull had been sent for, and they proceeded inside the mine. I did not accompany Mr. Martin, but, when I was standing half-way between the tunnel and the second cross-cut, he came out and told me that Doig had been found. I asked him if he was living. He replied, "Yes."

I

I then proceeded to help carry him out. I took no part in the subsequent operations. I have not been in the mine since, excepting as far as the first furnace. I have been into the ventilating furnace to put coal on. The ashes were never taken out from alongside the boiler, and there was no water thrown on them, so far as I know. I never cleaned the fire, nor have I seen it cleaned.

2404. As a matter of fact, then you cannot speak from personal experience? No.

John White sworn and examined:—

2405. *President.* What is your occupation? I am a miner.

2406. How long have you been mining in this district? Twelve years.

2407. Have you confined your operations entirely to this district? Yes; I have been nine years in the Lithgow Valley Colliery without stopping.

2408. Have you ever worked in Eskbank? No.

2409. Have you ever in the course of your life seen fire-damp? No; I never did.

2410. Have you noticed the underground boiler in this colliery? Yes; I was there before the boiler was put in. I saw the first brick that was ever laid.

2411. Were you present at the building of it? No; but I used to pass it.

2412. Do you know whether the bottom coal was lifted? Under the boiler it was, but not at the back; I believe it was lifted under the fire.

2413. Was the top-coal taken down? No.

2414. Have you ever noticed smoke hanging in the vicinity of the boiler? Yes, very often; nearly every day I passed it both morning and evening. The smoke had to travel at the back about 30 chains. I have worked in every part of the mine. A great portion of the left-hand returns where the smoke passed away was partially filled with water. In some places the water would be almost level with the coal. You could not get in to see.

2415. Have you ever seen that yourself? Yes, I have. I have cut through in one place to let the water through; that was just at the back of the boiler.

2416. Have you worked at the left-hand side of the tunnel, towards Eskbank? Yes; right to the boundary.

2417. Is any portion of the pillars removed there? Yes: just about three pillars this side, just at the back of the last explosion or fall. It is about three pillars back from the boiler, allowing a chain for each pillar.

2418. Were there any pillars removed further up the tunnel? No, not one; I believe Robert Grant was the man who took the pillars out.

2419. Up towards the left-hand of the tunnel and near the mouth, were the places worked wide there? Some of the bords there are very wide, and the pillars are left very thin. Some of the bords would average 10 yards wide.

2420. And is each divided from the adjoining bord by a narrow pillar? Yes.

2421. The miners are very fond of doing that, I believe? Yes; to get the coal down. I have seen the bords holing through to one another; I have often done that myself.

2422. That is, you were doing a good thing for yourself? Yes; the coal was coming easy.

2423. Was this on the north side? Yes.

2424. Have you ever seen any falls in this mine? Yes, I have.

2425. Have you ever been over these falls with a naked light? Yes.

2426. Did you ever see any appearance of explosive gas? Not a bit.

2427. Have you ever heard of gas in this mine? No; I never heard of such a thing.

2428. Have you ever complained about the ventilation of this colliery? Well, I did once; it was a long time ago; we complained to Doig.

2429. What was the nature of your complaint? We complained that we could not keep our lamps alight.

2430. What was the cause of your being unable to keep your lamps alight? We put it down to this, that we were working too close together, namely, five of us, and we put the blame on the smoke of the lamps.

2431. Was it removed? Oh, yes; it was removed without hesitation. They took some of the men out of the heading, and the air was then quite different altogether.

2432. Since that time, have you ever made a complaint? No; the ventilation has always been sufficient since then.

2433. How long was that ago? About eighteen months.

2434. Have you ever heard of any underground fires occurring in the vicinity of this boiler? No; they say there was a fire at Christmas, but it was unbeknown to me.

2435. Did you entertain any fear of danger from this boiler? No; I never thought of it for a moment.

2436. What do you know about the first accident? I came down about 7:30 on the morning of the accident, being on the back shift; I met the foreman, who said it was no use taking the picks, as I would not be able to get in; I said I would try; I got in 30 chains, within a few chains of the boiler, and I met smoke about 25 chains down; I got down 5 chains beyond where I met the smoke; I did not take any part in rescuing Doig or Younger; I did not work with Mr. Turnbull; I was outside, putting in timber and one thing and another.

2437. Did you go into the tunnel towards the evening again? No; I went in with the forenoon men, about 11 o'clock, to make the fire up.

2438. Do you know how far Mr. Turnbull got the smoke down? No.

2439. Did you work at the tunnel during the operations preceding the second accident? Yes, all the time; I was engaged at the furnace; I never saw the fire there. When they told me about an explosion, I told them it was not an explosion; I was not at the furnace when the accident occurred; I was in my own house; I was to go on at 4 o'clock, and this happened about 3:30; I saw all the men carried out.

2440. Why did you not think it was an explosion? I believed that it was a fall of the tops caused by the heat, certain props having been withdrawn in the vicinity by Mr. Campbell, the present manager.

2441. Did you ever hear of a fall of roof causing such a rush of air? Yes; I remember one in the Hermitage colliery; a fall took place about the breadth of this room, and the air came down and put all our lamps out. It was about 20 yards away.

2442. You saw the pillars in the vicinity of the fire, were they of very small size? Yes; they were very thin.

2443.

Mr. J. Doig.

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Mr. J. White.

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- Mr. J. White. 2443. How many yards wide do you think? I worked in there myself, and noticed one which, I suppose, could hardly have been more than 2 yards wide.
- 11 May, 1886. 2444. *Mr. Usher.*] At the time Mr. Campbell withdrew these props that you speak of, was there any fall? No; it was about three pillars back from the boiler.
2445. What thickness would they average? In some places 7 yards wide, while in others they would not average above 2 yards. I believe some of the pillars were taken out; I cannot say to what extent; I was working up the other side at the time, but I know the props were taken out.
2446. Did you ever travel to the back and left of the boiler? Yes; to the Eskbank boundary. I travelled that four years ago.
2447. Do you know whether a proper return has been kept on that side? No, but of course the day-men used to look to that. It was not my place.
2448. Has a proper return been kept to your knowledge? I cannot say whether it was or not.
2449. So that you do not actually know whether the return was kept good or not? No; I do not know.
2450. *Mr. Neilson.*] Have you ever heard of any heavy fall taking place in the vicinity of the Eskbank boundary? No; I know there was a fall in the main heading, but nothing to speak of; we called it nothing. The bords were driven from the other side then.
2451. Have you ever heard of any previous fire at the boiler? Never, except what I have mentioned.
2452. *Mr. Jones.*] Did Grant relate to you that he was blown from the furnace door to the right-hand side of the drums? Yes.
2453. Do you know if he received any injury? He has not done any work since, but he did not seem to have received any injury at the time.
2454. *Mr. Curley.*] In that place mentioned where the water is, if a fall had taken place there, would there be sufficient force of air coming to blow out the stoppings? It is not all water; it is a swallow.
2455. Supposing that opposite where the water lay a stopping were blown out, do you think there was sufficient space between the water and the roof to allow a sufficient force of air to blow out the stopping? In some places it would not, because the water is too high.
2456. *President.*] I believe there are two swallows, are there not, one near the boiler, and another nearer to the left-hand furnace? Yes.
2457. Was there an open space between? Yes. The water is up to the roof at the back of the left-hand furnace.
2458. *Mr. Usher.*] In going over the falls you referred to in a former part of your evidence, did you observe whether the top was rock or shale? There was no rock, only the coal.

Joseph Campbell sworn and examined:—

- Mr. J. Campbell. 2459. *President.*] What is your occupation and present position? I am at present manager of the Lithgow Valley Colliery. I was formerly employed as an engine-driver.
- 11 May, 1886. 2460. What are you by profession? I am a miner. I learned my profession in Northumberland, England.
2461. And being brought up in Northumberland, were you accustomed to deal with fire-damp? I have seen fire-damp frequently.
2462. And therefore you would recognize it if you saw it again? Yes; I know it when I see it in my lamp.
2463. How long have you been in Lithgow? Seven and a half years.
2464. At what mines? At all the mines excepting the Ironworks. At the Eskbank, Vale of Clwydd, and the Lithgow Valley.
2465. Have you ever discovered fire-damp in any of these mines? Never.
2466. Have you ever heard of it in any of these mines? No.
2467. Judging from the appearance of the coal—the strata above and below—would you consider that seam likely to give off gas? Not in my opinion.
2468. Where have you worked in the Lithgow Valley mine? I have worked in the right-hand district of the main tunnel, also in the left-hand, but it is a long time since I was in the left-hand side. It was about five years ago.
2469. Have you worked in the coal adjoining Eskbank? Yes.
2470. Was any portion of the pillars taken out there? Yes, some of it was taken out.
2471. Can you say to what extent? I cannot exactly say. I should think there would be about five pillars split and taken out. They were not taken clean out, a portion of them being left standing.
2472. Coming to the main tunnel itself, were any pillars taken out there or robbed? Not that I am aware of.
2473. Were any left small? Yes, but none robbed.
2474. Were any taken out contiguous to the underground boiler? No.
2475. Did you draw any props from the top of the coal near the boiler? No.
2476. A few pillars back, I mean? No. I drew props out from that portion of the mine I have referred to, down by the boundary, but that is a good deal more than three pillars away from the boiler. The plan will show it.
2477. Are you not aware that one pillar back from the main tunnel the pillars are left much smaller than has been the rule? I cannot say; I did not take sufficient notice.
2478. Was that portion worked before you left? They were busy working there when I went.
2479. Do you know as a fact that the pillars were left smaller? I do not know it as a fact.
2480. Then, as to the mode of working this colliery, was it worked in any different fashion or style from that pursued in the adjoining collieries? I do not think it was.
2481. Was it worked much in the same way? Yes. I think some pillars are smaller here than in the Eskbank when I was there.
2482. Have you ever seen any appearance of these pillars crushing under the superincumbent weight? No. When there was a large fall in Brown's pit I heard a rumbling of pillars in the Lithgow pit.
2483. Were the stoppings in the Lithgow Valley mine erected in the same fashion as in the adjoining collieries? Yes.
2484. Then it was a district custom that was followed? Yes. We always put slack stoppings in. The custom is the same in Eskbank as in the Lithgow Valley mine.

Mr. J.
Campbell.

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2485. Was timber used to strengthen them? Some of the stoppings had timber in them.
2486. Were they carefully constructed? I cannot say. They were never under my supervision.
2487. In your opinion, were they sufficient for the purposes required of them? I think they were for the purposes of ventilation.
2488. Have they conducted the ventilation in a satisfactory manner? Yes. Before the accident over 14,000 cubic feet of air was coming down to the men.
2489. Was that a proof of your statement that they were sufficient for their purpose? In my opinion, yes.
2490. Did you ever complain to the late manager of the ventilation or management of the pit? No.
2491. Have you ever heard of any complaint? No, never.
2492. You have already stated that in the course of working this coal you have not detected any fire-damp; after the accident, did you detect any indication of fire-damp? Not in the least, and I have often searched for it.
2493. Had fire-damp ever existed, would it, in your opinion, have been detected after the accident? I do not know; it is hard to say; but I think we should have found it before if there had been any there.
2494. Where do you think you would have found it? In the highest level.
2495. Did you ever suspect gas in any part of this colliery during the progress of the operations for extinguishing the fire? No; I never had the least suspicion.
2496. If it never existed before the accident, you know no reason why it should have existed after the fire was discovered? No, I do not.
2497. Have you ever heard of an open colliery fire generating fire-damp? Never.
2498. If it were possible for an open fire to generate fire-damp, where would this fire-damp have been detected? I cannot see how it would be possible to generate it.
2499. Well, I daresay a good many people are of your mind, but just suppose it were possible for an open fire to generate fire-damp, where would it have shown its presence, or where would it have gone in the workings? It would have taken the highest level.
2500. Suppose it had taken directly to the return airway, where would you have discovered the fire-damp? We should not have discovered it at all, owing to the air that was returning; if it came back in large quantities it would fire on the furnace.
2501. About this underground boiler, did you see it built? No.
2502. Did you inspect it during the course of its erection? No; I had nothing to do with it.
2503. Do you know whether the tops were taken down over it? There was one band taken down, I know, but all the top-coal was not taken down.
2504. Was the bottom coal removed? I cannot say.
2505. Have you ever seen or heard of any former fire occurring here? Yes.
2506. When? I cannot say the exact date; some time previous to the accident; close on twelve months I should say.
2507. Do you know whether it was a serious fire? I cannot say; I only heard of it.
2508. Do you know what was done at the time? No, I do not.
2509. Regarding this rapper-wire, how was it hung? It was hung on props and over small pulleys.
2510. How was this rapper or signal wire disarranged by the accident? I cannot say; when we went down the tunnel I saw it was covered up with slack; what was ahead of that I do not know.
2511. When you went down the tunnel, immediately after the accident, did you attempt to work this wire? No.
2512. Do you know whether it was really blocked? I cannot say; no one attempted to work it after the accident.
2513. Have you heard that it was blocked? I think so; my judgment is that there was sufficient to prevent it from working.
2514. How could this wire have been hung so as to avoid the possibility of its being disarranged by such an accident? I cannot say; it would be a difficult matter.
2515. What caused this engine to start at first to pull out the skips at the time of the accident? It was the suggestion of one or two men who thought that in all probability the miners had sought refuge in the skips.
2516. It was not because the wire acted, was it? No; they had no intimation outside.
2517. Was the road blocked up by debris? Yes.
2518. Can you suggest any means of protecting this wire from accident; was it properly hung? I cannot conceive any other way; if it had been enclosed in pipes it would have been impracticable, I think, because if the wire broke the pipes would have to be opened.
2519. In working a colliery, can accidents always be foreseen? I think it is quite impossible; you cannot tell what may happen any day.
2520. Are there two separate and distinct outlets for the men from this mine? Yes.
2521. In case of emergency, can these two outlets be used? Yes.
2522. In addition to these two outlets, could the air-shafts be used for taking out the men? Yes, but there are no appliances ready.
2523. *Mr. Neilson.* There is a main outlet, the furnace, and the travelling road, that is, three outlets; is that not so? Yes; there were four outlets previous to this, but now one is blocked up.
2524. So far as the inlets and the outlets were concerned, was this mine worked in conformity with the Act? Yes.
2525. *President.* In the case of carbonic acid gas rolling up from an underground fire, would it be possible to keep the return free from the gas? I cannot see how it would be possible.
2526. If you had ten separate outlets, could you have kept them free from gas? No.
2527. In prosecuting the work of getting the fire under, did you take down a large quantity of air? Yes; on the Saturday before the accident there were 26,000 cubic feet of air passing the furnace; a portion went up the first and second cross-cuts, and 14,700 feet went down to the men.
2528. Would this air have the effect of increasing the fire? Yes.
2529. And also increase the gas resulting from the fire? Yes.
2530. And this gas went into the return? Yes.
2531. Then only the main intake was really available for the passage of the men? That is all.
2532. In your opinion, could provision have been made in the Mines Regulation Act to guard against such an accident? I do not think so.

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J. Campbell.
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2533. If every possible precaution were taken to ensure the safety of the work, would Government, in your opinion, be justified in suspending the operation of the Act to enable an attempt to be made to recover a valuable colliery? That is a difficult question to answer.

2534. Do you think you ought to be allowed to extinguish an underground fire? There is a certain amount of risk connected with all fires.

2535. No doubt; in an underground fire where you have two outlets, one an in-take and the other a return, the return must be fouled. Supposing it was so foul that no animal life could exist, would you then, in your opinion, be justified in putting out the fire? If sufficient precautions were taken to ensure the safety of the men, I would.

2536. Well, granting that, do you think you would be justified in making the attempt? I should say yes.

2537. Who was entrusted with the task of seeing that provision was made to ensure the safety of the men who were carrying out the work? Myself and the underground manager, Kirkwood.

2538. Who selected the leaders of the shifts? The men selected their own leaders.

2539. Did you select any? No.

2540. Did you ever offer any suggestion as to the mode in which the work ought to proceed? Yes; the instructions were always given to the leader of the shift.

2541. Then you say emphatically that you did not take any part in the selection of the leaders? Yes, I do.

2542. Was each of the leaders aware of the character of the work in which he was engaged? I should think so; in my opinion yes.

2543. Was any inducement held out to them, or any pressure brought to bear upon them? No.

2544. Do you consider this work was attended by any danger? I had no idea of any.

2545. And you repeat that you are satisfied that everything was done to secure the safety of the men? Yes; if it had to be done over again I could not suggest anything better.

2546. To bring your attention to the period immediately preceding this time, when the men held a meeting, and appointed a deputation to wait on the masters, can you tell us why the mine had been abandoned? You had got to the seat of the fire, you saw it, and forthwith the attempt was abandoned; we have never heard any good reason assigned for that? I do not know whether it was intended to abandon the mine or not; however, I was not there that night; I was knocked up, almost unconscious of what was going on, but I went to the pit next morning, and I heard that the men were commencing with the brickwork and stoppings, &c.; it appeared to me that they were going to close the mine on account of its condition, as we had no appliances for putting the fire out. It was a hopeless case until we could get appliances; we had no water for example.

2547. Then do you believe that was the cause of the mine being abandoned for a period? Yes; I think that was the reason.

2548. When you got down again to the seat of the fire, did you satisfy yourself as to the cause of it? No; it was a mystery.

2549. You knew that an underground fire occurred at that time? Yes.

2550. And you knew that smoke and heated gas passed over unprotected heaps and portions of coal? Yes.

2551. You knew that heaps of small coal had been allowed to lay at and around the furnace? Never around it.

2552. At all events you knew that an underground fire had occurred there, that the fire was burning round the boiler, and yet you say you never suspected the cause of the fire. Furthermore, you knew that certain men coming out on the Saturday before noticed an unusual smoke about the boiler and in the workings, and yet you say you did not suspect the cause of the fire? I suspected that it originated down by the boiler.

2553. Before the first accident, did you know the course taken by the ventilation? No; only just what I have had pointed out to me.

2554. You knew that it went down the main tunnel, when it, to a certain extent, stopped and returned, one portion up the right-hand and the other portion up the left-hand side? I knew that the bulk of the air went towards the right-hand workings.

2555. And you also knew, did you not, that Doig and his companions had entered the right-hand air-way? Yes.

2556. And you knew that the main intake was full of smoke and choke-damp? Yes.

2557. Did it not occur to you that it was a strange proceeding for Mr. Doig to enter the right-hand return under these circumstances? Yes, it seemed very strange to me.

2558. Were not naked lights used in the work of endeavouring to put back the smoke in the tunnel? Yes; nothing else but naked lights were used.

2559. To return to the fire-damp; if it had existed, would it have been possible to have used naked lights there, or in the return air-ways? No.

2560. Was evidence of the absence of fire-damp in that case clear and definite, in your opinion? Yes, certainly.

2561. Were you aware that before Mr. Turnbull arrived a party or parties of rescuers had gone down as far as Tyndall's heading? Yes; I knew that.

2562. And that other parties subsequent to that had also, unknown to Mr. Turnbull, penetrated a considerable distance into the returns? Yes, I believe so.

2563. And that also, unknown to Mr. Turnbull, these parties had discovered the bodies of the unfortunate men? Yes, I knew that.

2564. And that the air was not loaded with choke-damp in the right-hand return? Yes, I knew that, too.

2565. Did this circumstance excite any curiosity in your mind as to the reason why this return was not full of smoke and choke-damp? We have evidence that it was comparatively clear and free, and that men could live in it? Yes.

2566. Did it excite any suspicion in your mind as to the cause of this apparently anomalous state of matters? I thought myself that there was a fall somewhere in the main heading.

2567. And as a matter of fact when you got down weeks after that you saw a fall? Yes.

2568. And was it a large one? Yes.

2569.

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2569. Did it destroy the air-way? Yes.
2570. Were you present when the last accident occurred? Yes; I was present outside.
2571. How long had you been out of the mine? I left it about 2 o'clock.
2572. How often did you visit the underground operations? I was seldom away night or day.
2573. Then what instructions did your owners give you as to the general safety of the men? They charged me very seriously not to allow the men to incur any risk; they said they would sooner lose the whole of the property than that the life of one man should be sacrificed.
2574. And you carried these instructions out in the course of the operations? Yes.
2575. Did you discover a few days before the accident that a stopping had been surreptitiously opened? Yes.
2576. What stopping was that? The twenty-ninth stopping on the left-hand side.
2577. Can you describe what you saw? On the second shift, before the discovery, I took three or four men in with me to examine these stoppings, and found that some of them were not altogether right, and I put the men to work to tighten the stoppings that were loose; subsequently I was down in that direction removing some timber; my lamp was hanging on a prop, and my attention was directed to the flame of a lamp which I saw was bearing down towards the stopping. I thought that something was wrong, and upon investigation discovered that this particular stopping had been tampered with; about 6 inches of slack had been pulled from the centre of the stopping.
2578. How could this have been done, Mr. Campbell? I could not say, unless somebody pulled it down.
2579. Was anybody admitted into the tunnel but the workers? No.
2580. Then it would seem to lie between the workers? Unless someone got in without being observed.
2581. What object would anyone have to gain? That I cannot say.
2582. Was there any watchman put on at the tunnel mouth? The man who attended to the furnace acted as watchman.
2583. Did they ever admit anyone into the tunnel without an order? Not that I am aware of.
2584. You have no doubt that these men at the furnace did their duty? None whatever.
2585. Were the stoppings below blown out in the main tunnel at the accident which afterwards occurred? Yes.
2586. Would not a similar cause account for a few inches being driven out of this stopping? I do not know.
2587. Did you see any evidence of any person having been at this place where the stopping was tampered with? Yes.
2588. Might some person have got into the mine without being observed? They might.
2589. How could they get out again? They might wait for an opportunity.
2590. What effect had this upon the fire? I do not know that it had any effect, excepting that it would take a portion of air from the main tunnel.
2591. Was that noticed by the workers? No; I never heard them complain.
2592. Did you anticipate or foresee this unfortunate accident? No.
2593. Did any man express to you his doubts as to the general safety of the mine? No.
2594. Did you hear any sound of falls to the left of the tunnel previous to the accident? Some fortnight before I first got down to the fire I heard some falls on the main tunnel in front, but never heard anything to the left.
2595. Coming to the 29th stopping again, did you see over the top of it? Yes.
2596. Did you see any fire there? No.
2597. Did any man hear falls before the accident? I have heard since that some of them heard falls, but they did not inform me at the time.
2598. In the light of subsequent events, could you have anticipated this accident? No.
2599. In your opinion, what was the cause of the catastrophe? I think it was caused by a heavy fall.
2600. Where could a large fall take place in these workings? It is hard to say. There might be a fall where these pillars were taken out.
2601. In your experience, have you ever known of a very strong rush of wind occurring in consequence of a fall? Yes.
2602. Where? I have known it in the Eskbank mine and in the old country.
2603. Tell us about the fall in the Eskbank mine? I have been knocked down by the effects of a fall there.
2604. What distance were you from the fall? About a chain.
2605. Did it do any other damage? Well, it knocked the skips about that were close to us, and made the slack fly about.
2606. In the old country, what experience have you had of a similar catastrophe to that which occurred in the Lithgow Valley mine? I have known falls occur there when all the lights have been extinguished.
2607. Had the stoppings in the Lithgow Valley mine, along the main tunnel, been built of brick, do you think the result of this accident would have been different? It is hard to say.
2608. Supposing that there had been brick stoppings, and these stoppings had been blown out, what would the results have been? I think the results would have been the same as we have seen in this case.
2609. Where were you when this accident occurred? I was sitting outside on the bank. I saw smoke coming out of the left-hand up-cast shaft, extending up to 15 or 20 feet.
2610. Did you see anything remarkable about the mouth of the tunnel? I saw some smoke coming out.
2611. How long did it continue? For about two or three seconds.
2612. Did you see Grant, the furnace-man, there? Yes.
2613. Did he seem to be in a dilapidated condition? Well, he shouted out to me, and appeared to be in a very great fright.
2614. Did he tell you he had been projected out of the tunnel for a distance of 100 yards? No, but I know that it could not be a fact anyway.
2615. Was Grant injured? I do not know.
2616. Did he complain? Yes, he complained, but I thought it was from fright.
2617. Are the gates at the mouth of the tunnel permanent and strong structures? No.
2618. Were they blown away by the force of the blast? No.
2619. What force would be required to blow a heavy man like Grant out of the tunnel—would not such a force be sufficient to have blown away these frail structures? It would have made a considerable impression on them, anyway.

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2620. Do you credit his statement? No; I know it is not true.

2621. You think the man is possessed with a diseased organ of wonder. What did you do immediately after hearing of this accident? I scarcely knew what to do. As soon as I heard of the accident, I ran to consult with Mr. Gell, and returned in three or four minutes. I did not see Mr. Gell; he was not at home at the time. During my absence they had pulled out the skips. Young Norwood was in the skips. We had heard a cry for help from the tunnel, and we rushed in, Morris and James Rowe being among the number.

2622. What did you see? We found Mantle about 3 chains down the tunnel. He was lying down and calling for help, and appeared to be very much exhausted.

2623. Was he much injured? I never examined him. I saw him lying down, and gave him in charge of someone else. I then hurried on.

2624. Did you notice whether the doors of the right-hand furnace were open? No, I did not; but the left-hand furnace door was open.

2625. Well, after passing the left-hand furnace-door, what did you see? I found Durie and Duncan just past the left-hand furnace. They were going out on the main tunnel. They were standing when I came up to them. I gave them in charge of somebody, and went further on, when I found Kirkwood.

2626. How many chains down was that? About 10 chains. I tried to get further down after this, but could not. The smoke was in the tunnel there, and the stoppings were down.

2627. Was this spot the first place where you saw the stoppings blown down? No; I saw them before this, and noticed that the top was just blown out from the left across the road. We repaired these stoppings.

2628. And having repaired the stoppings you went onwards? Yes.

2629. Where did you come upon the first party? I was repairing one of the stoppings when the party ahead of me found Buzza. It would not be more than a chain from where we found Kirkwood.

2630. That would be about 11 chains down? I would not be positive as to the distance.

2631. Was he dead? I was told he was dead, but I cannot say whether he was dead when he was found.

2632. Was the air very bad then? Yes.

2633. How long would that be after the accident? I should say it would be about half an hour, scarcely so much perhaps. We then proceeded down for a distance of 18 chains, and we found Thomas Mantle at the bottom of the eighteenth stopping, with Lance Allison lying alongside of him; then I dropped the canvas immediately, ran down further and got to the next chain, and there found Isaiah Hyde and Thomas Rowe.

2634. That was at the 19th chain? Yes.

2635. Were these two lying together? Yes; I then called to the men to cease operations till we could find the lot and get the bodies out, because there was a doubt about William Mantle, although he had really by this time got out of the mine. We called the roll over, and I told the others to go outside and see whether William Mantle had got out. In the meantime I went 3 chains further down the tunnel to see if I could find any more.

2636. Had you any difficulty in doing this? The smoke was very thick, as the stoppings were out and the air current disarranged.

2637. Did you observe any cinders across the road when you were passing these stoppings? No, I did not.

2638. At what stoppings did the force of the accident seem to expend itself—which of them seemed to have received the greatest amount of injury? I could not see very much difference in any of them.

2639. Were any of them totally blown out? No, not when I saw them; I think the largest hole was about 15 inches.

2640. Did that extend right across the stopping? No, it was about the centre.

2641. Were these stoppings closed up? Some of them were. As we went down those which had been most blown out were covered with canvas bags.

2642. How far did you get down after the accident? I went down about 22 chains on the day of the accident.

2643. Did you see any fire in the inside of the stoppings? No.

2644. Did you see any evidence of an explosion of fire-damp in going down this tunnel? No.

2645. Have you ever heard it stated that red-hot ashes or coals had been projected out from some of these stoppings? Yes, I have heard so.

2646. And do you credit that statement? My own private opinion is that it was not so; I saw no evidence of it.

2647. Just before this accident, was the return air-way to the left full of smoke or choke-damp? Yes.

2648. Under the circumstances, is it possible for the waste there to be filled with or to contain any quantity of fire-damp? No.

2649. Are you aware of the effect that choke-damp has upon fire-damp? No.

2650. I will put it in another way—Does the presence of choke-damp render an explosion impossible? I have never seen any explosive gas where there is black-damp.

2651. You know that choke-damp will put out fire, I suppose? Yes.

2652. Knowing that, would you say that choke-damp must have the effect of preventing an explosion? I should think so; yes.

2653. Do you know whether fire-damp would be given off by an open coal fire? I have already answered that; I do not think it could.

2654. Do you know of anything to justify the statement that fire-damp accumulated in the left-hand wastes, that is to say, the wastes towards Eskbank? I do not know of anything to justify such a statement, because I have heard Doig say from time to time that they could not get towards the Eskbank boundary for black-damp.

2655. Did you inspect the bodies of these men? Yes, some of them.

2656. What appearance did they present? They did not present the appearance of having been burned.

2657. Did you see Allison? No, except when he was taken out of the mine.

2658. Had these men clothes on? They had flannels on.

2659. Did the bodies you saw differ in appearance from those of Doig, Younger, and Rowe? No, not the ones I saw.

2660. What do you consider was the cause of the death of Doig, Younger, and Rowe? I consider that they died from the effects of carbonic acid gas.

2661.

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2661. And you attribute the death of these five men to the same cause? Yes.
2662. During the operation of extinguishing this fire, do you consider that the Inspectors of Collieries performed their duty? I do.
2663. Did they extend any privileges in any way? No.
2664. Did they suspend the operation of any clause of the Mines Regulation Act in order to favour any one? Not that I am aware of.
2665. Did they exhibit anxiety for the safety of the men? Yes.
2666. Do you think they could have foreseen this accident? I should think not.
2667. Do you think it was in the power of man to have foreseen this accident? I do not think it was.
2668. Could any application of the Mines Regulation Act have prevented it? Not that I am aware of.
2669. Leaving this accident, the mine is now sealed off, that is, the workings above No. 2 cross-cut from the major portion of the pit, by 27-inch stoppings, is it not so? Some of the stoppings are 27 inches, but others are only 14 inches.
2670. Is there any difference in the thickness of the stoppings on the left-hand side of the tunnel? Yes; the first stopping is a 27-inch brick stopping to the left of the tunnel with Barlow rails behind; there is another on the other side of 14 inches, and one of 9 inches inside the furnace in the return.
2671. Is there any difference in the thickness of the stoppings to the right? Yes; the first two stoppings to the right are 27 inches, and the others are 14 inches, with the exception of one, which is 18 inches thick, that is below the cross-cut.
2672. Can you assign any reason for the difference in the thickness of these stoppings? Yes, some of them were backed up by such a tremendous amount of slack that we considered 14 inches sufficient.
2673. How many yards of slack were these stoppings backed up by? They were of various thicknesses; some of them might be backed up by 6 or 7 yards of slack, and some of them were built right up with timber, and filled in with slack behind and brick in front.
2674. Then, in your opinion, are they substantially built stoppings? Certainly.
2675. Are they built in with cement? No, lime.
2676. According to the plan you are to go by, are any of the old workings forward to the line of the cross-cut? No.
2677. Are you aware that the plan has not been extended for a year? Yes.
2678. In which case to continue No. 2 cross-cut in its present direction might open up some of the workings? I do not think so.
2679. But it might? Yes, it might.
2680. Supposing the workings were cut through, what would be the result? Black-damp would come through.
2681. Would it not be wise to swerve this cross-cut some degrees to the south? I have done so.
2682. How many degrees? 10 or 15.
2683. Are you aware that the water runs freely from Lithgow Valley mine to Eskbank? No, I am not.
2684. Did it once run freely? Yes.
2685. What is the reason it does not run now? Because stoppings have been put in at Eskbank; the water was pumped to deliver into Eskbank.
2686. Then if it did not go, what would be the consequence? It would run back again.
2687. As a matter of fact it did not run back, or you could not have worked your mine? Well, the mine was not clear of water for four or five months.
2688. What was the growth of the water? I believe they have been pumping and re-pumping it over again.
2689. If water would run to Eskbank, would a fire draw air through the same place? Yes, I think it would.
2690. Would the flooding of the Lithgow Valley mine have the effect of flooding Eskbank? If it burst the dams it would.
2691. *Mr. Jones.*] Would not brick stoppings, backed up by 6 or 7 yards of small coal, have been more effective in preventing a recurrence of what took place at the late accident? Yes, I should say so; no doubt brick stoppings are the best.
2692. By whose authority did you proceed to re-open the mine? By the authority of the proprietors, and with the concurrence of the Government Inspector and Examiner.
2693. I understood you to say that the Government officials had nothing to do with the matter? Well, they were there to see that nothing was done contrary to the Act; they were sent by the Government after having received notice.
2694. *Mr. Davies.*] Was their opinion asked as to the safety of the proceedings? They were satisfied that we were doing right, or they would not have allowed us to proceed, I suppose.
2695. *Mr. Usher.*] I suppose there was a reason for your having Barlow rails in No. 1 stopping? Yes, because we could not put an arch stopping there on account of the drift being so near to the main drive.
2696. That is the left-hand corner of the shaft? Yes.
2697. *Mr. Curley.*] At what time did you commence operations? On 17th February.
2698. When you took charge, did you consult with the proprietors and the inspectors upon the line of action that should be pursued? Yes; I suppose you mean before we opened the mine.
2699. I think I understood you to say that you found there were not sufficient appliances, and that determined you on closing the mine again? Yes; but we did not expect that we should find any fire when we opened the mine; we expected that the closing of the mine would have put out the fire.
2700. At the time that the men were working at this fire, in the event of anything occurring in the main tunnel, was there any other way out for them but that by the main tunnel? No.
2701. There was no other safe means of egress? No.
2702. Did you work during the day, or did you work at slight intervals? I was seldom out of the mine.
2703. Did you ever make any observation as to the current of air going up the up-cast shaft? No; but we frequently took the register in the main tunnel.
2704. Have you seen the ashes deposited about the right-hand furnace? Yes; there were some ashes there, but they were all deposited in the water.
2705. Do you consider it advisable that ashes taken from the furnace fire should be deposited in the mine and stacked to such an extent? Well, I consider the best plan would be to take them out.

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2706. Judging from your experience in Eskbank as to the effects of a large fall, did it ever occur to you in carrying out these operations that there was a possibility of danger from such a source? No, it never occurred to me; we never had the least apprehension of danger.
2707. At the time of your consultation with either the proprietors or the Inspector of Collieries or the Examiner of Coal-fields, was the matter of a fall, or any other thing from which danger might be apprehended, brought up? No, never.
2708. How far was this rafter-wire erected from the side of the tunnel? In some places it was pretty near the side—only a few inches from the rib.
2709. How high from the floor of the mine? It varied; in some places it was not more than a foot.
2710. In conducting these operations, did you ever refer to the Coal-fields Regulation Act at all to see if you were infringing any of its provisions? No; we had policemen watching us night and day, and if we had been doing anything wrong I take it that we should have been stopped; we conducted operations so far as we knew in compliance with the Mines Regulation Act.
2711. *Mr. Usher.*] Would the fact of your swerving No. 2 cross-cut to the south rise prevent your holing in the old workings? That is the reason why it was determined upon; it was the intention to swerve, but not at such an angle to begin with.
2712. Why was it the intention to do this? Because we thought it best to be safe; I have worked in that direction for a good distance.
2713. Have you taken any precaution to prevent holing into the workings further to the south? Yes; we have put some bore-holes in.
2714. Do you know the size of the pillars on the south-east part of the workings? No, except by the plan.
2715. Did you at any time accompany Mr. Turnbull to ascertain whether explosive gas existed in the waste workings? I accompanied him when we took out the plug in the main tunnel.
2716. Did he tell you he expected to find explosive gas? Yes; he came down and made an examination on the Sunday morning, and he made the remark when he came out of the mine that she was full of explosive gas. He went and told the company the same.
2717. How did he try the gas? With a Davy lamp.
2718. Was he very careful in approaching the openings? Yes, very careful.
2719. Who was present? Mr. Gell, Mr. Wilton, Kelly, and Morris.
2720. What was the result of the examination? He distinctly stated that he believed it to be carbonic acid gas.
2721. Did the gas extinguish the light? Yes.
2722. Do you know the thickness of the rock overlying the coal-seam to the extreme workings? No, I do not.
2723. *Mr. Jones.*] Are you aware that the pillars have been very much robbed on the left-hand side of the main tunnel? I am not aware.
2724. A previous witness has stated that they had been robbed to a very great extent? I did not know that they had been.
2725. Did you ever visit the side of the boiler either previous to or after the first accident? Yes.
2726. What did you observe? When I have been in during the morning I have seen a little vapour hanging there.
2727. Did you ever have an opportunity of going in behind the boiler on the left-hand side? No. I have been behind the boiler since the accident occurred, and saw a fall of rock just close to the boiler; it was composed of coal and stone; it was not on fire when I saw it; I saw a flame behind the boiler after the first accident; I was in charge then; I kept putting on water and taking away the stuff as quickly as possible; I do not think the fire was put out.
2728. What proceedings did you take after that? We commenced to build up the brick stoppings.
2729. And you left the fire burning? Yes.
2730. *President.*] In proceeding down the tunnel after the first accident, you say that the stoppings were down, and you looked through and perceived no fire. Did you see whether any top-coal had fallen? I did not.

William Pitt sworn and examined:—

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2731. *President.*] What is your position, Mr. Pitt? I am manager of the Eskbank Colliery.
2732. How long have you been manager of that colliery? Over ten years.
2733. Have you worked the coal along your southern boundary to the left portion of the Lithgow Valley mine boundary? Yes.
2734. Did you work up to the boundary? Well, I consider not.
2735. Have you worked over the boundary in any part? I think not.
2736. Has any communication been made between the Eskbank mine and the Lithgow Valley mine? Yes.
2737. Does water run between the two mines? I cannot say.
2738. Have you taken precautions to prevent the water from running between these two mines—have you put in any dams, or by any other means endeavoured to stem the water? As we worked the pillars out we banked the slack well back.
2739. You have worked the pillars out along the boundary, then? Yes.
2740. What object had you in view in working the pillars out from that point? Simply that when we got to the boundary we took all the coal out.
2741. Have you stopped pillaring that portion of your estate? That portion is already pillared.

(Plan of Eskbank Colliery exhibited.)

Dictated by the President.

[In reference to the encroachment, Mr. Pitt pointed to the position on the plan where an encroachment has been made, being the same as that shown on the Lithgow Valley plan. A large portion of pillars extending over some acres is stated by the witness to have been taken out. The witness also states that the place occupied by these pillars is perfectly closed. He explains that the effect of the Lithgow Valley mine being flooded would be to flood Eskbank also.]

2742. *President.*] In your ten years' experience, Mr. Pitt, have you ever discovered fire-damp in this colliery? No; I never saw the slightest trace of it. Mr. W. Pitt.

2743. *Mr. Davies.*] Have you ever been where there is fire-damp? No. 11 May, 1886.

2744. *President.*] Do you work with naked lights? Yes.

2745. *Mr. Curley.*] Have you ever searched for fire-damp on the top of these large falls where the pillars are taken out? So far as we could, yes.

2746. Have you ever found any trace of fire-damp? No, never.

2747. *President.*] Have you ever heard of it? No.

2748. *Mr. Usher.*] Did you ever put in any clay dams anywhere near the boundary? No, nowhere along the boundary. No provision has been made for damming back the water from the Lithgow Valley mine, except banking the slack well up behind after taking out the pillars. At the seat of the encroachment a narrow rib of coals was left in.

[Mr. Pitt has no objection to the Commission, or a deputation from the Commission, visiting the Eskbank workings with a view to enlightening themselves upon the statement he has made.]

Edward Gell sworn and examined:—

2749. *President.*] You are one of the owners of the Lithgow Valley Colliery? Yes. Mr. E. Gell.

2750. How long have you been one of the owners? Ever since it has been opened—about twelve or thirteen years. I do not know the time exactly. 11 May, 1886.

2751. What part have you taken in the management of the colliery? I have not taken any part more than the other members of the Company since during the last five or six years.

2752. Have you frequently visited the underground workings of your property? No.

2753. How often did you visit the workings? I had not been through the workings for four or five years before the last accident, and, as you can imagine, at that time they did not extend to any great distance.

2754. To whom did you delegate the charge of the underground workings of your colliery? To Mr. Doig, the late manager. Perhaps, if you will let me, gentlemen, I could give you a short narrative which, so far as I am concerned, would put the whole matter clearly before you.

2755. Very well, Mr. Gell, proceed? When we first opened this mine we got Mr. Winship to come over to lay it out for us; he performed that duty, and recommended to us Mr. White as a competent manager. He, however, had a failing that rendered it necessary that he should be suspended not very long after his appointment. We then, at the recommendation of Mr. Winship, got a young man named Swan. He was also not considered satisfactory, and did not remain in our employ more than six or eight months. We next engaged a Mr. Douglas, who was an old practical miner. He had been engaged at, and in fact I believe he was at the opening of the Eskbank mine, and had the reputation of being an experienced miner; he remained with us for some time, but he did not turn out very well. You will understand, doctor, that at this time there were none of the proprietors living anywhere near the spot. I lived in Bathurst, and used to come over here once a month to pay the wages; I did not very often remain more than a few hours; I used to come for that purpose solely. You will understand that we had not a very great knowledge of the practical part of the business—in fact we trusted entirely to the men we had employed. Mr. Doig was employed during the whole of this time as an underground manager, and, as a matter of fact, we discovered that the whole of the management of the mine had devolved upon him during the time when we were paying for other men to manage it; hence, when it became necessary to appoint a new manager, we thought it was about time to give Doig the position and the pay, seeing that he had during all this time been performing the actual duties pertaining to the management of the mine for the wages of a subordinate. He was therefore appointed manager, and the whole of the management of the mine was placed in his hands. We had perfect confidence in his good judgment; he had everything that he required for carrying out the operations of the colliery; and, so far as I know, all of his requests in connection with that part of the business were promptly attended to.

2756. He gradually worked himself into your confidence? Yes.

2757. Then we are to understand that all the management and care of the mine underground devolved upon Mr. Doig? Yes.

2758. Practically he had sole management of the mine? Yes.

2759. Did you interfere with Mr. Doig in any way? Never.

2760. Mr. Doig was a man in whom you reposed the utmost confidence? Undoubtedly.

2761. You know this underground boiler? Yes.

2762. Have you inspected that boiler? No; I was up to it during the time we were trying to extinguish the fire, but I never saw it before.

2763. Did you ever hear of fires occurring at this boiler before the accident of the 14th of February? No; it came upon me quite as a revelation; I have no recollection of hearing anything of the kind.

2764. Had you heard of this occurrence, would it have raised your suspicions as to the security of the mine? Yes, undoubtedly. Perhaps it may not be amiss if I state to you that I have some practical knowledge of, though I am not acquainted technically with, coal-mining, as I am an architect by profession.

2765. Then you are quite certain that you did not hear of any fires having occurred prior to the one on the date mentioned? Yes.

2766. Coming to the morning of the accident, in February, when were you apprised of something being wrong? I was told of it about 7 o'clock on the Monday morning.

2767. And of course you came to the mine? Yes; I got up instantly and sent to Mr. Wilton, at the "Hermitage," and he arrived at the mine shortly after I got there.

2768. What was the position of things at the mine? Well, of course there was a great deal of consternation among the men, although the full extent of the disaster was not then known; Mr. Turnbull was at once sent for, being a practical man.

2769. Before Mr. Turnbull's arrival, did you hear whether any rescuing parties had penetrated into the mine? I cannot say that I remember that.

2770. Well, on Mr. Turnbull's arrival, what conversation had you with him—what was the purport of it? Well, I have no distinct recollection; of course you can understand that all was excitement, people running here and running there, and no one knowing hardly what to do; as far as I was individually concerned I was to a great extent paralysed by the horror of the situation, and my recollection is not therefore very distinct as to particulars.

2771.

- Mr. E. Gell, 2771. And when Mr. Turnbull arrived I understand you gave him instructions to do his best under the circumstances? Yes; Mr. Wilton and I were both present at the time, and, so far as I can recollect, we did trust him entirely in the matter, as we were ourselves utterly helpless from want of knowledge.
- 11 May, 1886. 2772 You trusted Mr. Turnbull with the task of opening out the tunnel? Yes; there was first the rescuing of the men of course; but we gave him full charge also of anything he thought was necessary to be done.
2773. Do you know, of your own knowledge, anything concerning the discovery of the men? Of my own knowledge, no.
2774. After Mr. Turnbull had proceeded with the work which he had undertaken for some hours, do you recollect a man named Davis arriving at the mine? Yes.
2775. Did he speak to you? Yes; Mr. Wilton and I were talking in front of the house where John Doig was lying between life and death; there were a great many persons standing about, and a good deal of excitement prevailed, so that you can imagine that a person would pay very little attention to what was said at such a time. I only remember this man coming up, and with him, I think, Mr. Wilson, of the Zig-Zag Colliery, and they began to talk about what was best to be done under the circumstances. I have no recollection of anything more taking place than some observation being made, such as, "Well, we shall all have to do our best," or, "Everybody must do their best." For my own part, I do not think I said anything; it was represented by Davis afterwards that he was working under my instructions, but I do not remember giving instructions to any one.
2776. Had you any intention of superseding Mr. Turnbull? No; how could I?
2777. Shortly afterwards, did Mr. Turnbull come to you and complain that he had been superseded? I do not know that he complained about being superseded. He did complain about this man Davis tearing down the face of the bratticing that he had put up, and I afterwards learned that Davis said he had done this under my instructions.
2778. What did you say to Mr. Turnbull? I do not remember what I said; I presume I should have said that I did not give him any instructions.
2779. Did Mr. Turnbull assign that as a reason for throwing up his charge? He never said anything about throwing up his charge, so far as I remember.
2780. As a matter of fact, the mine was closed up shortly afterwards. Was any reason given for this; did Mr. Turnbull seem to be displeased or piqued at Mr. Davis interfering with his work? I think he was, but I am not aware that that was a reason why the mine was closed. The fact is, the whole thing got into confusion, and it was allowed to drift.
2781. Did not Mr. Turnbull keep the men to their duty, seeing that he allowed things to drift into confusion? Everything was placed under his charge, you say? Yes, but being a volunteer he was to a certain extent irresponsible.
2782. When was the mine closed up, was it on the Monday? It was on the following day, I think, or the day after.
2783. You say you proceeded to the scene of the accident on the Monday morning about 7 o'clock? Yes.
2784. When did you learn that the mine was on fire? It was discovered to be burning before that day—I never heard of it until that morning.
2785. When did you hear that the fire had been discovered on the Sunday? It was Doig's brother who came to call me on the Monday and told me. He said that his brother and Charley Younger were in the mine. They had been apprehensive that something had occurred, as a considerable amount of smoke had been seen issuing from the mine.
2786. When did you hear that an unusual amount of smoke had been seen hanging about the boiler on Saturday night? I presume I may have heard it that same day, Monday. There was a great deal of talk going on about the matter.
2787. I believe that one Martin, an engine-driver, accompanied Doig into the mine on Sunday? Yes.
2788. Did you think it strange that Martin did not report the fire, and the fact that Doig had gone into the workings, when he came out of the mine? He came out of the mine comparatively early on the evening of Sunday and went home to bed, and does not seem to have mentioned the subject to anyone. Do you consider that extraordinary conduct? Well, I do not think I should have acted so myself.
2789. Have you ever questioned Martin upon the subject? No.
2790. We have been told that Mr. Passmore was informed about 6 o'clock, or somewhere about that time, on Saturday night, that an unusual occurrence had taken place in the region of the boiler, and that he replied to his informant, "That is all right," and moved off. Have you ever heard of this? No; I do know of it only from the evidence given at the inquest.
2791. Then the mine was sealed up? Yes.
2792. Was that in accordance with the directions of the Government Inspectors? I think so.
2793. When did they arrive? I am not sure whether they arrived that night or the following day. I may say that my memory is not particularly strong.
1794. Did they arrive early on the Tuesday morning? I really could not fix the date.
2795. Were they present before the mine was sealed up? I should say no. I think it was by their instructions that the mine was sealed up.
2796. What charge or responsibility did the Government officials take on their arrival at the mine? They took no responsibility that I am aware of beyond what I understood their instructions to be, that no risk of life was to be incurred.
2797. Did you second their efforts in that direction? In everything.
2798. The mine was closed for about a month, I think? I believe about three weeks.
2799. What induced you to re-open the mine? Well, the impression was that the fire was virtually out.
2800. Among whom did that impression exist? Mr. Turnbull, I believe, gave it as his opinion some two or three weeks before the openings were made that no fire existed in the mine.
2801. Then you believed that the fire had been extinguished when you re-opened the stoppings? Yes.
2802. How long was it before you got down to the seat of the fire, down to the boiler? I cannot say very distinctly—well on to a fortnight.
2803. And you saw the fire burning? Yes; we found the obstacles greater than we had apprehended.
2804. From what? From the fall of the tops and rock.
2805. Had very much fallen about the main seat of the fire? Yes.
2806. Did you proceed into the tunnel on the morning of your arrival? No.

2807. Did you hear how far the smoke or choke-damp stood when you arrived on the scene? I cannot say; it did not make much impression on my mind, as I was really too much pre-occupied. Mr. E. Gell.
2808. Did you visit the scene of the operations at the re-opening? Yes, repeatedly. 11 May, 1886.
2809. Did you see a large fall in the main tunnel opposite the boiler? Yes.
2810. It was a very large fall, was it not? Yes.
2811. Did it obstruct the air-current to all appearances? Well, we could scarcely tell, as it was almost impossible to see the tops owing to the density of the smoke, but there is no doubt that it was a very large fall.
2812. When was it you abandoned the attempt to extinguish the fire at this time. It appears you got down to the fire, and suddenly determined to close the mine—what was the reason of this? You appear to be labouring under some misapprehension; it was not that time. The time I am referring to was about a week or two before the last accident.
2813. We are informed that immediately after the opening of the tunnel for the first time the workers proceeded down the tunnel and saw a fire. It was then suddenly determined to close the mine, and the men were accordingly withdrawn. We are also informed that the stoppings were rebuilt, when a circumstance happened to which I shall refer immediately. I want to know what the reasons were that caused you to abandon the attempt to extinguish the fire. We have been told to-day that it was for want of the necessary appliances—is that so? I have no knowledge of any difficulty of that kind arising.
2814. Do you remember the men holding a meeting about this time at the Lithgow mine? Yes.
2815. What was the cause of their holding this meeting? I only know of one meeting, and that was when the men expressed great dissatisfaction at the mine being closed.
2816. Why did you close it at that time? That is the time to which I referred; I really cannot tell you. I did not take a very active part in the matter. Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Rowan were there, as also Mr. Wilton, part proprietor in the mine, who is necessarily a very much more energetic man than I am. I entrusted the matter entirely into their hands.
2817. Then you do not know the reason of the mine being closed? I do not remember any particular reason. I may perhaps be allowed to tell you by the way, as an explanation of my apparent stupidity, that I have been suffering from an affection of the head for some four or five years, and by the advice of my medical man have taken two trips to Europe in order to recover, so that you will understand I have been a great deal away from here. The result of this affliction has also been to considerably affect my memory.
2818. Very well, Mr. Gell; these men held a meeting, when you determined to close the mine. What resolution did they arrive at? In calling it a meeting, I am not aware that it was an organized one in any way. The men used very frequently to mass in considerable force about the mouth of the tunnel, and, so far as I know, this was one of those gatherings. However, they did speak to me about sealing up the mine. Some of them said they were perfectly satisfied that if she were once sealed up she would not be opened again. I may say that a great number of these men have been working there from the commencement of the mine; and I believe the whole of them, with very few exceptions, would be extremely sorry to leave the place.
2819. Then, do I understand that the meeting was attended by the men, by the inspectors, and by yourself, and that it was ultimately agreed to give these men an opportunity of making a trial to extinguish this fire? Pardon me a moment. On this particular occasion it was suggested by one of the miners that we should attempt to work the cross-cut on which we are now working. Mr. Turnbull and Mr. Mackenzie, and, I think, Inspector Rowan, went to examine this cross-cut; and it resulted in Mr. Turnbull's getting overpowered by the gas, and he was carried out of the mine. This, of course, caused further excitement; and then there was some talk of shutting the tunnel up.
2820. What answer did you give to the men? I do not remember that I gave any answer, but, we being down at the place—that is, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Rowan, and Mr. Wilton—I believe an arrangement was come to, and the men determined to go to work.
2821. Did you select the men? Oh, no; Mr. Campbell did that, I suppose; I do not remember. I did not take any leading part in the business.
2822. Was any pressure brought to bear on the men who engaged in this enterprise? Oh, dear, no; the pressure was on the other side.
2823. Do you think they were fully alive to the danger which existed in connection with this enterprise? I should imagine so.
2824. Did they know all you knew? Yes, and probably a great deal more.
2825. Was it about this time that Mr. Campbell was appointed manager? I do not remember the exact time when he was appointed. I believe it was a day or two after poor Doig's death. It was necessary to have someone, and he was the likeliest man on the spot.
2826. You repeat, Mr. Gell, that you have received no complaint as to the dangerous state of this underground boiler? Not a word.
2827. Did you know of the existence of any previous fire there? No.
2828. Were you in any way warned of this circumstance before it occurred? No.
2829. You received no complaint from the inspectors as to how the mine was conducted? Not a word.
2830. You received no complaint from the inspectors as to the condition of the plant of the underground portion of the works? Not a word.
2831. Can you assign any cause for this fire? Well, I could assign a cause. There are circumstances connected with it of rather a suspicious character.
2832. We should be very glad to hear your suspicions if they are founded on anything tangible? One of the men working in this mine some week or two before the fire in February saw a light one night when he was returning out of the mine, and when no one was supposed to be there except himself. I could not say how long it might be; two or three weeks.
2833. Very well? That of itself was considered rather a suspicious circumstance. Then we also heard it stated that Doig made a remark to one of the men about the air-course having been changed.
2834. When did he make this remark? When he was in conversation with one of the men, I forget which, either Martin or Passmore.
2835. He made a remark that the air-course was changed? Yes. I am not sufficiently practical as a miner to know what might happen if such a change had been made, but the air-course was down the tunnel.

Mr. E. Gell. 2836. That is, it went in the tunnel? Yes; it went a certain distance in and then turned round to the right and left, and it would appear that under ordinary circumstances the smoke would not come back to the mouth of the tunnel. In my judgment what did take place was therefore a singularly suspicious circumstance.

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2837. You have spoken of a large fall having taken place in the tunnel in the vicinity of the boiler, and which obstructed the ventilation. Would that not be sufficient to account for the phenomena you have described? I do not think it reasonable to suppose a fall to have occurred at that early date, because I presume the heat from the fire brought down the rock.

2838. Then it is very difficult to say when the fall took place? I remember hearing one of the men making a remark about hearing a heavy fall, but I could not fix the date.

2839. What was the vocation of this man in your employ who had seen the light dodging about in that particular position about a week or two before this occurred? I think his name is Raymond.

2840. Was he the only one you ever heard speak of it? Yes, I think he was the only one. Then there was another suspicious circumstance. One of the stoppings was opened surreptitiously at the time when we were attempting to reach the fire.

2841. Yes, we have heard of that to-day? Well, it seemed to show that some agency was at work trying to prevent our putting out the fire, and it was only reasonable to suppose that the same agency might have been employed to originate it. I would here ask you to allow me to make one more remark. You asked me if I had been at the seat of the fire. I may now tell you that I was there repeatedly, and remained there for several hours together. I stopped in the mine till 12 p.m. and 1 o'clock in the morning with the men, and went as far into the workings as any of them went. I mention this to show you that we—that is, the proprietors—could not have been apprehensive of any danger; and more than this, I may say, that Mr. Wilton, a few days previous to the accident, took my own daughters into the mine to see what was to be seen. That was done with my knowledge; and surely if I had had the slightest idea of, or the slightest ground to apprehend anything in the shape of danger, I should not have allowed my daughters to be taken into the mine.

2842. What part did you take to ensure the safety of the men? We directed them to be very careful, and not to run into any danger. If we did not give them specific instructions it was because we looked upon them as having more knowledge than we ourselves possessed; but we impressed upon them to take special care of themselves, to sound the tops as they went along, and to take every possible precaution to ensure the safety of their lives, and to use timber wherever there was the slightest danger.

2843. *Mr. Swinburn.*] When the mine was closed, and the miners came to you, you gave them your consent to open it again. Did you consult the Inspector or the Examiner of Coal-fields as to the opening up of the mine? When the men spoke to me about this matter I went and consulted the Examiner of Coal-fields, also Mr. Rowan, the Inspector, and Mr. Wilton, before I did anything at all. I did not then give any definite reply myself. The men came down to the pit and settled the matter themselves.

2844. But you were a consenting party? Of course I was a consenting party. The whole matter was talked over, and there was a general consent that a trial to extinguish the fire should be made, the men acting so far on their own responsibility.

2845. *President.*] That is to say, there was a meeting of the proprietors, inspectors, and miners. It was a consultation of everyone interested, was it not? Yes.

2846. *Mr. Curley.*] When you knew that the mine was on fire, and that Mr. Turnbull had withdrawn from the position in which you had placed him, as you state, did you ever cancel the appointment you made with Mr. Turnbull? No; I think it merely lapsed—that is to say, he ceased to do anything.

2847. What would you estimate the value of the mine to be as a property, Mr. Gell, say at the time the fire was raging? —

2848. *President* thought this question ought not to be put, and it was not pressed.

2849. *Mr. Curley.*] Did it ever occur to you at this time that the best thing you could have done would have been to obtain the service of some skilled mining engineer? No, it never did. In fact I was not aware that anybody possessed more knowledge than the men we had about us at the time.

2850. As an architect, Mr. Gell, do you consider that the services of a labourer stand in the same relationship as those of a professional man, supposing an opinion to be required upon the construction of a building.

2851. *President.*] I am afraid you are scarcely complimentary to Mr. Turnbull.

2852. *Mr. Curley.*] As a matter of fact, Mr. Gell, would you not look to the managers of the neighbouring collieries as being most likely to render you assistance under the circumstances in which you were placed—and, in this case there were also three Government inspectors on the scene, were there not? Yes; I perhaps ought to have mentioned when you were asking me about this that I instantly telegraphed to the inspector, stating the circumstances of our case, and stating that we did not know how to act.

2853. *Mr. Davies.*] Did Raymond give you any information about having seen this light before or after the fire took place? It was after the fire took place. I think it was about two weeks ago. He told me that he had not mentioned the matter to anyone because he was afraid they would laugh at him. But he said he had told his wife about it.

2854. Does it not strike you as being a flimsy occurrence on which to found suspicion? You will remember that I stated several reasons. The tearing open of the stoppings was one, and the change of the air-course was another. I put all three reasons together.

2855. Do you know that when it was decided to re-open the mine whether the Examiner of Coal-fields and the Inspector of Collieries concurred with Mr. Turnbull in the opinion that the fire was extinguished? Oh, yes.

2856. One more question, Mr. Gell. I understood you to say that Mr. Campbell was appointed manager of the colliery on account of his being the likeliest man on the spot? Yes; he was recommended to Mr. Wilton and myself by some residents in the valley who worked on the estate and knew him, as well as by persons who had been acquainted with him for a considerable time and knew his qualifications.

2857. Then you thought that these persons were competent to form an opinion as to his qualifications? Yes; but besides that we had had some experience of him ourselves for some time past, and previous to his appointment he was subjected to an examination.

2858. What did the examination consist of on that occasion? It was not of a scientific character. It was as to where he had been, what had been his experience, and so forth.

2859. Then you thought him fully competent to undertake the management of the colliery? We certainly believed so. He had been underground manager for a number of years.

2860. Where was this, Mr. Gell? I believe he occupied that position in the old country.

2861. Had you any documentary evidence of that? No; it was of a merely verbal character. 2862.

2862. *President.*] But what you wish to express, Mr. Gell, is that you had perfect confidence in Mr. *Mr. E. Gell.* Campbell, is it not so? Yes; I would as soon take his word as that of any man I know.
2863. *Mr. Neilson.*] He was a thoroughly practical man, wasn't he? I believe so. He had been working *11 May, 1886.* for the Company for several years.
2864. *Mr. Usher.*] In what capacity? In many capacities. He had been engaged in the mine laying the rails, and had been also driving the engine for some time.
2865. *Mr. Jones.*] We have been told that shortly before the first accident you had commenced the sinking of a new shaft? Yes.
2866. What was the special reason the late manager assigned for sinking that second shaft? Merely the water difficulty, I believe.
2867. Was there nothing further? It had nothing to do with the ventilation, if that is what you are driving at.
2868. Hadn't it anything to do with the removal of the boiler? No, nothing whatever.
2869. Did he never make a complaint to you on the subject or express a desire that it should be removed? No. I have heard him make a complaint about not having sufficient steam power, but never anything about the removal of the boiler.
2870. How many shafts have you commenced on the estate—I understand you next went on the eastern extremity? Yes, that is the one I am speaking of.
2871. Had you come to the determination to sink another shaft? Yes, we had, and were in negotiation for a person to come and make a survey of the place.
2872. Did you intend to sink that shaft for ventilating purposes alone? No; it was more as a right-of-way or outlet for the men to get out of the tunnel.
2873. Then it was not for the purpose of hauling coal out? No; it was as I say, more for the purpose of giving the men an easy way out. They would get out close from where they were at work.
2874. You did not contemplate any accident at the time of arriving at this determination? Not at all; but still we thought it a wise provision to do this. We should not have hesitated to put down a dozen shafts if we thought it was necessary.
2875. *Mr. Curley.*] Where did you pump your water to, Mr. Gell? We pumped the water into the old workings, and it percolated away, where we did not know and did not care.
2876. You were pumping your own water from your own mine and into your own mine? Yes.
2877. Did it never occur to you that you were pumping the water from one part of the mine to another, and repumping it over again? I have heard people say so; but Doig, who was a good judge, thought otherwise, or he would not have done it.
2878. Is there any encroachment from Eskbank into your property? Yes.
2879. Have you substantial grounds for making that statement? Yes.
2880. Tell us what they are? I have seen it.
2881. Did the Eskbank people ever speak about this? Yes; we have a written acknowledgment from the proprietor.
2882. Did you ever at any time put through a drive into Eskbank? No; we broke through into where they had driven into our ground. They had driven through into our ground about three times the length of this room, and we struck into that.
2883. Was there any object in putting this drive in where you struck through into the alleged encroachment? No. I think we were working in that part of the property.
2884. Was it in the ordinary way of working? I believe so. I do not know anything to the contrary.
2885. Did you suspect anything? No.
2886. Did you think there was any object in putting this drive in, or any knowledge on the part of your manager as to what would likely be the result? I do not know, unless it might have been to prove the fact of their having encroached upon our ground. Some rumour of their having made such an encroachment may have reached Mr. Doig, and he may have driven in to prove it. That I cannot remember; but that he broke through I do know, for I went down at his request to see it. I also went to Mr. Rutherford, the proprietor, and brought him down to see it, and we have from him a written acknowledgment of the fact that the encroachment came from the Eskbank Colliery.
2887. Are you aware whether this opening was ever closed up by Doig? I am not aware.
2888. *President.*] If the Lithgow Valley Colliery were flooded, would the result be to flood the Eskbank Colliery? Yes, I should say so, unless they could wall up the headings.

John Mackenzie sworn and examined:—

2889. *President.*] What is your official position, Mr. Mackenzie? I am Examiner of Coal-fields.
2890. How long have you been Examiner of Coal-fields? I have occupied my present position since *Mr. J. Mackenzie.* 1872. *11 May, 1886.*
2891. Before coming to this Colony, had you any considerable experience in regard to fiery mines? Yes. I was apprenticed to the Earl of Crawford and Belaries Colliery, in Wigan, Lancashire, for five years. I was also three years as assistant, and was in business on my own account for five years in the position of coal-viewer.
2892. You have had experience of fiery mines? Yes, considerable. The Harley mine, for example, is one of the most fiery mines in the world.
2893. In the course of your official capacity, have you inspected the Lithgow Valley mine? The Inspector of Collieries inspects them every eight weeks and reports to me.
2894. But as a matter of fact you have frequently visited and inspected the mines, have you not? Yes, but not lately.
2895. Some time ago? Yes; previous to Mr. Rowan's appointment I used to fill up the required tracings myself and go round the mines, especially when Mr. Lewis was inspector.
2896. During these inspections, did you receive any complaint as to the manner in which the Lithgow Valley Colliery was worked? No.
2897. Have you had reason to complain of the manner of working? No.
2898. Have you received any complaints as to the quantity of air circulating in the mine? No; it has been considerably more than was necessary, double perhaps.
2899. Have you ever discovered the presence of fire-damp in this colliery or in this district? No.

- Mr. J. Mackenzie. 2900. Have you any reason to suppose that it existed? No; I have every reason to suppose that the seam of coal does not generate gas. I may also say that according to the special rules any man finding the coal to generate gas should report it at once.
- 11 May, 1886. 2901. Then you have never received any report, Mr. Mackenzie? No.
2902. Have you ever had occasion to report to the owners as to the state of the plan? No.
2903. Or that the surveys were not kept up to date? No. I gave instructions to the inspector that he was to have them kept up every six months, and that they should be forwarded to me. [Mr. Mackenzie here hands in a general sketch of the district, published by him in 1877.]
2904. *President.*] Have you seen this underground boiler in the Lithgow Valley Colliery? I have seen it since the fire, but not before. I saw that there was a large fire at the back.
2905. Did you receive any reports about this underground boiler before the fire? No.
2906. Were you cognisant of the fact that the top portion of this seam had not been taken down above the boiler? No.
2907. Or in the flues? No.
2908. Had that been reported to you, what action would you have taken? I really could not say unless I saw the place myself.
2909. Have you ever heard of underground fires occurring in this place prior to the fire of February? Not previous to the accident.
2910. Then, in your several inspections of this colliery, do you recollect whether you have travelled the left-hand return air-way? I do not think I have; I just went round where the men worked. I may say I have a great many duties to perform in connection with my position, and I left the inspection of the collieries to the inspectors. Unless there was anything wrong I had far more than I could do outside of that.
2911. You cannot say therefore whether in your opinion these returns were safe? Oh, yes, I should say I could; I have full confidence in my inspector, and he has reported to me periodically, and reported that everything was right. I have full confidence in him.
2912. With respect to these two outlets, Mr. Mackenzie, has this colliery been carried on as required by the law? Yes.
2913. During the progress of the work of extinguishing the fire, were the return air-ways full of choke-damp? Yes.
2914. Well, Mr. Mackenzie, the return air-ways being full of choke-damp and smoke there would be a difficulty about getting an alternative road for the men, would there not? You must recollect, Mr. *President*, that the second outlet would only be required when the mine was at work.
2915. I was coming to that, but certain statements have been made, and I want to hear your views with respect to them. I was going to put the question to you whether, under the circumstances, you considered there was an evasion of the Act? No. [The witness's attention was called to the 5th general rule, being section 5 of clause 12 of the Act]:—
- If at any time it is found by the person in charge of a mine or any part thereof, or by the examiner or inspector, that by reason of noxious gases prevailing in such mine, or such part thereof, or of any cause whatever the mine or the said part is dangerous, every workmen shall be withdrawn therefrom, and the examiner or inspector shall inspect the same (and if the danger arises from inflammable gas shall make such inspection with a locked safety-lamp), and in every case shall make a true report of the condition of such mine or part thereof; and no workman shall, except in so far as is necessary for inquiry into the cause of danger, or for the removal thereof, or for exploration, be re-admitted into the mine, or such part thereof as was so found dangerous, until the same is stated by the examiner or inspector to be safe.
2916. Certain statements have been made, and we wish to arrive at the truth in regard to this matter? All I can say is that the men were "withdrawn therefrom," to use the words of the Act; but we never anticipated that danger did arise from inflammable gas. I was confident that there was no inflammable gas in the mine. It was examined by means of the safety-lamp. Then again the rule says, "In every case the inspector or examiner shall make a true report of the condition of such mine or part thereof," &c., and all I have to say to that is that the men were not working the mine—they were simply there for the removal of danger, that is to put out this fire.
2917. Then you say there was no contravention of the Act? Yes.
2918. Was the second accident due to the presence of irrespirable gas in the main in-take? Yes, choke-damp.
2919. It was due to carbonic acid gas, or perhaps carbonic oxide, which was in the mine at the time? Yes, it was.
2920. Under these circumstances, would any number of available outlets have offered an opportunity of avoiding the catastrophe? I do not think so.
2921. It has been stated in evidence that someone attempted to signal with the rafter-wire and found that it would not work. What was the cause of this? From what I saw, it would appear to have been caused by the slack that had been blown from the stoppings by what I supposed was a fall of the rock, and by which the rafter-wire was covered over and rendered unworkable.
2922. Could such an accident have been provided against in the hanging of this wire? Could anyone have possibly anticipated the accident which took place? I think not.
2923. Was the wire fixed in the proper manner? Yes.
2924. Is it possible in the practical working of collieries to guard against accidents to the machinery or the accessories of a mine? No.
2925. Do you, as Examiner of Coal-fields, attribute any blame to the owners for the unworkable condition of this wire after the accident? No.
2926. What, in your opinion, was the cause of this fire? It is impossible for me to say what was the cause of it. I believe it was caused near or at the boiler.
2927. Did the boiler not raise a doubt in your mind as to the cause of the fire, especially when you heard that it had been the cause of three or four previous fires? Well, from the evidence with respect to the first accident, I was anxious to see the back of the furnace, in order to ascertain if it could have been caused by the flue. I may tell you, however, that when Mr. Campbell, the manager, with ourselves, was going to the 34th and 35th stopping someone went and opened a stopping, which he must have known very well would have prevented our doing what was required, that is, to send the return out of the furnace, because the black-damp was thrown out upon us.

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2928. Did it not raise a doubt in your mind as to the origin of the fire, especially when you heard that three or four underground fires had occurred before round this boiler? I really cannot tell how the fire occurred.

2929. Do you consider, as a practical man, that the return air ought to travel over such a length of water with only a few inches between the top of the water and the coal? What length of water are you referring to?

2930. There was a swallow, a number of chains broad in one place and a number of chains in another, was there not? I am not aware that it was so.

2931. But I am asking you the question, Mr. Mackenzie, whether this, in your opinion, was a proper return for hot gases to pass over such a length of water within a few inches of the roof? I know of no reason myself. Are you referring to the time before the fire or after?

2932. It has been stated in evidence that the smoke and choke-damp, mingled with the return air, passed over a considerable portion of water which almost reached to the roof, and we have also been told that this smoke, when the furnace was damped, came back again into the tunnel, so that my question is, do you consider that was a proper return? I think it would be quite sufficient myself for what was required of it previous to the accident, that is, at the time the men were working there.

2933. When did you arrive after the first accident? I had notice early on the Monday morning, and we came to Lithgow by special train.

2934. Were you in Sydney at the time? Yes.

2935. What did you do on your arrival? Mr. Turnbull met me at the train, and asked me whether I wished to go into the mine at once. I said I first wanted to see the plan, and went to the office for that purpose. I then went into the mine.

2936. Did you take any responsibility or control? No.

2937. What had been done in the mine up to this point? Mr. Turnbull had carried on the bratticing to within what he thought was about 10 chains off where the fire was; but he evidently did not get so near as that.

2938. That would be 26 chains down, would it not? Yes.

2939. You think he was not so far down as that? Not quite so far, I should say. When we arrived there we found that someone had taken down the bratticing in No. 2 cross-cut, and we made some inquiries into the matter. Mr. Turnbull could not understand it. It was eventually found that some man named Davis had gone to the proprietors, and said that all Mr. Turnbull was doing was wrong, and that if he (Davis) were allowed to do it he could easily put matters right. At this time the smoke and carbonic acid were coming along from the fire over the main heading.

2940. Did you generally approve of what Mr. Turnbull had done? Yes.

2941. And then you say that when you accompanied Mr. Turnbull down the mine you found that Davis had been interfering? Yes.

2942. Did Mr. Turnbull not discover that before your visit? No.

2943. Did I understand you to say that on your arrival Mr. Turnbull stated to you that he had swept down the gas to within 10 chains of the boiler? Yes.

2944. And that it had come back some distance owing to what this man Davis had done? Yes. We found Davis, and, in reply to questions from us, he said he had the consent of the owners for what he had done. It was first discovered by Mr. Dixon, and it was so serious a matter that if I had been in Mr. Turnbull's place I would have pitched the man out of the mine.

2945. Did you credit Davis's statement as to his having received an independent charge from the owners? I cannot say, because I knew that the owners were not acquainted with coal-mining operations.

2946. What did Mr. Turnbull do after Davis's interference? Next morning Mr. Turnbull came to me at this hotel, between 10 and 11 o'clock, and said he wanted to try still and put out the fire, and showed me on the plan what he proposed to do.

2947. Had nothing been done to remedy or undo what Davis had done? Yes; the brattice-cloth was put up again.

2948. Had that the effect of driving the smoke down the tunnel? I cannot say that.

2949. Did Mr. Turnbull remedy, or attempt to remedy, what Davis had done in the way of interfering with his operations? Yes; and after that he came to me and suggested something else.

2950. Is it correct that after Davis's interference Mr. Turnbull took you down and showed you how he could force back the smoke in the tunnel at the rate of 40 yards per hour? That was what I wanted to tell you. Mr. Turnbull came to me here and said that before closing the mine he wanted to try another method. He proposed to take the bratticing round the right-hand return and leave the main heading. I did not agree with him, so that idea was put an end to. He then suggested another thing, which was that stoppings should be put at the main headings and left-hand side of the second cross-cut, and that the men should be put to work there. I asked him what he proposed to do. He said he proposed to go and mark the second cross-cut on the plan, and that the cross-cut should be chained up, and he would go and see the exact width of the stoppings to be put in. He said this would take him about six hours. I saw no objection to that, and we went with him. Inspector Rowan and myself were to stand at the junction of the main headings and second cross-cut, and Mr. Turnbull and three men were to go up there as quickly as possible, measure up and take the number of stoppings, and also the length of them; two men were sent ahead along the main heading, with instructions to report to us every five minutes how the smoke and black-damp were coming back, so that we might not be closed in. They may have been in there about ten minutes, when two of them began shouting, "Help, help." Two of them threw themselves inside the second cross-cut. I sang out, "Where's Mr. Turnbull?" they said, "He's all right; they're coming out"; we ran in then, and brought him out, and the moment we got outside of the heading he was overcome.

2951. At this time, did you know whether Mr. Turnbull was taking down the smoke at the rate of 40 yards an hour? I cannot say that.

2952. Did he show you that he could do it at the rate of 40 yards an hour? I do not recollect. I remember his mentioning something about it at the time.

2953. Why was this mine sealed up? The evidence we have got up to this moment goes to prove that Mr. Turnbull showed to you that the smoke could be taken down the tunnel at the rate of 40 yards an hour? That must have been previous to his going up this second cross-cut and nearly losing his life.

2954. Well, the mine was sealed up, was it not? Yes.

2955. By whose instruction? By Mr. Turnbull's instruction, and with my consent.

2956. Are you aware that, prior to Mr. Turnbull's arriving on the scene, two exploring or rescuing parties had penetrated the right-hand return as far as Tyndall's heading? I do not know how far they got in.

2957.

- Mr. J. Mackenzie. 2957. At all events they had penetrated a considerable distance into the right-hand return, that is, where Martin and some others met them? Yes.
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2959. How do you account for the return being free from gas when the in-take was full of smoke? Had everything been right, would not the returns have contained more smoke than the in-take? I should think so, if everything had been going right.
2960. We have the evidence of more than three parties that they had penetrated to Tyndall's heading and had not found much difficulty from choke-damp—how can you account for that? I cannot think they got so far as Tyndall's heading myself.
2961. Did you think it a peculiar thing for Doig and his companions to enter this return when the tunnel was full of gas and smoke—did it not appear to you a foolhardy thing? Well, it is a thing I might not have done myself. I cannot say. You must recollect that Doig had been there and got round and perhaps thought he could do the same again.
2962. In the light of subsequent events, do you see any reason for this return being so free from gas? It has been stated that a fall of considerable magnitude existed near the boiler, in the main tunnel, and that this obstructed the ventilation. Would that be a sufficient reason for this return being in the state mentioned? You must recollect that the whole of the smoke and steam made from that fire were distributed over an area of, I suppose, round the No. 1 return, at least half a mile.
2963. Do you think any obstruction of the main tunnel, below the boiler, would have a tendency to leave this right-hand return comparatively free from gas? No, considering the distance the return air had to travel to the right-hand furnace; at the time we visited these two furnaces both had black-damp in them.
2964. We have it in evidence that these parties found no difficulty of breathing; at the positions where the bodies were found the air was comparatively pure. Of what are the stoppings constructed in this mine, Mr. Mackenzie? Of slack.
2965. Is there any timber used to strengthen them? Yes, in some cases.
2966. Were they efficient stoppings? Yes.
2967. Did they prove sufficient to conduct the ventilating current in the mine? Yes; they had proved sufficient for fourteen years.
2968. Was a large volume of air passing down the tunnel to the workings? Yes.
2969. What quantity of air have you measured going down this tunnel, approximately? The day before I left, I think, it was 20,000 cubic feet. That would be about 14,700 feet at the extremities.
2970. Had you ever had cause to complain of these stoppings? No.
2971. Had any complaint been made to your department about them? No.
2972. Were they sufficient stoppings in the eyes of the law? Yes.
2973. Can you give a reason why this tunnel was re-opened? The proprietors thought it had been closed long enough to put out the fire, and they determined to re-open it.
2974. Were you as confident that the fire was out? No.
2975. What part did you take in the way of re-opening the mine? I rendered every assistance I could in the matter.
2976. Did you see that every precaution was taken to ensure the safety of the men? Yes.
2977. Did you attend the operations in person? Yes.
2978. Did you consider any special danger existed in connection with this work? I knew that there was danger, of course, the same as would exist in attempting to put a fire out on the surface.
2979. But I am speaking of special danger, Mr. Mackenzie. Did you believe that there was any special danger attached to it? I knew there was danger, but could not anticipate what has happened. I may say, however, that the danger signal was put at the mouth of the tunnel, in compliance with the Act, so that every man must have known of it.
2980. Did the owners show a due regard for the safety of the workers? Yes.
2981. Did they also visit the scene of the operations? Yes.
2982. Did they urge the men to exercise caution in the prosecution of the work? Yes.
2983. Did you observe a large fall in the main tunnel, opposite the boiler? Yes.
2984. Did this interrupt the air current? Yes.
2985. Would this obstruction explain the reason why Doig and his companions were enabled to penetrate so far down the right-hand return? Yes, it is very likely.
2986. Then where was the fire situated when you got down? I understand you ultimately got down to the seat of the fire? Where did you find it centred? The steam had put out what fire there was at the main-tunnel heading. There was a fire in Tyndall's heading, and that was put out. Then we could see about 12 or 15 yards ahead in the main tunnel, and we had to remove some of the stuff in order to get at it and at the boiler.
2987. Did you observe whether the fire had spread out behind the main tunnel? I was not there at the very last. That was when I left.
2988. Did you hear of the stopping No. 29 having been surreptitiously opened? Yes.
2989. Did you see it? Yes.
2990. Describe it? Well, you could see that somebody had opened the top of the stopping and taken off 3 to 6 inches for a distance of about 14 feet in length.
2991. What would be the effect of this act on the workers in the tunnel? The effect would be that the black-damp would come out from No. 34 stopping into the main tunnel.
2992. Why, Mr. Mackenzie? Simply because the air would go from the main tunnel through this No. 29 stopping which was opened.
2993. What did happen? Why, when the stopping was opened the black-damp came out of it.
2994. Did the air not go into it? No.
2995. Mr. Campbell has stated distinctly as a reason why his attention was directed to this stopping, that the flame of his lamp was drawn inward, the air escaping to the left return, therefore black-damp could not come out when the air was going in? I think I have misunderstood you. What I mean is, that the fact of opening this No. 29 stopping would be to cause the black-damp to come from No. 34 stopping when that was opened.
2996. Was a watch placed at the mouth of the tunnel? No, not before this; but afterwards there was.

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2997. Could anyone enter this particular part of the mine without being observed by some one of the numerous workers? It might be.

2998. Is it probable? Well, yes, I should say so.

2999. What object could anyone have had in doing this? That I cannot tell you.

3000. It appears that no one was observed going in or coming out. This being so, unless it was one of the workers themselves, who could have done it? That is the question. Someone did it, but who I cannot tell you.

3001. What effect would it have on the fire? It prevented it getting a return on the 24th stopping, which was going to be opened.

3002. Was the effect instantly noticed on the fire, or was it discovered by accident? It was instantly noticed when the black-damp came out of the 34th stopping.

3003. Did the men work until this was discovered? Yes.

3004. What effect would a small diversion of the air have on the fire? It would prevent the workers getting any nearer to it.

3005. Did the workers notice any inconvenience from the diminished quantity of air? No; there was quite sufficient air going all the time.

3006. Then, Mr. Mackenzie, if there was 14,000 cubic feet of air going down this tunnel, and only 2 or 3 inches of the stopping opened, and only a small portion of air coming through this stopping, could any real mischief have been done without its being observed and rectified by the men? The only mischief done was to prevent them getting any nearer to the fire.

3007. Supposing that there was any justification for believing the opening of this stopping to have been surreptitiously or maliciously done, do you think it was a prudent move to offer a reward of £50 in the absence of any proof that anybody did open that stopping—in other words, was it not casting a slur on the workers themselves to suggest that any one of them could have been guilty of such an act? That is not for me to say, doctor; I did not have anything to do with it.

3008. During the late operations, did you hear of any falls occurring in the old workings? No, not during the late operations; I afterwards made some inquiries on the subject.

3009. Do you know that any considerable area of pillars had been taken out on the left-hand side of the tunnel? Yes; Mr. Campbell tells me that what appears to be 66 square yards had been removed.

[The pillaring operations are shown by a blue circle on the plan.]

3010. In addition to these pillars being removed, do you know if any pillars were subsequently robbed or weakened? No.

3011. Were the bords wide in this situation? They were about 7 yards in width.

3012. Were a number of these pillars left unusually narrow? Yes; on the left-hand side of the tunnel and nearer thereto than the portion where the pillars had been taken out, certain ranges of pillars had been worked considerably narrower than is customary, and the bords had been driven wider than 7 yards.

3013. Are you aware whether the road from the tunnel to the Eskbank boundary was opened before this accident occurred? I cannot say.

3014. Do you know whether the workings were full of choke-damp in this direction just before the accident occurred? Yes; I think there is no doubt about it.

3015. Have you ever travelled to the spot where the encroachment is said to have taken place? Yes; I think I was there once.

3016. Did the Eskbank people pump the water from the Lithgow Valley Colliery—that is to say, does the Lithgow Valley water run into Eskbank? The manager of Eskbank told me he had hardly any increase of water there.

3017. But, as a matter of fact, would the water from the Lithgow Valley mine run into Eskbank? I should say it would, but I cannot say whether they got any or not. Mr. Pitt, the manager, has informed me that he has hardly any increase of water there.

3018. If the way is clear for water, do you think it possible for the fire to draw its air supplies from Eskbank? I do not think so; not from the mine itself. If you were speaking of crevices from the surface it would be a different thing.

3019. Now, if the Lithgow Valley mine were flooded, would the effect be to flood Eskbank also. Let it be understood we do not care from what side the encroachment took place; we have nothing to do with that. But if Lithgow Valley mine were flooded, would it flood the Eskbank mine also? The water would naturally go there, but it might possibly put the fire out here before flooding the adjoining colliery.

3020. How long before the second accident did you visit the workings in the tunnel? I was there on the Friday before.

3021. Why did you leave? I only remained till they took the debris away from the furnace, so that I could see, and, if possible, form an idea how the fire originated. I wanted to see for myself. We found the tops all fallen, and neither I nor anybody else could form an opinion on it.

3022. Were the tops not on fire? Yes, there was no doubt about that.

3023. Then you were satisfied to leave the mine and everything in charge of Mr. Rowan? Yes.

3024. Did you apprehend any special danger? No.

3025. Did you anticipate the accident? Certainly not.

3026. When did you visit the scene of the accident? On Tuesday morning. A letter was brought to me at the Sydney Club, and I at once went to the Department of Mines, and arrived here by special train.

3027. Have you heard or seen any fire at any of the blown-out stoppings? No; there was nothing of the kind to be seen while I was there.

3028. When the men went down to relieve the entombed men, do you know whether any of them saw fire at the blown-out stoppings? I cannot say for myself.

3029. It has been stated that live coal was blown out of these stoppings; if so, of course the coal must have come from the fire? Yes; I heard it spoken of in the evidence at the inquest.

3030. Where, in your opinion, was the centre or force of this blast expended? My opinion is this: that the fall took place where the boilers and props have been taken out. I may state, however, that I have put in writing my views on this point, as being a more convenient form.

3031. Very well, Mr. Mackenzie, we will incorporate that in your evidence.

The witness then read as follows:—

“Supposing a fall of rock to have taken place over an area of 66 square yards only where the pillars are

Mr. J. Mackenzie. are known by Campbell (the manager) to have been taken out on the left-hand side of the main heading and seat of fire, there would be an immediate displacement of 196,020 cubic feet of smoke, steam, and gases existing there, which smoke, steam, and gases would be forced out of the mine in all directions; and the furnace (5 ft. 6 in. by 4 ft. 6 in.) being unable to cope with this large and instantaneous body of foul gases, &c., driven upon it, it would force itself through the left-hand stoppings, where the men were, causing a rush of air inwards (towards and past the men) and outwards to the tunnel mouth; and after it had exhausted itself, as it would do in a few minutes, a fresh current of air would then go down the main heading (the in-take), in which the men would then be enveloped in smoke and steam heavily charged with carbonic acid, carbonic oxide, and probably a small portion of sulphurous acid gases."

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The witness also included in his statement extracts from the special rules, as follow:—(4.) "If any indication of inflammable gas in any part of the workings, *the same* to be immediately reported to the manager"; (12.) "No collier or other person shall go out of the mine on any full or empty skips unless by permission of manager"; (13.) "Every workman shall inform the person in charge of the existence of any choke or fire-damp."

3032. You see, Mr. Mackenzie, other theories have been put forward, and I purpose to put a few questions to you with respect to them. In the first place, considering the extent of the fire, and the time it was burning, do you think it probable that the gases resulting from combustion filled the waste workings? Very probably.

3033. What effect would these gases have upon an explosive mixture of fire-damp? No hydrogen gas could exist in it.

3034. If a reservoir of explosive gases existed, say at Eskbank boundary, could it be drawn through the waste workings by the vacuum caused by the furnace, and, having been drawn to the furnace, could it explode? Certainly not; it could not explode unless it had ten parts of fresh air to mix with it.

3035. The returns also were necessarily charged with the carbonic acid gas; that being so, how would it be possible for fire-damp or light carburetted hydrogen to have exploded at all? It is not possible.

3036. What proportion of carbonic acid gas mixed with the explosive gas would prevent ignition taking place? About one in six or seven.

3037. Then, if you can conceive of a magazine or cavity filled with light carburetted hydrogen gas in any portion of this waste, do you consider it is possible that an explosion could take place? It is impossible, to my mind.

3038. You say that light carburetted hydrogen gas has never been seen at this colliery? That is what I said.

3039. Would the fire generate light carburetted hydrogen gas? Certainly not; and even if it did it would be in such infinitesimal quantities as to be incapable of doing any harm.

3040. But let us suppose a certain condition of things, light carburetted hydrogen gas is a product of nature, not of art—that is, it is not a gas that can be produced by synthesis? Certainly.

3041. Well, then, supposing for a moment that all the laws of nature were reversed in this case, and that light carburetted hydrogen gas was generated from this fire, where would it explode—supposing the condition of things that I have stated were possible? It could not explode, because it would mix with the other gas and its effect would be neutralized.

3042. But, supposing the state of things to be as I have put it—you see, Mr. Mackenzie, we are supposed to know nothing for the purpose of this examination—let us suppose such a case? Well, my own opinion is that the only place at which an explosion could have occurred would have been at the furnace.

3043. Then I would put another question: If fire-damp was never seen at the colliery before or during the fire, or since the fire, and that none of the appearances of an explosion of fire-damp were visible, do you see any justification for the assertion of a theory that an explosion did occur? No, none whatever.

3044. What would be the state of the atmosphere in the mine after an explosion? If an explosion had taken place the heat of it would be something like 1,500°; the pillars would be charred, and the men might have been burned to cinders.

3045. Were any of these conditions noticeable after the explosion at Lithgow Valley? No.

3046. Have you ever seen or heard of any unmistakable signs of an explosion here? No; I have seen none.

3047. Or any appearance of it? None whatever.

3048. What, in your opinion, was the cause of the death of these men? They died, I should say, from inhaling carbonic acid gas—choke-damp.

3049. Did you see any appearance of charring or of flame having passed over the timber or the brattice-cloth that was hung in the mine? I was not there to see; we could not get near it when I visited the mine.

3050. Was there any evidence of extreme heat? No.

3051. We have been told that a loud report was heard, and that it was succeeded by a rush of air down the tunnel, then another crash or report, followed by a second rush of impure air, and that then it remained stagnant and impure, with no heat; would these phenomena point to an explosion of light carburetted hydrogen gas? I have already given you my own opinion; there was nothing whatever to show that an explosion had taken place; on the contrary, the appearances were all in favour of the occurrence being the result of a considerable fall of rock.

3052. Had it been a question of fire-damp, what would have been the natural course for the explosion to take? My own opinion is that, if such a thing could have happened, she would have fired at the left-hand of the furnace; we know the return was heavily charged with choke-damp; I have seen this occurrence at Home; to my mind there is nothing to show there was an explosion.

3053. Have you had any experience of a wind-blast caused by a fall of the roof? Yes; I have seen one in Wallsend mine.

3054. Was it a severe one? It was a fall of about 15 acres.

3055. Were the stoppings blown out? Yes.

3056. What were they constructed of? They were brick stoppings, and these and the props and other things were blown about in all directions.

3057. Would the force developed from a wind-blast, in your opinion, be sufficient to blow out a portion of slack stopping? Yes, certainly.

3058. Did you foresee this accident? No; I do not think anybody could have foreseen it.

3059. Was it due, in your opinion, to neglect or want of foresight? It was purely accidental; no one could have foreseen it.

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3060. Was it due to any infringement of the regulations of the Act? Certainly not.

3061. In your opinion, was anyone to blame? No one.

3062. Was it a pure accident? Certainly.

3063. An accident that no one could have anticipated or foreseen? Yes.

3064. *Mr. Neilson.*] We are told, Mr. Mackenzie, that the water from Lithgow Valley Colliery is not pumped to the surface, and that it runs towards Eskbank—where does that water go to? I cannot say; it has been a question for some time past. I went down to the Eskbank workings myself, and the manager said that he had no increase of water there. It was then thought that perhaps Doig might have been pumping backward and forward the water in the swallow.

3065. But supposing that the swallow was full up? When I last saw it the water did not increase at all; but that will be a matter merely of commerce between the two companies in the end.

3066. And the late accident occurred, in your opinion, from a fall? Yes.

3067. *Mr. Curley.*] Do you consider that this Company have complied with the provisions of the Coal-fields Regulation Act? I do.

3068. Take the 4th section, for example? (*Section read.*)

3069. Having reference to the plans, do you consider that the inspector did his duty in this respect? So far as that is concerned it is impossible for me to say if the plan of the colliery is accurate unless we test it. I do not think myself that the inspector has done anything wrong in passing that plan, supposing it to be accurate. It is impossible for us to tell unless a survey is made.

3070. Do you consider the plan an accurate one of the mine? I cannot say whether it is or not; I certainly cannot say that it is not accurate.

3071. Without an accurate plan of the mine, would you not be working in the dark? We found that we were not working in the dark. We have found so far that the plan is accurate.

3072. *Mr. Usher.*] Did you find that from actual measurement? Sometimes a tape was used.

3073. *Mr. Curley.*] You have just read over a section of the Act. Have the proprietors of this mine complied with that section? Yes; as a matter of fact it is made out to a larger scale than the Act requires.

3074. Has the inspector, in his reports in connection with this mine, pointed out to you the position of this boiler and reported upon the accumulation of ashes in the furnaces? He has never mentioned anything of this in any of his reports.

3075. What would be the distance from the tunnel mouth to the seat of the fire? About 35 chains, a little under half a mile.

3076. Did you not consider that a watchman should have been stationed along this line during the time that your exploration was being carried on? No, or I should have suggested it.

3077. Do you know whether any large fall had taken place in the mine previous to this accident, that is, where the pillars are taken out? No; I have not heard of any.

3078. Has any observation been made since, so far as it could be made on the left-hand side of the workings, to ascertain if any fall had taken place or not? I have inspected the surface and have found no sign, so far as that is concerned.

3079. Did you notice anything underground? I have not been underground to anything like that distance since; it was impossible to get to the place.

3080. In the light of all your recent experience of this particular mine, do you consider that the slack stoppings were adequate for the work that was being done? Yes.

3081. *Mr. Usher.*] When did you last inspect the Lithgow Colliery previous to the first accident? I really cannot say; I have not seen it since Mr. Rowan was appointed; it was probably during Mr. Lewis's time. I did not have the same confidence in Mr. Lewis. The inspectors report to me every eight weeks, and unless I think it absolutely necessary I do not myself go to examine the mine.

3082. What other duties have you to perform for the Government besides the inspection of collieries? I have to report on all applications for authority to mine, and to report on all work done on the ground; also as to mineral leases and a number of other things which just at the moment I cannot think of.

3083. What proportion of your official time do you devote to colliery inspection alone? So far as that is concerned, I simply go to the collieries if the inspectors inform me that the Act is not complied with, or in case of any accident where my presence is required; I should attend on receiving an intimation to that effect.

3084. *Mr. Jones.*] We have been told that the accident caused several of these stoppings to be blown down. Would not brick stoppings have been more effective? I believe that if brick stoppings had been put in that heading not one of the men would have been brought out alive; it would have taken so much longer for the smoke and steam, heavily charged with noxious gases, to get out of the mine; the whole tunnel would have been so filled with it that the men would not have had the slightest chance of getting out.

3085. That is in accordance with your assumption that the accident was caused by a fall? Yes.

3086. Would not that be a reason for having a larger outlet? If there had been no noxious gases in the mine the men would not have been injured at all; the men were choked; the force itself was not so very great after all.

3087. We have been told that in a considerable portion of this return the water was within 10 inches of the roof. Is not that an evidence that if there had been a larger and more efficient return this displacement might have been prevented? I do not think so under the circumstances.

3088. *Mr. Swinburn.*] You have reports from the inspectors from time to time as they make their inspections, I understand? Yes; generally within about eight weeks.

3089. Have you had no complaints from these inspectors as regards the working of the mine? No.

3090. Now I am coming to the root of the matter, Mr. Mackenzie. We have evidence that the fall took place on the main air-drive opposite the boiler. Would that fall close up the air-course? I have already stated that.

3091. Are you of opinion that the return on the left-hand side is a proper return? The reports that I had from my inspectors indicated that the mine was well ventilated, and that the men had twice the quantity of air required by law.

3092. *President.*] There is another question I would like to ask about the stoppings that have been put in. Do you consider them sufficiently strong, I mean the recent brick stoppings? Yes; I consider them more than sufficiently strong.

Mr. J. Mackenzie. 3093. In other words, they are strong enough to resist any ordinary pressure that may be brought to bear against them? Yes, or any extraordinary pressure either; they are efficient and capable stoppings.
 11 May, 1886. 3094. Have you ever seen in all your experience stronger stoppings? Never.

[Mr. Mackenzie will mark on the plan of the district the approximate area of the workings.]

The witness, before retiring, handed in the following prepared note, which was ordered to be included as part of the evidence:—As to steam and smoke containing percentage of carbonic acid, oxide, and sulphurous acid gases not being at floor of main heading where brattice for a return was erected, the reason is plain: The fresh air coming into the mine was colder, and therefore heavier, than the atmosphere within, which was mixed with very large proportions of smoke and steam, charged with a percentage of carbonic acid gas, heated to the same temperature. The smoke and steam by their great buoyancy naturally lifted with them the rarefied carbonic acid gas, as the cold and heavy current of fresh air forced its way beneath by the ordinary law of gravitation.

Accidents in Northern, Southern, and Western Districts, for the last ten years, ending 1885:—
 North: fatal, 65; non-fatal, 206. South: fatal, 18; non-fatal, 46. West: fatal, 5; non-fatal, 8.

APPENDIX.

Memo. for the Royal Collieries Commission.

As desired, we have examined the portions of the workings on the south side of the main tunnel in the Lithgow Valley Colliery that we could enter, with a view to ascertain whether light carburetted hydrogen gas existed in any portion of the same, paying particular attention to all the working faces. Thence to the overcast and by the main return to the right-hand furnace. We also examined portions of the waste workings, and in no instance did we detect any appearance of explosive gas.

There is a dip fault at the face of No. 1 cross-cut, where, if at any point, explosive gas might have been expected to be found, but such did not exist.

We may add:—

1st. We were shown a small hole recently made into the waste workings near the face of No. 2 cross-cut (on the east side), from which the manager, Mr. Campbell, removed the packing he had placed therein, expecting that carbonic acid gas would issue therefrom to such an extent as to extinguish the light of our Davy lamp; but no gas issued.

2nd. Mr. Campbell informed us that immediately on putting his safety-lamp to this hole last night it was immediately extinguished.

JOHN USHER,
 JAS. SWINBURN,

Members of the Royal Collieries Commission.

Lithgow, May 4, 1886.

WE, the undersigned, made a visit of inspection to the Eskbank Colliery on the 12th May, and beg to report as follows:—

1. In company with the manager of the Eskbank Colliery, we proceeded along the main easterly heading to the face, about 23 chains from the shaft. This heading has been discontinued owing to the seam dipping rather rapidly, and as a consequence is filled up to the natural level with water.

2. In a drive a few yards to the south we found a fall which the manager informed us was the edge of the goaf, the pillars having been removed between that point and the boundary between Eskbank and Lithgow Valley Collieries—a distance of about 12 chains.

3. We inspected other portions of the Eskbank Colliery workings between the point mentioned and the shaft as far as the goaf.

4. We observed that air passes freely over the goaf in the direction of the Lithgow Valley Colliery.

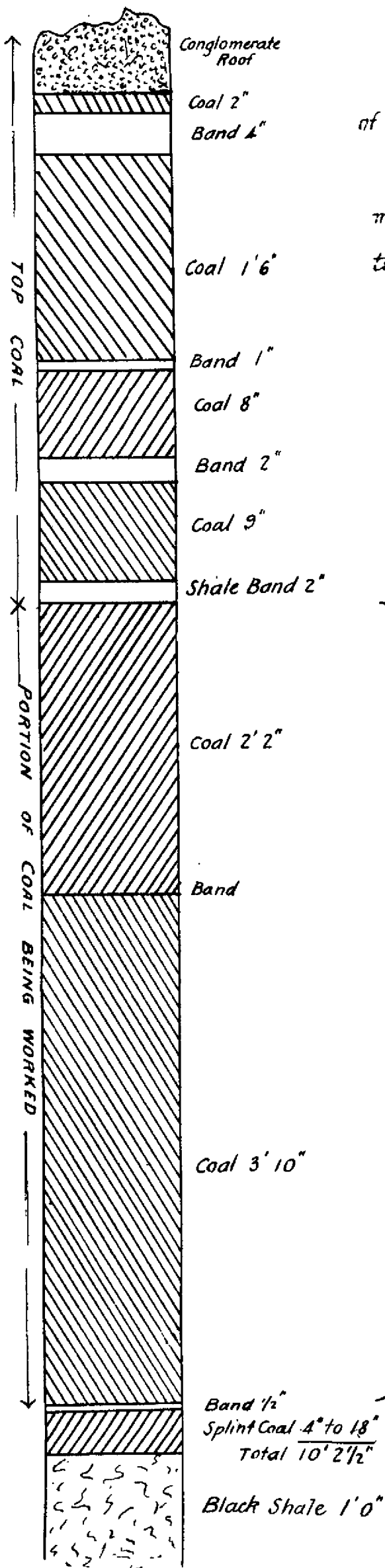
5. We examined the flow of water from the goaf at all available points, also at the outlet of the same into the sweep of the pumping shaft. The aggregate flow was but trifling; in fact, the manager informed us that he had never, during a period of several years, seen the flow from that direction to be so small, except during heavy rains. The inference that we draw from this is that the diminution in the quantity of water that formerly came from Lithgow is owing to the discontinuance of the pumping operations in that colliery, arising from the fire.

6. We concur with the manager in the opinion that the present flow is from the overlying strata, and that it is in no way connected with the Lithgow Valley Colliery workings.

JOHN USHER,
 JAMES CURLEY,
 JOHN JONES,

Members of the Commission.

Newcastle, May 28, 1886.



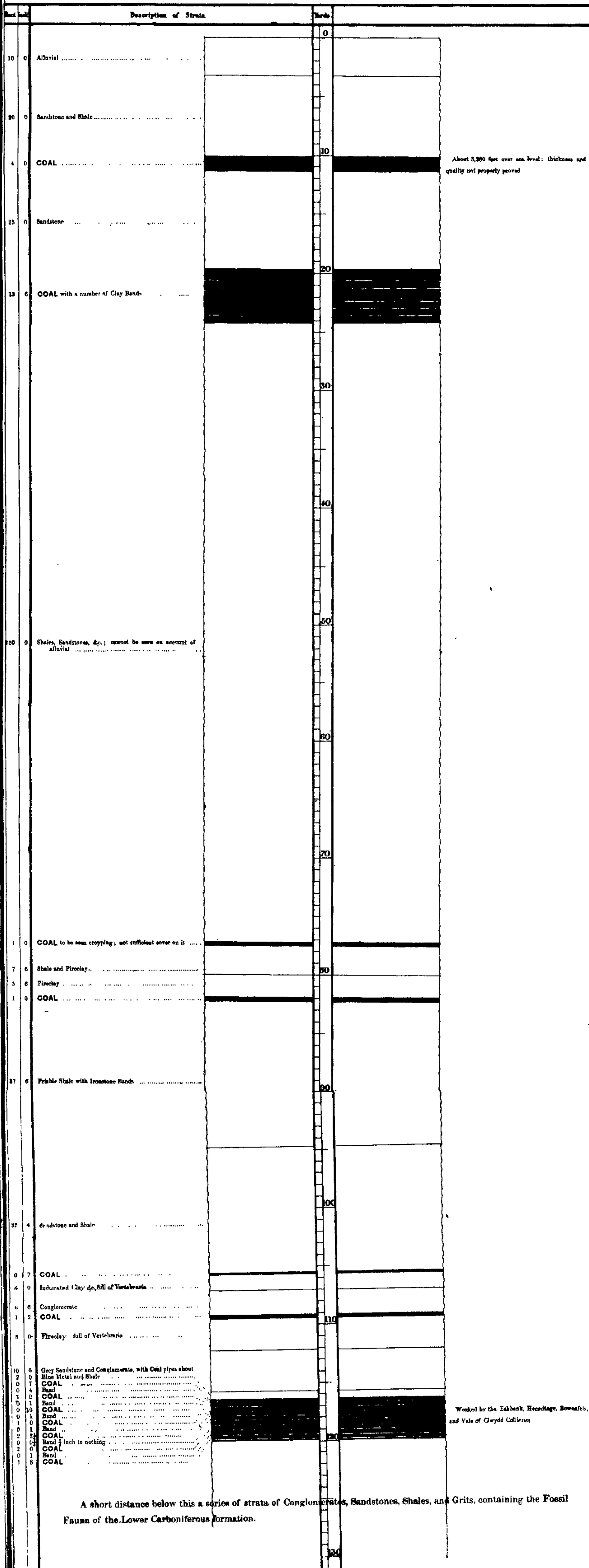
Section
of the Lithgow Valley Colliery Co's
Coal Seam
measured at 40 yards from the Entrance
to the Tunnel by James Rowan

D on Plan.

THE UPPER COAL MEASURES OF NEW SOUTH WALES. WESTERN DISTRICT.

SECTION showing the STRATA AND SEAMS OF COAL, at LITHGOW
VALLEY, County of Cook, New South Wales, taken on land of
Thos. Brown, Esq., M.L.A.

From Actual Measurement, by JOHN MACKENZIE, Examiner of Coal Fields.

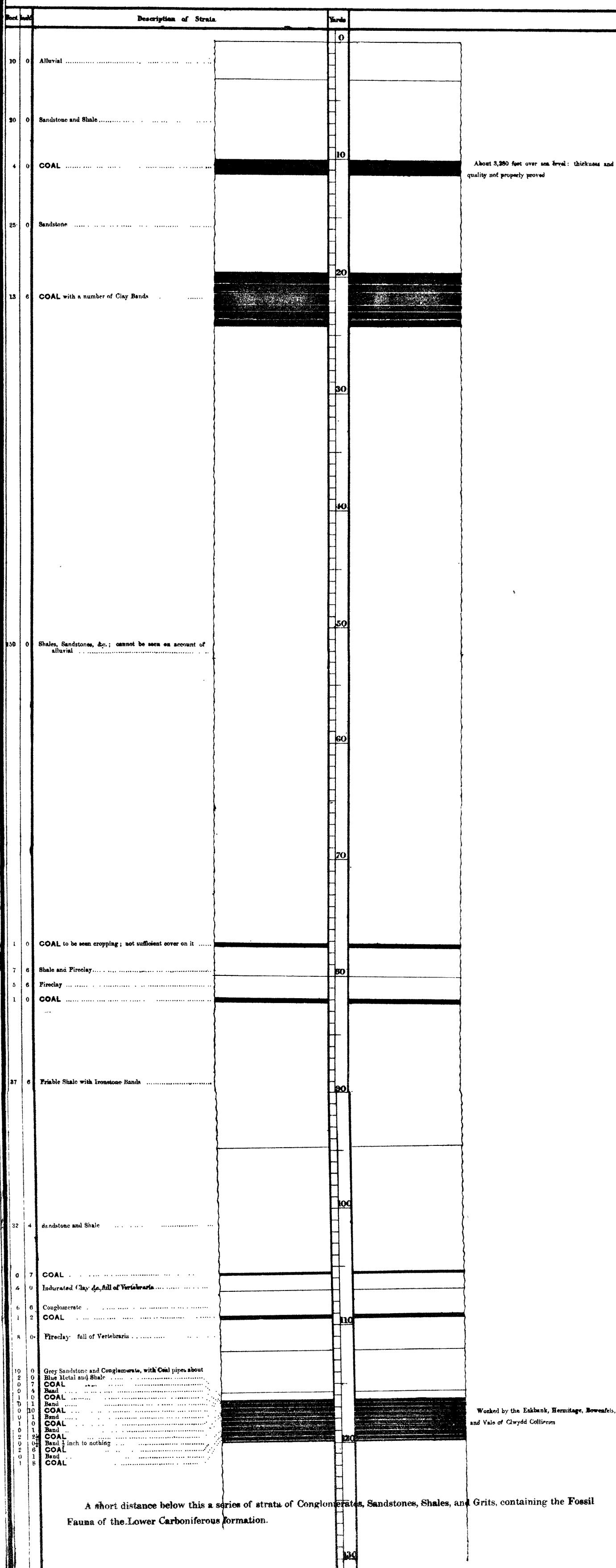


D on Plan.

THE UPPER COAL MEASURES OF NEW SOUTH WALES. WESTERN DISTRICT.

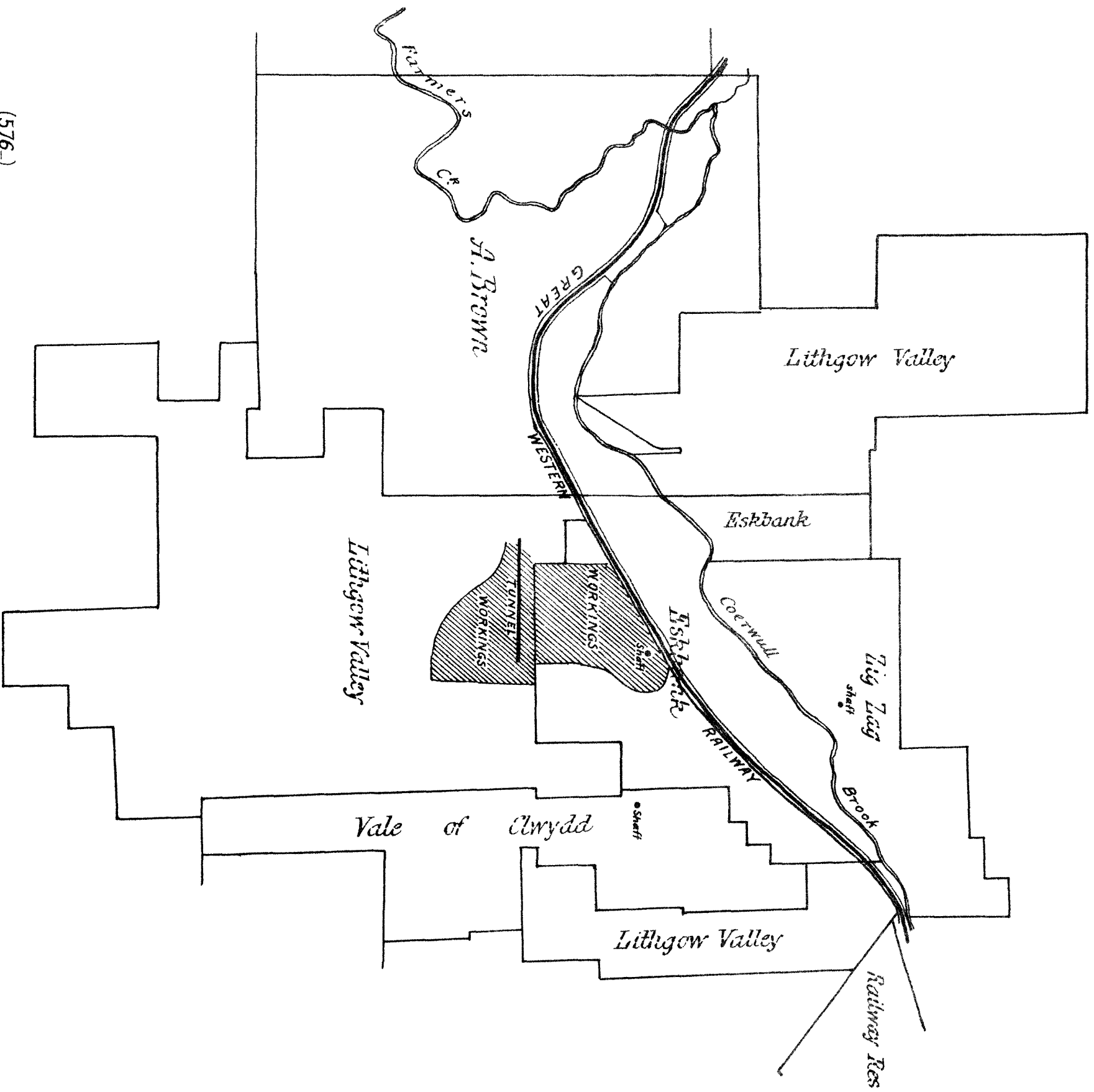
SECTION showing the STRATA AND SEAMS OF COAL, at LITHGOW VALLEY, County of Cook, New South Wales, taken on land of Thos. Brown, Esq., M.L.A.

From Actual Measurement, by JOHN MACKENZIE, Examiner of Coal Fields.



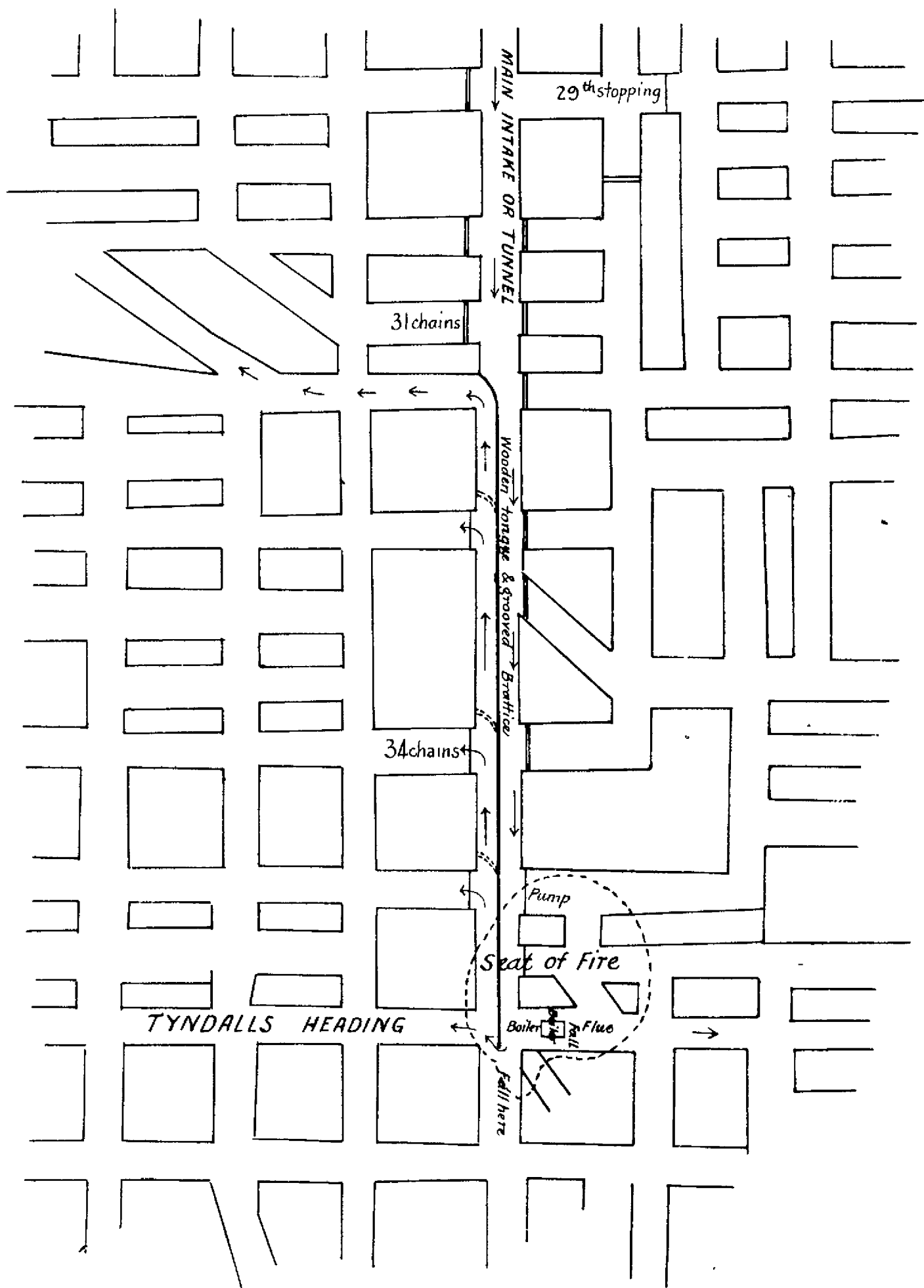
Lithgow Valley Colliery Inquiry

Scale of Chains



PLAN
of part of the
Lithgow Valley Colliery
showing mode adopted for carrying down Bratticing
to get at Seat of Fire
Scale one chain to an Inch

PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE
 SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES



1885-86.

NEW SOUTH WALES.



ROYAL COMMISSION ON COLLIERIES.

REPORT

ON THE ACCIDENTS AT

FERNDALE COLLIERY.

Presented to Parliament by Command.

SYDNEY: THOMAS RICHARDS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1886.

DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO.

SCHEDULE.

1. Reduced plan of the coal-workings of Ferndale Colliery, showing position of adjacent Collieries inundated, and others.	
2. Section of Dip-roads in said Colliery—Section from C on plan No. 1 to “Fall-in” at F on same plan.	
3. Section of Coal to Crop in Bord No. 34.	
4. Evidence of Witnesses examined	1
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9. Letter from James Fletcher to Messrs. Sweetland and Stokes, dated January 21st, 1885.	60
10. Report of Thomas Croudace to Proprietors of Ferndale, dated 20th March, 1885.	59
11. Letter of Thomas Croudace to Proprietors of Ferndale, “Viewership,” August, 1885.	60
12. Letter of Thomas Croudace to Proprietors of Ferndale, referring to accident, March 22nd, 1886.	60
13. List of Bores, by Wm. Henderson	57
14. Do James Fletcher, junr.	

ROYAL COMMISSION ON COLLIERIES.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACCIDENTS AT FERNDALE COLLIERY, NEWCASTLE DISTRICT, ON 18 MARCH, 1886.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable CHARLES ROBERT BARON CARRINGTON,
Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and
Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of New South
Wales and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

The Commission appointed to make a diligent and full inquiry into the cause of the accident that recently occurred to the Ferndale Colliery, in the district of Newcastle, in this Colony, and also to report upon the condition of the Collieries adjacent thereto,—also to make an inquiry into the disasters that happened at the Lithgow Colliery, and to report upon the working and ventilation of the coal-seams, and more especially the thin coal-seams of the said Colony,—having presented their Report to Your Excellency on the accidents at the last-named colliery, assembled at Newcastle, and having examined all available witnesses touching upon the accident that occurred to Ferndale Colliery, on the 18th of March last, whereby one miner and the mining plant and works, as well as the adjacent small collieries, were inundated with sea-water and sand, and irretrievably lost—concluded their inquiry, and unanimously agreed upon the following remarks, illustrative and descriptive of the colliery operations, as well as their decision on the cause of the catastrophe on the date named. These, together with the documents detailed on the margin hereof, the Commission have the honor to present to Your Excellency.

For the purpose of thoroughly investigating all the circumstances that led up to the catastrophe to Ferndale and adjoining collieries, the Commission assembled at Newcastle, on Wednesday, the 26th May, and while considering their decision on the cause of the lamentable accidents at Lithgow, they, by advertisements inserted in the three local newspapers, and by placards distributed among the surrounding mining townships, invited any persons who could give evidence on the cause of the accident at Ferndale to appear before them for that purpose. To these invitations no response whatever was obtained. Nevertheless, the Commission pursued their investigations, and by the aid of the allotment or “Cavil” sheets of the colliery and otherwise succeeded in ascertaining the names of a number of witnesses who were duly summoned, appeared, and gave evidence.

After spending a day in examining the site of the accident, and receiving explanations from the colliery manager, and afterwards from the Government officials, all of whom gave willing and valuable assistance to the Commission, the examination of witnesses was begun on Monday, the 31st of May, and was concluded on Monday, the 7th of June, when, from lack of further evidence, the inquiry closed.

During

During the sittings thirty-five witnesses were examined. On the completion of the work of transcribing the shorthand-writers' notes, the Commission again assembled, at Newcastle, on Wednesday, the 30th of June, and having arranged the course to be pursued in inspecting and investigating, in a critical manner, the condition of the collieries adjacent to Ferndale, they proceeded to discuss the evidence given, and the salient and pertinent facts elicited, during the exhaustive inquiry bearing upon the serious accident at Ferndale.

In visiting and inspecting the collieries inundated by the accident of the 18th of March, whereby one miner, named John Jenkins, lost his life, and the lives of many others were imperilled, the Commission sat continuously (Sundays excepted) during eleven days, for an average of six hours daily, from the 26th day of May until the 7th day of June, both days included. The laborious work of summoning the witnesses, and of formulating the nature of the evidence to be elicited, being performed after the sitting for the day had terminated.

Ferndale is the name given to a colliery situated on the *top* of a conglomerate ridge, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in a straight line to the *north* and west of Newcastle. The property is owned by Mr. Charles Sweetland, banker, Mr. Henry Law, banker, Mr. C. F. Stokes, merchant, and The Honorable James Fletcher. This low ridge is known as Tighe's Hill. On it, and along its southern margin, numerous shallow collieries have worked out the coal-seam that was found to underlie the building allotments and the Maitland Road.

Tighe's Hill has a general trend to the north-west, and consists of conglomerate and sandstone rocks, that cover a bed of excellent coal, from 16 to 18 feet in thickness. This coal dipped gently towards the south-east. To the south the margin of the hill is swept by a tidal creek, which, with its ana-branches, is known as Tighe's Creek. Beyond this, to the south and west, the coal crops out into sand-covered flats, elevated a foot or two above high-water-mark.

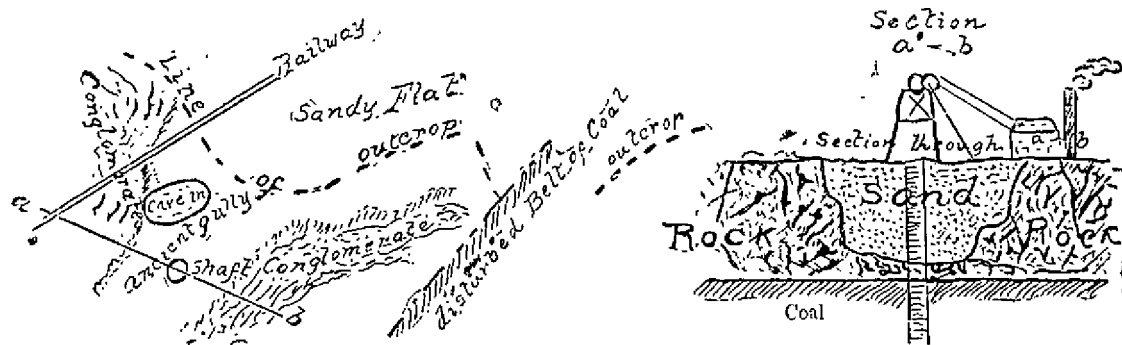
Tighe's Hill may be considered to be an outlier of the Waratah ridges, the low-lying land between these points having been formed by the ceaseless action of shallow water, continued through long ages. This eroded the strata overlying the coal, then broke the continuity of the coal-bed, and afterwards laid down, during a period of local elevation, the littoral deposits of sand-pebbles, shells, and mud that are found to cover what remains of the carboniferous series of rocks on the flats or swamps that surround the harbour of Newcastle.

At the present moment the summit and sides of this ridge present a scene of confusion, caused by innumerable pit-falls, denoting where attempts have been made to remove the small-sized pillars of coal that supported the roof. The Maitland Road crosses the southern margin of Tighe's Hill. Under it the coal-seam measures 16 feet in thickness, and is found under the surface at a similar depth. The coal has been worked from under this road, but the thin pillars have not been removed, and these at present form its sole support. Towards the west (opposite Bevan's and Spennymoor) the coal crops out under the creek, and has been worked to within a few feet of its tidal waters. The pillars that maintained the integrity of the surface have subsequently been removed, and the water has obtained access to the workings, and rises and falls every tide.

An

An examination of the sides of the larger pit-falls shows how variable and capricious the character of the roof is. At one spot it is sandstone; a few yards away it is aluminous post; while within a few yards of the last named it is coarse pebbly conglomerate. As a rule the limits of these "caves-in" have been determined by the presence of defined fissures filled with white unctuous clay, known as "graybacks." These are seen to intersect each other and cut straight up through the strata, large pieces of rock dropping out between the lines of intersection. The presence of these fissures or "graybacks" are not always obvious to the workers of the coal. For the most part they are confined to the hard overlying strata, and do not at all times (although they sometimes do) descend into the coal. These, undoubtedly, constitute a special element of danger that must constantly be kept in view in the process of winning coal from under tidal swamps, fluvial deposits, or situations of whatever description requiring special care, skill, or circumspection.

By referring to plan No. 1 it will be seen that the drawing-shaft at Ferndale is situated on the crest of Tighe's Hill. The depth of this shaft is 49' 6" to the bottom or floor of the coal, or 31 feet to the top of the coal. In sinking this shaft no solid rock was passed through. The surface deposits extended from the grass to the coal. How erratic and uncertain in its distribution the overlying strata is may be judged when it is remarked that only a few yards to the west, and the same to the south or east, solid conglomerate approaches the surface, and covers the coal-seam. Ferndale shaft is, therefore, sunk on the site of an ancient bay or gully, from whence, in prehistoric times, the conglomerate has been removed from above the coal-seam, while the coal itself remains intact, as under noted.



To the south and east, and in close proximity to this shaft, three small collieries have worked the coal from under a number of building allotments, leaving no barriers. The proprietors of Ferndale having secured the coal under a number of these allotments to the south, No. 2 south headings were driven for winning the coal in this direction. The workings to the west of these "headings" approached the Maitland Road, and a spirited rivalry or competition seems to have existed among the conterminous small collieries as to which could work the greatest area of coal from under this important thoroughfare. No restrictions seem to have been imposed on the workers. In consequence, this road has been honeycombed with workings for a considerable distance, and is at present supported by pillars so thin as to be almost invisible. It is alleged by the owners of Ferndale that they left a sufficient barrier of solid coal around each of the small collieries shown on plan, No. 1 Appendix, but that this barrier, as well as the top-coal, and as many of the pillars as could be got at, were removed by these small owners; and in this manner—and by reason of their own thoughtless cupidity—the twenty small collieries, or thereabout, on this ridge have been communicated with each other. As a result of these inter-communications, when Ferndale was inundated the whole of these collieries were filled with water.

It

It appears that No. 2 south headings were commenced with the ulterior intention of working out a considerable area of coal owned by the Company south of Tighe's Terrace-street, and probably, also, of anticipating some of the small colliery owners referred to in working the coal from under the Maitland Road in the direction of the bridge across that creek.

This main heading, after crossing Bryant-street, struck a "roll" (really a down-throw fault) and a disturbed belt of coal, to be afterwards referred to, when operations in this direction ceased.

The westerly bords off this heading communicated with the workings from Robinson's colliery, marked (12) on plan No. 1; while other bords, reaching the Maitland Road at or by following the line of Elizabeth-street, opened out under that road east and west, and worked the coal for a considerable distance north and south of that point.

The colliery officials, on being interrogated on the point, affirmed that these bords, on reaching the western fence of the road, were stopped. Mr. Inspector Dixon, however, suspected that these bords had crossed the road, and had been driven towards or under the creek, which here forms a sharp elbow, and sweeps under an escarpment of conglomerate. On being called upon to do so, Mr. Mackenzie, Examiner of Coal-fields, produced a plan of older date than the one put into the hands of the Commission, in which the faces of the bords under review were shown to cross the road, and were stopped under the bed or channel of Tighe's Creek. This survey is shown on plan No. 1.

Tighe's Creek is a tidal stream, with muddy banks, that follows a tortuous course through the swamps contiguous to the bridge that conveys the Maitland Road across it. This stream divides into several channels that again coalesce to the west.

The flat land in the elbow referred to that bounds the creek to the west is composed of sand and silt, and is elevated not more than 3 or 4 feet above high-water-mark. It forms a portion of the A.A. Company's estate. After heavy rains this low-lying land is covered by flood-waters. The limit of inundation is determined to the west by a ridge of loose sand, on the top of which the Waratah railway to Port Waratah has been carried.

Upon this low-lying and flooded land, nearly opposite Bryant-street, and about 2 chains from the margin of the creek, a small colliery (now owned by Messrs Broughall & Griffiths) has been sunk.

The depth of the shaft is only 23 feet to the top of the coal-seam, and, like Ferndale, is entirely composed of fluviatile or estuarine deposits. Some bords worked from this colliery had been pushed under Tighe's Creek towards Ferndale workings; and one bord, shown on No. 1 plan, had reached within 10 or 11 yards of the advanced workings from the last-named colliery at the date of the inundation (18th March, 1886).

The uncertainty that existed as to the correctness of the underground plans, and the terrible nature of the catastrophe that had occurred to the adjoining collieries, presumably acted as an incentive to the Government officials to serve notices upon Messrs. Broughall & Griffiths to cease working; and, although the Law Officers of the Crown, probably with reason, did not see their way clear to place an injunction on these gentlemen to cease working, the action taken has had the good effect of preventing any further work in the bords approaching Ferndale from being prosecuted.

The

The coal-seam under this flat appears to lie directly under the surface deposits, no solid strata intervening. A depression contiguous to the shaft marks the site of some pillaring operations, and around this an embankment has been raised to prevent flood-waters from obtaining access. Further consideration of this colliery is deferred until the Commission have the honor of presenting to Your Excellency their report "on the Condition of Collieries adjacent to Ferndale."

The conglomerate ridge of Tighe's Hill extends for about half a mile towards the east, when it slopes off, and the conglomerate disappears below a broad expanse of muddy and mangrove-covered swamp, through which the channel of Throsby's Creek winds. The great expanse of these swamps is covered to a depth of about 2 feet with saltwater every spring-tide. Six bores put down to the east, and marked on plan No. 1, prove that the conglomerate must have come down by a series of ledges under the tidal swamps. These consist of estuarine deposits, consisting of sand, sea-shells, and clay.

It will be seen, by referring to the bores recorded in No. 13 Appendix, that the thickness of the estuarine silts or deposits, now covered by spring-tides, varies between 50 and 70 and 100 feet. These silts have, with the exception of the clay, no cohesion. The continual presence of sea-water must keep the sand in a state of semi-suspension.

The limit of high-water-mark to the east of Tighe's Hill is approximately shown on plan No. 1 by a bold dotted line.

The proprietors of Ferndale Colliery, having secured a large area of coal to the east, extending for half a mile or more under the swamps referred to, commenced a pair of dip-roads branching off No. 2 south headings. These followed the line of a street. At a distance of about 5 chains (110 yards) from the point where they commenced, these roads intersected the line or course of the "roll" or fault before referred to, by which the continuity of the coal-seam was broken, and was disturbed and thrown down to the east 8 feet. This faulty belt of coal entirely altered the character of the coal-seam.

It has been remarked that to the west the coal-seam varied from 16 to 18 feet in thickness, but on opening out the seam to the east it was found to be much altered. The conglomerate had come down, and cut off from 11 to 12 feet of the top part of the coal-seam. [See Sections, Appendix.] In addition to this, its dip or pitch was most irregular, and it began to give off a large quantity of salt-water. Over a length of 10 chains the coal-seam was found to be disturbed. From explanations given by the Manager, it appears to have been subjected to lateral pressure, which caused the seam to rise and fall in a series of waves or undulations, most expensive and difficult to follow, although, in the course of the dip-roads, it assumed a settled appearance, and enabled the headings to be pushed towards the east, and workings (known as No. 8 district) to be opened out. In following the seam to the dip the quantity of water given off increased. Under these untoward circumstances, the pumping-shaft at C (plan No. 1) was sunk at the base of the conglomerate ridge, and just on the margin of the tidal swamps.

This position was selected in the belief that it was to the dip of the available coal-field (the lowest part).

At a depth of 111 feet the coal-seam was reached, 2 feet 9 inches thick, and a westerly drive was commenced to meet the dip-roads referred to. (See evidence of Hon. Jas. Fletcher.)

Contrary

Contrary to expectation, the coal-seam, instead of *rising* in that direction (in the direction of the dip-roads), actually dipped, and as the amount of saltwater given off by the pebbly conglomerate roof and the coal-seam continued to increase, very great difficulty appears to have been experienced in joining the two drives and in unwatering the mine.

The coal-seam over the whole of this (No. 8) section formed "swallys" or hollows; out of these water was obliged to be removed or "bailed" at great expense. A few months before the accident as many as twenty-one water-bailers were required to keep the working-places and roads in a comfortable and passable condition. Considering the number and uncertainty of these "swallys," it does not appear that much improvement could have been made in this branch of the expenditure.

Two special steam-pumps were placed at the bottom of the pumping-shaft that forced about 16,000 gallons of water per hour to the surface. These pumping-engines were supplied with steam from boilers on the surface.

From the main dip-roads a large area of coal has been won by following the district system (with the exceptions to be referred to) of working 8-yard bords, and leaving pillars only 4 yards in thickness. These workings have, so far as the Commission have been able to ascertain, been laid out and carried on in a regular and methodical manner, creditable to the Manager, considering the many irregularities in the deposition of the coal-seam, and the numerous difficulties that required to be surmounted.

The "main dips" referred to appear to have been driven on the verge or line of demarcation between a part of the field where the coal was thin (2 feet 6 inches to 3 feet 6 inches), and unworkable to profit, and a part where the coal measured from 5 feet 6 inches to 6 feet in thickness. To the south of these dip-roads, and of the so-called levels from C on plan No. 1, the coal-seam was thin, on account of the top-coal checking out, and the "jerry" (a phrase or localism denoting a mixture of coal and shale) thickening and taking the place of the top-coal.

As the hewing price of the coal throughout this district is based upon a minimum standard thickness of 5 feet of coal, and rises 1d. per ton per inch for all coal under that standard, it follows that coal so thin as 2 feet 6 inches to 3 feet 6 inches thick is unworkable to profit.

Having satisfied himself by workings to the south of the main roads towards C that the coal thinned to the south and east, and was unworkable to profit by following district customs, the Manager withdrew the men from these workings, and confined his attention to opening up the thicker coal to the north.

The roof of the coal over No. 8 district was composed of conglomerate, which gave off from fissures much saltwater. In patches this firm roof receded, and wedges or layers of shaly post ("falling") intervened. This subsidiary roof varied in thickness from a few inches to 6 or 7 or even more feet. It was irregularly distributed. The percolation of water from the conglomerate softened this aluminous post, and it required to be supported by double sets of timber to prevent it injuring the workers.

Strict injunctions appear to have been given by one of the owners (Mr. Fletcher) to the Manager to protect the workmen from the falling of this shale or post,

post, and the men were empowered to erect double timber where required. For this work they were paid 1s. 6d. per set, in addition to the rates they received for hewing and yardage. Mr. Inspector Dixon and the whole of the witnesses concur in saying that no expense was spared, and every precaution was taken to support the roof.

For six years prior to the catastrophe of 18th March, Ferndale Colliery was under the sole management of Mr. John Powell, a man of long and varied experience in mining. Mr. Powell had long been known to Mr. Fletcher, and the other partners appear to have reposed confidence in his ability and judgment. Mr. Powell is known to some of the members of the Commission as a man possessing much energy and unflagging zeal, and he impressed the Commission favourably as to his solidity of character and natural intelligence. The extraordinary character of the difficulties encountered and overcome by Mr. Powell, and the systematic manner the colliery has been laid out and worked with the slender means at his disposal, is an evidence that the eulogium on his circumspection and management bestowed upon him by Mr. Inspector Dixon—himself a cautious and a thoughtful man—was well deserved. Of the four proprietors of this colliery, three (namely, Mr. Sweetland, Mr. Law, and Mr. Stokes) were commercial men, and possessed no intimate knowledge of mining. The other proprietor, on the other hand (Mr. Fletcher), possesses a particular knowledge of coal-mining, and has for the past thirty years been closely identified with coal-mining in this district.

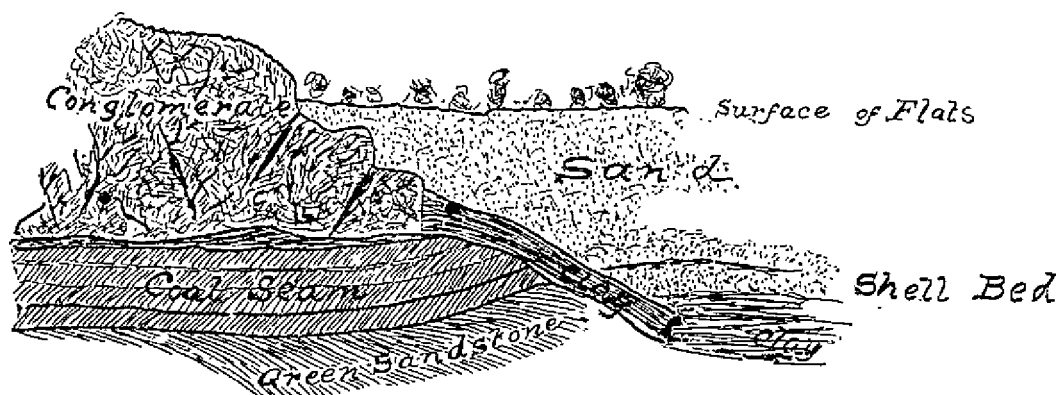
The public and other engagements of the last-named gentleman precluded him from taking any active interest, or, indeed, any part or control in any way of the colliery operations. He appears only to have been down the colliery on three occasions. Mr. Powell was, therefore (*vide* evidence of Messrs. Sweetland, Fletcher, and Jno. Powell), given the sole conduct of all operations above and below ground, and he was in the habit, at the monthly meetings of the Company, of reporting to them generally on the state of the works, &c. Although, from a concatenation of untoward and unexpected circumstances, the cost of raising coal from No. 8 workings was so great as at times almost to equal the price obtained for coal, the proprietors seem not to have doubted the integrity or management of Mr. Powell. From first to last he seems to have enjoyed their confidence and support.

Up to the date of the accident about 110 acres of the coal-seam had been worked over, leaving the superincumbent strata supported on pillars 4 yards in thickness.

In order that Your Excellency may grasp the position, the Commission consider it proper to explain the circumstances and condition of the "rise" or "crop," or north workings of this colliery.

West of the "roll," or the disturbed belt of coal referred to, that was with so much difficulty crossed by the "main dip" or engine-roads—and that separated No. 8, or the dip workings, from the thick coal-workings surrounding the drawing-shaft—the major portion of the coal was covered by a strong bed of pebbly conglomerate rock that reached to the surface. With this rock as a cover the limits of the coal-field were defined to the north, and followed the contour of the ridge. Below this the coal-seam was worked to a line where the conglomerate formed a ledge, and gave place to estuarine or surface deposits. After losing the protection
afforded

afforded by the conglomerate, these deposits of sand first rested upon, then descended and cut off, the coal-seam. The line of outcrop of the coal into the sand marks the margin of the shores of an ancient sea or tide-way, as shown by the rough hand-sketch below.



The explanation of this phenomenon is, that at a time, infinitely remote, when the physical aspect of Australia was very different to what it is—when the relative positions of land and sea were somewhat different—ocean currents were directed against the friable conglomerate beds—they entered fissures, loosened, then detached blocks, to roll and grind and erode and carry away large quantities of debris from the beds overlying the coal-seams—large portions of the coal-seams themselves were removed and carried away, channels were formed, and in the fulness of time—under different conditions—the currents, loaded with sand and mud, deposited their contents in the still depths of former valleys, or channels, or lagoons formed by rising or water-logged land. Slowly the denuded rocks approached the sea-level; the tops of undulations became islands, and against their shores or sides the ceaseless surges lashed and beat-up comminuted shells, and on a littoral shore formed the estuarine deposits that underlie the swamps that bound the valley of the Hunter. These deposits represent but a fractional part of the energy and forces that were at work in the distant past, while the world that is was being prepared for present existences. Thus, the sandy flats near Islington and Point Waratah, or the muddy mangrove swamps of Throsby's Creek, were formed, and slowly rose above the level of the sea.

The irregular line of crop, therefore, marks the shore or bank of an ancient channel, and this is delineated on plan No. 1.

It has been remarked before that the drawing-shaft was sunk in a gully or channel, and that silt and sand rested on the top of the coal-seam. This evidently marks the position of an old watercourse or arm of the sea, where the currents had removed the whole of the conglomerate, and had reached the top of the coal, when, from some cause, its further denudation was arrested, and the hollow or channel became filled up with detritus. In the same channel, a few chains to the north-west of the shaft, the thick coal was won by following the empirical district custom of working 8-yard "bords" or "stalls," and leaving 4-yard pillars to support the roof. Over the western portion of the field these pillars had been removed, bringing down the surface in a series of pit-falls. Incautiously removing the coal pillars under the channel referred to, the sand rushed down, and with it a flow of water that kept it running to such an extent that it was with difficulty prevented from reaching the bottom of the shaft.

Subsequent

Subsequent operations were carried on with more caution. Knowing that the sand and surface deposits contained water, care was taken to push narrow gate or exploring drifts in advance of the "bords," for the purpose of defining the position of the crop of the coal, and by this means of regulating the thickness of the barrier of coal the Manager had resolved to leave along the outcrop to protect the mine from being invaded with sand and water, which undoubtedly would have happened had the workings been extended up to the crop, and the pillars afterwards indiscriminately removed.

In No. 8 workings (east of the roll), when approaching the surface, patches of soft coal were found, and when these were pierced often gave place to excellent firm coal, and this, it may be remarked, is a peculiar and remarkable feature of some of the Colonial coal-seams. The best evidence that the real crop was being reached was the soft and rusty and useless character or quality of the seam, and the high angle of or pitch of the bed. When the ordinary working-faces approached coal possessing these characters a narrow road or coal-drift was commenced at intervals of a few chains, and was driven until the sand or clay was seen in the roof or face, or until the Manager was convinced of its proximity. The unmarketable coal was then left as a barrier or a protection against the inroads of the surface or of the soft silty deposits.

In this sensible manner the coal was worked, and the line of crop defined for a distance of about 30 chains east of the "roll" referred to. At I on plan No. 1 the line of crop approached the margin or limits of the tidal waters and entered the swamps. During spring-tides sea-water overflows the low banks of Throsby's Creek, converting the broad expanse of Mangrove Swamp into a great shallow lagoon. The Manager was *not* ignorant of this circumstance. The exploring drifts proved that the line of crop suddenly stretched further north. The same system of defining the line of crop and of working was pursued, with this exception, that whenever the nature of the roof demanded, or when the Manager was convinced of the contiguity of the crop, the width of the working-faces or bords was reduced from 8 yards to 6, and even to 4 yards wide, still leaving pillars of the uniform thickness of 4 yards. Close attention was evidently given to support the roof by means of timber. All the witnesses (workers), as well as Mr. Inspector Dixon, are unanimous in their statements as to the care of the management in this respect.

At the point marked J on plan No. 1 a pair of very narrow headings or drifts were driven on end for about 50 yards in advance of bords 4 and 6 yards wide. The narrowness of these headings, the circumstance that the upper bords were also worked narrow (thus involving a considerable increase on the cost of production), of so much care being bestowed on timbering, would seem to point, in the opinion of the Commission (notwithstanding the assurance of Mr. Powell to the contrary), to a state of uneasy uncertainty in the practical mind of the Manager that coal-mining under tidal swamps was attended with more than a usual amount of danger.

The narrow headings at J had just been driven (*vide* evidence of Jno. Powell, Jos. Powell, J. Pickavance, and R. Cotterill) when the miners, in going to their work one morning, discovered that a very large fall had occurred some yards back from the face, composed of clay, sand, and shells, with a little water. This fall spread for some yards down the headings, and, having a threatening aspect, the
Manager

Manager or Overman at once put in a strong timber barricade or dam, to prevent it from flowing into the lower workings. This is known throughout the evidence as the "Little Fall," and it occurred about fifteen months before the accident of the 18th of March, 1886. On the following morning it was found that the surface deposits had broken in afresh, and more effectual means were taken to stop the inflow of the sand, and secure the workings from danger. The measures so opportunely taken were successful. The fall choked itself, and appears to have been forgotten, and left no serious apprehensions in the mind of the Manager, Overman, Deputy, Check Inspectors, or the men who saw and knew of its occurrence.

The Commission were most particular in the examination of witnesses as to their knowledge of this "little fall." Several saw this "fall" in the workings, and although they observed shells among the sand, this circumstance does not seem to have raised any apprehension of danger in their minds. Other witnesses, who had not seen the fall, had heard of it. Some of the witnesses had suspicions that the workings were under tidal waters; while others, such as Joseph Jackaman and William Williams, positively asserted that they had frequently heard conversations among the workmen to the effect that they were working under circumstances so perilous that, if an accident occurred, the whole of the men would run a risk of losing their lives. These witnesses, on being pressed, could not remember or give the names of any of the workmen whom they had heard so express themselves. The witness Jackaman, particularly, incensed the Commission on account of his impertinent effrontery and contumacy; while William Williams, on being cross-questioned, would not, or could not, mention the names of the men whom he asserted he had frequently heard conversing on the subject, but, as Secretary to the Local Miners Union, affirmed that the Check Inspectors referred to danger in some of their periodical reports. The reports of the Check Inspectors are enclosed in the Appendix, and a perusal of these will show that no reference to special danger is referred to. The Commission are constrained to place no importance on the statements of these men. The Commission, likewise, regret that other witnesses, of whose intelligence and verity they had no doubt, displayed a taciturnity and unwillingness to give information that is far from creditable to them. In several instances the evidence given was obtained with difficulty, and almost under compulsion.

After the "little fall" at J heading had occurred, a deep depression appeared on the surface that the first high-tide filled with water, to be used afterwards by boys as a swimming-bath. This circumstance was known to Mr. Powell, the manager, and to some of his officials; it was likewise known to some of the workmen. It was *not* known to Mr. Inspector Dixon, or to Mr. Mackenzie, Examiner of Coal-fields, who, although he was acquainted with the geography of the tidal swamps, does not seem ever to have visited the mine or examined the position of the workings.

Mr. Inspector Dixon was aware of the character of the surface deposits over these flats, he having put down several bores in them; but he informed the Commission that he was unaware that they were covered with sea-water. He was also unaware that J heading had reached the sands, or of the occurrence of the "little fall"; but at once admitted that, if he had seen this fall, and had known its position on the surface, he would have considered it as a warning of great danger, and one that should not have been mistaken.

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On this point the evidence given by the Manager, Mr. Powell, and that given by Mr. Dixon somewhat conflicts. The former, towards the close of a lengthy examination, admitted that he showed the fall underground to Mr. Dixon, who warned him of the danger he was running, but did not point out the danger. The Commission believe that Mr. Dixon may have cautioned Mr. Powell in a general way to exercise due care, and that probably his attention was not particularly called to this "fall," or that its position on the surface was explained to him. The evidence given by Mr. Dixon was given freely, and without any qualification or hesitation; he anticipated no danger, nor could he see evidence of actual danger, and that the precautions taken by Mr. Powell as to the leaving of crop-barriers, reducing the width of bords, and protecting the roof with timber, were, in his opinion, ample and sufficient.

After the occurrence of the "little fall" the whole of the working-bords approached, or had actually passed, within the limits of high-water-mark. This was known to the owners, and no concern or prominence was given to it. The Manager also was aware of the circumstance, but nothing in the state of the coal or roof excited the suspicion of himself, the Inspector, or Check Inspectors, or the men. Some bores put down on the confines, and some distance within the swamps, proved the thickness of the deposits to vary from 50 to 70 and 100 feet. The results of these borings were also known to the Manager, the Government officers, and the district experts.

About the beginning of 1885, after the occurrence of the "little fall," two of the owners (Messrs. Sweetland and Stokes) met Mr. Croudace, manager of Lambton Colliery, when the conversation turned upon the cost of producing coal. The high cost of getting Ferndale coal was referred to, when Mr. Croudace intimated that he could produce the coal several shillings per ton under the price they were paying. The owners were then given to understand that, if they entrusted the viewership to him (Mr. Croudace), this would be accomplished.

This statement, deliberately made by a gentleman occupying the position of Mr. Croudace, appealed with so much force to the non-practical minds of Messrs. Stokes and Sweetland that they communicated with Mr. Fletcher, the practical owner, on the subject of Mr. Croudace's representations.

On receipt of this letter by Mr. Fletcher, the latter, feeling that his compeer would find it difficult to accomplish the feat he had promised to Mr. Sweetland, yet unwilling to stand in the way of a successful issue to their enterprise, replied by letter, dated 21st January, 1885 (No. 9 Appendix), wherein he recounts the difficulties, but stating his willingness to give Mr. Croudace a trial, and proposed to allow him a margin of 3d. per ton on the price quoted by Mr. Croudace, and a salary of £150 to £200 per annum in excess of that stipulated by him, provided the efficiency of the mine was maintained (*vide* letter and evidence of J. Fletcher and C. Sweetland).

It was subsequently arranged that Mr. Croudace should visit the colliery. This he did, about the beginning of March, 1885. He appears to have made a most particular investigation, having examined and made excerpts from the colliery books, cost-sheets, examined the plans, inquired for and obtained journals or records of the swamp bores, the underground workings, ordered levels to be taken, and afterwards walked over the estate with Mr. Powell, and having satisfied himself

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on these points, he, on the 20th March, 1885, indited a report and sent it to the proprietors for their consideration (*vide* report 20th March, 1885, No. 10 Appendix). In August following (No. 11 Appendix) he again addressed the proprietors by letter, his proposed emoluments being then the theme of his communication.

The proprietors (*vide* evidence of C. Sweetland and J. Fletcher) having reconsidered Mr. Croudace's first statement as to his ability to produce coal several shillings under the then cost, in connection with the proposals suggested in his report, and the circumstance that not only had he failed to point out any feasible way of reducing the cost, or pointed out anything of a more serious character than a trifling defect in the pet-cocks of a steam-pump, but had actually proposed to incur a large expenditure for the purpose of working many acres of coal too thin to work to profit, and that had for this very reason been abandoned—and feeling, likewise, that the proposition of Mr. Croudace to dispense (without giving him a trial) with an old and tried Manager, and to substitute in his stead an irresponsible Overman, did not commend itself to their minds as means likely to lead to any diminution in the cost of production, but, on the contrary, would probably have led to the ruin of the proprietors, they decided not to entertain the proposal of Mr. Croudace, or to make any change in the management.

Mr. Croudace having satisfied himself by an inspection and by the perusal of bores, and expressed no doubts as to the security or otherwise of the mine, or of the bords approaching or that were already under the tidal waters, and having proposed an extension of these workings half a mile further into the swamp, probably had the effect of lulling the suspicions of Mr. Powell and others (if they had suspicions) to sleep, and to believe that no danger did exist, and the lesson of the "little fall" was forgotten.

From the point J the workings were continued eastwards; the two upper bords were driven 4 and 6 yards wide. Having proceeded eastward for about 100 yards, they were cut off by a main heading. Off this heading, Thos. Cunliff (*vide* evidence) commenced the bords opposite the fall of 18th March, 1886; they were 4 and 6 yards wide. Isaac Hadfield (*vide* evidence) turned off a bord a few yards below; it was 6 yards wide. Wm. Teasdale (*vide* evidence) worked in the bord next to that where the fall occurred; it was 6 yards wide—while three bords below, on No. 34 (No. 1 plan), was 4 yards wide. These witnesses, therefore, as well as Jas. Murray and others, concur with and corroborate the Manager (John Powell), the Overman (Joseph Powell), and the Deputy (John Smith), in their statements as to the width of the bords—that the roof to all appearance was sound and dry, that it was well-timbered and supported, and that they observed no evidence of fissures (flaws or joints) or "graybacks" in the roof.

The Commission feel that the evidence of these witnesses, all of whom could speak precisely and with decision, on the facts and circumstances within their knowledge is conclusive proof, and must override and exclude the unsupported assertion of Mr. Croudace, namely, that he was informed that the width of the bord where the fall took place in was 8 yards wide.

Upon the frail uninvestigated fabric of an alleged reply to a question that no one seems to have heard, he deemed it wise and prudent, subsequent to the accident, to indite a letter to the proprietors respecting Ferndale, and afterwards to
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the daily papers—*Newcastle Daily News*, March 25 and 30, and April 12, 1886—of a somewhat prophetic character, respecting “delta” collieries, which had the effect of creating a profound sensation in the district, and much apprehension and alarm in the minds of a large section of the community.

K headings (plan No. 1) were started, and were driven about 50 yards in advance of the highest bord. The width of K heading was only from 3 to 5 feet. The coal had a considerable pitch. These headings were continued until the surface deposits came down to form the roof of the coal. Before the headings reached the surface deposits the two highest bords had been stopped on account of the surface showing in the face. The line of crop had, from some cause, swerved suddenly round to the south, as follows:—



The soft nature of the roof, and the knowledge that the line of crop had (probably on account of the conglomerate forming a cliff or ledge) swerved down in front of the upper two bords, caused the Manager to erect a strong barricade across the K heading, marked ==. It would, however, appear that on account of the high pitch of the seam at that part the floor was not very favourable for such erections. This barricade was erected from no fear or suspicion of actual danger, but as a pure and proper measure of precaution where the workings above had proven the existence of surface deposits that on former occasions had given some trouble.

Mr. Inspector Dixon does not recollect inspecting K heading, or to have seen it or the barricade, or to have been in the two highest bords. This is not remarkable, considering that they may have been begun and finished between his visits. He did not go beyond the last working-bord during his last inspection. The barricades were put up openly—no means appear to have been taken to conceal the work from the workmen. They were open to the inspection of anyone who chose to visit them. They did not excite the suspicion or call for any remark from the Check Inspectors or from any of the men.

For many months prior to the catastrophe, about to be referred to, the whole output of coal from this colliery was obtained from bords that were covered by tidal swamps. The working-faces were approaching a “fault” (dislocation of the strata) that for many yards entirely broke the continuity of the coal-seam. The bore marked on plan No. 1, in advance of the leading heading from C, proved the thickness of the surface deposits to be 50 feet, and the coal itself to be 3 feet.

Mr. Dixon inspected this colliery on the 26th February, 1886, only three weeks before the accident. His inspection was of a thorough character, and doubtless strengthened him in his statement when examined, that he observed no defect nor sign of danger, but considered the colliery was ably conducted, and that every attention was paid to the security of the men. In his opinion it was the best-timbered colliery in the district. Mr. Dixon made no complaint to his chief (*vide* Report No. 7, Appendix).

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On the morning of Thursday, the 18th of March, the foreshift of men had just commenced work. Wm. Teasdale worked in the bord below that in which the fall occurred, Cornelius Peters about 60 yards below, Jno. Hargreaves about the same position, Wm. Williams and John Jenkins (deceased) three or four bords below the fall, and the other witnesses at various points of the eastern faces. About 7.30 a.m. the witnesses (John Powell, wheeler, and David Jones, horse-driver) were at the moment in the bord of John Jenkins (No. 34). The horse was coupled to the skip, when they heard an ominous noise, and one or both ran out the road in order to ascertain the cause. On their way toward the main heading these young men suddenly ran into a stream of sand and water rushing downward. With a strange instinct as to the cause they hurriedly returned, called out to John Jenkins to make his escape with all speed, as "the river had broken in." When last observed the poor man was looking for his stick (being a cripple), and preparing to put on his clothes. Powell and Jones abandoned their horse, and ran downwards through the "cut-throughs," warning each man of the calamity, and finally, in effecting their own escape, they all but lost their lives.

A tremendous volume of water and debris was observed rushing impetuously towards the lower workings. Across this torrent every man was obliged to pass. In some instances the force of the current carried them off their feet and swept them downwards. Many miraculous escapes were made. John Smith, the Deputy, had just left the rise workings, and had observed nothing wrong. He was proceeding to the shaft by the main road for breakfast, when he suddenly saw the lights of men emerging from the travelling-road into the dip-road in front of him. Not knowing the cause of so many men leaving off work from a district he had only a few minutes before left, he shouted to some of the men, and was informed of the catastrophe. Along with Isaac Hadfield, he at once returned, by way of the rise workings, and saw the extent of the calamity, but was unable at that time to ascertain from whence the water came.

Mr. Powell, the Manager, on being warned, at once proceeded down the colliery, and, with some of the men, rapidly made his way towards the foot of K heading, but was unable, on account of the amount of water, to ascertain then where the "fall-in" had occurred.

On the surface a large hole appeared some distance out on the swamps, and down this an enormous rush of water (it being high spring-tide) was descending into the mine, carrying with it large masses of sand and silt.

Mr. Powell, having made particular inquiries, ascertained that two men, John Hargreaves and John Jenkins (a cripple), had not been observed to come out of the mine. He at once descended the shaft, and, with a party of men, made his way towards the seat of the accident. It does not appear that they were able on this occasion to ascertain the locality of the "fall-in," and the party returned to the surface.

Meantime, the tide having subsided, an anxious group of residents, men employed at the mine, the Manager, Mr. Inspector Dixon, Mr. Gardner, of Bullock Island Colliery, and others, were enabled to walk across the swamp and inspect the cavity formed by the rush of descending waters. Upwards of an acre of surface had been carried into the workings, and it was observed (*vide* evidence of Powell, Dixon and

and Gardner) that the surface deposits measured only 25 feet in thickness. The conglomerate rock on which the surface rested was exposed. In the centre was a hole of no great size at first. These witnesses descended and examined this hole, and, looking down, saw a large bell-mouthed cavity below where the post rock had fallen. Rough measurements were taken of the thickness of the strata superimposed upon the coal, and the following is the record given by these intelligent witnesses, which may be taken as approximately correct:—

					Feet.
Surface sand and silt	...	...	...	...	23
Clay...	...	...	...	...	2
Conglomerate	...	...	...	...	12
Post...	...	...	...	...	28

In all 65 feet. The size of the hole enlarged until it measured 5 feet x 4 feet; it had straight sides, and convinced these witnesses that a piece of rock had dropped down (under pressure of the sand and water—about 22 cwt. per square foot, or 22 tons on the area of the hole). The hole was defined by “graybacks,” or joints, or fissures, that are common in the roof of the Borehole or Newcastle coal-seam all over the district. A network of these treacherous “graybacks” had, unknown to the Manager or men, existed in the apparently sound roof. Water had, in all likelihood, gained access to these fissures, and, finding vent below, after the coal was worked, had gradually loosened the block of rocks referred to, and prepared it for yielding under the dead pressure of sand loosened by sea-water during the first high-tide. It is impossible in working coal to discover the presence of “graybacks”; and the knowledge that these may occur, and are not perceived, forms a special danger in working coal under tidal waters, of which this accident is a proof; and it is one that the Commission feel will be difficult to deal with.

When the tide fell in the adjoining creek the stream of water flowing into the mine diminished, and the Manager employed a large number of men to throw up a temporary embankment to stem back the return tide, as well as to place obstacles and close up the hole in the rock. While this was being done cries were heard ascending from the workings. The Manager, with the promptitude and fertility of resource that appears to be with him a second nature, procured ropes, and himself, for the fifth time, descended the shaft, and proceeded into the rise workings, and found that he could then reach the cavity and see the opening. Before he got there the man John Hargreaves had been drawn up (*vide* his evidence). He, however, inspected the fall, and ascertained its locality to be opposite to the second narrow bord (corroborated by Jno. Smith, J. Hadfield, and Jno. Hargreaves). The post had fallen, and extended along the bord for about 8 yards. The Manager and his party worked their way down the upper bords, looking for John Jenkins, but he was nowhere to be seen, and on returning to the surface they ascertained that John Hargreaves had been rescued. After the rescue of Hargreaves the work of closing the aperture was continued.

Hargreaves was working eight bords below the site of the fall. While leisurely making his escape he lost his light, and, stumbling in the dark, he was suddenly immersed in water that, but for his strength, would have swept him away. He struggled on the top of the rubbish that had been built against the sides, and at one time he felt the water gradually rising up his body, and when it had reached his neck it began to descend, and eventually receded so low as to enable him to reach

reach a point where he observed the sheen of daylight, and proceeding over the fall he called lustily, and was rescued in the manner narrated (*vide* his evidence). The unfortunate man John Jenkins was not observed by anyone in the fearful excitement that ensued after the announcement by the boys, John Powell and David Jones, of the occurrence of the accident.

The succeeding tide came up with great rapidity, and began to pour down the cavity in volumes. The cavity in the sand increased to over 2 acres, and trees and mangroves were carried down and disappeared into the workings. All hope of saving the mine was abandoned. On the following day the whole of the extensive workings were filled up, and the sea-water, flowing through the openings into the other small collieries already referred to, inundated them also. At the present moment an enormous pool marks the site of this unfortunate accident, and the tide rises and falls in the numerous shafts and workings around Tighe's Hill.

On Saturday, the 20th, the proprietors, anxious to ascertain whether any feasible means could be suggested to recover the body of the unfortunate man John Jenkins, hastily convened a meeting of colliery managers and others to meet at the colliery office. A representative meeting accordingly took place, and a lengthy discussion ensued. Some suggestions were made to stem back the waters by resorting to coffer-dams or iron cylinders, but these were dismissed as impracticable. It was but too evident that Jenkins was irrecoverably lost, and that to pump the workings dry after scaling them off from the sea, and to clear out the 70,000 or 80,000 tons of sand that had descended, would be a task that few firms could attempt. The colliery was practically worked out—only a few acres of coal remained to the west of the fault that had been proved in the level from C, and again by a heading bord above that road; while the thin coal to the east of that disturbance was known to be unworkable to profit, if paid for and worked at district rates and on the district system.

Prominent among the gentlemen assembled on the Saturday after the accident (20th March) was Mr. Thomas Croudace, of Lambton. He was elected chairman. On visiting the scene of the accident the tide was full, and it covered the swamps; nothing could be seen but a vast sheet of water, with the tops of scrub and bushes protruding through. Mr. Croudace suggested that the managers should take the somewhat extraordinary course of proceeding into the water, and ascertaining in this way the locality and the extent of the "cave-in." Finding that his colleagues preferred the more sensible plan of waiting until the tide had fallen, when they could to more purpose accomplish this end, he requested Mr. Powell to accompany him, and the two proceeded into the water.

It is difficult to see what good purpose could possibly be effected by such a proceeding. During this examination with poles Mr. Powell just escaped drowning.

Two days thereafter, considering it his duty to do so, he wrote a lengthy letter to the proprietors, dated 22nd March, 1886 (No. 12 Appendix), wherein he pointed out the excessive danger that had attended their operations by working the coal under the tidal swamps by means of 8-yard bords, and that, if they had entrusted him with the viewership, he never would have permitted such to be done, &c. Similar letters, condemnatory and enlarging on the danger of working the "delta collieries" he enumerated, subsequently appeared in the daily papers, the effect of which has naturally been to disturb the public mind, and raise grave fears for the safety of workmen engaged in the collieries referred to in Mr. Croudace's letters.

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The Commission look upon the letter of 22nd March, 1886, as equivalent to a charge of incompetence and of reckless management and neglect of ordinary precaution against the Manager, and probably the proprietors and Inspector of Collieries; and they desire, with the permission of Your Excellency, to discuss the points raised in this letter.

As already stated, Mr. Croudace, in the opinion of the Commission, appears to base his charge as to the width of the bords in which the fall took place on his own unsupported statement that Mr. Powell said so, in reply to a question from himself, before the other Managers, at the conference held on the 20th March. And, further, that when he and Mr. Powell were wading through the water, on what really appears to have been a purposeless errand, he looked round, and discovering to the west a separate depression and pool of water, he asked Powell what it meant, when the Manager replied that it was the site of another fall that had occurred there only a few weeks before. Mr. Croudace read this letter to the Commission; he had not, however, a copy of his report of a year before. The Commission have given this charge much consideration, and they have taken great pains to get to the bottom of the actual facts. They can come to no other conclusion than that the statement of Mr. Croudace as to the width of the bords where the fall occurred is founded on a palpable error, and is, moreover, unsupported by the testimony of any of the Managers who assembled with him at the colliery two days after the accident, all of whom assert (*vide* evidence of A. Ross, A. Gardner, J. Thomas) that the width stated to the conference by Mr. Powell was 6 yards.

Mr. Powell (recalled) distinctly denied ever having made any other statement, and states that Mr. Croudace expressed no surprise, as he asserted. The Commission consider that the evidence of the miners who actually turned off these identical bords, and who gave their evidence before it was determined to examine Mr. Croudace, must be taken as conclusive proof that the width was 6 yards only.

With regard to the statement that on observing the subsidence to the west of the great cave-in, and receiving Mr. Powell's explanation, considering that the flats at the moment were covered with a considerable depth of water, it is difficult for the Commission to see how any depression could have been perceived. Mr. Powell denied ever having made such a statement, or that the subject was ever referred to. It was conclusively proved in evidence that the "little fall" actually occurred about fourteen or fifteen months before the accident of 18th March.

With these circumstances before them, the Commission exceedingly regret that Mr. Croudace ever hazarded statements so calculated to damage the prospects and reputation of, so far as they can judge, a deserving Manager, and to disturb the confidence of the public in the collieries adjacent to Ferndale, in the development of which large sums of money have been spent. The premises of the letter of 22nd March being thus, in the opinion of the Commission, erroneous, it is not surprising that the conclusions were fallacious, and not altogether creditable to the perspicacity of a gentleman who, for so many years, has been Manager of an adjoining colliery. Furthermore, Mr. Croudace admits having inspected Ferndale underground workings; but explains that the object of his visit was not to critically examine the safety of the mine, but was undertaken solely for the purpose of satisfying himself whether he would or would not accept the position of Viewer. On the other hand, the evidence of C. Sweetland and J. Fletcher, and the letter (No. 9) referred

referred to, clearly explain the condition on which they would give him the appointment, viz. :—It was conditional on that gentleman being able to reduce the cost of production several shillings per ton, as he had suggested, *without interfering with the efficiency of the colliery.*

Mr. Croudace was conducted round the workings by Mr. Powell, who appears to have showed him everything. Mr. Croudace states in his evidence that he was not shown the “little fall” below ground. Mr. Powell affirms that he did show it to him. On coming to the surface, Mr. Croudace states in evidence that he did not view the surface position of the eastern workings he had inspected; but, from a point near to the drawing-shaft, he generally looked towards the swamps. Mr. Powell, on the other hand (when recalled), states, in the most emphatic manner, that not only did he take Mr. Croudace into the workings and there point out to him where the “little fall” took place, but, when they came to the surface, he took him down to the pumping-pit (at C, plan No. 1), and from thence walked along the brow of the ridge above the tidal limit, and at or about I on plan pointed out the actual depression in the swamps where the fall came to the surface, thus identifying the fall below and above ground. This Mr. Croudace does not admit; but the Commission, while willing to make allowance for the forgetfulness of any witness on such a point, would desire to bring under the observation of Your Excellency the following lines from the report No. 10, already referred to :—“Upon ascending the shaft or tunnel, I inspected the surface positions, and can only say I was strengthened in my opinion as regards the necessary work you should execute to assure more economical working.”

Mr. Croudace recollects the workings east of the pumping-shaft; he afterwards visited that shaft on the surface. From his knowledge of the district he was acquainted with the limits and character of the swamps. Some years before he had experience of sinking a shaft through similar deposits, near to Stockton, east of the harbour, and when at the pumping-pit could not avoid observing that the tidal water laved the debris that surrounded it. The Commission have, therefore, good reason to believe that this witness knew the full import of the sentence quoted above, referring to the “surface positions.” These written words the Commission accept as corroborating the statement of John Powell, the Manager, and go to show that when the report in question was written Mr. Croudace was aware of the position of the workings, but did not apprehend danger.

Having examined the ground, taken levels, and studied bores put down in the swamps, he recommended the proprietors to commence a new sinking half a mile further *east*, at a spot where the tidal waters are deepest, contiguous to a bridge across Tighe’s Creek, marked with a circle on the plan, and where the sand was much thicker than near the site of the fall of 18th March. Mr. Croudace, when he recommended this situation, ought to have known, and probably did know, that the coal in that position was too thin to be worked to profit; and from this point he proposed to work a very large area of unprofitably thin coal, in order that he might the more effectually unwater the small area of thicker coal that remained unworked west of the fault. This, with some reference to the condition of cocks upon pumps, was the scheme he put before the owners in order that the working cost of their coal should be reduced. The Commission look upon the report referred to as proof that Mr. Croudace had all the circumstances of this colliery in view in March, 1885; and that not only did he *not* perceive or anticipate danger, but proposed an extensive scheme of working coal under a large area, and under the very worst part of
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the swamp, much greater than Mr. Powell probably contemplated; and this, too, by a system of working in no essential point differing from the practice followed by Mr. Powell. The consideration of these documents has given the Commission considerable pain, and they never would have been referred to but for the publicity given to the opinions enunciated by the author himself. It is much to be regretted, that after inditing his report of March, 1885, this engineer condescended (on data that he could readily have assured himself were erroneous) to write his letter of 22nd March, 1886, or his subsequent letters to the daily papers, calling public attention to the dangerous condition of other collieries he refers to. It is easy to be wise and prophetic *after* the event. This engineer appears to have meditated long and deeply on the special dangers attending the working of collieries he calls "delta collieries," and it is just, yet scarcely, possible that in the case of Ferndale he had suspicions of danger, but awaited his appointment as Viewer to point them out. This engineer had an opportunity afforded to few others of forming an opinion on these eastern workings, and if the slightest suspicion of danger did really lurk in his mind it was his clear and bounden duty, as an engineer, then and there, and without waiting for an accident to happen, and regardless of pecuniary consequences to himself, to have solemnly warned the proprietors of the danger attending a pursuance of their operations—giving them intelligible reasons for his apprehensions.

The Commission, having long and anxiously considered the evidence given, together with the plans and documents handed in by the parties examined, have unanimously come to the following conclusions:—

First.—That the unfortunate accident that occurred at Ferndale Colliery on the morning of Thursday, the 18th of March last, by which one man—John Jenkins—lost his life, and the colliery workings and underground plant of this and adjoining collieries have been lost, was caused by the sudden and unexpected fall of a rectangular piece of conglomerate rock and of sandstone post—defined by a network or segregation of open joints or fissures, known as "graybacks," that are common in the roof of the Newcastle coal-seam. That the separation or fracture of this piece of rock was probably induced by the dead-weight exerted upon it of 25 feet of wet sand, and the superadded weight of the water during an exceptionally high tide.

Second.—That the position of this fall was opposite to or over a narrow bord 6 yards (six yards) in width, and in the locality near to E on plan No. 1. And that up to the time of the accident the roof near to this site gave no evidence of weakness; but, on the contrary, appeared to be sound, and was supported or strengthened by an ample amount of timber.

Third.—That the accident was not foreseen, nor could it have been anticipated to occur where it did, and for this reason could not have been prevented.

Fourth.—That the deceased, John Jenkins, miner, met his death by drowning, being in all probability swept away (by the impetuosity of the stream of water that was passing his road) while attempting to escape. He was of diminutive stature (about 5 feet in height), and a cripple; so that, unaided, he could scarcely be expected to buffet his way successfully through such a torrent to a place of safety.

Fifth.

Fifth.—That John Powell was vested with the full control and management of Ferndale Colliery by the proprietors, and that (so far as the Commission are able to judge) he carried on his underground operations in a regular and systematic manner. The irregularities in the occurrence and in the deposition of the coal-seam, and the difficulties that were encountered in the course of working, were numerous, and in surmounting these and providing for the general safety he exercised care and judgment.

Sixth.—For reasons already given, and from the evidence adduced, the Commission can attach no blame to the Manager, officials, or owners for the accident of 18th March ultimo, whereby one man lost his life, and much valuable property was inundated beyond hope of recovery.

The Commission having arrived at the above conclusions, desire to express, *in the light of subsequent events*, their views on the following points:—

They believe Mr. Powell to be an active, careful, and prudent Manager, who dealt with difficulties in a creditable manner. His ability as a Manager is attested by the regularity of the workings delineated on the plan; his care and solicitude for the safety of the men, by the large amount of timber he permitted them to use. This involved a heavy expenditure, which the owners do not appear to have grudged. Ferndale was a small colliery, and the limited area of coal to work did not justify any extravagant expenditure on machinery or expensive cutting to unwater the numerous hollows from which the coal had to be removed. Notwithstanding his asseverations to the contrary, the Commission are inclined to look upon the formation of narrow bords, especially near the crop, the excessive amount of timber, the formation of crop barriers of coal, the driving of very narrow drifts up to the surface deposits, and the erection of strong barricades (although precautionary measures of the right kind) as indicative of a feeling of insecurity in Mr. Powell's mind.

The Commission do not see that he could have taken more effectual means of securing the safety of the mine, unless he had caused a series of surface bores to have been put down at short intervals to guide him in his work.

It is somewhat remarkable that the surface deposits did not break down in the face of these exploring drifts, where there was no solid strata to resist their weight, but broke down through a thickness of rock believed to be solid, and almost double the thickness of the sand and silt. The reason for this has already been given, but it is a point which the Commission feel is of the utmost moment, and deserves the dispassionate and calm consideration of all those who work minerals under similar conditions. The fact that at Ferndale 25 feet of sand and water broke through 40 or 42 feet of rock, while the surface deposits in the face of drifts a few yards to the north remain sound, is a serious point that cannot well be overlooked when considering the limits within which coal-mining can safely be carried on under estuarine deposits or bodies of water.

Where the fall occurred the roof was to all appearance sound; only two bords lower down or to the south the conglomerate came down to the top of the coal. To drive bords narrower than the width that, for some reason, has been adopted as the district standard, viz., 8 yards, involves the payment to the miners of yardage rates, in addition to the ordinary cost of hewing, that materially adds
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to the expense of winning the coal, and when to this is added the heavy outlay for sets of timber, placed every 18 inches or 2 feet apart, the winning of coal becomes unprofitable. The Commission are satisfied that, with the experience gained by the occurrence of this catastrophe, it is probable that a fall such as that which took place at J headings will not in future be disregarded by thoughtful managers, but that a wide berth—ample marginal security—will be given to silty deposits overlying shallow coal-workings. It is obvious that no very great reliance can be placed on the soundness or cohesion of a roof rock directly exposed to the decomposing influences of sand and water, that may be intersected with fissures or “gray-backs” that do not always betray their presence to the men engaged at coal-getting.

The Commission believe that from the regular and thorough manner Mr. Inspector Dixon inspected this colliery a dangerous condition of the roof or of the workings was unlikely to escape his notice. It was with some regret that they were informed that the Examiner of Coal-fields had not seen the underground workings of No. 8 section of this colliery; and that, unless on receipt of an alarming report from one of the Inspectors of Collieries, he did not, from a sense of duty, examine the underground workings of any coal-mine. This seems to betray an inactivity and a want of interest in the great industry which renders his office necessary. It is quite possible, from his multifarious duties, that he can ill spare the time necessary to inspect extensive colliery workings. Still, in the case of collieries such as Ferndale, contiguous to his residence, which he knew was surrounded by tidal swamps, his occasional presence in the workings might have led to representations as to working so near to tidal waters, and, possibly, to a modification of the mode of working that might have averted the evil day.

The cost of producing coal from Ferndale Colliery was high, and occasionally amounted very nearly to the price obtained for the coal. Such a discouraging result is not anticipated when capital is embarked in an industry that is doing so much to develop the resources of the Colony. Surrounded, as Ferndale is, by collieries working the same bed of coal, but under conditions so favourable as to ensure large dividends as a reward for the enterprise and the invested capital of the proprietors, the continuance of this colliery must have been somewhat disheartening to the owners, notwithstanding the outlays on yardage, for narrow bords, for water-bailing, and for timber to ensure the safety and comfort of the workmen. It is to the credit of the owners that they at no time attempted to curtail the expenditure on these items, or were tempted to work their mine in a niggardly or cheeseparing manner, but considered the safety of the workmen and “the efficiency of the mine” their first anxiety and object. And this may now afford them some consolation for the loss they have sustained by the inundation of their mine.

In investigating into the cause of this colliery disaster, by which one poor man was lost, and the lives of many others were for a time placed in extreme peril, the Commission feel it to be a pleasure to place upon record the gallant and self-sacrificing conduct of the two young lads, John Powell and David Jones, who, at the imminent risk of their own lives, instantly warned the miners working in the lower bords of the occurrence of the accident, thereby averting a loss of life fearful to contemplate. The promptitude of John Smith (the Deputy), of Isaac Hadfield, and others in returning to the scene of the accident, and especially of the ceaseless and fearless intrepidity and activity of the Manager during the anxious hours

hours that preceded the rescue of John Hargreaves, is deserving of special commendation. To a man of the practical mind, and so anxious for the safety of his workmen, as Mr. John Powell is, as well as to the intelligent and observant Managers and men engaged at the surrounding collieries, the Commission feel every confidence that the calamity that unexpectedly befel Ferndale Colliery on the 18th of March last will be useful and bear good fruit, it may be, in emancipating the industry from the fetters of withering and empirical customs, and enunciating thoughtful and practicable schemes for winning and working coal-seams under conditions that may, forsooth, involve in some cases modifications, and in others a departure from existing systems, but calculated to facilitate the getting and increase the safety of the workmen and the security of the mines.

We have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

JAMES R. M. ROBERTSON, President.

W. DAVIES.

J. Y. NEILSON.

WILLIAM TURNBULL.

JOHN JONES.

ARCHIBALD DURIE.

JOHN USHER.

JOHN THOMAS.

JAMES CURLEY.

JAS. SWINBURN.

Newcastle, 21st July, 1886.

MONDAY, 31 MAY, 1886.

Present:—

J. R. M. ROBERTSON, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., C.E., PRESIDENT.

MR. J. USHER.
MR. J. THOMAS.
MR. J. Y. NEILSON.
MR. W. TURNBULL.
MR. J. SWINBURN.

MR. JAS. CURLEY.
MR. JOHN JONES.
MR. WM. DAVIES.
MR. A. DURIE.

John Powell sworn and examined:—

1. *President.*] We understand you were manager of the Ferndale Colliery, Mr. Powell? Yes, I was manager of the Ferndale Colliery. Mr.
John Powell
31 May, 1886.
2. What experience have you had as a manager? My experience has been confined to Newcastle, in which district I have been employed thirty-two years, off and on.
3. How long were you manager of the Ferndale Colliery? Six years. I had been working there as overman since the pit started.
4. Who appointed you as manager? Mr. Alexander Brown.
5. Who were the owners of the Ferndale Colliery at that time? Messrs. Bingle, White, Harper, and Bevan.
6. Who are the present owners of the colliery? Messrs. Law, Sweetland, Fletcher, and Stokes.
7. Was the whole control of the colliery operations entrusted to you? Yes.
8. Did Mr. Brown hand over to you the entire control of the mine? Yes.
9. Had you any previous experience in the management of collieries? I never managed a colliery before, but I have had both pit and tunnel experience.
10. Have you got a working plan of the colliery? Yes. [Mr. Powell lodges the principal colliery plan of the Ferndale mine and tracing thereof.]
11. *President.*] Has this plan been kept up regularly since the opening of the colliery? Yes.
12. Were surveys of the colliery taken at regular periods? Yes.
13. What interval of time would elapse between the taking of each survey? Sometimes a month, sometimes less.
14. I do not observe that the dates of these surveys have been marked on the plan—have you anything to say in respect to that? Simply that it never has been done, either before or since I became manager.
15. Who made the surveys? I made the surveys after Mr. Simpson left; that is six years ago.
16. When were operations in the colliery commenced? It had been working for nine years.
17. That is, it commenced in the year 1877? Yes, in the beginning of 1877.
18. Who commenced it? Mr. Harper. He was manager and part proprietor.
19. Then Messrs. Harper, White, Bingle, and Bevan were owners at this time? Yes.
20. What is the depth of the drawing shaft? 49 feet 6 inches.
21. You say Mr. Harper first managed the colliery; who was your predecessor in the management? Mr. Simpson.
22. Can you give us the date upon which you were appointed manager of the colliery? I do not remember the exact date; it is about six years ago.
23. Was the Ferndale Colliery sunk on a freehold estate? Yes; it was ground purchased by the Company—an 11-acre block.
24. Was that the entire area? Yes.
25. Did the owners secure any land, on leasehold or otherwise, adjoining this block, subsequently? Yes; they bought forty-four allotments on Pepper Town.
26. Was this freehold? Yes; and they bought 15 acres from Mr. Winship.
27. Have they acquired any leasehold land? Yes, from the inhabitants of Tighe's Hill and Peppertown.
28. And this was taken at a royalty per ton? Yes; some nine-pence, some six-pence, and some one shilling.
29. Do you know the area of the land leased? I cannot tell; there was some at Wickham, in different blocks. We had worked somewhere about 100 acres, and about 100 acres remained in pillars.
30. Did the leases you have referred to contain any provision as to the mode of working the colliery? I cannot tell you; I never saw them.
31. Did they contain any provision as to the removal of the pillars? No.
32. Ferndale is, I think, an easterly extension of Tighe's Hill? Yes, it runs east and west.
33. And Tighe's Hill is a low ridge of conglomerate, that has a northward and south-east trend? Yes.
34. And to the south, the ridge is bounded by a creek? Yes, we call it Tighe's Hill; a branch of Throsby's Creek.
35. Is this creek of any depth? Well, no; except when the tide is up, some of it is without water.
36. It is then a tidal stream? Yes.
37. With a muddy or rocky bottom? With mud, and rock in parts.
38. What is the nature of the country next to Ferndale? Next to Ferndale, to the south, it is conglomerate, and when you come to the east it is conglomerate till you come down to the flat, when there is about 60 feet of sand above the conglomerate.
39. To the north and east of Tighe's Hill there is a gradual fall into low-lying and swampy land? Yes.
40. And that is covered by mangroves, and is subject to tidal influence? Yes.
41. To the west, does the coal worked at Ferndale underlie this ridge of Tighe's Hill—that is, Peppertown? Yes.
42. What coal-seam did you work at Ferndale? The Borehole seam—the same seam as is worked in other collieries in Newcastle.
43. What is the nature of the roof to the south? So far as we have been, it is mostly conglomerate.
44. What is the nature of it in the low swampy ground south of the creek? Going towards Maryvale it is sand and clay.

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45. Is this expanse of plain covered by alluvial deposits? Yes; it consists of clay, sand, and shelly substance.
46. Does the Borehole seam underlie these alluvial deposits? Yes; it slopes off into the creek, and crops in the creek towards the south-west.
47. Then the Borehole seam does not underlie the valley beyond, to the north-west? No, it crops before then.
48. Going across the hollow again, does the Borehole seam re-appear? Yes.
49. At Waratah? No, not at Waratah, but further towards Hamilton; it does not re-appear till it goes into the hill, and under that hill the Waratah Company work the same coal-seam.
50. Is the Borehole seam subject to "faults" west of Ferndale shaft? No; there has been no fault at all west of the shaft.
51. What is its dip or pitch? Sometimes it makes rolls, but is of uniform thickness, about 60 yards to the east of the shaft, with a regular thickness to the crop.
52. What is the thickness? From 16 to 17 feet.
53. And lies at a low angle, undisturbed by faults? Yes.
54. And then dips to the south and south-east? Yes.
55. And from Waratah the outcrop follows a long sweep, by Lambton and the A. A. Company? Yes.
56. And across, under the harbour, by Bullock Island and Maryvale, and joins the Ferndale dip coal? Yes.
57. Then in that case Tighe's Hill is an outlyer of the Waratah Ranges? Yes.
58. And is surrounded by swamps? Yes.
59. And in these the coal crops out? Yes.
60. And these swamps to the south, south-east, east, and north-east, and north, are more or less under tidal influence? Yes, the greater portion of them.
61. What is the natural dip of the coal-seam at Ferndale, west of the shaft? To the west of the shaft it is from 17 to 18 feet.
62. I asked what is the dip? It is to the rise.
63. What is the course of the dip—the direction? South-east; that is, extreme to the south and gradually to the east.
64. What formed your south-western boundary in the western section of the coal-field? The Maitland Road was our boundary.
65. You have worked the coal under the Maitland Road, I believe? Yes.
66. What depth is the coal from the surface under that road? It is about 15 feet from the surface down to the roof of the coal.
67. Of what rock is the roof composed? Soft post.
68. And to the south-west of the Maitland Road, what is the depth of the coal? It crops out just beyond the Maitland Road.
69. In that swampy hollow formed by the elbow of Tighe's Creek, is the coal found? Yes, it is found in the swampy hollow at Tighe's Creek.
70. Then, between the Ferndale workings and the outcrops to the south-west of the Maitland Road, has the coal been worked by other parties? It has been worked by Mr. Bevan, and by Chas. Austin, and several small owners.
71. Are the workings of these small collieries connected with those of Ferndale? Yes.
72. Were any barriers left between them? I left a barrier of coal between Tighe's Hill and Peppertown.
73. But in these little collieries that you have spoken of, do you know what was the nature of the surface deposits above the coal-seam? It was clay and conglomerate, and in the crop it would be mostly composed of this rotten post, with a body of clay on the top of it.
74. Do you know whether these surface deposits gave these owners any trouble? I do not think so.
75. Was the surface of the crop-workings covered by the tide in that position? No.
76. Have the pillars in these collieries been taken out? We took out all the pillars in Peppertown.
77. But I am now speaking of these little collieries? Yes, the pillars were taken out.
78. Did they take them out to the very crop? Yes; they took all they could.
79. Then these collieries, being connected with Ferndale, will now be drowned out? Yes; every one of them.
80. In the western workings of Ferndale the coal-workings appear to have been remarkably regular,—were they as regular in reality as they are on the plan? Yes.
81. The mode of working has, I see, been that of pillar and stall; Yes; 8-yard bords and 4-yard pillars.
82. Do the managers of other collieries in the district follow the same rule as to width of bords and size of pillars? Yes; that is the district rule wherever I have been working.
83. Is this rule followed irrespective of depth? Yes.
84. Can you assign the reason of following such an arbitrary rule? Well, I always worked 8-yard bords when the covering was supposed to be strong enough, and if it was thought the covering was not strong enough they would be worked from 4 to 6 yards.
85. Why should all collieries, irrespective of depth or position, work their coal with 8-yard bords? Can you give any reason for that? No, except that it is customary in all parts of the world where I have been.
86. On looking at your tracing of the plan, the coal-workings are represented to terminate abruptly, and follow a curved line,—does this curved line indicate the position of the outcrop? Yes.
87. That is where the coal has become lost in the level deposits? Yes.
88. Does the coal rise rapidly coming towards the crop? When it comes near the crop it rises very rapidly.
89. And this crop follows the margin of the low ridge called Tighe's Hill? Yes.
90. What was the roof of the coal composed of in this section—the western section? Principally of conglomerate.
91. And did the surface come down and cut out the conglomerate? Yes.
92. Then in that case what was in front of the coal-seams? Sand and clay.
93. Can you give us a section by word of mouth? It is clay in the first place, and just on the edge of where the rock is beginning to form it is rotten post and clay. I did not sink it myself.

Mr.
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94. It was not a hard strata of even coal? No; 10 yards from the drawing-pit it is a strong roof to the south.
95. Then Ferndale shaft has just been sunk in a sort of gutter? Yes.
96. Towards the crop, did the conglomerate give place to sand suddenly or gradually? Sometimes there would be a portion of post in it. Some places it would be 6 or 7 inches, and in others as high as a foot, and cut out the conglomerate.
97. When you struck the surface deposits to the north-west and north, did these deposits give you any trouble? Only in one portion of the mine.
98. Have you taken out the whole of the pillars in this section? No, not one; I have not taken out the pillars to the east of Ferndale drawing-shaft anywhere.
99. But I mean that section to the west? We have taken out all pillars to the west of Waratah Railway, excepting under the Maitland Road.
100. Did you experience any difficulty from the surface in doing so? No.
101. What measures did you take to prevent it filling up the workings? We took no measures at all. We took the pillars out and let it fall.
102. Was there any surface-water? None whatever.
103. Contiguous to the shaft I believe you experienced some difficulty from a "cave-in"—did it give you some trouble? Yes.
104. Would you tell us about it? In the flat of Tighe's Hill, in four different places, the roof fell in, and worked out to the crop, so that there was no covering to support the crop, and we had to construct a dam to keep the water back.
105. Did any water come in along with the sand? Yes; a considerable quantity came in, but we made these dams, and kept it back.
106. I understand this part of the workings is above tidal influence? Yes; but there is a great body of water in the sand, down about 15 feet.
107. To the south of the pit and towards the Maitland Road we understand these straight headings are called No. 2 headings—is that so? Yes.
108. Then do these blanks (shown on the plan) in this direction represent the position of the private collieries referred to? Yes.
- [Marked "12" within a circle.]
109. What is the depth to the coal-seam worked there? About 35 feet to 38 feet.
110. West of this ("12") a few bords from Ferndale have undermined the Maitland Road. Are all your workings in this part shown on the plan? Yes.
111. How far have these bords gone? Just across to the boundary.
112. You observe that the creek approaches the road at this point? Yes.
113. Have any of your workings gone under the creek? No.
114. Then your workings are limited to the boundary of the Maitland Road? Yes.
115. Are you perfectly sure? I am.
116. What depth is the coal from the bed of the creek? I should say it would be about 28 or 30 feet to the top of the coal.
117. Immediately beyond the creek there is a small coal-shaft—to whom does that belong? To Messrs. Broughall & Griffiths; it formerly belonged to Mr. Green.
118. Do you know anything about the nature of the roof in that pit? I do not.
119. Had you any considerable growth of water from the Ferndale workings? Yes.
120. Where did the water come from? From a flat in the old workings to the west of Ferndale shaft.
121. How much water did you get? We were pumping in No. 8 16,000 gals. an hour.
122. Did you pump to the surface? Yes—that is, in the eastern workings.
123. Had the amount of water increased since you were appointed manager? Yes.
124. Did any portion of this water come out of the surface deposits? No, none.
125. Did any come from the crop workings? No.
126. Did any sand come in with the water? No.
127. From Ferndale shaft the heading has been driven due south? Yes—called No. 2.
128. To the east of that heading (would you look at the plan, please?) blank spaces marked 10, 11, and 12, within circles, are shown,—do these spaces represent the sizes of the private collieries? Yes.
129. And are the workings of these collieries and those of Ferndale colliery connected? Yes.
130. Does the same remark apply to coal-workings marked 15 and 16? Yes.
131. Is Bevan's colliery—marked 14, within a circle—drowned out? Yes.
132. Do the workings join with those of 15 and 16? They join with Hurstville and with Ferndale.
133. Then, from a point that I have marked B on No. 2 south heading, you have driven along the dip road due east? Yes.
134. How many chains have you driven these dip bords? About 30 chains.
135. About 5 chains down this dip road, from B, you seem to have struck a roll? Yes.
136. Was the coal very irregular under this roll? Yes, very irregular.
137. Is the direction of the roll N.E. and S.W.? Yes, somewhere about that.
138. Crossing that roll, was the coal-seam of a wavy character? Yes; unmarketable.
139. The direction of the roll leaves a considerable area of ground to the east of the winning shaft? Yes.
140. And to the north of Millar's shaft, marked 10 on the plan,—was that area of ground faulty or troubled? No; it was clean coal.
141. What was the thickness of the coal in that part west of the roll? From 17 to 18 feet.
142. In winning it, had you to strip the west side of the roll? No.
143. Did you work the coal up to the roll? Yes.
144. Did you get any water from it? No; it was quite dry.
145. Working the coal towards the north of that same area, did you reach the surface deposits? Yes.
146. What did you get at the face? Sand and clay.
147. And you traced this surface or crop as far eastward as the roll would permit? Yes.
148. Did any water come from the surface at the crop? No.
149. What description of roof did you have in this area? Sandstone and post—a strong roof.
150. And as you approached the surface did this roof disappear? Yes.

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151. Before it gave out, was it rotten or treacherous? It would become rotten at once as the coal died out.
152. In approaching the crop, did you require to use extra timber to support the roof? No; as soon as we got the clay we stopped.
153. Did you reduce the size of the bords? No; not in that portion.
154. Did this roll, where it crossed the dip road, in any way alter the character of the coal-seam? It went from 13 feet to 6 feet in thickness.
155. How did the coal become reduced—was it the bottom coal that checked out? No, it was the top coal; the bottom continued and the jerry continued.
156. A portion of the roof coal seemed to be displaced by conglomerate? Yes.
157. Have you prepared a section of the coal-seam? Yes. (Two sections produced.)
Dictated by President.] Mr. Powell explains that at the top of one of the waves the coal thickened, and, when it formed a hollow, the conglomerate came down and cut out the top coal.
158. *President.*] What thickness was this troubled coal? 10 chains.
159. Then to the east of that roll, roughly speaking, the conglomerate seems to have cut off about 11 or 12 feet of the top coal from the thickness of the coal? Yes.
160. What thickness of coal had you in the dip roads to the east of the roll? From about 5 feet 6 inches to 6 feet.
161. To the south of the dip roads, coming towards the creek, you have not worked a large area of coal? The top coal is cut out altogether.
162. With what? With sandstone and conglomerate.
163. What is the thickness of the coal-seam to the dip of the dip roads? From 2 feet 6 inches to 3 feet; it runs as high as 3 feet 3 inches in some places.
164. Is that 3 feet 3 inches bottom coal? Yes.
165. At C on the tracing, your dip road seems to have terminated—contiguous to that point the position is shown of a pumping-pit 111 feet deep? Yes.
166. Is that the last part of your workings? No.
Dictated by President.] Mr. Powell explains that the levels driven from C fall about 9 feet.
167. And you have told us that you pumped 16,000 gallons an hour from that pit—was the water fresh or salt? It was salt water.
168. Where did it come from? Principally from the hard roof of conglomerate.
Dictated by President.] Mr. Powell explains that where the conglomerate came down in the dips to the bottom coal the quantity of water increased.
169. From this water-pit your levels extend to the north-east about 16 chains? Yes.
170. What stopped your working in that direction towards the east? A "fault."
171. Is that fault of any size? I have driven into it 30 yards without getting any signs of the coal. I believe it is about 50 yards wide. We put a bore 58 yards the other side, and cut coal. The further we went into the fault the less water we got.
172. The bulk of your workings in this direction seems to have been to the north or rise of the dip roads in that level? Yes.
173. What thickness of cover or roof had you in the bulk of that area? From 109 to 148 feet.
174. Did you leave any pillars thicker than 4 yards? Yes; in some places they would be 6 yards; but the average pillars were 4 yards.
175. Did you take any pillars out of this area? No, none whatever.
176. To the north of these dip roads on the plan you seem to have worked the coal up to the surface? We have worked it out to the crop.
177. And exposed it for fully half a mile? Yes; here and there we have worked it right through.
178. This line of crop follows the contour of the north ridge—what does it consist of? Vegetable matter, black silt, and sand, extending to the scrub or mangrove.
179. Did you prove the thickness along that line? Only when we drove through to the crop.
180. You did not put down bores to ascertain its consistency? No; not on that side at all.
181. Without this knowledge you continued to work your section up to the crop and under the tidal swamps—did you consider that a safe proceeding? I did.
182. Is the crop flooded east of the letter H on the tracing? It is.
183. At the point, letter I on the tracing, is the crop covered by the flood-water? No, it is not.
184. How far off the high-water-mark is it? I should say about 2 or 3 chains.
185. And not knowing the thickness of the clay or sand, with the tidal waters covering the coal-crop, you continued to work the coal up to the crop? Yes, so long as the coal was marketable.
186. And you considered that safe? Yes, I did.
187. Did you take any special precautions for strengthening the crop bords? I did. I timbered them wherever I thought it was required.
188. The plan shows bords of 8 yards driven in a line with the crop—is that correct? Yes; but in some places we reduced the width.
189. I want to direct your attention to these bords not going up on end to the crop, but driven along the line of crop. Yes.
190. Well, do you consider that safe? Yes.
191. What kind of roof did you trace along the crop at that part? It was post along the crop.
192. Did it require extra timbering? All these bords were double timbered. The reason was that the nature of the roof was treacherous.
193. Then was it the fact that you worked some of the bords narrow and timbered with double timber, because you saw evidence of danger? It was an evidence of danger for the men only, but not for the roof to come in; the post ran from 2 to 3 feet up to the conglomerate, which, carrying water, was calculated to soften what was below it.
194. Then this double timber was to keep up the strata below the conglomerate and above the coal? Yes.
195. Then, looking at the plan again, and at the point marked E, towards the dip to the level, the bords were approaching the "fault" referred to,—how many of these bords had been worked forward to the fault? Two.
196. And the bords to the north of this were approaching the line of this fault? Yes; the tenth bord above the level had been driven in advance of the other workings up to the line of the "fault." 197.

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197. How many bords above that have reached the fault? None.
198. When was the last survey taken of these places? On the 14th March.
199. That was four days before the accident? Yes.
200. It was from the bords approaching the fault that your output was derived? Yes.
201. And these bords could not long have continued? No.
202. Then if you look towards the top line from "I" on the plan, the line of high-water is projected some chains to the north, and at "J" the line of crop strikes due east to "K,"—did you work the coal till you struck the surface deposits in this part? No.
203. Did you work the coal up to the surface deposits at "J"? No.
- Dictated by President:* Mr. Powell explains that at "J" two narrow headings were driven in advance of the workings until they struck the surface deposits; and at "K" another narrow heading had been driven in advance of the workings until it also struck the surface deposits. The face of these roads were about 24 yards in advance of the bords.
204. To the south of "K" two bords, about 30 yards back, down the heading, seem to have been stopped? Yes.
205. Why were they stopped? Owing to the crop here in the coal getting soft.
- NOTE.*—Mr. Powell hands in a section referred to as a section in a north and south line from No. 2 bord of the workings to the dip of the levels to point "C" on tracing.
206. What was the condition of the face of the third bord below "K"? It was good.
207. Were these bords holed into each other? No.
208. What width were they driven? 8 yards.
209. Were the two uppermost driven 8 yards until stopped at the crop? Yes; the next was 6 yards, and the next was 4 yards.
210. Did they come upon any water? No.
211. From the point marked "I" on the plan to "J" and "K" the coal is covered by sea-water from Throsby Creek, is it not? No, not exactly; "I" is not covered. Two chains from the east of "I" to "K" and "J" the top of the coal is covered by sea-water from Throsby Creek.
212. When you worked the coal, were you aware that they were covered with this tidal water? Yes, I was aware.
213. And did this not raise any suspicion of danger in your mind? No, it did not.
214. Then again, in the neighbourhood of "I" an irregular pencil line sweeps round from the workings until it approaches the water-pit at "C,"—what does it represent? It represents high-water-mark.
215. Does it fairly represent the extent or limit of the tidal waters? Yes.
216. If this is so, it would appear that the whole of the coal you were raising months before the accident was taken from under tidal swamps bordering on Throsby Creek? Yes.
217. You had worked out upwards of 10 acres of coal from under these swamps? Yes.
218. And you did not apprehend danger? No, none whatever.
219. In conducting the workings here, did you use extra timber? Yes; all the bords were double timbered.
220. Why? Owing to the bad nature of the stone up to the "post" under the conglomerate.
221. But not from any feeling of insecurity as to the surface? None whatever; we did it because when this post broke down we should come to the conglomerate, and it was soft.
222. From the point "F" where the fall took place, a narrow heading was driven to "K"—a distance of how many yards? 54 yards.
223. Why did you stop that heading? Because it went into clay and sand.
224. Did you see clay and sand in front? Yes.
225. What width was this narrow heading driven? It was about 2 feet 6 inches high; about as small as a man could follow it there and travel back.
226. Was extra timber used to secure it? No timber was used here at all.
227. Was the roof rotten? Yes.
228. When the heading reached the crop, did they come upon any estuarine deposits, or any water? None whatever.
229. Did you erect any barricade across the heading? I did. (Mr. Powell marks on the plan the position of this barricade—X.)
230. Why did you erect a barricade there? In case it would collapse inside.
231. Why did you anticipate a collapse? Owing to the nature of the soil—the clay and sand.
232. Then a pair of headings were driven up to the point "J" on the plan,—were these places driven up to the surface deposits? Yes, they were driven up to the clay.
233. What was the nature of the roof? Black clay.
234. Were these headings extra timbered? Yes; double timbers were used up to the small drive of about half a chain.
235. Did any fall take place when these headings were driven? Yes; we were driving to ascertain where the crop was, and when the men, having knocked off, came back next morning the place was closed with black clay and a little sand. It fell through the night.
236. Were there any shells? No, and there was no water.
237. Did this not frighten you? No, it did not frighten me at all.
238. When did the fall take place that drowned out the Ferndale Colliery? On the 18th March last.
239. Were all the men in the pit? No; it was about ten minutes to 8 in the morning.
240. At what spot did the fall take place? The mark "F" on the plan represents the exact spot where the fall took place.
241. Was the roof tender in this place? No; from what we had seen of it the roof was good.
242. Beyond that, was it rotten? Beyond that the roof was getting softer and becoming rotten.
243. Had water been dripping from this roof? No; there was no water at all.
244. How do you account for a fall taking place where the roof was good? Well, where this fall took place a lot of what we call gray facings were present—a heap of them together, or "gray backs," that is how I account for the fall; they cut straight upward.
245. Had you not any evidence of this in the workings? None until I saw it take place; the sides of the "fall-in" being as clean as the sides of a house.

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246. Where were you at the time the accident happened? I was having my breakfast at the time.
247. Well, what did you do when you heard of it? I went down to the pit as quickly as I could.
248. Did you not consider that the workings under these estuarine deposits of unknown thickness imperilled the safety of the mine and the lives of the workmen? No; I believed they were all safe, and did not apprehend any danger whatever.
249. At any time did you in conversation with your owners, or any one of them, refer to the coal-workings under these swamps? No.
250. Did they ever express any anxiety on the subject to you? No.
251. Did you meet them regularly? Yes.
252. Was not this subject a theme of conversation? No; not any more than to ask if we were working in the tidal workings, and I would say yes.
253. Then it was a theme of conversation? No; I simply informed them as I have said.
254. Did the men appoint Check Inspectors to examine the colliery? Yes.
255. How often did they examine the workings? They examined them every month until lately, when they examined them every three months. The Check Inspectors examined in October and in the latter part of February, or beginning of March—two or three weeks before the accident took place.
256. Did they complain of any portion of the mine? No.
257. Have you a copy of their report? No; they never entered the last examination; in fact one of the Inspectors died three or four days after that.
258. Did the Inspectors ever complain to you about these rise-bords? No.
259. Did they ever suggest to you that you were taking an improper course in working the mine? No.
260. Do you know of any boreholes to the north-east of your workings? I do. [The witness pointed out position on plan, marked "M."]
261. What depth was that bore? 107 feet.
262. How many feet do the surface deposits measure? I believe from 50 to 60 feet.
263. Who put it down—that is, the borehole? Mr. Henderson.
264. Were any other parts of the swamp tested? Yes; there is a bore here to the east, in a line with the dip levels (marked "N" on the plan), about a chain beyond the fall.
265. What depth is the bore? 119 feet, and 61 feet to the sand, the remainder being conglomerate and post.
266. You have mentioned one fall that took place along the crop-line at "K,"—do you know of any other falls along that line? No.
267. Did it not occur to you that it would have been a safe and necessary precaution to have left broad pillars of coal along this crop to protect the surface? Well, I left as much as I thought was necessary for safety.
268. How much have you left? About 26 yards.
269. Do you know Mr. Croudace? I do.
270. Have you had any conversation with him as to the nature of the operations at Ferndale? No.
271. Was he ever down your colliery? Yes.
272. When was that? I should say about twelve months ago.
273. For what purpose was he there? To report on the mine.
274. For whom was he to report? For the Company.
275. Did he do so? I believe he did.
276. Did he examine all the working-places? Yes; all the working-places at that time, but we were then a considerable distance from the place where the fall-in occurred.
277. Did he warn you of your danger in working under the tidal waters? No, he did not.
278. Have you ever seen his report? No.
279. Have you ever asked to see it? No.
280. Has he expressed any opinion to you since? No; the only expression he made to me was that it was a most difficult mine to work—the most difficult he had seen in the district.
281. Did you measure the thickness of the surface at the site of the accident? Yes.
282. What was the thickness of the seam there? The coal-seam, where the fall took place, was 5 feet 6 inches.
283. What was the thickness of the rock? There was 30 feet of post, and 10 feet of conglomerate above that.
284. Was the rock firm? Yes.
285. In working these bords up to the crop, did you consider the pressure that was on each? No, I did not.
286. You say there were how many feet of sand? 23 feet of sand and 2 feet of clay.
287. Then at the face of these bords that reached the surface you would have about 65 feet of surface? Somewhere about that.
288. That was equal to about 2 or 3 tons pressure per square foot, or 45 lbs. pressure per square inch,—do not you consider that forms an element of danger? No; I could not see any danger.
289. How do you account for 40 ft. thickness of rock falling in? I account for the "fall in" by these narrow facings and the softening of the coal and roof.
290. Did you examine the surface deposits after the previous fall? No; naturally, during that time, we were trying to stop the water from coming in. There was 2 feet of clay on the top of the conglomerate and the rest was drift-sand.
291. Then in the space of 50 yards you seem to have lost almost 40 feet of rock cover? Yes. When it does come down it comes down as straight as the wall of this room.
292. When you put in that barricade at the foot of "K" (drift), did you not fear that an accident might eventually happen? No, I did not.
293. How many acres have disappeared on the surface in consequence of the late accident at Ferndale? About 3½. Nearly 100,000 cubic yards of sand disappeared into the workings in consequence of the fall on the 18th March.
294. Did you see the fall that took place from the workings? Yes; I was in a dozen times at the bottom of it. We had to work our way through the whole of the workings. The water had choked the travelling roads; the mangroves had closed them, and we had to go over the falls.

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295. Did you go down to save the lives of any of the men? Yes; I was down five hours after the accident happened. I was down all the time. We could not get to the bords where Jenkins and Hargraves were supposed to be. Just as we were coming to the surface a report came that there were voices heard in the "fall-in." Hardie and some other men were there, and I got ropes and took some men with me and endeavoured to get to the bottom of the fall-in. I had been within 30 yards of it, a dozen times. We had to work round the stoppings, and I rushed through, and was in 10 yards when I was told that the man Hargraves had been pulled up before we got there. I then fetched the rest of the men along with me to seek for the last man in the pit, and we worked ourselves round the face workings, that is, Nos. 3, 4, and 5 bords, and when we came to No. 6, a cut-through between 5 and 6 was filled up to the roof with sand.

296. Is it not known whether Jenkins had left his own bord? No; he had his clothes on it appears when the boys called him last. He was in for the last skip, and they were going to take the skip into him when the fall-in occurred. Jenkins was an elderly man and a cripple. He was not the man to stick in his bord and not make a struggle to go from there under the circumstances.

297. Is not this a lesson or argument of the danger of approaching tidal swamps in underground workings? It would be a lesson no doubt, but I never saw anything approaching danger at all; if I had, I should have stopped it at once.

298. *Mr. Neilson.*] As to the Check Inspectors, do you and your officers and others consult as to the complaints entered in the Check Inspectors' books? The books speak for themselves, and there was no complaint whatever. They could always be seen.

299. *Mr. Jones.*] Did you consider the barrier you have mentioned sufficient in case of a fall of water? Yes.

300. *Mr. Davies.*] Who were the Check Inspectors? Hopkins and Morrer.

301. Is the Check Inspectors' book lying in the office? Yes.

302. *President.*] Can you produce it? Yes.

303. *Mr. Davies.*] Is Morrer in the district? Yes; he is stopping at Islington.

304. You say that the proprietors never warned you, and that you never warned the proprietors, as to any danger in connection with your operations? Not specially. The proprietors were aware of it.

305. But if there had been any danger it was your duty to inform them? Oh, yes; and anybody else. I had full charge of the place, and took all the precautions I possibly could. If there was immediate danger apprehended in any direction the foreman and deputy could call anyone they wanted to make everything secure.

306. Did you make out in writing an official periodical report? Oh, yes; I reported generally once a month.

307. Did you at any time, in making out this report, mention the fact of these tidal waters coming over the strata of your property? No, I did not; but they knew as well as I did that we were working under the tidal waters.

308. Did the Check Inspectors have every facility for carrying out their duties? Yes. There was nobody to interfere with them. The foreman was always there to instruct them how they were to go, and where to go. The Inspectors were in the habit of going into the back workings, which I have never seen in any other pit in the district.

309. In putting in these small drives to prove the crop, do you not think it would have been a better plan to put down bores? No, I do not think it would have been, and the other way was certainly better on the score of expense. We were driving as small as a man could go. I have known instances where the coal would become just like "smut," and you would think the coal had given out, and after that we have met with really excellent coal further on.

310. Did the Inspector of Collieries at any time draw your attention to the fact that these tidal waters would be a source of danger to the mine? He drew my attention to the fact, but never pointed out any danger. He also asked what precautions I had taken, and I told him precisely what I have told you. He was there pretty often. He has gone through a portion of the old workings. The last time he was there he was through a portion of the old workings, close to where this accident took place. I asked him if he thought it was safe, and he said, "So far as timber is concerned it is as safe as being on the surface."

311. Did he see the barricades you had erected? He was not up to them the last time he was in.

312. Are you aware whether he had ever been over the surface, and seen this surface fall you have referred to in your evidence? He has seen that.

313. But previous to this accident? Not to my knowledge.

314. Then you did not report it to him? No. In fact, there were not half-a-dozen men in the pit knew about it till the late disaster happened. If the late fall had taken place when the tide was out, and had it not been spring tide, the thing would have choked itself, and nobody would have been much the wiser.

315. *President.*] That is your own supposition? Yes.

316. *Mr. Davies.*] Was this fact of the surface fall having taken place kept back from the men? No.

317. Had the men known that the fall had taken place, would they have worked there do you think? Some of the men who worked there did know of it.

318. Was not a portion of your workings drowned out some time previous? Yes; but not in the same direction, and it came from the best roof we had.

319. *Mr. Jones.*] As a matter of fact, you had in no way attempted to conceal this fall from the men? No.

320. It has been stated in evidence elsewhere that a number of the men in the mine knew of that fact? They might, but I think not. If I had been out of the mine an hour sooner I could have stopped that water from coming into the pit. I have stopped the water there in falls previously.

321. *President.*] Do you mean tidal water? No; but in the present case, if the tide had not come back on me so soon I would have stopped the flow with sand, which would have stopped it as long as I could go down with a staff of men, and put up a dam that would have effectually prevented it from coming in.

322. *Mr. Curley.*] You did not attempt to dam it up with bags of clay and so on, did you? It was no use. The water was driving everything before it. In fact, it was carrying trees down 40 and 50 feet high. The hole is open now, and the tide is rising and falling in the little pits all through the district.

323. *Mr. Usher.*] When Inspector Dixon expressed his opinion as to the safety of the workings in that particular part of the mine, did he take particular notice of the thickness of the pillars and the width of the bords? Yes.

324. *Mr. Curley.*] What number of water-balers had you? I had twenty-one.

The witness withdrew.

Joseph

Joseph Powell sworn and examined :—

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325. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am a miner, and was overman at Ferndale.
 326. How long have you occupied that position? For three years.
 327. Before that, in what capacity were you engaged? I was coal-mining at Ferndale.
 328. Have you worked in any of the adjoining collieries? I have worked at Wallsend.
 329. What were your duties as overman? My duties were to look after the shifting of coal, to see that everything was safe, that there was plenty of timber, and that the bords were of a certain width, whatever was determined upon.
 330. Since you became overman at Ferndale, have you been in the west workings towards the Maitland Road? Not since I have been overman. I was working there myself.
 331. Have you also been in the bords of No. 2 heading towards the creek to the west? Yes, I worked one bord there.
 332. It was from that heading that the dip started? Yes.
 333. And as overman you are acquainted with the dip roads and the large body of workings of the dip roads? Yes, down the incline.
 334. Throughout the whole of these bords that I have mentioned, were the bords driven of the same width? Not always.
 335. What was the usual width? Eight-yard bords generally, unless we were coming to the crop; then they were 6 yards, and some would be 4 yards.
 336. What thickness of pillars did you leave? Four yards.
 337. Were they left of the same size irrespective of depth from the surface? Yes, they were marked off all the same.
 338. Were the bords driven 8 yards irrespective of the depth? Yes, except where they approached the crop.
 339. And did you reduce the width of the bords in the case of a bad roof? Yes, always where there was a bad roof.
 340. Close to the winning-shaft, had you any solid strata above the coal? I cannot tell you; I did not work at sinking the shaft.
 341. Have you ever observed any falls of the surface into your workings near the shaft? Yes, there have been a few near the shaft.
 342. When these falls took place, did any solid strata come down? I cannot tell you, as I was not there when they did come down.
 343. How do you know that they did fall? Because I could see them on the surface.
 344. Are you aware whether any quantity of sand ran into your workings from some of these falls near to the shaft? Not that I am aware of. I never saw it.
 345. Have you heard of anything of the kind? No, not since I have been there.
 346. Have you seen any other part of the mine where the surface caved into the workings? Yes, about Pepper Town, where the high coal was. That can be seen every day in passing.
 347. Only in Pepper Town? And some down in Robinson's ground.
 348. In the rise workings of the dip roads, has any surface fallen there? I have never seen any surface fallen in anywhere down the dip workings, with the exception of the late big fall, and another little one alongside of it.
 349. What distance away was that other—the little fall? It may be 60 or 80 yards away from the other.
 350. What came down there? Clay came down there.
 351. Did no sand come down? No, not when it came down then. It choked itself.
 352. Did any water come? No. It fell a second time in the evening, and a little sand came then.
 353. Was a dam put in? We put in stoppings before it ran a second time.
 354. Was there a dam or barricade across the heading where this last accident took place. Yes, there were two or three there.
 355. Do you know the reason why these dams were put in? They were not dams; they were stoppings built of timber.
 356. They were barricades, then? Yes, with sleepers 4 feet thick.
 357. Why did you put in such strong barricades? Well, we were working close to the crop, and if we did not fill the place up something might run from the crop, and we did not want it to come on to the roads.
 358. Did it occur to you that there was any danger in working up towards the crop in that situation? No, or else I should not have gone there so often by myself, and through the old workings, and everywhere, alone.
 359. You say you reduced the width of the bords when you reached the crop? Yes; to 6 yards and 4 yards.
 360. Do you know the plan? No, I do not know the plan.
 361. You are aware that a long line of crop has been followed to where the fall took place—that a half mile of crop coal has been worked? Yes.
 362. Is it worked into the surface? Not quite.
 363. And all along that crop you say the bords are only 4 to 6 yards wide? Yes, where they say the water has broken down they were 4 and 6 yards, and all back to the left the bords were 6 yards.
 364. As you approached the crop, was the roof tender? Yes, it was rather tender.
 365. Did you lose the roof—that is the conglomerate roof, in any portions? Well, it is very seldom you see conglomerate there.
 366. What intervenes between the conglomerate and the coal? I cannot tell you what thickness.
 367. But what does it consist of? It is a sort of shale—a hard roof.
 368. And does it become tender towards the roof? Yes.
 369. Is it difficult to keep up? No.
 370. Did you use extra timber? We used double timber in all the places where we were working 6-yard bords.
 371. What distance apart were the sets? Two feet apart.
 372. Then you have been very careful in timbering these workings? Yes, very careful indeed.

373. Did this extreme care in timbering foreshadow danger? No. So far as I could see the only reason for doing it was because we were nearing the crop.
374. Were you aware that a large portion of these workings was covered by spring tides? I was aware that the spring tides covered a portion of the workings.
375. You were aware that the bords as they proceeded upwards reached the crop, and that the clay was covered at spring tides by salt water? Yes.
376. And you say you did not apprehend danger? No; I did not apprehend danger.
377. But you took care to double timber the bords? Yes.
378. If you considered there was no danger, why double timber the bords? Well, in those bords there used to be 6 inches of soft roof under the hard, and if we did not well timber it the soft would keep on falling on the horses and men.
379. Why not cut down the 6 inches and get the hard roof? The men have done it in some places, and would not put up timber.
380. Do you know some small collieries to the west of Ferndale? Yes.
381. Are the workings of these collieries connected with Ferndale? Wylie's and Vivian's are.
382. Are they filled with sea-water now? They are filled with water.
383. To the south of the drawing-shaft in No. 2 heading, some of the coal has been worked from under the Maitland Road from Ferndale? So far as I know, yes.
384. Do you know all these bords to the right of No. 2 heading? I only worked in one of them.
385. Do you know if the coal was worked from under the creek? Not that I am aware of.
386. Do you know the character of the roof above these bords? I do not; I did not sink the shaft. I know that there was coal left where I was working.
387. Why was that? I cannot tell you.
388. Did it ever come down? No; there were tops above that.
389. Were the bords in that direction 8 yards wide? I believe they were 8 yards, but some were 6 yards. I never worked under the Maitland Road.
390. Then did the bord you were working in stop when it reached the boundary, or did it go further? It stopped, so far as I am aware.
391. Were any pillars taken out in this neighbourhood? Not that I am aware of.
392. Do you know Green's colliery, on the other side of the creek? Yes.
393. Do you know the depth of that colliery? No.
394. Do you know the cover of the roof? No.
395. Do you know whether Green's colliery is worked with the usual width of bords? No; I never inquired.
396. Then you repeat that in the rise workings of the dip roads the deposits did not break into the workings? They have not, so far as I know, since I have been overman.
397. And you did not consider the crop workings were a source of danger? I did not.
398. Were you aware that the workings of No. 8 heading were under the swamps? Yes.
399. And were covered by tidal waters? Yes, at spring tides.
400. And that the rise workings in that heading had cut the crop? Yes.
401. What did you get in the face? It was a sort of clay and sandstone mixed.
402. And knowing that you were under swamps that were covered by high tides, you still say that you did not consider these workings unsafe? I did not think they were unsafe.
403. And that, considering it safe, you took the precaution to put double barricades in that heading, and double strapped, at great expense, to strengthen the dip bords? Yes.
404. Why did you drive these crop headings and bords so narrow—what was the reason? In order to keep the roof up, as it was such a tender roof, and so near the top.
405. You say that 50 or 60 yards to the west of where this fall took place, a fall had taken place before? Yes.
406. And that you stopped it during the day, and it came down during the night again? Yes.
407. What came down? Clay came down first, and the second time sand.
408. How did you notice that fall—it was in a part of the disused workings? It was in a heading where it came and crushed a pillar. We had put a hole in the top, and cut through to the other end, and were putting up timber, and when it came we had to stop. We then put a good stopping in, and filled up the place.
409. To the right of No. 8 heading—that is, where the last fall took place—did the crop suddenly swerve round and come down the walls? No; we did not cut the crop the last two bords. We had the crop in one.
410. The one immediately below is marked stopped also? We were coming near to the crop, and thought it was well to keep away from it.
411. Then I am right in saying that the crop did swerve round? Yes, it did swerve.
412. To the south? Yes.
413. Were these places secured with extra timber? Yes.
414. Was No. 3 bord working when the disaster occurred? Yes.
415. Was much water coming out of the face of these bords—Nos. 1, 2, and 3? No; none at all.
416. Was the roof in No. 3 bord a good roof? Yes.
417. Was this bord also approaching the surface? It would reach the surface after going a considerable distance.
418. Who worked in No. 3 bord? The two Williams brothers—Charles Williams and William Williams.
419. And who worked in the others? In the next bord to them (No. 4) there were four working—two in each shift. There were Cornelius Peters and William Johns, and Morgan and Thomas Cummings.
420. And the fifth bord, who worked in it? James Murray and George Spencer; that was the next bord to Jenkins'.
421. What object had you in carrying No. 4 bord on with four men? Because it was behind the other bords, and the object was to bring it in, so as to get through right.
422. Then the condition of the working in Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 bords raised no doubts in your mind as to the safety of the men? None whatever, sir.
423. Were you aware of the depth of these bords from the surface? No, I was not.

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424. But you were aware they were under the swamps? Yes.
425. And still, with that knowledge, you had no fear for the safety of the workings? No, I had not.
426. Did any of the men know that they were working under the swamp? I believe some of them did know. They had all the same chance as myself.
427. Have you ever heard them discuss the matter? No; I never heard any discussion. I have heard a passing remark that we were working underneath the swamp.
428. Why was that remark passed? I cannot tell you.
429. Did the men appoint Check Inspectors? They did.
430. Did they know the position of the workings? Yes, they all knew.
431. Did they regularly inspect the colliery workings? Yes; I know they did.
432. Did they ever report unfavourably of these workings? No; not to me.
433. When did they last inspect and report? I cannot tell you that now, but it is some time since.
434. How long before the accident? A considerable time before the accident. The Inspectors' book may tell you; they always come to the office, and give the book in there.
435. On what date did the accident take place? I believe on the 18th March. I was in Sydney at the time.
436. When were you apprised of the accident? The same evening, about 6 o'clock.
437. Then you can state nothing about the accident of your own knowledge? Nothing at all.
438. *Mr. Neilson.*] You speak of the soft nature of the roof under the conglomerate. If a fall of this soft roof took place, would it not carry the timber away? Yes, the timber would fall down, certainly.
439. *Mr. Jones.*] You say that when the first fall took place it considerably crushed one of the pillars? That was in the far end where we cut this clay; we followed it to see what it was. Behind that, about 15 yards or so, there was a splendid bit of coal making in, and as we went in the clay started to come upon us.
440. Did the probability of water coming in never occur to your mind? No, it did not.
441. You say that the men in some cases neglected or refused to put up double timber? Very often we could not get the men to do it back of the present workings.
442. Why? Because it was too much work.
443. But you were prepared to pay them? Oh, yes. The double timber was put in the crop workings; but away back the miners would not do it because they had to get the timber.
444. *Mr. Davies.*] Was it only in places coming to the crop you say that double timber was put in? No; in several parts of the pit, and where the roof looked bad it was double timbered in the roads; sometimes posts and bars in both ribs.
445. Would you have us believe that these posts and bars were put in to keep up 6 inches of roof? The men would do it themselves; they would not pull the soft down. In No. 3 bord there was air coming down, and I said you had better put up timber.
446. Was it generally known to the men that a fall had taken place previous to the last one which flooded the mine? Yes; they could see it on top also.
NOTE.—The little fall referred to is marked on the plan "J."
447. *President.*] And that little fall appeared on the surface? Yes.
448. *Mr. Thomas.*] Did the tide cover that portion? Yes.
449. *Mr. Curley.*] Was this a cut-through that came in your heading that you have spoken of at the little fall? It was a cut-through in the clay. We had the bords marked off, and were going to use this as an air-way.
450. Knowing that you were so near the crop, did it not occur to you that to put an air-current through your cut-through was a source of danger? No, not when we were driving through 4-yard pillars; it was a narrow place just to convey the air alone.
451. Can you tell us who drove this cut-through in the heading? I would not be sure whether it was a man named Brown, and Abrahams, or Pickavance and Miller.
452. Were not miners working with you when forming this barricade, and saw the fall-in? Yes.
453. Who were the men? Joseph Jackerman was one I took there to barricade the place up.
454. Was he the only one who was along with you? I cannot be sure whether Richard Cotterill was there. Yes, I remember now, there was John Williams; he put one up. He is now in Queensland. I had Williams and William Davies putting up another one.
455. *Mr. Thomas.*] Did you ever hear any of the men complain as to danger in working at Ferndale? No, never.
456. *President.*] How long ago is it since this little fall took place? I should think it was about fifteen months.
457. And it appeared on the surface? Yes.
458. And the water is lying in a hollow there caused by the fall? Yes.
459. *Mr. Jones.*] About what area was the little fall on the surface? I cannot say, as it is covered with water; but I should say it is not bigger than this room.
460. *Mr. Curley.*] Did ever a consultation take place between the manager, yourself, and the deputy as to the probability of danger in these workings? Not that I can remember.
461. *Mr. Usher.*] Have you had any experience in other mining-fields? I have been twenty-three years underground.
462. Have you been on the gold-fields? Yes, in Victoria.
The witness withdrew.

John Powell, junr., sworn and examined :—

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463. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am a wheeler.
464. Are we to understand you are the son of the manager? Yes.
465. How long have you been employed at Ferndale as a wheeler? About three years.
466. In what districts of the colliery have you worked? Down in the lower part, No. 8, where the water came in.
467. Have you only worked in No. 8 workings? That is all, sir.
468. Were the workings in this district wet? Yes.
469. Where did the water come from? It came away from the soft coal.
470. Did it come out of the roof or the floor? It came out of the bottom.
470½. Was the water salt? Yes; in No. 8 it was salt.

471. Did it ever occur to you that that salt water had any connection with the sea? No, sir, it did not.
472. You never thought of that? No.
473. Have you been up in the north workings towards the fall? Yes; I was there when the water came in.
474. Have you been in any of the bords in that district that reached the surface crop? No.
475. I mean where the coal runs into the surface? No, I have not noticed that; I was back of this heading at that time.
476. Have you observed any falls of the roof-rock in this district? Yes, a few; it fell up to the conglomerate, no surface coming down.
477. Have you ever heard of any surface coming down in any falls? No.
478. Was the roof tender towards the rise in No. 8? No, it was not.
479. Was there not an extra quantity of timber required? Yes, there was plenty of timber.
480. What was the reason of this extra quantity of timber being used? I do not know.
481. Do you know the spot where the accident took place? I do not.
482. At any time, have you heard the men conversing about the condition of the roof towards the position of the fall? No, I have not.
483. Where were you when the accident occurred? I was in William Owen's bord.
484. What bord was that? Just below Jenkins'.
485. Do you know the plan? No.
486. On what date did this accident occur? On the 18th of the month (March).
487. How were you apprised of the accident? I was in William Owen's bord, and was coming out to see where my driver was, and when I got to his bord I could see the water coming. I went up to the mouth of Jenkins' bord, and sang out that there was some water coming in.
488. Did you know where the water came from? No.
489. When you saw the water running at the face of William Owen's bord, did you suspect that something materially wrong had taken place? I cannot tell you what I thought then. I knew there was water from somewhere, and it was up to my knees.
490. Was it rushing past with a force? Down lower it was. I sang out to Jenkins, "Come out." My driver replied; he was in the bord at the time. His skip was ready, and he sang out for me to give him a lift. I said "No." I was going to see where the water was coming from, and I went down to the other workings.
491. How many men did you warn? There was Owen, and Wilkinson, and Abrahams, and Stanford, and Williams; that was a double bord—four men in that bord.
492. Well? And there was Chas. Woollett.
493. Then you warned these men of their danger? Yes, and they followed me.
494. And you made your escape? Yes.
495. How? Well, I escaped pretty rough. I came on the top of the pit-water coming out towards my flat. It was coming down to the main heading then.
496. How far from Jenkins' bord was your flat? I cannot exactly tell you.
497. Who warned the workmen in the lower bords? My brother.
498. His name? David Powell.
499. What was his occupation? He was foreman over the wheelers.
500. And by the time you got down to Charles Woollett's bord you felt the water rise—what depth was it then? About $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet.
501. Was it running with considerable force? Yes; it knocked me down six times, and Charles Woollett pulled me out by the hair of my head.
502. How did you get out of the stream of the water eventually? He pulled me on to dry land, and I then ran as fast as I could till I got on high ground coming up to the pit.
503. Did the men in these bords whom you warned escape in the same way? Yes, they followed me.
504. Is that all you can say about this accident? Yes.
505. Were you down in the pit again after that? No, I was not.
506. *Mr. Jones.*] Were these bords driven wide on that side? No; 6-yard bords; but I'm not quite sure.
507. *Mr. Swinburn.*] How long was it after the fall took place when you were up to your waist in water? About five minutes.
508. *Mr. Davies.*] You state that you warned several men when the water was up to your knees—did you think there was something dangerous then? I have answered that I cannot tell.
- The witness withdrew.

John Smith sworn and examined:—

509. *President.*] Your occupation, Mr. Smith? Deputy at the Ferndale Colliery.
510. Before being appointed as Deputy at Ferndale Colliery, what occupation did you follow? That of a coal-miner.
511. In what part? At Waratah.
512. At any other place? I was at the A.A. Company, but no other place in this Colony.
513. In what other country have you been engaged in mining? In South Wales.
514. How long have you been Deputy at Ferndale? About nine years.
515. As Deputy, what were your duties? My duties were to do what was required on the roads, and to see that the roads were safe for men and horses.
516. You had charge over the men? Yes.
517. You have been in the workings to the west of the winding-shaft? Yes.
518. That is, to the south of No. 2 heading, as it is called? Yes.
519. And also in the body of workings to the north? Yes; I have been all through the colliery—used to travel it every morning.
520. What rule did you follow as to width of bords? The general rule was 8 yards, and 4-yard pillars.
521. And were the pillars left of the same thickness, irrespective of the depth of the overlying strata? Yes; we followed the general rule of the district.
522. Did you ever reduce the width of the bords? Yes, where required.
523. What would induce you to reduce the width of the bords? Well, the softness of the roof sometimes caused it to be done.

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Mr. J. Smith. 524. You reduced the bords in consequence of close proximity to the surface? Yes.

525. When the shaft was sunk, was there any solid strata above the coal? Yes, about 12 feet down it was broken clay and stone.

526. Do you consider that solid strata? Well, it was good enough to stand.

527. But I mean solid rock? No, there was not.

528. Then you had sand for 12 feet, and broken clay and stone down to the coal? Yes.

529. What depth is the shaft? 50 feet.

530. At the west workings, is there any solid rock above the coal? Yes, there was solid rock there from one end to the other. It was very thick from the surface to the coal there. The hill was all rock nearly.

531. Have you observed any falls of the surface into your workings to the west? It is all falls together.

532. Did any quantity of sand run into your workings? No.

533. Consider for a moment. Did not a considerable quantity of sand run in from a fall close to the shaft? Yes, a little sand did run in, but not to cause any danger to the workings.

534. How did you stop it? We stopped it with timber.

535. Did any water come with it? Yes, there was a quantity of water.

536. Did any sand and water get into your workings in any other part of this western district? Not to my knowledge. There were falls, but not to interfere with anybody.

537. Did any water come down? No, not to hurt us; it choked itself before it could do any harm.

538. When did the fall take place you have referred to, when a good deal of sand and water came into the workings? I cannot remember the time exactly.

539. Did this fall take place in an 8-yard place? Yes.

540. Did that not raise suspicions in your mind as to the danger of 8-yard bords? We did not know the sand was so near.

541. If there were no solid strata at the shaft, what guarantee had you that there would be solid strata to the rise? There were no 8-yard bords on the flat.

542. Do you say this fall took place where 8-yard bords were being driven? Yes, but that was years ago.

543. I do not care when it was; it was in an 8-yard bord, and now you say there were no 8-yard bords? Not in that part. In one place there was. We did not know anything about this fall until it had happened.

544. Then this caused you to alter your system of working? Yes.

545. When did this occur? I cannot tell you the date; it was about five or six years ago.

546. Have you ever seen any other parts of the mine where the surface caved-in to the workings? I have seen caves-in, but not to the surface.

547. In the abandoned parts, did they take place? Yes; they would not take place when we were at work.

548. Do you know the various small collieries to the west of Ferndale? Yes.

549. Are the workings of these collieries connected with Ferndale? Yes.

550. Do you know the cover of the roof in them? No.

551. Or where they are worked? No; I know nothing about it; I never inquired.

552. In the dip workings from No. 2 heading, east of the roll, was the coal worked on the same principle—that is 8-yard bords, and leaving 4-yard pillars? Yes; we worked 8-yard bords when the roof was solid, or when we expected it to be solid.

553. And working these bords to the north, you came to the crop of the surface. When did you stop—did you stop when the roof became tender or when the clay came down before the coal? As we approached the crop the width of the bords was reduced to 6 yards.

554. Did the surface deposits come down on some of you? We did not go that far.

555. Then when did you stop? When the coal became soft and was not fit to be sent to market.

556. Then, as you approached the crop, do I understand you to say that the roof altered in character? Yes.

557. And became soft and rotten? Yes.

558. Did you see a tendency in the roof to fall in this treacherous part? Yes.

559. Did it give off any water? Nothing to speak of any more than other bords. It was generally drier round the crops than where the roof was solid.

560. Did you use a greater quantity of timber when approaching the crop? Yes.

561. Why did you do so? To protect the workings.

562. Did you consider the workings in this colliery safe? Yes.

563. Did any of the men converse with you at any time regarding these crop-workings? No, not to my knowledge.

564. Have any of them ever expressed doubts as to the wisdom or safety of following the coal so close to the crop? I never heard them.

565. Have any heavy falls taken place close to these crop-workings? No.

566. None at all? None.

567. Are you perfectly certain? Well, there may have been a hundred yards away.

568. Then no falls have taken place nearer than 100 yards? No, not to any extent. There was a fall about 40 yards back, but this did no harm.

569. What came down at this fall? Conglomerate and blue stone, or shale.

570. Do you know the character and thickness of the surface deposits along the crop? No; I do not.

571. Did it ever occur to you that this knowledge would be useful? No; I never thought it would be useful.

572. Or highly necessary? No, I am sure I did not.

573. Did it never occur to you that this knowledge was essential before exposing this long line of surface? Well, I never thought of having to answer any question about it.

574. Were you aware that the line of this crop extended under the tidal swamp? Well, I knew a part of it did; but was not aware that it extended any distance.

575. Well, knowing this, did it not cause you to ponder on the wisdom of proceeding in that direction? I always exercised care for the safety of the men.

576. Knowing that you were exposing yard after yard of this surface, and that it was covered by water at spring tide, did you never entertain serious doubts as to the wisdom of these operations? Well, I did not know that we had gone so far up until the day of the accident.

577. I understood you to say that you were aware that these workings were under the tidal swamp? I knew

- knew that we were under a part of it, but not half as much as we really were. My business was below. Mr. J. Smith.
578. In the light of subsequent events, do you not think that the mode of working was rather reckless? No, I cannot say I do. There is conglomerated rock in the second bord from where this water came through; and when I see conglomerated rock I am not frightened of anything. 31 May, 1886.
579. Looking at the plan, there is no doubt that the face of the heading went into the clay? Yes.
580. Very well; did you think that this mode of working was safe? It was a narrow heading.
581. No doubt; but it went into the clay, and only a few bords were under the conglomerate; did not that increase the danger. Did it not raise doubts in your mind as to the wisdom of your proceeding? No.
582. The plan clearly shows that about 40 yards back in that heading from the position where you cut the clay you broke off Nos. 1 and 2 bords, which were stopped, and these bords had also reached the surface; still you say that it was not a warning to you? No; we thought this was as safe as could be.
583. Was the water salt that you pumped from the mine? Yes.
584. Where did you think it came from? From the sea.
585. Did not this circumstance cause you to reflect on your position, and consider the advisability of taking precautions? No, because the water came down from the solid rock.
586. The points J, F, K, on the plan, are to the extreme north-east, and mark the position of narrow headings; these narrow headings are in advance of two bords which are driven up to the surface. Why were these headings driven narrow? Because the roof was soft.
587. Was the roof good about 50 yards back, where they were started? Yes, it was good there.
588. Did a fall take place at letter J a short time before the disaster? It was nine months before.
589. How was this fall discovered, seeing that it was in an abandoned part of the workings? Well, we had not got the rails up.
590. What did that fall consist of? Of clay, sand, and shells.
591. How was it stopped? It stopped itself.
592. Did not that circumstance raise doubts in your mind as to the security of these workings? It did not. I had no fear whatever.
593. Did that fall show itself on the surface? Yes.
594. You stated a few minutes ago that you were not aware that the site of this disaster was so far under the tidal water? Yes.
595. Do you adhere to that statement? Certainly.
596. Then you say that the fall which took place at J appeared on the surface? I was told so; I never saw it.
597. But you were informed of the position that it occupied? Not particularly.
598. Were you not aware that that fall caused a considerable cave-in on the surface—that water continually lay there, and that it was used as a swimming-pond for the boys? I never heard that.
599. Did this fall let water into the mine? Nothing more than before. It was as dry as this room all along the top of the workings.
600. Would you look at the plan again (pointing to F). These two upper bords, Nos. 1 and 2, were stopped? Yes.
601. Why were they stopped? Because the coal was not fit for market.
602. Did you prove the surface in those bords? No; I told you that the coal was not fit for market.
603. But they are marked on the plan "crop." Does not that signify that they have reached the crop? Yes, I suppose so.
604. Was the roof good here? No; it was soft.
605. Had these bords all the appearance of approaching the crop? Yes.
606. Were they secured with double timber? Yes; they were doubly secured.
607. Was No. 3 bord working when the disaster occurred? Yes; and No. 4 and No. 5 also.
608. Who worked in No. 3 bord? Williams.
609. Was the roof in that bord good? Yes, pretty good.
610. Was that bord also in your opinion approaching the crop? Yes; that is, it would have to go about 60 yards further.
611. Were these bords wet? No; there was a little water naturally, but the roof was quite dry.
612. And the condition of No. 3 bord raised no doubt as to the safety of the working? No; we always put a stopping up where the soft coal appeared, in case of accident.
613. But if you were absolutely sure there was no danger, why put yourself to the trouble of barricading? For the sake of assurance.
614. In that case, would it not have been well to have thick solid pillars in going near the crop? That is my superior's business.
615. Were you aware of the depth of the surface above these bords? No; I was not.
616. But you were aware they were under the tidal swamps? Yes, in places, but I did not know much about it.
617. Are you aware whether any of the men knew the position of these bords? No.
618. Did you ever hear them discuss the subject? No.
619. Did the men appoint Check Inspectors? Yes.
620. How often did they inspect the colliery? Once a month generally.
621. Do you know whether they ever reported unfavourably of the rise workings? No, I do not.
622. Before the accident, when did they last inspect the workings, and report thereon—approximately? I cannot say. I think it was about a fortnight or three weeks before the accident occurred.
623. And so far as you know, the Check Inspectors made no complaint about these rise workings? Not to my knowledge.
624. Then the accident, we have heard, took place on the 18th of March: about what time in the morning? It was about a quarter or ten minutes to 8 o'clock. I had visited the places twice that morning. I went round first thing that morning and saw no danger anywhere.
625. Were you on the look-out for danger? I had to go round to see that all was right in the usual course. That is a part of my duty. If in my rounds I saw anything that appeared dangerous I had to secure it. I was not stinted for men. Was in Jenkins's bord ten minutes before the accident happened. He was in No. 6 bord. I was up towards the back. When I saw the men coming out ahead of me, they having taken a near

- Mr. J. Smith. near cut to the rise of the dip roads, I asked them what was wrong, and remonstrated with them for running away.
- 31 May, 1886. 626. Did you then return? Yes; I took five or six men with me and returned the same way that they had come as far as we could get, but the water stopped us.
627. Where did you meet the water? At No. 8 heading. (*Explanation dictated by the President.*)
The witness went with several men to a point on the special heading, marked "2," and seeing the water and finding that he could do no good, returned up to the pit.
628. When did you go again? I went three times to the water along with the men. The manager was down in the other direction.
629. Where had the water accumulated at this time? It was on the flat, and some of the workings had filled up.
630. Just behind the face there was a barricade put up—was that swept away? Yes.
631. Do you know the object the management had in erecting that barricade? It was put up in case any accident should occur.
632. Did you apprehend any danger at all? No; we never dreamt of the likelihood of an accident, or I would not have been there myself.
633. Then it was just a precautionary measure? Yes.
634. What size was the hole when you first saw it? It was a large hole; you could see the daylight. The men were pulled up to the surface. That was the third time I was there.
635. On the former occasion when you were there, did you see Hargraves? No; I shouted, but could not make anyone hear.
636. Who was the man lost through this accident? John Jenkins.
637. Was he warned of the accident? I cannot say. The lads told me they had shouted for him, and that he replied that he would come as quickly as he could.
638. Have you any idea how he was lost? I should think he was making to go out when the water came past his bord.
639. What depth was the rush of water, do you know? I cannot tell. It was after the tide had fallen that we went there again. When I got to the top end of his bord it was completely closed up from the surface and full of mangroves. It looked as if this might have been worked a hundred years ago.
640. Mr. Thomas.] In the neighbourhood of where this fall took place, what was the nature of the roof? Conglomerate.
641. Did you consider that a sufficient protection—that you could work there with safety? Yes.
642. Mr. Curley.] When you were erecting these barricades, the manager would be there, I suppose. Was there no conversation between you to the effect that danger might be apprehended ahead of you? No; as I have said before, we did not think so. The barricade was put up by way of general precaution.
643. You erected these barricades, and yet you mean to tell us that neither you nor the manager apprehended any danger, or had the slightest thought of it? Yes.
644. With the knowledge that the water had come over the surface, and that a fall had already taken place, did you, in your position as deputy, point out to the manager that danger might be apprehended in connection with these workings? No; I did not see any danger to point out.
645. Mr. Davies.] You say that a portion of the coal was unmarketable—was it red or greasy? It was greasy.
646. Is not that an indication of the coal being near the surface? Yes; but it was quite dry there.
647. Mr. Swinburn.] Is the conglomerate rock 200 yards back from the face of the old workings? Yes.
648. That is the rising ground? Yes.
649. Can you see the ledge of the rock there? Yes.
650. And beyond that, do you think it still carries out the conglomerate to the face of the workings? Very possibly.
651. Did it ever occur to you that that would be a "wash-out" ground? Yes. No doubt when the coal gets washed out and unmarketable it is an indication that the roof gets soft; but that is 100 yards back.
652. What was the width of Hargraves' bord? Six yards.
653. How often did you measure the bords? About twice a week.
654. How far was the water up from the face when this fall took place? Between the two cut-throughs, about 15 yards from the heading.
655. I suppose you did not take much time to examine the rock that came down? Well, I did take notice; it was as good a roof as any we have worked under, and better than one-half of the places in the pit.
656. Mr. Usher.] How thick was it? About 40 feet, with fine facings going up through it. That was where the water came down. I had daylight for it, and could see.
657. Mr. Jones.] You state, Mr. Smith, that the greater part of this water in the Ferndale Colliery came from where you had the best roof? Yes.
658. Did the water come from the bottom or the top? From the top.
659. You say you had power to put in barricades where you thought necessary? Yes.
660. What were they chiefly composed of? Timber.
661. What was the special object of putting them in? To be prepared for any accident that might occur.
662. Were they supposed to be sufficient to keep back the water? We thought so.
663. Did there appear to be much "crush" upon the pillars near the scene of the accident? No, nothing to speak of.
664. President.] Had the pillars given at all? Nothing more than usual. Pillars will give in a new pit or an old one.
665. Mr. Usher.] What do you call "usual"? Well, peeling of the sides is a common occurrence in every mine.
666. Mr. Davies.] Have you had any conversation with anyone as to the evidence you were to give here to-day? No.

The witness withdrew.

TUESDAY,

TUESDAY, 1 JUNE, 1886.

Present:

J. R. M. ROBERTSON, Esq., PRESIDENT.

MR. USHER,
MR. THOMAS,
MR. NEILSON,
MR. TURNBULL,MR. SWINBURN,
MR. CURLEY,
MR. JONES,
MR. DAVIES,

MR. DURIE.

Mr. J.
Mackenzie,
F.G.S.
1 June, 1886.

John Mackenzie, F.G.S., Examiner of Coal-fields, sworn and examined:—

667. *President.*] In your official capacity, Mr. Mackenzie, have you frequently examined the Ferndale Colliery? Yes; I have been there rather more frequently than other places, on account of the roads and other matters.

668. What bords have you principally examined? Well, I have been down as far as the water-pit and other places.

669. Have you inspected the workings under the Maitland Road, off No. 2 heading? Yes.

670. Do these workings extend further west than the Maitland Road? I think they do extend a little further.

671. Do you know whether they are worked up to Tighe's Creek? I never was there. When I went in that direction they were full of water, but I think they were just at the boundary of Tighe's Creek. However, there is a plan showing this.

671½. Across Tighe's Creek, from the position you have been pointing to, there is a small colliery known as "Broughall and Griffiths"? Yes.

672. What depth is that colliery? Well, I forget, but I think about 30 or 40 feet.

673. Do you know whether the coal in that pit has any solid strata above it? It has very little.

674. Do you know whether the coal-seam in that colliery dips to the creek? Yes, it does.

675. Do you consider there is any danger of the colliery being inundated from Ferndale? Yes, we considered there was danger, and the Inspector gave them notice to that effect.

676. When was this notice given? Just after the flooding of Ferndale. We thought the water might break through there.

677. Could you supply the Commission with a section of Griffiths's pit? They are not compelled to send in a section under the Act, and I have not got one.

678. Have you a record of the workings of that colliery? Yes.

679. Can you produce that? Yes; also the notice served on Mr. Garrick, solicitor to Messrs. Broughall and Griffiths, and correspondence with the Attorney-General, whose opinion was sought as to what should be considered dangerous.

680. Will you lodge all these papers with your evidence? Yes.

681. You are aware that a number of small collieries have been drowned out from Ferndale? Yes.

682. Do you know Robinson's colliery? Yes.

683. Do you know whether that colliery worked the coal under the Maitland Road? Yes, they did; but the colliery was not always worked by the same proprietors.

684. Do you know whether the workings from that colliery extend towards the creek? These are the workings (witness points to the tracing).

685. The workings of this colliery and those of Ferndale have become connected? Yes.

686. And going towards the creek? Yes.

687. Then you are still of the same opinion that you do not consider Griffiths's colliery at the present moment safe? I think so myself. I think there is danger.

688. Is the ground round Griffiths's colliery covered with flood-waters? I have not seen it myself; some of it doubtless will be, but I cannot speak from my own knowledge.

689. *Mr. Davies.*] Does Tighe's Creek overflow its banks at high tide? I really do not know myself; as far as I am concerned, I have not seen it.

690. *President.*] Have you examined the workings of Ferndale to the dip of the engine-plane—a body of workings in a line going towards the east? No; I have not been in there.

691. Are you aware that the rise bords have in some places been driven up towards the surface deposits? No, I am not.

692. Have you seen a plan of the colliery? Yes, this is the plan.

693. Looking at the plan, can you say whether that is so; in other words, were you aware that the Ferndale workings were advancing under the tidal swamps of Throsby's Creek? Yes.

694. Did Inspector Dixon himself not report to you on the subject? Inspector Dixon reports to me every two months in respect to this and other collieries, but he has never made any special reference to these workings in any way.

695. Still you were aware that the workings were advancing under the tidal swamps? Yes.

696. Did the knowledge of this raise any suspicion of danger in your mind? No.

697. You knew the uncertain and erratic character of the surface deposits? I know the roof of that coal is very irregular.

698. And you knew the position of the swamps, and that these consisted of uncertain thicknesses of mud and sand? I know a portion of the swamp is, but I may say this, that there is 40 feet of rock at the point you mention.

699. We know that from subsequent events? We never supposed but that there was rock there.

700. Have these surface deposits filled up hollows and gullies in the underlying rock? I cannot say; I have never seen it.

701. Then you do not know from experience whether that is the case? I do not know whether there are any hollows there.

702. Going from the known to the unknown, and from a full knowledge that the rock was covered by swamps, would it be reasonable to suppose that the same fissures exist under the swamps that are seen where the rock is uncovered? Fissures are cleavages formed by the contraction of the rock at the time of its formation.

Mr. J. Mackenzie, F.G.S.
1 June, 1896.

703. Well, whatever your experience as to hollows and gullies may be, it is quite evident that such exist in the Newcastle District; is it therefore reasonable to suppose that the same exist under these swamps? There would doubtless be a certain undulation.

704. Is there a considerable amount of uncertainty as to the depths of the deposits—the surface or swamp deposits? The borings have proved it here.

NORE (President).—By here, Mr. Mackenzie refers to the bore in front of point E on the plan.

705. Do you consider there was any danger attending the carrying out of these workings under the tidal swamps? There is danger in all places of that kind.

706. Do you consider that any special provisions are required to insure the safety of a mine the workings of which are covered by tidal swamps? Well, I really do not know in what way it is to be done.

707. In the meantime, it is a general question, and demands a general answer. Therefore, in a general way, do you consider that any provisions of the kind are required? There are no provisions at all in the Act.

708. We know that; but as to special provisions, with an eye to the future? Well, I do not know what special provisions could be made; it would be taking it out of the hands of the colliery owners.

709. Considering the liability of these surface or fluviatile deposits to vary in depths by following any inequalities of the rocky floor, is there any provision you would desire to suggest for the protection of life and property? I think the Government might suggest this connection, that certain things ought to be done, and then it would remain for the colliery proprietors to carry those suggestions into effect. We take the responsibility if we once make special rules, or say, "Go and do so and so."

710. I may say this is in view of future legislation, Mr. Mackenzie? Well, it is a very difficult question, and comes upon me rather suddenly. It is a very important question.

711. It is an important question, and because it is so I have put it to no other witness; and I put it to you because you are an important witness, and most likely to think over such a question? Well, no, I have not thought over it, because I had no idea that it was to be raised.

712. Have you observed the plan of Ferndale Colliery? Yes.

713. Have you seen that the north-east workings stretch several chains under high-water-mark? No; I have not noticed it. I have not looked at it particularly for anything of that kind. Mr. Dixon reports to me regularly.

714. Would you look at a narrow drift (K) at the north-east corner, that has been driven in advance of the bords—do you know whether a barricade of strong timber had been put in at the foot of that heading? No; it was never reported to me.

715. Do you know whether Nos. 1 and 2 bords had been stopped by coming in contact with surface deposits? No.

716. Look a little to the left of K to the letter J—do you know whether a heavy fall of clay and sand occurred at these headings about a year before the late accident? No; I may say that falls occur in many collieries that I am not likely to hear of.

717. But this was a special fall which formed a pool of salt water in the swamp. Did not the fact that these workings had reached the clay under high-water-mark induce you to make a personal inspection? I was not informed of it.

718. Then you were not aware that they were working under high-water-mark? No, I was not.

719. What power do you possess to stop the workings of a colliery under conditions that you deem to be dangerous? Upon that point the opinion of the Attorney-General has been sent for. The Act says we must find it to be dangerous. We cannot anticipate any danger; we have no power under the existing law to stop workings unless we see danger (clause of the Act read, 25 sec., page 9).

720. Had you been informed that at the fall I have alluded to at "J" on the plan, a very large quantity of sand and mud and sea-shells had come down and closed up some of the underground workings, and that a quantity of sea-water had covered the hollow formed by the subsidence thus formed on the surface, would you have apprehended danger? Well, I should have gone and seen for myself if it had broken into the workings.

721. We have evidence that it did break in, and formed a hollow which to the present day is covered up at high tide, and has formed a pond or permanent pool which is used by boys as a swimming-bath? If I had seen that I certainly should have considered it dangerous.

722. Do you consider that such an accident should have been reported to you? Well, you see, so far as the Coal-mining Regulation Act is concerned, colliery proprietors are only compelled in case of actual accident to report.

723. Suppose this occurrence had come to your knowledge before the late accident, would you have remonstrated with the management for not reporting such a circumstance to you? I very probably might have done so, but I have no authority through the Act to compel them to report it. I may refer you to this, "Notice of Accident" (clause 28 of the Act), "Loss of life or serious injury to any person."

724. If you had seen this state of matters on the surface, and knowing that these coal-workings had for many chains proved the outcrop of mud and sand along the coal-faces, would you have anticipated danger? Most certainly I should.

725. In which case, what course could you have adopted under the present Act? I could only have served them with notice under the 25th section of the Act. We have no power to go further. I have sent for the Attorney-General's opinion upon it.

726. Do you consider that coal-mining under these tidal swamps in any way imperils the safety of the men? I should say there is danger, yes.

727. Is there special danger? Certainly there is more danger than in other places.

728. Do you know of any other collieries working under similar conditions to Ferndale? Yes; there are Maryville, Bullock Island, and Stockton. We have served all of them with notices to keep boring ahead of their workings. I may give you a letter I wrote to Mr. Dixon, Inspector of Collieries, on the subject. We felt great responsibility, and special letters were sent to all of them.

729. Can you put those letters in? Yes; I can bring them to-morrow.

730. Have you a copy of the Check Inspectors' reports of Ferndale? No; they will be with the manager.

731. Have you a copy of your Inspectors' report? Yes.

732. Have you any records of bores put down in the vicinity of Ferndale? Yes; these were given to me by Mr. Fletcher (referring to document in his hand).

733. I am reminded by Mr. Usher that some sections of surface bores have been published in the Annual Year Book of the Department—have you copies of these? I expect I have; I will look up everything, and bring them with me to-morrow.

734. *Mr. Jones.*] You state that danger might possibly accrue from working the coal under the tidal waters; would that not suggest to your mind the necessity for some special method being adopted in the working of such coal? The question is whether the colliery proprietors or the Government are to adopt it.

Mr. J. Mackenzie, F.G.S.

1 June, 1886.

735. Generally, do you think it necessary? I think some departure from the usual mode necessary.

736. Is it not necessary for the Inspectors to supply you with a tracing of the working plan of each colliery periodically? Yes, every six months.

737. If such has been done, would not that show you in your office that the Ferndale Colliery was approaching the tidal water? No; because the surface is not shown on the plan. They are only compelled to give a plan of the workings. In this case, however, it is shown as it happens, but the only places shown here are streets and Throsby's Creek.

738. So far as you are aware, Mr. Inspector Dixon was never informed by the Company of any previous fall on the surface? All I can say is that Mr. Dixon has never reported any danger, and the Miners' General Secretary has never reported any either. Mr. Dixon will be able to tell you himself as to that.

739. *Mr. Usher.*] Do you think it advisable that the coal-owners should be compelled to show boundaries and also the topographical features? I think so; there ought to be a plan made of the surface, as well as the underground workings.

740. Suppose a row of houses to be erected on any part of the estate, do you think they should be added to the plan? That is more a matter for the proprietors; so far as we are concerned the object is to secure the safety of the men employed in the mine. However, I certainly think the made roads, and those to be travelled over, should be shown on the plan.

741. *Mr. Curley.*] I suppose you have often been invited out to Ferndale and its vicinity in consequence of the undermining of roads? Yes.

742. Have you a thorough knowledge of the overlying strata of the Ferndale mine? Well, I have not, just where the fall has taken place.

743. If the Inspector had a knowledge of the position of those workings, do you not think it was his duty to report the matter to you? If he considered there was any danger attached to it, but there did not appear to have been any idea of danger, or I should have been informed of it by some party.

744. Do you think it was within his province to report such a thing and give his attention to it? Not unless he considered it dangerous to the lives of the men underground.

745. But from what you have ascertained in connection with the accident, the Inspector, to a certain extent, must have had a knowledge that there was a source of danger there? I cannot say. Mr. Dixon will be here to answer for himself in respect to that. I can only say that he did not report that there was any danger, and he will be here to tell you himself whether he considered there was danger or not.

746. *Mr. Davies.*] Although you are of opinion that there is danger in working you have no power to do anything more? We could not do anything more than we have done.

747. *President.*] In other words, you have secured yourselves? Precisely.

748. *Mr. Neilson.*] You can issue a summons? We were going to take proceedings against Maryvale at one time, but the opinion of the Attorney-General was against us.

749. You have reported to the Mines Department as to this? Yes.

750. I understood you to say that your attention had not been directed to danger in this colliery either by the Manager, the Inspector, the Miners' Secretary, or the men? The Inspector reports to me every two months, and if he reports that there is no danger I am satisfied. I have a general supervision over all the mines, and so long as the Inspector reports to me that the Act has been complied with, then my duty ends.

751. You have been frequently out to this colliery, and you state that you never were made aware that they were working under tidal waters? Yes.

752. And you did not think it part of your duty to inquire? I had no idea that they were working under tidal waters. If I had possessed such an idea I should have thought it my duty to inquire.

The witness withdrew, promising to appear on the following morning with documents and plans.

Mr. Inspector Dixon sworn and examined:—

753. *President.*] You are Inspector of Collieries for the Northern District? I am.

754. How long have you known Ferndale Colliery? Ever since it has been opened.

755. How long ago is that? I cannot say how long; but more particularly since I have been Inspector, of course.

Mr. Inspector Dixon.

1 June,

756. Is the Ferndale coal-seam an extension of the Waratah coal-seam? Yes, I think so.

757. Have you frequently inspected it? Yes; I have been in Ferndale workings about twenty-nine times.

758. How often did you visit, on an average? I cannot say exactly; I was there twenty-nine times in three years and three months.

759. That is rather oftener than once in two months? Yes.

760. Were your several inspections of a thorough description? Yes; I think I have been in every place in Ferndale.

761. Do you know No. 2 headings south from the shaft? Yes.

762. Have you inspected the bords of these headings under the Maitland Road? Yes. You must understand that the workings under the Maitland Road were all worked before I became Inspector.

763. Have you inspected the bords there? I have.

764. Do you know whether they cross the road? I believe some went through it towards the valley.

765. Do you know whether it has been worked down to Tighe's Creek? No; I do not think so.

766. Do you know Robinson's Colliery, Tighe's Hill? I do.

767. Is it connected with Ferndale? Yes.

768. Do you know whether they work under the Maitland Road? They do not.

769. Do you know Griffiths's Colliery? I do.

770. What depth is the coal-seam there? The depth to the coal is about 30 feet, I think.

771. What is the depth of the winding shaft? I think the winding shaft is about 38 feet deep.

772. Is it in the solid rock? There is no solid rock that I could see.

773. How do they keep up the roof? They leave a band of coal.

Mr. Inspector
Dixon.
June, 1886.

774. Of what thickness is this band? It is from 3 to 4 or 5 feet thick. There is a pretty good band of 2 ft. 6 in.; the rest is of a softer nature of coal.
775. Is it on low-lying ground? Yes.
776. Is the land about that covered with water during floods? Yes, at high tide.
777. Have the workings of this colliery extended under the creek? To the extent of two bords, but they are not right across the creek; they have been driven under the creek for some distance, and under a branch of the creek.
778. Do you consider there is any danger of this colliery being inundated from Ferndale? No.
779. Have you had any reason to report as to the dangerous condition of this colliery? Yes.
780. What section of the Act did you base it on? The 25th section.
781. And what reason did you assign—what was the nature of your report? Simply that they were under the creek, and I considered it dangerous to undermine the creek with a cover of only about 29 feet between them and the water.
782. That is, I suppose, a cover composed only of surface deposits? Yes; a small portion of sand, and the rest clay.
783. Is that clay impervious to water, or does it contain a little sand? No; I think it is good puddle-clay.
784. Have you power under the Act to close up a colliery when you apprehend danger? No, I have not.
785. Have you ever tested this point? I have. I tested it with that same colliery. I notified them in March last, under the 25th section of the Act, that no one was allowed to go under the creek, and I called upon the manager to withdraw the men at once, and to keep them out henceforth and for ever. I put it like that. The consequence was that they withdrew the men for one day and then consulted a lawyer. The solicitor, Mr. Gorrick, wrote a lawyer's letter to the Minister for Mines, which was sent back to me for explanation. I did explain. When I went below the place was as safe as I sit here, as far as that goes; but my impression was that, owing to the peculiar situation of the colliery, if a flood came at any time the place might fill, and the twenty-three men would never get out alive.
786. You say that the colliery is on low-lying land? Yes.
787. And a few feet only above the level of the creek? Yes, that's all.
788. Do you know the depth of the creek? It is not deep. It has a silty bottom.
789. Then it is the bottom of silt that you estimate to be the top of the cover for the coal? Yes.
790. What depth of silt is there? I reckon there is about 4 or 5 feet of that silty stuff to the clay.
791. What depth of water is there? There was not much when I put a stick in.
792. Apparently this colliery has about 20 feet of cover? I reckoned they had 25 feet.
793. That is 30 feet to the coal-head at the shaft? Yes.
794. How many feet is the surface shaft above the level of the creek? I do not think it is more than a couple of feet.
795. And you considered that the circumstances warranted you to give the management of this colliery warning not to proceed? I did.
796. You informed them a few days after the disaster at Ferndale? Yes; I may say that the colliery did not stop—only for one day.
797. What reply came from the Minister for Mines? I got no reply at all.
798. Do you know what reply the owners received? No.
799. After giving the warning, did you consider that your duty ended? Yes. I consider that when my report goes to the Minister my duty ends. I am bound to do nothing but carry out my instructions.
800. How long have the dip workings in Ferndale Colliery been going? About four years in August of this year.
801. What is the general character of the roof over this section—is the coal-seam regular in this part? No, it is very irregular.
802. We have heard from Mr. Powell that in crossing a troubled belt of coal the conglomerate roof came down and cut off about 11 or 12 feet of top-coal? Yes, that is correct.
803. Was the system of working practised similar to that pursued in the district collieries? About the same.
804. Does this system seem to be in all cases advisable to follow? That is a question that might want some consideration.
805. Have you given it consideration? I have not.
806. But it is an arbitrary system that has for some reason or other taken root in the district? It was in vogue before I took office.
807. In Ferndale, were not some of the bords driven narrower than others? Yes.
808. Does any interference with the width of bords increase the rates for hewing? Yes, it does.
809. Approaching the rise of No. 8 workings (we have called them the dip workings)—what means did the manager adopt to prove the line of surface or out-crop? I have been up there several times, and I used to see him driving narrow places. But it was a very difficult matter to prove the out-crop in Ferndale, because in some places you would come on a patch of soft coal, which would naturally lead to the supposition that the end was reached, but after that it would very often occur that good coal would be come upon again.
810. Well, Mr. Dixon, did you ever apprehend any danger in connection with the working of this colliery? I will say once and for all that I never dreaded anything happening in Ferndale.
811. I understand you have had special opportunities of informing yourself as to the nature of the surface deposits in the neighbourhood? Well, down on that flat I do not know to this day the nature of the deposits, excepting as to the pitfall. I tried borings, but was not able to get them. I know the extent of the rock there, and the alluvial deposits, but I never knew that the tide came over as it did before that accident happened, and I was camped there for many months.
812. You are aware that large areas of these swamps are covered with sea-water at high-tide? I knew that they were lower down towards the smelting works.
813. Referring to the plan of the Ferndale workings, were you not aware from that plan that for some months the whole of the working-bords were under tidal water? I can tell they were beyond Robinson's Hill, but it is difficult in this colliery to find where the surface is; as a rule the tracing I have to go by only shows the underground working.

734. *Mr. Jones.*] You state that danger might possibly accrue from working the coal under the tidal waters; would that not suggest to your mind the necessity for some special method being adopted in the working of such coal? The question is whether the colliery proprietors or the Government are to adopt it.

Mr. Mackenzie, F.G.S.

1 June, 1886.

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760. Were your several inspections of a thorough description? Yes; I think I have been in every place in Ferndale.

761. Do you know No. 2 headings south from the shaft? Yes.

762. Have you inspected the bords of these headings under the Maitland Road? Yes. You must understand that the workings under the Maitland Road were all worked before I became Inspector.

763. Have you inspected the bords there? I have.

764. Do you know whether they cross the road? I believe some went through it towards the valley.

765. Do you know whether it has been worked down to Tighe's Creek? No; I do not think so.

766. Do you know Robinson's Colliery, Tighe's Hill? I do.

767. Is it connected with Ferndale? Yes.

768. Do you know whether they work under the Maitland Road? They do not.

769. Do you know Griffiths's Colliery? I do.

770. What depth is the coal-seam there? The depth to the coal is about 30 feet, I think.

771. What is the depth of the winding shaft? I think the winding shaft is about 38 feet deep.

772. Is it in the solid rock? There is no solid rock that I could see.

773. How do they keep up the roof? They leave a band of coal.

Mr. Inspector
Dixon.

1 June, 1886.

Witness describes the strata as follows:— Sand, 20 feet, as near as he could ascertain; clay, 2 feet; conglomerate, 10 feet; rock underneath, 30 feet; what this was he could not say.

852. *President.*] How do you account for such a thickness of conglomerate rock falling in? The only way I can account for it is that there must have been a fissure in it. They are very common in this district.

853. That fissure would let down water and rot the rock? Yes.

854. Have you known any similar fall occurring under the dead pressure of quicksand? No, I cannot say that; I would not say that was the reason of the fall. I have known several falls where there has been quicksand.

855. What thickness of quicksand? Thirty feet.

856. And what thickness of rock? 100 feet of rock.

857. Were the crop roads and bords in Ferndale Colliery sufficiently timbered? Yes; they were sufficiently timbered for all purposes of safety. As I said before, I have never seen a better-timbered mine.

858. How do you account for the top roads being extra timbered? The timber was put up to protect the men from the roof, owing to the intervening 3 feet of shale below the hard conglomerate.

859. The extra timbering must have been a source of great expense? Yes; the men had one shilling and sixpence a set for couplings.

860. Did any man complain to you of the danger of the eastern workings in this colliery? I never received a complaint from any man in Ferndale.

861. You inspected the rise bords only a few weeks before the accident? Yes.

862. Were you satisfied that no danger existed? Yes.

863. You had no suspicion that a disaster was imminent? No.

864. You had not sufficient facts before you to justify you in formulating any complaint? No.

865. Mr. Powell did not inform you that the tidal waters covered these rise workings? No.

866. You did not expect that the workings extended so far? No.

867. And were you satisfied generally with the workings of Ferndale? Yes, and I reckoned Powell a thoroughly practical man.

868. Do you attribute any blame to the management for this accident? I do not; and when I say that I may also say that I have thought the matter out in every way.

869. Suppose you had had the curiosity to inquire as to the position of the north-east workings, and that you had discovered that the tidal waters, for many acres, covered these workings, and that falls of sand and sea-shells had taken place, and that then, suspecting danger, you had given orders for the men to cease working in the mine, and still no accident occurred, what position would you have been in? I should have been laughed at.

870. You would only have been exonerated if an accident occurred? Yes; otherwise I should have been held up to ridicule, even by the men. The miners in Green's pit themselves went and declared that the pit was quite safe.

871. *Mr. Neilson.*] In case of danger of this kind, what power has an Inspector under the Act? I have power under the 7th sub-section of section 12 to withdraw the men in case of fire-damp or other danger.

872. *President.*] It all turns upon the word danger? Yes. Here is the position I am placed in: I must be down below, and demonstrate to the men that the whole thing is going to tumble in and kill somebody.

873. *Mr. Neilson.*] The onus of proof rests upon you? Yes.

874. *Mr. Jones.*] You have stated that no complaint was ever made to you as to the probable danger of working under the tidal water; did you ever hear any men discuss the possibility of danger? No; I never did.

875. *President.*] Had Mr. Powell apprised you of the fact that the workings were under tidal water, what would you have done? I should have reported the matter certainly.

876. You consider the very fact of comparatively shallow workings proceeding under swamps, of unknown thickness of strata, an element of danger? Yes, by all means.

877. *Mr. Jones.*] And in the light of what has happened, do you consider a departure from the present mode of working would be required? Yes, I believe that.

878. *Mr. Swinburn.*] You are quite sure that provision ought to be made for working the different bords to suit the overlying strata? Yes.

879. *President.*] That is to say, there should not be an empirical system of coal-mining followed? No.

880. *Mr. Usher.*] Would your reports as to the danger in this or any other mine be published? No.

881. *President.*] Is there any reason why they should not be published? It is a matter out of my province altogether.

882. That is to say, in sending in your report, you have made your communication in fulfilment of the duties of your office, and it is then no longer your property? Yes.

883. *Mr. Usher.*] I only asked the question because I am of opinion that it ought to be published.

884. *Mr. Davies.*] When last you visited the Ferndale Colliery, before the accident, did you see the Check Inspectors' report? Yes.

885. Was there anything in these reports about apprehending danger? No, not a word. I always go over these reports to ascertain if there is any necessity for me to go and see anything.

886. None of the workmen called your attention to anything from which danger was to be apprehended? No. I would take just as much notice of a man in his bord as I would of the Board of Delegates, if he had any complaint to make.

(By the President.)

NOTE.—The last report is dated October 25th, and is entirely taken up with a report of the number of men and boys in certain districts, the amount of air supplied to those districts, and the timbering, and winds up by stating that each place is well supplied with timber.

The witness withdrew.

William Henderson sworn and examined:—

Mr. W.
Henderson.

1 June, 1886.

887. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am a mineral-borer; I have been occupied as such about forty years.

888. Following your occupation as a mineral-borer, you have put down a considerable number of bores in the locality of Ferndale? Yes.

889.

889. Have you a record of those bores with you? Yes (record produced).
 890. No. 1 bore—where was this put down? At the pumping-pit.
 891. No. 2 bore? Round the hill, a slight way from that; just at the margin of the spring-tide, not far above high-water-mark.
 892. No. 3 bore? At Spark's slaughter-house, nearly to Tighe's Bridge, south of Robinson's Colliery.
 893. And No. 4, where is it? Out of the bounds altogether.
 894. Where is No. 7? A long way to the east of the pumping-pit. It is not in swampy ground; it is on the side of the road across Tighe's Creek. This bore shows a thickness of 118 feet of surface deposits.
 895. No. 9, where is it? That is further along on the same side of the creek, along the Smelting Road, further north, in the centre of the swampy land.
 896. What is the depth there? The depth of the bore is 148 feet. It gives 51 feet of alluvial deposits, 22 feet of conglomerate, and 3 feet 9 inches of coal.
 897. No. 10, where is that? That is away to the westward again. It is about 107 feet deep under the swamp, and marked M on the plan. It shows 52 feet of loose sand.
 898. No. 11? No. 11 is 111 feet deep, and is situated south of the pumping-shaft, and marked O on the plan. It gives 20 feet of loose sand.
 899. No. 12? Is 119 feet, right in the centre of the flat, to the north of the pumping-pit, and gives 67 feet of loose sand.
 900. No. 13? Is at Honeysuckle Point, at the junction of the Maitland and Wickham Roads, on Dangar's land. It gives 108 feet of surface, and 8 feet of rotten rock.
 901. Have you put down bores in other parts of this locality? I put one down at the fall-in on Ferndale. The witness lodges a record of the boring put down by him in the district.
 The witness withdrew.

Mr. W.
Henderson.
1 June, 1886.

David Jones sworn and examined:—

902. *President.* What is your age? I am sixteen years of age.
 903. Were you working at Ferndale? Yes.
 904. How were you employed at Ferndale? I was driving a horse.
 905. How long were you employed there? For nearly two years.
 906. Were you employed in the eastern workings up towards the rise? Yes.
 907. What bords did you drive from? From Bill Owen's, John Jenkins', and Bill Abrahams'.
 908. How many bords? Four of them.
 909. Where were you working on the 18th March when the water broke in? I was in Jenkins' bord. That is the fourth bord. I was in the face hooking the horse on. He told me to go out and ascertain what was making the row. I went out and found it was the water.
 910. Was the bord driven far off the heading? Yes, it was a good way off.
 911. How far? I cannot tell you how far; but it is over 20 yards.
 912. Well, you saw the water, and what did you do then? I went half-way down the bord, and told Jenkins the river had broken in. I told him twice; the water was then over my knees.
 913. Did you know that you were working under the river? No.
 914. Previous to this, did you know whether the coal places were under the swamps? No.
 915. Why did you think the river had broken in? By the rush of water. It was coming in strong.
 916. What did Jenkins do? He was going about trying to get his stick.
 917. Was he lame? Yes. I sang out twice, and he replied, "All right." I then ran out in front of the horse, and when the water came up to my chest I thought it was time to go. As I was coming past the flat the water was reaching to my shoulders.
 918. How did you get out? I had to swim on my back until I got to the travelling road on the right-hand side.
 919. Were there many men there? Yes, a good few.
 920. And you did not see Jenkins again? No.
 921. You say he was looking for his stick at the time you left? Yes, I believe so; he was feeling about for his stick.
 922. Had he his clothes on at the time? I believe he had commenced to put them on. I know he was going to the place where his clothes lay, but I did not actually see him get them.
 923. Did you never hear the men talk about these workings being under the swamps? No.
 924. Where did you think you were working? I did not know exactly—somewhere down the road going to Wickham from Tighe's Hill.
 925. Did you know that the salt water rose over these swamps? No; I was never down there till the fall-in occurred.
 926. Is that all you know about Jenkins? Yes.
 927. *Mr. Usher.* Do you know anything about a fall-in at the surface which became filled with water and formed a bathing-place? No.

The witness withdrew.

Henry Hargraves sworn and examined:—

928. *President.* Were you working at Ferndale in March last? Yes.
 929. In what capacity? As a miner.
 930. How long had you worked in Ferndale? I was there very nearly eighteen months.
 931. In what positions did you work in that mine? The last quarter I and my mate were working what they call the soft coal towards the crop.
 932. At what part? It was about ten bords away from the crop.
 933. What bord were you working in? I believe it was No. 21 or No. 22.
 934. That was ten or twelve bords down from the scene of the accident? What was the number of your bord? It was cavilled again the same day as the fall occurred. I think it was No. 10.
 935. Where were you working in this section when you struck the crop? I never struck the crop.
 936. You said you were working the soft coal? Yes; but they call all that soft coal because it was going towards the crop.

Mr. H.
Hargraves.
1 June, 1886.

- Mr. H. Hargraves.
1 June, 1886.
937. Did you know that these workings were going towards the crop? Of course I did.
938. Did you know that they were working under the swamps? Well, I did not know for certain, but I supposed they did.
939. Did you know? Well, I could give an idea the same as the rest of them.
940. Be good enough to answer the question direct. Did you know? No; I did not know that we were working under the swamps. I only knew that we were working under the flat by the water-shaft.
941. That is the swamp. Did you know that the tide covered that flat? Yes; I knew it came up sometimes.
942. Then you and the men knew that you were working under these swamps? Yes.
943. Did you ever work higher up towards the rise than the bord you last worked in? No.
944. Was there any water coming off the coal in your bord? Yes; we had a feeder coming out of our bord.
945. What part of it? It came in at the top side and went straight across the bord, coming out of the "jerry."
946. Was it salt water? Yes; it was the same as the water usually was down in the pit.
947. Quite salt? Yes.
948. How long was this feeder in your bord? About a fortnight.
949. Did you strike it suddenly? Yes; on the left-hand side.
950. Was there much water? Yes, a good stream. They did not have it in the bord above us.
951. Did it bring any sand with it? No; it was clear water.
952. Did that not raise any doubt in your mind as to the direction you were working in? No, it never did.
953. Did you see any bords in Ferndale that had reached the crop? No; I was never up to the crop in Ferndale.
954. You had no idea of danger in your mind? None at all.
955. Where were you at the time of the accident? I was working in my bord.
956. How did you become aware of it? A boy came and sang out. I did not know what it was at the time. I thought it was like the sound of water that came in once before.
957. When was that? About eight or nine months since. It came through a bord just above where I was working at the time, and swamped the bord out for four or five days.
958. Where did it come from? Through the roof.
959. Did it come suddenly? I cannot say. It was the bord above me.
960. Did you hear the men say anything about it? They spoke about it, but I cannot say anything for them.
961. In what manner did the water come down? It came down like a shower.
962. Did it stop itself? Yes; and they worked the bord afterwards. I thought this last break-in was something of the same kind when first I heard it.
963. Did this water you speak of come from a fissure in the roof? No, I do not think so. As I say, it was like a shower. They very often let down water in working the coal.
964. Did it run for several days? Yes; but they started again before the week was out.
965. Well, coming to the morning of the accident, you say that one of the boys warned you? Yes; the boy called out to me, and I filled a skip and sat down. When the water came into the bord, I jumped up to see where it was coming from, and I saw a horse standing between my bord and the next, and a light was hanging in the face. The water then was coming in very strong. I ran along until the lights went out, and then I did not know where I got; presently my lamp jumped out of my hat. When I got to the force of the stream I sat down, because I could not cross it. I sat there till I heard the fall. It came with a rush, and, as it brought me back, I commenced to swim.
966. You sat there for some time? Yes, a good while.
967. Did the force of the stream not last? No; not till the next fall—that's where the main pressure came.
968. *Mr. Thomas.*] How far did you work from John Jenkins? I was about 5 yards below him.
969. *President.*] You say you were seated on the side of the main road, and the water accumulated up to your neck? Yes.
970. How long did you remain in that position? As I was sitting down between the prop and the rib I could feel the water coming up. I was fixed fast by the rubbish that came down with the water. I managed to wrench my arms out, and then I began to swim, my idea being that if I got to the top side I would stand a better chance.
971. And you got to dry land at last? Yes.
972. Was the first fall that you speak of a large fall? It was a fall of rock. I went up till I could feel the cool air coming, and when I came to the first fall the water was up to my waist.
973. Was there any current in the water there? No, not then.
974. The fall would choke it, I suppose? Yes. When I got further down I saw the daylight, and then there was a strong current—that is nearer the rise. I should not have gone that road if I had had my light with me, because I should naturally have taken the main road, and if I had done so I could never have got out.
975. Was the fall below the hole? No; it was at the right-hand side of the hole.
976. When you came to the hole, could you see daylight? I could just see a glimmering of it, because I was round the corner. I was there for an hour and a half before I could attempt to cross the stream.
977. Then the water went down? Yes, as the tide went out. The first fall was about 11 feet high, which I climbed over. I think it was on the main road, but I cannot say, as I had not been working up there for twelve months. I had been working down at the lower side of the pit.
978. When the water diminished, did you go under the hole, and did you see daylight then? Yes.
979. Did you see the people above? No; I did not see anybody. I sang out, and then sat down again, when I heard someone call out, "Halloa," and a rope was sent down to me, but it was too short. A longer rope was got, however, and by this means I was pulled out of the pit.
980. What time was it when you were drawn up? I believe it was close upon 1 o'clock.
981. Then you were battling with this water in the mine for about three or four hours? Yes, quite that.
982. You saw nothing of Jenkins? No.
983. You must have passed his bord, too? Yes; from what I have been told since, I must have gone right past his bord, as there was no other road out.
- 984.

984. *Mr. Jones*] What distance was your bord from the road? It was about 20 or 30 yards from the road.
985. *Mr. Davies*] Were your bords extra timbered, as compared with others? Yes, I believe they were.
986. Was double timber used? It was in some places. The same timbering was employed nearly all over the pit.
987. Did you never have a conversation with any of the men about working under these swamps? No; I never used to think about it. Perhaps my mate would say to me, "Where do you think we are working," or make some remark like that, but I never thought anything about the matter.
988. And you never thought of any danger? None whatever. The only danger that ever I thought of was the possible falling of a piece of rotten roof.
989. Did you see on the surface a fall that took place some considerable time before the accident? Yes; I went there one Sunday.
990. And did that never give you any reason to doubt the wisdom of working under the tidal waters? I never thought there was any danger, because when we got this 6 inches of stuff down there was hard conglomerate above.
991. And did you put in timber to keep up this 6 inches of stuff? Yes.
992. *Mr. Jones*] But sometimes it was much thicker, was it not? Yes; sometimes it was 4 or 5 feet thick. The fall I went over was very high.
993. *Mr. Davies*] And you think every precaution was taken for your safety? Yes. But I believe there were some men who were suspicious of this place.
994. Can you tell their names? No, I cannot.
995. Were they strangers to you? No; they were men who have been working with me.
996. Then surely you can recollect their names, can't you? No; I have a bad memory. I only heard it in a public-house, where I met them; and they, or some of them there, said that they knew this would happen. Pickavance was the only one who spoke to me in the pit.
997. *President*] Was it since the accident that these men spoke about the accident, saying they knew that it would happen? Yes, since the accident.
998. *Mr. Davies*] Did you ever hear Cornelius Peters say anything? I have heard Cornelius Peters or John Johns say something, but I cannot recollect.
999. *Mr. Jones*] Do you believe everything was done for the safety of the men in working the mine? Yes.
1000. *Mr. Turnbull*] Do you know if men were ever discharged for working the bords too wide? No.
1001. *Mr. Jones*] Did you ever know the men object to putting in timber? No; not where they were paid for it.
1002. *Mr. Neilson*] How far were the sets apart? About 2 feet 6 inches; in some places they were not so far, and in others they were farther apart.
1003. *Mr. Jones*] Had you any special reason for disregarding the warning given by the fall? I thought it was only a bord broken in. I did not know that the boy was singing out to me.
- The witness withdrew.

James Pickavance sworn and examined:—

1004. *President*] What are you by occupation? I am a miner.
1005. Have you been employed at Ferndale Colliery? Yes; I worked there for six years and six months.
1006. Have you worked in all the dip workings of this colliery? I have been at the rise and at the dip.
1007. Have you worked in any of the bords that have gone into the surface? No, I have not.
1008. Have you seen any of the crop places? Yes.
1009. Where? This one in the heading.
1010. Was it you that drove that heading where the fall occurred? Yes.
1011. Where did you go to in the face? We left it at the coal.
1012. Did you go to the surface? No.
1013. What width was driven? About 5 or 6 yards.
1014. What was the object of driving there? Just to prove the coal; it was driven about 10 yards.
1015. You know where the fall took place? Yes.
1016. Where? In the two headings where we were; it was close against the crop-coal.
1017. You do not refer to the fall of the 18th March last? No; I know nothing about that.
- Dictated by the President:—The headings that the witness refers to are driven up to letter J on the tracing.
1018. Did this fall take place at the face of the heading, or some distance back? It was close to where we left off in the narrow passage.
1019. Just opposite one of the cut-throughs? Yes, just about there.
1020. Did it give you much warning? It came down through the night, and in the morning I found clay and a little sand there; there was not much; it was quite dry.
1021. What did you do? We turned the bords away further back.
1022. Did you barricade it up in any way? I do not know whether the master did or not.
1023. *Mr. Jones*] Do you know whether it was done or not? I believe it was stopped.
1024. *President*] Did you ever see the result of that fall on the surface? Not to my knowledge.
1025. Do you know the position on the surface where it took place? No; I am not a surveyor, and I cannot speak as to that.
1026. Did you know whether the workings were covered by salt water at high tide? No, I did not.
1027. Had you any conversation with your mates on the subject? No; I knew the heading that we were in was on the rise of the seam of coal. It was quite dry.
1028. Were you aware that the face of the workings was under the swamps? I was not; I did not know where it was exactly.
1029. Did you tell any of your mates that you apprehended danger from the salt water coming in? No.
1030. Are you perfectly sure that you never told any of your mates that you were afraid of an accident happening? I never said so that I am aware of.

- Mr. J. Pickavance
1 June, 1886.
1031. Will you repeat that you never had such a conversation? I repeat that I never told anybody I was frightened.
1032. Did you not state to some of your fellow-workmen that you were afraid an accident was about to happen? Not to my knowledge.
1033. Did you not know that these workings were under the tidal swamps? No, I did not.
1034. Do you know the heading where this fall has taken place? I cannot tell you where the fall is, whether it is a heading or a bord. I am a stranger to those workings where the fall occurred. The heading that I was in was a long way further back.
1035. Coming back to that fall, you know a great deal more than you are disposed to tell us, and we know what you know. You say you do not know what was done to prevent another fall occurring there. I am going to tell you that you do know, and that you do know about the stoppings and barricades; and the reason is that you put them up, and that you were paid for putting them up. I wish you to remember that you have taken an oath to tell the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? I never was paid to put up barricades.
1036. Did you not work with Cotterill putting up barricades? No; I never worked with such a man, and I never was engaged in putting up barricades.
1037. *Mr. Usher.*] Who was your mate? I was working with a man named Miller.
1038. *Mr. Swinburn.*] We have heard that you were putting up these barricades, and were paid for it? We put a dam back into a little hole that was put in there.
1039. How long did you work at that? We were there a shift.
1040. Did you see it the next shift? No; next night we got the fall, and some sand came away. When we put this sand in we came to blue clay. We ran the top-coal out, and came on to the "jerry"; it was quite dry.
1041. *President.*] Where were you working at the time of the last accident? I was working down below, a long way off.
1042. How were you apprised of the accident—who gave you notice? The boys came down the cut-through by my place and said the water was in the pit. I at once ran away, and when we got out on the main horse-road we met the water. I followed it into the travelling road with the others—about fourteen of us—till we got on to the engine-road.
1043. The water was going strong down the hill? Yes, very strong when I came through it.
1044. How deep was it? It was about up to my waist.
1045. Then, of course, you made your way to the pit bottom. Did you go down again? No; we made our way to the engine-road, and were drawn up.
1046. And you did not go down again? No.
1047. Then are you satisfied now, after what has happened, that the working of the coal-seams under these swamps is attended with some danger? I do not think there is much danger where there is plenty of rock overhead. On the other hand, I would not like to work where there was no top.
1048. Where there was no top the roof has not come down, but where this serious fall happened it appears there was nearly 40 feet of rock. Do you now think there is some little danger in working in such a place? I certainly think there is danger where there is no roof above the coal.
1049. But here a fall takes place through 40 feet of rock-cover? There is nothing impossible in that, because in coal-mines you often fall in with a "fault" in the rock.
1050. *Mr. Jones.*] Referring to the previous fall you speak of, you have said that you found it had come in next morning. Was it securely timbered when you left it? Oh, yes, it was securely timbered.
1051. Did the employers, in your opinion, do all in their power to secure the general safety of the men? So far as I know. When I was in the pit there was always plenty of timber there.
1052. Then, viewing the whole of the circumstances, and having visited the scene of the fall, are you of opinion that any special care should be taken in working seams of that character, where the tidal waters flow over the top? That is a general question I cannot answer very well.
1053. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Would it not be better to work the bords narrower? These bords that we were driving were narrow—6 yards.
1054. *Mr. Jones.*] Was the manager very particular in seeing that the width of the bords did not exceed the rule laid down? Yes.
1055. *Mr. Usher.*] Did you ever see any 4-yard bords there? I never worked them, but I have heard it said there were 4-yard bords.
1056. *Mr. Turnbull.*] What was the width of the cut-through that you drove in that portion of the workings where the fall took place? About 5 feet.
1057. *Mr. Davies.*] At the fall you speak of, when the sand and clay came down, did you see any shells? I believe I saw a few shells.
1058. Did that not lead you to believe that you must be working under the tidal swamps? I could not tell where they came from.
1059. You did not think they grew below, did you? There must have been a wash there some time or other.
1060. Did you see shells there next morning? I saw something like shells.
1061. I suppose you know what shells are. Did you see shells? Yes.
1062. Was this a subject of conversation between you and your mates as to the safety of working in this part of the mine? We might talk about it perhaps, as we could not tell exactly where we were. As for anything that might occur, of course I could not tell.
1063. *President.*] If you had any doubt as to where you were, why did you not ask Mr. Powell, the manager? Well, a man does not think about such things.
1064. *Mr. Jones.*] I suppose there was not sufficient doubt? No.
1065. *Mr. Davies.*] You did not work with any fear? No, or I should not have been there.
1066. And no one expressed any fear as to the safety of the mine? I never heard anyone.

The witness withdrew.

William Thomas Owen sworn and examined:—

Mr. W. T.
Owen.

1 June, 1886.

1067. *President.*] What is your calling? I am a miner.
1068. How long have you worked at Ferndale? I have worked there on and off for five years.
1069. Have you worked in the rise bords of the dip workings? Yes.
1070. Have you worked in any of the bords that went towards the surface? No.
1071. What bord were you working in at the time of the accident? In the next bord to the man that was drowned. The one below him; No. 5 or No. 6.
1072. Were these bords driven narrow or of the full width? When we started we drove 6 yards wide, and when we had driven 20 yards we increased the width to 8 yards, by the manager's direction.
1073. Were the bords above and below you 8 yards wide? The one above me was 6 yards wide.
1074. Was your bord secured by timber? Yes, secured by timber.
1075. Why was that? We always had plenty of timber.
1076. But was there extra timber in these bords? Not in mine.
1077. Was the roof secured by sets of double timber? No; we did not need it where I was.
1078. Did they use it in the other bords? Down below me they did not need double timber.
1079. Did you ever see double timber in Ferndale? I have seen it.
1080. What was it put in for? It was to secure the roof, which was occasionally bad there.
1081. Was there much soft coal where you were working last? No, there was not much. It was pretty hard as a rule.
1082. Do you know anything about some falls that took place further up some months ago? I was not aware when the fall took place, but I was told of it afterwards.
1083. How came you to hear of it? I heard some men talk about it. I forget who they were.
1084. Were you told it was a heavy fall? No; I did not know that it came to the surface.
1085. But do you know now? I have been told that the fall choked itself.
1086. Did they tell you what it consisted of? I was told it consisted of sand.
1087. Did you know that where you were working you were under the swamp? No; I did not know exactly.
1088. Did you never have the curiosity to ask where you were working? No; I did not give it a thought.
1089. When you heard your mates talking about sand coming down at the falls, did it not arouse your curiosity? Not in the least.
1090. When did you hear that that fall came to the surface? I was told that the fall choked itself before it came to the surface.
1091. Who told you so? I cannot recollect.
1092. Did you ever go over to ascertain? No.
1093. Have you ever gone over to see the cave-in that occurred a month or six weeks ago? Yes.
1094. Did you look to the left of that and see a depression near the swamp? No.
1095. Was there any water coming out of the face of the bord that you were working in last? No; it was a dry bord.
1096. And was the roof good? Yes.
1097. How did you become aware of the accident of the 18th March? The wheelers gave us the alarm.
1098. And did you act upon the alarm at once? Yes.
1099. Tell us what you did? Well, as soon as we heard about it we ran for a place of safety; and when we were coming out we had to pass through a considerable stream of water which was coming down the heading. It was up to my middle when I went through it.
1100. Were you working in your bord below Jenkins? Yes.
1101. Who was the wheeler? John Powell.
1102. Did you hear young Powell warning Jenkins? No.
1103. He warned you, I believe? Yes; he sang out in the heading.
1104. By the time you got out into the heading the water was 3 or 4 feet deep? Yes, it was all that.
1105. Were there any men along with you? Yes, there were a lot of us together, and we crossed the water and got into the travelling road, and out of the water.
1106. *Mr. Usher.*] When you came away from the fall, did you call out to Jenkins? No; we all ran for it.
1107. Did you know about the existence of these tidal swamps, to the east of Ferndale, that surround Throsby's Creek? Yes; I knew there was a flat there.
1108. Did you know that you were working under the flat? No.
1109. But you knew the roads were going down in that direction? Yes, but I did not know we were nearly so far down as we were.
1110. Who told you that this fall choked itself up? I cannot say.
1111. You have a poor memory? Yes.
1112. *Mr. Jones.*] Having heard that a fall took place on a previous occasion, and brought down the sand, did it not occur to you that there was some danger to be apprehended? No; it did not frighten me at all.
1113. Did it not occur to you that what had already happened might happen again; and in that light, did it occur to you that there was any danger? I did not consider there was any danger in my bord, or anywhere else, for that matter.
1114. But does not a circumstance like that point to the conclusion that there is danger? Of course, as there is water over it there must be a certain amount of danger, but I had no idea of where I was working.
1115. *Mr. Swinburn.*] You have been five years about Ferndale you say? Yes.
1116. And you never observed anything of this kind? I knew that if ever a fall came, and the water was up high, it would come through.
1117. *President.*] Why could you not answer me candidly, when I asked you the question, that you knew these workings were under the tidal swamps? We have come here to perform a public duty—you are here to second that purpose—why not tell us the truth at once? It is this way, sir: I did not know exactly where I was working, but I knew that if the workings were underneath this flat, and if a fall took place to the surface, the water would come in.
1118. You had evidently been pondering over this, and you could have arrived at an understanding by speaking

Mr.
W. T. Owen.
1 June, 1886.

speaking to your working manager? Well, of course he might have told us, but I would not think it to be my duty to ask the manager where I was working.

1119. You now tell us, at the very last moment, that you were aware that if a fall took place it would flood the mine, which clearly implies that you knew you were working under the tidal workings. It would have looked better had you been more straightforward? I had no wish to be anything but straightforward.

1120. *Mr. Davies.*] You have been in the habit of attending miners' meetings, have you not, Owen? Yes,

1121. And have you never heard this made the subject of discussion, as to the working of these bords under the swamps? Well, so far as my recollection carries me, I never recollect anything being brought up in the meetings about it.

The witness withdrew.

WEDNESDAY, 2 JUNE, 1886.

Present:—

J. R. M. ROBERTSON, Esq., PRESIDENT.

MR. USHER.
MR. THOMAS.
MR. NELSON.
MR. TURNBULL.

MR. SWINBURN.
MR. CURLEY.
MR. JONES.
MR. DAVIES.

MR. DURIE.

Mr. John Mackenzie, F.G.S., recalled:—

Mr. J.
Mackenzie,
F.G.S.
2 June, 1886.

Mr. Mackenzie lodges a tracing of the old plan of Ferndale, showing the workings under Maitland Road and towards Tighe's Creek, marked "No. 2" within a circle; also a plan of a colliery started on the A.A. Company's property, Tighe's Hill (Broughall and Griffiths), showing colliery workings under Tighe's Creek, and approaching the workings of Ferndale Colliery towards the said creek. Having lodged these plans, marked "No. 2" and "No. 3" within circles, Mr. Mackenzie kindly offers his record tracings for the use of the Commission *pro tem.*, and to have true tracings of the workings prepared and lodged with the Commission.

Mr. Mackenzie also lodges sheets of correspondence between the Inspector of Collieries and the Examiner of Coal-fields and Messrs. Broughall and Griffiths (through Mr. Gorrick, solicitor) and the Mines Department; and the Inspector's reports *re* the undermining of creeks from Broughall and Griffiths's colliery.

Also opinion of Attorney-General *re* 25 Vict. No. 39.

Also reports of Inspector Dixon on Ferndale Colliery, from 17 January, 1885, to 27 February, 1886.

Also a list of bores at Ferndale, furnished by Mr. James Fletcher, junior.

Also a plan of Ferndale Colliery, showing the position of the several bores put down.

1122. *Mr. Jones:* Mr. Gorrick, in his letter to the Minister, states that the safety of Broughall and Griffiths's colliery had been tested by the miners. How was that information obtained—in writing or only verbally, do you know? No, I do not. But it seems strange to me that any body of men should fail to report to the Inspector any survey made as to the safety of the mine.

The witness withdrew.

(Mr. John Usher in the Chair.)

William Teasdale sworn and examined:—

Mr. W.
Teasdale.
2 June, 1886.

1123. *Chairman.*] What is your occupation? I am a miner.

1124. How long have you been a miner, and how long have you been in this Colony? I have been engaged in mining about thirty-four years, and I have been two years in this Colony.

1125. How long have you been engaged at Ferndale? About eighteen months.

1126. In what part of the mine were you employed? Up in the soft coal—the part where this accident occurred.

1127. Were you employed there during the whole time since you went to Ferndale? Yes.

1128. In what particular bords were you working? In No. 34 and No. 37.

1129. Is that near the last fall-in? Yes.

1130. Can you point them out on the plans? I do not understand the plan.

1131. How far was your bord from the fall-in? The fall-in took place at No. 37 bord.

1132. What width were these bords? Six yards. No. 37 and No. 34 were 4 yards.

1133. What made them reduce the width of the bords from 6 to 4 yards? I cannot say that.

1134. Did you ever hear the manager or the overman state any reason? No; I never heard anything.

1135. What is your opinion about it? I cannot say what might be the reason of it.

1136. Was the roof good? It seemed middling good where we were working. I was in the thirty-seventh bord just before the accident happened, and I never saw any danger. There was plenty of timber.

1137. What kind of roof was there? It was a kind of black stone? There was no clay or sand.

1138. Was it shale? Yes.

1139. Did you see any conglomerate anywhere over the roof of the coal? No; not in that part.

1140. How was your place timbered? We had plenty of timber.

1141. Was it what they call double timbered? Yes.

1142. I believe you are paid extra for double timbering? Yes.

1143. Were you aware that these two bords you have spoken of were under the tidal swamps? No; or I would not have been there.

1144. Did you never make any inquiry as to where you were working? Yes; but I could never get any idea.

1145. Who did you ask? I asked the men working next to me, but they did not know.

1146:

1146. Did you ask the overman or the manager? No.
1147. Did you have any conversation on the subject, or did you hear any conversation taking place between any of the men underground or on the surface? No.
1148. Did you ever hear anyone say that it was unsafe to work there, or that they thought so? No.
1149. Then you did not anticipate any danger? No.
1150. Were you aware that a fall took place in another part of these crop workings about a year or fifteen months ago? Yes; I believe there was a slight fall, where some sand came down further up.
1151. How far was it from the present fall? I cannot say how many yards.
1152. Do you know what was done after that fall? No, I do not.
1153. Do you know whether any stoppings or barricades were put in? No; I never went up in that direction.
1154. Do you know whether it fell to the surface? I know nothing but what I have been told.
1155. When did you know about this fall that took place fifteen months ago? I cannot say when I heard it.
1156. Was it since the late disaster or before it? Oh, it was before the accident.
1157. How long before? About a month, I daresay.
1158. When you did ascertain the fact, did it raise any fears in your mind as to the safety of the working? No; I did not see any danger where I was working.
1159. Was any water coming from the roof or from the foot of those two bords you worked in? None whatever; they were perfectly dry.
1160. You never worked in any bords that went out to the crop? No.
1161. How far was it from where you were working that the sand came down? I cannot say.
1162. You must have some idea—was it in the locality at all? No; it was higher up.
1163. How many places back? I cannot say how far.
1164. When you were informed of the fall, did your informants not mention the locality where it occurred? No; they did not mention exactly where it was.
1165. What was this part of the pit where you were working called? We used to call it the soft coal.
1166. Did this fall take place in the soft coal? Yes.
1167. I suppose it was not far away from where you were working? It is not a great distance, but I cannot say how many yards.
1168. Why did you ask your mates where you were working as to the surface? I had no conversation about it.
1169. You distinctly stated in the early part of your evidence that you asked your mates the question? I do not remember.
- [The shorthand writer read that portion of the witness's evidence referred to.]
1170. Why did you put that question—was it from curiosity or a sense of danger? I never thought there was any danger.
1171. Then you say you never visited the first fall? No.
1172. Did you hear it reported that shells came down with the first fall? Yes.
1173. Did it not strike you then that there was some danger of the water coming in? No, it never struck me.
1174. In fact you had no curiosity in the matter? No.
1175. Where are you working now? At Waratah.
1176. Has anyone spoken to you at all as to the evidence you were to give here to-day? No.
1177. Nor at any time? No.
1178. *Mr. Swinburn.* You have been mining for thirty-four years? Yes.
1179. How many pillars was your working place away from the fall-in that took place fifteen months ago? I cannot say how many pillars were between the two places.
1180. How many bords were you from the last fall? I was working in the next bord.

The witness withdrew.

Wm. Williams sworn and examined:—

1181. *Chairman.* Are you a miner? Yes, a coal-miner.
1182. How long have you been engaged in coal-mining? About eleven years.
1183. In what particular districts have you worked in Newcastle? The New Lambton, Minmi, and Ferndale.
1184. How long were you employed at Ferndale? About three years.
1185. In what particular districts in the colliery did you work? Well, I worked in No. 8, No. 4, No. 3, and No. 1 bords.
1186. That is in what they call the dip workings? Yes.
1187. Not far from where the fall took place? The last place where I worked was close to the fall-in.
1188. In what bord was that? No. 34.
1189. How far is that from the fall-in? Well, I do not know the place exactly, but, as far as I can understand, it fell in just opposite my bord. (Position described on the plan.)
- [The witness handed in a cavel sheet of the last cavel that was worked in the mine.]
1190. What was the width of the bord you were working in? Eight yards.
1191. What kind of roof had you there? Very soft.
1192. What was the nature of the strata? It was a kind of sandy clay and coal with a little hard stuff mixed with it,—a shaly kind of stone.
1193. What thickness was it? It was about a foot, coming down from the rock.
1194. Did it require timbering? Yes; we put sets in the middle and single side-sets.
1195. Were you paid extra for putting in that timber? Yes, for the centre one.
1196. Was there any water coming from the bottom or roof? Not in my place; it flowed into my place from a place above.
1197. Where did it come from in that place? From the roof.
1198. Was it much? It was sufficient to keep me from work for a couple of days on one occasion.
1199. Was the water salt? Yes.
1200. How long did it run from that bord? Well, there was a small stream running for a long time. For a week or two, or more perhaps, I cannot say exactly.
- 1201.

Mr. W.
Teesdale.

2 June, 1886.

Mr.
W. Williams.
2 June, 1886.

Mr.
W. Williams.
2 June, 1886.

1201. Did it cease running from the adjoining bord? No, it ran into my bord through defective drainage. Instead of running down the gutter it ran into my place.
1202. Did you consider it was safe to work there with the timbering you had? At that time I considered it was safe.
1203. Was there any limit to the quantity of timber? No; we always had plenty.
1204. You put it in at your own discretion, and were paid for it? Yes.
1205. Did you anticipate danger from any source whatever in the working of Ferndale Colliery? Not in my place.
1206. In any other place? Yes; I thought those working behind would have a fall.
1207. You were aware that they were under the tidal swamps? No; I did know for certain where they were.
1208. And going on that thought you calculated that there was danger. From what source did you apprehend danger? The roof was so soft on the top of the timber that the timber had no hold on it, and it kept crumbling away.
1209. Do you think that that crumbling away was sufficient to warrant you in coming to the conclusion that the roof would fall right up to the surface? No; I had no idea how far the surface was from the coal, nor what there was above.
1210. You did not know whether there was conglomerate above or not? No.
1211. Were you aware of a fall having taken place some twelve or fifteen months before the last fall? Yes.
1212. Did you see whether they had driven up to the crop then? No, I did not see it; I knew of the fall from hearsay only.
1213. *Mr. Jones.*] Had you no desire to see it? I did not consider it very important to myself, and therefore I did not desire to see it at the time. Had I known it was so close to the creek and the tidal waters it would have occurred to me to go down perhaps.
1214. *Mr. Thomas.*] Then you never anticipated any danger there? No.
1215. Did you ever hear, either inside or out of the mine, any opinion expressed on the subject? Yes; they said it would very likely be flooded.
1216. Who did you hear say that? I have heard the manager himself express a fear—that is Mr. Joseph Powell.
1217. That is the overman? Yes; it was he told me when the fall-in took place. I can tell you how he happened to make the remark. The bord I was working in was making a lot of water, and Mr. Powell said he did not know how he would be able to keep the water down; that's how he came to tell me about it.
1218. Was no complaint made to the manager about the conversation you speak of? No.
1219. How was it that such a matter was not mentioned to the manager by someone amongst you? I do not know, I am sure. The manager was doing all he could to make things safe.
1220. At the same time you were conscious of working in great danger? I did not say so; I had no idea at all that the mine was likely to fall in with the water.
1221. *Chairman.*] Was there anyone present when the conversation took place between you and the overman? I do not remember.
1222. Try to remember where it was, under what circumstances, and whether anybody was present or not. Was it in the mine? Yes; it was in my own bord.
1223. Did a like conversation take place in any other part, or on any other occasion? I do not remember.
1224. Do you remember the names of any of the miners who said there was danger? No, I do not.
1225. Not one? No, not one.
1226. I understood you to say that several men had made the remark to you? Yes, but I do not remember them; I never thought I should be asked the question.
1227. You are not a stranger in the Colony? I was born here—at Four-mile Creek.
1228. You know your fellow-miners well? Yes.
1229. And yet you cannot point out one of them who made this important remark to you? No, I could not do it. I might think of one, and I might turn out to be wrong.
1230. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Can you not take time to consider, and give us the names afterwards? No.
1231. Why not? Because my memory is not good enough.
1232. *Chairman.*] Is it not a fact that you are an unwilling witness, and do not wish to give the names? No, it is not. I would give you the names if I could recollect them.
1233. *Mr. Neilson.*] You have been a long time at the colliery, and are, I suppose, perfectly acquainted with every man there. If I were asked that question about the 700 or 800 men I have at Wallsend I could not answer more indefinitely than you have as to twenty men out of whom you are asked to recollect one who made this remark to you. You must know that you are only evading the question? I deny that I know them.
1234. I simply don't believe you? I think it is very unfair for you to say that.
1235. *Mr. Curley.*] Do I understand that you may know some of these men? Yes; I know them all, but do not remember their names.
1236. And for fear of fixing on the wrong individuals you hesitate to name them—is that your position? Yes, that is my position.
1237. *Chairman.*] If after leaving us now you ascertain the names of any of those individuals with whom you had a conversation as to the unsafety of the mine, will you communicate with the Commission? I will.
1238. *Mr. Curley.*] Do you know whether the Check Inspectors at Ferndale carried out their duties regularly previous to this accident? No, they did not.
1239. Do you know the names of the Check Inspectors; if so, mention them? The last two Check Inspectors were George Moorhouse and the late David Hopkins.
1240. Have you any idea whether the Check Inspectors at all times were afforded proper facilities for carrying out their duties? I cannot say anything as to that.
1241. *Chairman.*] Do you know if at any time any obstruction was thrown in their way? I never heard of any objection being taken to their going round the workings and making their reports.
1242. *Mr. Davies.*] You were secretary to the miners of that colliery? Yes.
1243. And you were acquainted with the men? Yes.
1244. I suppose you consider it your duty to give us all the information you can in this matter? Yes, I do.
- 1245.

Mr.
W. Williams.
2 June, 1886.

1245. Do you not think it is reasonable for us to assume that you can remember the names of the men who you say raised a doubt as to the safety of the mine? No.
1246. Do you not think it strange that you should not remember? No, I do not.
1247. You have been at all the miners' meetings, being Secretary, I suppose. How long did you hold the position of Secretary? About nine months.
1248. Was not this question of danger incurred in the workings at Ferndale ever brought up at any of these miners' meetings? I have heard of danger being spoken of in the reports.
1249. Was it ever discussed in connection with the reports? Yes, it has been discussed.
1250. *Chairman.*] What kind of danger was referred in the report? The fact of there being a bad roof, and insufficient timber in the bords.
1251. *Mr. Davies.*] My question was as to the danger of the mine being flooded? You put a general question, as I understood it.
1252. Do you say that a discussion took place at any of these miners' meetings as to the danger of working under these swamps? No; I never meant you to understand that.
1253. Nothing was said about sand and clay coming down in this first fall? I have heard that spoken of, but cannot remember where.
1254. Where are the Check Inspectors' reports now, do you know? No; I sent them on to the General Secretary.
1255. *Mr. Durie.*] Do you know if any men left the colliery some time previous to the accident for fear of something of this kind happening? No.
1256. *Mr. Jones.*] Do you know whether any special care was taken to protect the lives of the men in consequence of that first fall having taken place? No; I cannot say that I do.
1257. Do you know of a barricade being erected there? There was a stopping put up, but I could not say for what purpose.
1258. You are aware that stoppings were put up in that particular locality? Yes.
1259. And you never inquired as to the cause or reason? No.
1260. Do you think that in driving the bords special care was taken on the part of the manager? Yes; it looked as if special care was taken to drive the dip bords 4 yards.
1261. *Mr. Curley.*] Who was entrusted with the Check Inspectors' reports that you speak about? I sent them wrapped up in an envelope to the General Secretary.
1262. How long was that ago? Some time ago; about the time of the co-operative case.
1263. Has there been any report since then? Yes, there was one taken since then, but it was not adopted.
1264. *Mr. Davies.*] Why was it not adopted? The principal reason was, that it was not considered a fair report, as an accident had occurred and broken down one of the doors; and the miners took into consideration that the door was broken down through an accident, and it was not considered a report fair to the management.
- 1265-6. Was it signed by the Inspectors? Yes.
1267. Is this book not kept in the Company's office? Yes.
1268. Has it been taken out of the Company's office at all? I do not know.
1269. Is the one sent to the district officer the same as that kept in the Company's office? Yes.
1270. Is this (produced) the book you refer to? Yes.
1271. Are these the actual signatures of the Inspectors? Yes; those are the original reports. I may say that the reason of the report not being taken right was on account of the water being down in the lower part of the pit, and the Inspectors could not get there. That was down close to the fall—what they call the main heading. I was working there myself.
1272. *Chairman.*] Where did the water come from? From the roof. It was raining down from every part. That is the reason the reports were not taken.
1273. I suppose where it rained in was at or about the extremity of the workings? Yes.
1274. That is not an unusual thing? No.

The witness withdrew.

Thomas Cunliff sworn and examined:—

Mr.
T. Cunliff.
2 June, 1886.

1275. *Chairman.*] You are a miner? Yes, a coal-miner.
1276. How long have you been engaged in mining? About forty years.
1277. How long were you employed at Ferndale? Scarcely two years before the water came in.
1278. In what portion of the colliery have you worked? Well, I have worked in the greater part of it. I never worked back of where this fall took place.
1279. Did you work in the locality where this disaster occurred? So far as I can ascertain, yes.
1280. At the time of the fall-in, how far were you working from it? About 200 or 300 yards.
1281. In what direction? I was down at the bottom end of the workings at the time when the water came in.
1282. Down near the engine-shaft? Further down than that.
1283. When you worked down near the fall, what was the width of the bords there? I drove one 6 yards and one 4 yards.
1284. What was the general width? 8 yards.
1285. Why were these bords driven so narrow? I cannot tell. The top was a little soft next to the coal.
1286. Did you ever hear the manager or the overman express an opinion on the subject, or give a reason why the bords were driven so narrow? No; I simply got my orders.
1287. Did you form any opinion of your own as to why these bords should be driven 6 yards and 4 yards? No more than what I have said—that there was some soft stuff on top of the coal.
1288. How much of this soft stuff was there on the top of the coal? About 6 or 7 inches.
- 1288a. And do you think that would be a sufficient reason for working the bords so narrow, simply because there was 6 inches of soft stuff on the top of the coal. I am speaking to you as an old miner. Do you think that a sufficient reason? We were going near the crop, and I suppose it was thought that was as near as we ought to work them.

1289.

Mr.
T. Cunliff.
2 June, 1886.

1289. Do you know what was overlying this 6 inches of soft stuff? Some of it seemed to be pretty hard, a kind of solid roof such as you would find in all the mines.
1290. Was there much timber put in? We had as much timber as we wanted.
1291. Was it single or double timbering? We put both single and double timber in.
1292. And did you put double timber in to keep up this 6 inches of soft stuff? That would very often come down with the coal.
1293. Did you require timber above that? It all required timbering.
1294. Were you paid for putting in timber? Yes, on the road—1s. 6d. a set.
1295. Then it would pay you to put timber in? Well, for my part I would rather have done without it.
1296. Could you put the timber in where you liked? Yes; it was to keep us safe.
1297. Did the deputy have anything to say in it? The deputy would order timber to be put in if there was evidence of a want of safety.
1298. I suppose for the most part you would exercise your own discretion? Yes.
1299. Was there any water in the 6-yard and 4-yard bords that you worked in? No.
1300. Did you drive to the crop? No.
1301. Did you in any instance drive to the sand or clay, that is, to the outcrop? No.
1302. Were you aware when you were working in that 8-yard bord near the fall that you were under the tidal swamps? No. I thought we were going in that direction; but I did not know exactly where we were.
1303. Did you anticipate any danger as likely to arise from working under these swamps? No.
1304. Have you ever heard anyone either in or out of the mine express an opinion that there was danger? No.
1305. You are quite sure about that? Yes.
1306. Do you know that a fall took place about twelve or fifteen months ago, a few chains away from the scene of the accident? I believe that was before I went to Ferndale, but I have heard it spoken about.
1307. Did you see the hole in the surface? Yes, after the late fall-in, but not before.
1308. You never saw any heading that had been driven to the outcrop? No.
1309. *Mr. Curley.*] How much of that 6-yard bord did you drive? About 18 or 20 yards.
1310. What was the width of the bord when you turned it away? Six yards.
1311. What was the nature of the facings in that bord after working the coal? We generally got thin facings, about 18 inches or 2 feet.
1312. Did you ever meet with a grayback going up that bord? No; I never saw a grayback.
1313. Did you ever meet with any unusual facings? No; not different from any other coal.
1314. *Chairman.*] Were the facings any different there from what they were back towards the winding-shaft? No.
1315. *Mr. Davies.*] Were there any cracks in the roof going up? Yes, sometimes there would be a bit of a crack.
1316. Nothing unusual? No.
1317. *Mr. Jones.*] Then do you think every care for the safety of the men was taken by the manager? Yes, all due care was taken while I was there.
1318. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Did you ever travel in any of the back places where the soft stuff had fallen, so as to see the hard rock? Yes, I have seen it.
1319. Did you ever see any open places in the rock? No.
1320. Did you ever see any water coming out of the bottom in the hard rock? No.
1321. *Chairman.*] What part of the world were you engaged in mining previous to your coming to this Colony? In Lancashire.

The witness withdrew.

Isaac Hadfield sworn and examined.

Mr.
I. Hadfield.
2 June, 1886.

1322. *Chairman.*] Have you been engaged in coal-mining? Yes.
1323. For how long? For sixteen years.
1324. In what parts? In Durham and Lancashire (England) and in this Colony.
1325. How long were you working in Ferndale Colliery? For three or four months.
1326. In what parts of Ferndale have you worked? Pretty well all over the colliery.
1327. Were you engaged near the fall-in that took place on the 18th of March last? Not at the time it did fall in.
1328. Did you at any time? I turned a bord there about two bords away from the fall. I had just turned it away when the cavil was up.
1329. What width was the bord? It was 4 yards, and I laid it out to 6 yards.
1330. Was there any water coming through the top? No, it was quite dry.
1331. What kind of a roof had you? Well, next to the coal it was like coal and jerry mixed; a kind of soft stuff. There was about half a yard of black stone lying on the coal.
1332. What did it fall to? A harder kind of stuff, or yellow stone.
1333. Was it rock post? No.
1334. Did it require timbering? Yes, in places.
1335. Did you put in any double timber? Yes.
1336. Who directed you to do that? The boss, Mr. Powell. The overman has been in and ordered it. It was the customary thing in that colliery to do so.
1337. Did you think it was necessary? Of course. I was not compelled to put them in unless I thought it was necessary.
1338. You were paid for it of course? Yes.
1339. When you were down in that quarter where you turned away the bord, did you consider that you were working under those swamps where the tide swept over? No.
1340. Did you ever hear anyone say anything about it? No.
1341. Not at that time or up to the date of the disaster? No.
1342. Either in the mine or out of it? No, never.
1343. *Mr. Davies.*] Had you colliery rules at Ferndale? Yes.

1344.

1344. Were they given out to the men? I had a copy given to me; I can only speak for myself.

1345. *Mr. Turnbull.*] You say you were at Ferndale Colliery for three years? Yes.

1346. Have you ever been in the back places where that soft stuff fell down? Yes.

1347. Did you ever notice whether there were any open faces going through the hard stuff at any time? No.

1348. Did you ever notice any water coming from the bottom? No; I never saw any.

1349. *Mr. Neilson.*] Then you knew nothing about the strata until the day of the accident, and then you were in such a hurried state that you could not take notice? Yes. A man who has to work hard in the pit has not much time to take notice of these things.

1350. *Mr. Curley.*] Did you, after the accident had occurred, go to where the fall-in had taken place? Yes.

1351. What did it look like? Well, it had broken straight down; it was bigger at the bottom than at the top; and about 20 feet up there was a piece hanging about 6 or 7 feet thick; the hole at the top was about 4 feet by 5. My calculation was that the stone was between 20 and 30 feet thick. The fall took place in the inward bord.

1352. Which way did it fall—across the bord? It fell all the way across the bord, from the commencement up to the centre, and broke down both sides of the bord.

1353. How many yards? It would be 8 yards from the heading to the far end of the fall.

1354. And the roof had fallen all that distance? Yes.

1355. *Mr. Davies.*] Have you any complaint to make as to neglect of the management for the safety of the men? No.

1356. Do you think due attention was paid by the management to secure the safety of the miners? Yes.

1357. And you have no complaint to make in any way? No.

1358. *Mr. Jones.*] Are you aware of barricades being erected in that locality to prevent the inflow of alluvial deposits or water? No.

1359. Would that indicate to your mind the nature of the fall? I do not understand the question.

1360. *Chairman.*] Supposing a barricade or stopping to be put in, of solid timber—say 12 inches thick—do you think that would be sufficient to prevent water, from such a fall, coming down, as that which occurred in March last? No, I do not.

1361. That is to say, it might have stopped a running of clay or sand, but that water coming in would force it away? Yes.

1362. *Mr. Jones.*] Are you aware of any dams having been put in? No; I am not aware of any dams having been put in.

The witness withdrew.

James Murray sworn and examined:—

1363. *Chairman.*] You are a coal-miner? Yes.

1364. How long have you been engaged in coal-mining? For thirteen years.

1365. In what collieries have you worked? In the A.A. Company's and Ferndale.

1366. How long did you work at Ferndale? About three years.

1367. In what portions of Ferndale Colliery did you work? Somewhere about where the fall-in took place.

1368. In what particular bord or bords did you work? I think it was No. 33, but I do not exactly remember the number of the bord.

1369. What was the width of your bord? 8 yards.

1370. What kind of roof was there? It was a black kind of "bandy" stone.

1371. What thickness was it? I cannot tell exactly, as none of it came down when I was there.

1372. Did you ever see any rock or conglomerate in any part of it? No.

1373. Was there any water from the roof or thill? There was a little in the bottom, but none in the roof.

1374. Did it require much timbering? Not a great extent, but we timbered up very well.

1375. What do you mean. Did you consider it safe to work in that way in that part of the mine? Yes; I considered it safe.

1376. Were you aware that that part of the mine was made a tidal swamp? No, I was not.

1377. Did you ever hear any conversation pass between any of the miners as to the position of the workings there, either in the mine or out of it? No.

1378. You do not know that any of the miners anticipated danger? No; I did not anticipate any whatever.

1379. And you never heard any expression of opinion on the matter? No.

1380. Did you know that a fall had taken place about twelve or fifteen months ago a short distance from the last fall? I did not know until the last fall took place.

1381. Did you ever work in any of the bords or headings that were driven up to or near the outcrop? On one occasion we drove towards the crop. It was bad coal, and we were stopped. We did not have the privilege of driving to the crop.

1382. I suppose you mean it would have been a privilege on account of the coal being soft? Yes; but the coal would not have been marketable, and so we were stopped.

1383. Did you ever see any stoppings or barricades put in in any part towards the crop? No, not to my knowledge.

1384. You never saw any timber barricades or dams erected with the view of stopping water or sand from running down? No; I never saw anything of the kind.

1385. Did you consider it a safe mine to work in? I did, in all respects.

1386. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Did you ever, in travelling the back places which had been worked, notice any fissures in the rock at the top or bottom? No.

1387. No joints or open places, I mean? No.

1388. *Mr. Curley.*] Were the facings very free and open in the coal that you worked in that locality? No.

1389. Did you ever meet with any "gray-backs" there? No, only slips here and there in the coal.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
I. Hadfield.
2 June, 1886.

Mr. J. Murray.
2 June, 1886.

George Spencer sworn and examined:—

- Mr. G. Spencer 1390. *Chairman.*] You are a coal-miner? Yes.
 2 June, 1886. 1391. How long have you been a coal-miner? I have been engaged in coal-mining about twelve months.
 1392. Where? Were you working at Ferndale? I was working near the fall—in No. 33 bord.
 1393. What width did you drive your bord? Eight yards wide.
 1394. At what width did you turn it away? I never turned it away.
 1395. What sort of a roof is it? A kind of shale.
 1396. What thickness was it? About a foot; and above that was a kind of gray stuff.
 1397. Was it hard? No; it was neither hard nor soft.
 1398. Would it stand with timber? No.
 1399. Did you double-timber your bord? Yes.
 1400. Were you paid extra for double timbering? Yes.
 1401. Was there any water in your bord from the roof or the thill? No; it was quite a dry bord?
 1402. Did you consider it was altogether safe? Yes.
 1403. Have you been in any of the bords near that in which you worked? Yes.
 1404. Were you aware that this bord of yours was under the tidal swamps? No.
 1405. You know what I mean? Yes, I know what you mean. But I never heard that I was working under the tidal swamp.
 1406. Did you ever hear anyone make any remarks about the workings of Ferndale being under the tidal swamps? No.
 1407. Then, had you known that you were working under the tidal swamps, would it have raised any doubts in your mind as to the safety or otherwise of your position? I thought I was quite safe myself.
 1408. Did you know of that fall that occurred about twelve or fifteen months ago a few chains from the last fall-in? No; I was not in the district at that time.
 1409. And you never heard about it? No, not until lately.
 1410. Supposing that you had known of the fall that took place twelve or fifteen months ago, would it have raised any doubts in your mind as to the safety or otherwise of this particular part of the mine? No, I do not think it would. Where I was working I considered it perfectly safe.
 1411. Did you ever hear anyone make a remark as to that portion of the mine not being perfectly safe? No.
 1412. Did you ever work to the outcrop in those workings? No.
 1413. How far from the outcrop did you work? I cannot say.
 1414. Did you ever see any place that had been driven to the outcrop? No, never.
 1415. Did you ever see barricades, stoppings, or anything of that kind put into the headings? No.
 1416. Did you ever hear anyone say they had seen anything of that kind? No.
 1417. Did you ever see any water coming from the top or thill in the places where you worked in Ferndale? No.
 1418. Did you ever see any water coming from the coal? Just a little, that's all.
 1419. Just "bleeding"? Yes.
 1420. *Mr. Neilson.*] The water that you saw coming from the bord was nothing more than you might expect to meet with in connection with any mining operations? No. There was nothing to suggest danger to my mind.
 1421. Did you have plenty of timber? Yes; we were securely timbered, and always had a good supply.
 1422. *Mr. Jones.*] Was the width of the bords confined usually to 8 yards? Yes, those that I worked in were.
 1423. *Mr. Curley.*] Do you know what width the bord you worked in was turned away from the heading? I cannot say.

The witness withdrew.

Thomas Perry sworn and examined:—

- Mr. T. Perry 1424. *Chairman.*] You are a coal-miner? Yes, a shifter.
 2 June, 1886. 1425. How long have you been following that occupation? For over forty years.
 1426. How long did you work at Ferndale? About five months, and I then left to better myself. I went to work at Stockton.
 1427. Where were you working in Ferndale? I was working in various directions.
 1428. Were you working near where the fall-in took place? Yes.
 1429. Did you anticipate any danger in connection with those workings? No, not in the slightest whilst I was there.
 1430. Did you know that many bords in the headings were under the tidal swamps? Yes.
 1431. Did you express an opinion at any time, as to there being danger through working under those tidal swamps? No, I did not.
 1432. Not to anyone? No.
 1433. Did you ever hear anyone express an opinion to that effect? No.
 1434. Did you ever hear any conversation on the matter? No.
 1435. What was the nature of the roof in the immediate proximity of the fall? It was a kind of mixture—a sort of bastard rock.
 1436. About what thickness? About 18 inches of soft stuff was there.
 1437. What was above that? This bastard rock was above that.
 1438. Did it require timbering? Yes, we used to put in single and double sets of timber.
 1439. Did you think it was necessary? Well, yes; I thought it was as well to put in extra timber.
 1440. But it was not on account of the extra weight of the stuff? No, not particularly.
 1441. *Mr. Thomas.*] You put it in to prevent it starting at all? Yes.
 1442. Did any water come from the roof or the pavement of the coal? No; there might be drops here and there, but nothing considerable.
 1443. Knowing what has occurred down in the vicinity of the fall-in, and as a practical miner, would you consider it safe mining to work in the manner that they were working the coal in that direction? Well, I did not consider there was any danger there at all. The bords were only driven 6 yards wide.
 1444. Were there any bords driven less than 6 yards wide? Yes, there was one bord of 4 yards in width.
 1445. But were there not some driven 8 yards? Yes, there were, further down the workings.

1446.

1446. Did you ever see any of them more than 8 yards wide? No, I did not.
1447. You have been, as a shifter, in some of the old bords, from which the timber has been taken? I have not travelled in the back workings.
1448. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Did you ever notice the hard rock coming down close to the coal? No.
1449. *Mr. Jones.*] You state that you saw little drops of water coming from the roof in the neighbourhood of where the fall-in took place? No, not in that direction, but further down.
1450. Did it never occur to your mind that that was an indication of a probable fall to the surface? No.
1451. And you never anticipated any danger? No.
1452. *Mr. Davies.*] How long had you been away from Ferndale when the fall took place? About two months.
1453. Are you quite sure that you never stated to anyone at Stockton that the reason why you left Ferndale was that you thought there was danger there? No. If any man has stated that bring him to me.
1454. Did you ever make this statement to Henry Jones? No. I did speak to him, but told him that the best colliery I ever worked in for timber was Ferndale, and I always gave a good name to Powell.
1455. Never mind that. Did you not make a statement to one Jones that the cause of your leaving Ferndale was that you were afraid of your life? No.
1456. You never expressed any fear of danger there? No, and I never spoke to anyone excepting Jones.
1457. You are quite sure? I am perfectly sure.
1458. Then you state decidedly that you never saw any danger, so far as your experience went, in this mine? Yes; I never saw any danger.
1459. Did you hear of any dams being erected in Ferndale? No, not while I was there.

The witness withdrew.

Joseph Jackerman sworn and examined:—

1460. *Chairman.*] Are you a coal-miner? Yes.
1461. How long have you been thus engaged? About three years.
1462. You were working at Ferndale Colliery? Yes.
1463. In what capacity were you engaged there? I was last working there as a road-man.
1464. What were your duties as a road-man? Mostly keeping the roads clear, and occasionally helping the lads on with the skips.
1465. Did you ever assist in putting in any barricades or stoppings? Yes.
1466. In what part? Well, there were two headings working up together—that is, in the same place, and we put a stopping in there.
1467. What was the nature of the stuff that fell there? It was a kind of a mixture.
1468. Was there any sand or shells there? No, not where I put the stopping.
1469. What kind of a stopping was it? We put in props and sleepers, and filled in stuff behind it.
1470. What did you put in behind the sleepers? We put in the blue clay.
1471. For what purpose was the stopping put in? I believe it was supposed to be in a sort of swamp, and they were fearful lest it should go back and stop the other workings.
1472. Did you hear the manager, or the overman, or the deputy, say that it was put in to prevent the water coming in? No, I did not; at least, I do not think so.
1473. Was there a barricade erected on the other side, and if so, what kind of a barricade was it? It was an ordinary stopping. Sand came down there.
1474. Did much sand come down? Yes, there was a good bit, and also shells.
1475. Was there any clay? No.
1476. Do you know of any other stopping that was put up in that direction? No.
1477. Was there any stopping further down from them? Yes; a stopping was put up further down.
1478. What was the object of putting it up? It was done with the object of regulating the air-course.
1479. *Mr. Curley.*] Who was engaged with you in putting up this stopping? Richard Cotterill.
1480. *Chairman.*] Do you know where he is now? He is working, I believe, at a small colliery at Waratah.
1481. Who gave you instructions to build these stoppings? The manager's son, Mr. Joseph Powell.
1482. Did he explain why you were to put them in? Yes; he told me what I have stated to you—it was to prevent the fall going back any further.
1483. *Mr. Curley.*] Did you notice any water coming in at these stoppings? Yes, I noticed a little water coming through.
1484. *Chairman.*] Did you ever hear anyone express an opinion that it was dangerous to work under those swamps? Yes, many a man has said so.
1485. What did they say? They said it was a dangerous place to work in.
1486. Who were they? Well, if I were to start and write them down I do not know when I should finish.
1487. We will not trouble you to write them—all you have got to do is to tell us their names? Well, there was the man I worked with, Cotterill.
1488. We cannot allow you to make statements of a general character like that—you must mention their names? I have mentioned one; I cannot name any more. You can put it down to a mistake, if you like. I know that I have heard men say it was dangerous. I recollect Cotterill speaking to me, because I was always working with him.
1489. *Mr. Neilson.*] Surely you must recollect some of the men who spoke to you about this matter, and with whom you were in daily communication? I cannot think of any of those that spoke to me about it except the one I have mentioned.
1490. *Chairman.*] Are you on friendly terms with Cotterill? I believe I was when I worked with him.
1491. But are you on friendly terms with him now? So far as I am concerned, yes.
1492. Have you never had a quarrel? No.

The witness then withdrew, having been reprimanded by the President for his evident unwillingness to give straightforward evidence.

Mr. T. Perry.
2 June, 1886.

M. J.
Jackerman.
2 June, 1886.

Cornelius Peters sworn and examined :—

- Mr. C. Peters. 1493. *Chairman.*] What is your occupation? I am a coal-miner.
 1494. How long have you been engaged in that occupation? About forty-five years.
 2 June, 1886. 1495. Where have you been employed during the time you mention? In Wales mostly; since I came to the Colony I have been employed in the Newcastle District.
 1496. How long were you employed in Ferndale? Three years.
 1497. In what portion of the mine did you work? In different bords, wherever we were cavilled.
 1498. At the time of the late disaster, where were you working? In what they call the soft coal.
 1499. In what particular bord or heading? The twenty-ninth bord was the last I was cavilled into.
 1500. How far was that from the fall-in? Not far; I do not exactly know where the fall-in is; I was told by the deputy afterwards.
 1501. What distance do you think your working place was from where the deputy told you the fall-in took place? I suppose it would be about 60 yards.
 1502. What was the width of the bord you were working in? Six yards.
 1503. Was that the usual width of the bords in that colliery? In that particular part it was.
 1504. What was the width of the bords in other parts of the colliery? Eight yards.
 1505. Why were you driving 6-yard bords in that locality? I suppose it was because the roof was bad.
 1506. You suppose; but you know, as a matter of fact, that it was bad? I know the roof was bad; as a matter of fact, the roof was bad nearly all over Ferndale.
 1507. What was the nature of the roof where you were working? It was of a mixed character.
 1508. Was it shale, or rock, or what? It was a kind of mullocky stuff.
 1509. Do you know what thickness it was? No.
 1510. Did you ever see any conglomerate where you were working, or near there? No, not where we worked.
 1511. Did it fall up to the rock or post? Sometimes it would fall a little, and there would be some solid above it.
 1512. Did you put in more timber there than in other parts of the colliery? All the men did not timber the same; some of them put in extra timber. Every man was supposed to secure himself.
 1513. Did you put in any extra timber? Yes.
 1514. Double timber? Yes. We timbered our bord in a different style to the regular run of the miners.
 1515. Did you consider the bords safe with the amount of timber you used to put in? Yes, perfectly safe.
 1516. Was there any water coming in your bord? I never saw any in that particular part of the mine.
 1517. It was quite dry? Yes.
 1518. Were you aware that you were working under what is called the tidal swamps, that is, the salt water? Well, I was aware that the tide came up over where we were working, but I was not aware of any creek being there; I thought we were under the tidal swamps by the distance we went underground.
 1519. Did you anticipate any danger from that knowledge? No, not in the least.
 1520. Did you ever hear anyone express any fear of there being any danger? No; and I never felt safer in any colliery in my life.
 1521. Did you know about a fall that took place about fifteen months ago? No; but I heard about it since the late accident.
 1522. Did you work in any heading that struck the crop? Yes; I worked one heading as far as it went; the manager stopped it.
 1523. What heading was that? It was in this crop coal.
 1524. What was the name of the heading? I cannot tell you that.
 1525. Had you a mate? Yes; he was in the fourth bord at the time; I was working in the heading.
 1526. When you drove to the crop, what did you meet with? We did not work out the coal; it was soft coal to the crop, and the manager stopped us.
 1527. *Mr. Thomas.*] Is it customary to double-timber the stalls? It was customary in that mine, where the roof was bad; in a considerable portion of the mine they used to double-timber across the road.
 1528. Did you not consider that you were running a risk of some kind? Not at all. That was done to keep the men safe. In some places it was not necessary to double-timber; it was left to the men.
 1529. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Was it customary, when you came to soft coal, to stop the places up? Yes.
 1530. What width were the bords driven in the soft coal? I never saw one go more than 6 yards.
 1531. Did you ever see one driven into the sand? No.
 1532. Or into the soft coal? Not that I am aware of. They were stopped before we went right through. I never saw them go through anything that was not marketable.
 1533. *Mr. Curley.*] Was there any conversation between you and any of the workmen, or did you hear any conversation among the workmen, with reference to any danger to be apprehended from working under the tidal water? I never heard any of the men express an opinion on the subject; I never had any fear of working in Ferndale at all.
 1534. Were you in the mine when the accident happened? Yes.
 1535. What was your impression when you heard the water was in the mine? I knew where the water came from when I saw the direction from which it was coming.
 1536. You thought it was coming from the tidal waters? Yes. Until then I never had a suspicion that there was danger in Ferndale.
 1537. Have you ever noticed any other falls in this mine? Well, I have seen bords fall in, but nothing to cause any alarm.
 1538. Did you ever see any water come from those falls? No.
 1539. Were you aware that the mine was making a large quantity of water? Yes; but it did not come from the roof, it came from the floor.
 1540. Although you knew you were working under the tidal waters, and that the mine was making a large accumulation of water, this was in no way a source of alarm to you? It was not making water to a large extent in that portion of the mine where I was working.
 1541. But you knew that the mine was making water, and that you were working under these tidal swamps, and yet you apprehended no danger? None whatever.

1542. *Mr. Davies.*] I place great reliance upon your testimony, Mr. Peters, as I know you are an old and experienced pitman; do you really mean to say that you apprehended no danger in Ferndale? None whatever. *Mr. C. Peters.*
2 June, 1886.

1543. And you think every care was taken by the manager for your safety? Yes, every care was taken.

1544. Did any conversation take place between you and the other men as to the danger of working under these swamps? No.

1545. *Mr. Thomas.*] You were constantly supplied with all the timber you required? Yes.

1546. *Mr. Davies.*] Were you paid for putting up this extra timber? Yes.

1547. And you were never stinted by the manager as to timber? No. The men got so much a set for every set put up, and it was left to the men's own option.

1548. Did you consider the payment sufficient? Yes.

1549. *Mr. Jones.*] Was the rule as to the width of the bords—6 yards or 8 yards, as the case might be—strictly enforced? Yes.

1550. What would happen if a man exceeded 8 yards? He was reprimanded, and his bord chalked off.

1551. Then this double timber was to support the roof above the coal and below the conglomerate? Yes.

1552. Did you ever know water to issue from the jerry or coal in the bord, and stop the working places for some considerable time? I have heard that certain headings had to be stopped for lack of sufficient pumping, and the men could not work in them for some time.

1553. How long is it since you heard of the last of such cases? There was a pair of special headings put in there some time ago, and it was said that they were stopped for want of pumping, and they got a new pump, and started again.

1554. With the knowledge and belief that you were working under tidal water, and with such an amount of water in the mine, did you not apprehend any danger? I never saw water in my bord. That which I have spoken of was more to the dip workings.

The witness withdrew.

THURSDAY, 3 JUNE, 1886.

Present:—

J. M. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., PRESIDENT.

MR. USHER,
MR. THOMAS
MR. NEILSON,
MR. TURNBULL,

MR. SWINBURN,
MR. CURLEY,
MR. JONES,
MR. DAVIES,

MR. DURIE.

Chas. Sweetland sworn and examined:—

1555. *President.*] I believe you are Manager of the Commercial Banking Company here? Yes.

1556. Are you part owner of the Ferndale Colliery? Yes, I am one of the proprietors.

1557. Did you take any active part in the management of your colliery? No; I only took a commercial interest in the business. *Mr. C. Sweetland.*
3 June, 1886.

1558. To whom did you relegate the practical management of the colliery? To Mr. Powell, the manager.

1559. Did you exercise any control over him with regard to his management of the mine? No.

1560. Did Mr. Fletcher, the Minister for Mines, take any active part in the management of Ferndale Colliery? No, he did not.

1561. Did any of the proprietors of Ferndale Colliery visit the workings of that mine? No, not to my knowledge.

1562. Some time ago, had you a conversation with Mr. Croudace with respect to the workings of Ferndale? Yes.

1563. To what purpose was that conversation? I thought that the getting price of the coal was too much, and I spoke to him with respect to it.

1564. Did you suggest anything of this kind to Mr. Fletcher? It was known to Mr. Fletcher.

1565. Did you consult him (Mr. Croudace)? Well, I asked him to have a look at the mine, and give us some idea as to what was best to be done to keep down the getting price of the coal.

1566. And accordingly, did he visit Ferndale? Yes.

1567. And did he report to you? Yes.

1568. Have you got that report? Yes.

1569. Can you produce it? Yes.

[Report produced.]

1570. Before visiting Ferndale, did Mr. Croudace indicate to you any price at which you ought to produce the coal? Yes, he did.

1571. What price did he say you ought to pay? He said we ought to be able to get the coal to market for 9s. per ton.

1572. You stated a price, I suppose. Did he fully understand the price you paid for cost of working and traction? Yes.

1573. And having that information, he came to the conclusion that you ought not to pay more than 9s. a ton? Yes.

1574. Were you of the same opinion? Well, I only hoped we should be able to do it.

1575. And receiving such an opinion from Mr. Croudace, you considered it your duty to ask him to visit the mine? Yes.

1576.

- Mr. C. Sweetland. 1576. And he accordingly did visit the mine, and produced the report addressed to the proprietor of the Ferndale Colliery dated March, the 25th? Yes.
 [Report read.]
 3 June, 1886. 1577. Did any other communication pass between you and Mr. Croudace on this matter? Yes; we had some verbal communication on the matter.
 1578. To what purport? With respect to his taking the consulting management of the mine.
 1579. Well, on receiving his report, did you understand that he could still reduce the working expenses to the sum you have mentioned? Yes.
 1580. And acting upon that belief, you entered into negotiations as to Mr. Croudace taking the consulting managership? Yes; he undertook to do what was necessary for £5 a week.
 [Letter from Mr. Croudace, dated August 3rd, was here read.]
 1581. Did Mr. Croudace explain to you how he proposed to carry on the colliery with an overman, or how an overman would be sufficient for his purposes? No.
 1582. Well, on receipt of this letter, did you entertain the proposals made by Mr. Croudace? No; we did not see that Mr. Croudace could attend to the colliery as he proposed, without some responsible man always on the spot, and we did not see our way to give him £5 a week for occasional visits to the mine.
 1583. Did you or any of your partners have any conversation with Mr. Croudace as to the manner in which he proposed to reduce the working expenses? Only in the direction which he indicates himself.
 1584. Do you know whether Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Croudace consulted on this matter? I do not; but they may have done.
 1585. Mr. Fletcher is, of course, a gentleman of experience in coal-mining. Do you know whether he considered that Mr. Croudace would be likely to materially reduce the working expenses of Ferndale? I can hardly say that; he never expressed himself to that effect in my presence.
 1586. At all events the proprietors satisfied themselves that Mr. Croudace could not reduce the working expenses to the extent indicated by him? Well, I suppose that is what it amounts to. We did not think it worth while to give him £5 per week, which is what he stipulated to receive.
 1587. Were you aware that the north and the south-east portions of the Ferndale property were under and approaching the tidal swamps? I was aware that they were under the low-lying land.
 1588. That is to say that the workings were covered by the high water? No; I did not know that; I was not aware that the workings were covered by the high water, except when the accident happened.
 1589. Do you think Mr. Croudace was aware of it, he having inspected the underground workings? Yes, I should think so, certainly.
 1590. And did you gather from this that Mr. Croudace did not anticipate any danger through prosecuting these workings? Yes, certainly.
 1591. And knowing that these workings were comparatively shallow, as they were, he proposed to do away with a responsible manager, and carry on these workings with an overman; do you think, in the light of subsequent events, that Mr. Croudace fully understood the force of such a proposal? Yes, I think he did.
 1592. And that he knew exactly the position of these workings, being under a tidal swamp? Yes.
 1593. Did you in any way stint your manager, Mr. Powell, as to his expenditure for materials to carry on the work of the colliery? No; not in any way whatever.
 1594. You are aware that the expenditure for timber was unusually high? Yes.
 1595. Did Mr. Powell explain to you the reason why this was so? I remember him saying that the nature of the ground was such as to require extra timbering.
 1596. And you were perfectly satisfied with his management? Yes; he did what he liked. Mr. Fletcher had perfect confidence in him.
 1597. Having considered this communication from Mr. Croudace, and with the knowledge you possessed of your manager, you preferred to retain the services of the man you knew to the man you had not tried? Yes.
 1598. Mr. Neilson.] Did Mr. Croudace not report to you about Ferndale working under the tidal water? No.
 1599. In your private conversations, did he not mention it? No.
 1600. Did Mr. Croudace never, in conversation, refer to the danger of working under these tidal swamps? No; and I was not aware that we were working under the tidal waters.
 1601. Mr. Usher.] Had you any further report from Mr. Croudace? No; he sent a report unasked by the Company; but that is since the accident.
 1602. Mr. Davies.] How often did your Board meet? Once a week.
 1603. And the reports from your manager were presented in due course? Yes.
 1604. Can you furnish the Commission with the copies? Yes.
 1605. What part did Mr. James Fletcher, junior, take in connection with the mine? He went round occasionally, I believe, and advised Mr. Powell.
 1606. Did Mr. Fletcher, senior, have anything to do with the operations of the mine? No; he took no active part in it at all.
 1607. Mr. Curley.] Was Mr. Powell present at your Board meetings? Occasionally; he was called in when we wanted some practical information.
 1608. Did he ever refer to the tidal water going over a certain portion of the workings of the mine? No; he did not.
 1609. Supposing he has made an admission that the owners of the colliery had a knowledge of this fact, is it correct? Personally I have no knowledge of it. It was not said at any of the Board meetings.
 1610. President.] Did Mr. Croudace, in any conversation with the proprietors, suggest any special mode of winning the coal at Ferndale, to the south-east and east? He suggested that we ought to sink a shaft to the dip.
 1611. Mr. Usher.] Can you tell the Commission the total value of the property underground—the iron rails, skips, timber, &c., in the mine? I believe it has been put down at £1,000; but I am not acquainted with the cost of these things.
 1612. Mr. Curley.] When this accident occurred, I suppose Mr. Powell at once communicated with the owners? I suppose he did; I was in New Zealand at the time.
 The witness withdrew.

Archibald Gardiner sworn and examined :—

Mr. A.
Gardiner.

3 June, 1866.

1613. *President.*] You are the manager of the Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery? Yes.
 1614. Have you had any opportunity of specially inspecting the Ferndale Colliery? No.
 1615. Do you know Ferndale? Yes.
 1616. Did you visit Ferndale before the accident took place? Yes; that is, I was on the pit-head.
 1617. Did you know the position of the workings at that time? No; but I have seen a plan of the workings since.
 1618. Did you know where the working places were? I had an idea that they were working towards Throsby's Creek.
 1619. You knew that it was a shallow colliery? Yes.
 1620. Did you know that any danger was to be apprehended in working in those shallow places under the swamps? I do not know that it ever occurred to me that there was any danger in Ferndale particularly.
 1621. Did you never make any inquiry on the subject? No; I never made any enquiry about Ferndale at all. It was not in my way.
 1622. When did you visit Ferndale? I went on the day of the accident, at about 10 or 11 o'clock; it was about three hours after the accident. The aperture was about 8 feet by 5. I stood at the top, and assisted to pull Hargraves up.
 1623. What was the roof composed of? It was a sort of conglomerate.
 1624. Did it occur to you how such an accident could happen in that locality? I do not know that I formed any opinion at the time.
 1625. But I suppose it did occur to you that the rock had given way, and that the water and sand had descended? Well, the only conclusion I could come to was that there was a weakness in the roof where it fell, and when it came to the surface it might be influenced by the tide.
 1626. The water would mingle with the sand, and thus form a dead weight? Yes.
 1627. Did you know the thickness of the rock that gave way? No; not exactly.
 1628. Was it a considerable thickness? Yes; I should judge that it was from about 36 feet to 40 feet.
 1629. Did you see the fall? No; Hargraves told me he had climbed up it.
 1630. Then a fall having taken place through 36 or 40 feet of rock, did the fact convey any practical lesson to you, as a coal-miner, with regard to working coal under swamps? Yes; I think we should be more careful in working under swamps.
 1631. Does it convey any lesson to you as to the manner in which the coal should be won? Yes; I think that you cannot be too particular in leaving large pillars.
 1632. And what width of bords? I work 6-yard bords.
 1633. Are there any conditions under which you would work less than 6-yard bords? I consider the width of bords should be regulated by the overlying strata.
 1634. But in this case we have definite information that the bords were driven only 6 yards; would you consider that narrower bords should be driven under the circumstances? Before passing an opinion upon that I should like to make myself acquainted with the overlying strata.
 1635. Then you must taken into consideration certain possible contingencies in working the coal in such localities before coming to a conclusion as to the mode in which you would work a colliery—considering the value of the property, and the lives of the miners to be at a stake? Yes, you are quite right there.
 1636. *Mr. Neilson.*] Are you compelled to work on a certain system? Yes; by the association.
 1637. *Mr. Usher.*] What thickness of pillars do you leave? We leave 8-yard pillars—that is double the ordinary width.
 1638. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Are you driving any bords 6 yards wide? Yes.
 1639. *Mr. Jones.*] You state that the mode of working at your colliery was the result of the price determined upon by the Miners' Association. Are you sure that that is the result of the Miners' Association determining, or the result of the ruling wages for coal-getting in the Colony? Well, I can scarcely say. I only know that a certain code of prices was put to me, and that there was a good deal of wrangling on the subject.
 1640. *Mr. Thomas.*] Are your headings in advance of your bords? Yes, as far as possible.
 1641. *Mr. Davies.*] Have you ever been a practical coal-miner? Yes.
 1642. Can a man get more coal in an 8-yard bord than in a 6-yard bord? That is a vague question.
 1643. As a practical miner, can you say whether a man could get as much coal in a given time in a 6-yard bord as in an 8-yard bord? All circumstances being equal, yes.
 1644. And that is your opinion? That is not only my opinion, but my experience.
 The witness withdrew.

Joseph Hardie sworn and examined :—

1645. *President.*] What is your profession, Mr. Hardie? I am a mining engineer and colliery manager. *Mr. J. Hardie*
 1646. Where have you practised your profession in New South Wales? In Illawarra and in Stockton. *3 June, 1866*
 1647. Have you practised your profession in any other part of the world? Yes, in England.
 1648. Are you a certificated colliery manager? Yes.
 1649. In what district? In South Durham.
 1650. And as such, you have had some experience in coal-mining? Yes; I have had sixteen years' experience.
 1651. You are the manager of Stockton, I believe? I am the late manager.
 1652. Have you studied the surface deposits round Newcastle? Yes.
 1653. Do you know the Ferndale Colliery? Yes.
 1654. Have you visited it? Yes.
 1655. When did you visit the Ferndale Colliery? The day after the accident.
 1656. Did you know before the accident at this colliery that the workings of Ferndale were approaching the low-lying tidal swamps? No.
 1657. Did you see the scene of the disaster? I saw the fall.
 1658. What thickness of surface was there at that part? I cannot say; I did not take the measurement.
 1659. Did you see the rock? Yes.
 1660. Did you make yourself acquainted with the thickness of the rock? No.

1661. '

- Mr. J. Hardie. 1661. What size was the fall there? It was about 4 feet to 6 feet at the top.
 1662. Were the sides of the fall straight or irregular? They were irregular.
 3 June, 1886. 1663. Did you form any opinion as to how the accident occurred? In my opinion, there must have been some fissures in the rock.
 1664. You have made some study of the surface deposits round Newcastle? Yes.
 1665. Have you formed any opinion as to the safety or otherwise of working coal under these surface deposits; and if so, what opinion have you formed? Well, I think that 4-yard bords and 8-yard pillars are quite sufficient to work the coal under the existing difficulties of surrounding water and bad cover.
 1666. Have you heard of the thickness of the rock that caved in at Ferndale? No.
 1667. If you were told that the rock was 40 feet thick, and that the working places were only 6 yards wide, what inference would you draw? I think, if there was sufficient timbering, it ought to be safe enough, unless something in the way of fissures occurred in the rock.
 1668. But timber does not last for ever. Have you formed any specific opinion as to the mode in which shallow coal workings should be carried on under tidal swamps? Well, as I have stated, it would depend upon the overlying strata. I do not think there ought to be any difficulty where there is a good roof. I have seen a place of 60 fathoms fall as well as 20. In my opinion, it entirely depends upon the nature of the strata.
 1669. Have you known it to fall in 4 and 6 yard bords? No; I cannot say that I have.
 1670. Then do you think that by following a rule such as you have suggested, 4-yard bords and 8-yard pillars are sufficiently safe for working coal under tidal swamps with any difficulties as to roof? Yes; but the character and thickness of the overlying strata would have to be taken into account. Four-yard bords would be safer than 6-yard bords under the same circumstances.
 1671. And with 4-yard bords you would have no hesitation in working up to the stone? Certainly not.
 1672. And you would depend upon timbering for the security of the roof? Yes.
 1673. Would that be in the belief that the timber would last for ever? No; I would renew the timber, or if the roof was bad, I would stow up the waste places with rubbish.
 1674. Where would the rubbish come from? Well, if I could not get it inside I would get it outside.
 1675. Would that pay? I am not considering that.
 1676. Would it not be better to abandon the workings? Well, if it was a question of cost, it might be.
 1677. Mr. Thomas.] Have you thought of the possibility of working 4-yard bords and 8-yard pillars without danger to the proprietors of a colliery? That is simply a question as to safety.
 1678. Mr. Turnbull.] Is there not a possibility of adopting some other course? I know of no other means, save what I have stated; working 2-yard bords would not pay.
 1679. Mr. Curley.] In working these seams, do you think it would be advisable to leave the top-coal in the roof—that is, where it could be left in working? Yes; it would form a rock of itself then.
 1680. And in that way strengthen the workings? Yes, it would strengthen the workings.
 1681. President.] Have you given this subject of working the Newcastle coal under this difficult surface some consideration? Yes.
 1682. And the views you have enunciated are the result of your deliberations? Yes.
 The witness withdrew.

Thomas Croudace sworn and examined:—

- Mr. T. Croudace. 1683. President.] Have you had frequent opportunities of inspecting the underground workings of the Ferndale Colliery? I think I have been down three times.
 3 June, 1886. 1684. Have you been down any of the adjoining small collieries? I have only been down one; I think that belonged to Mr. Bevan.
 1685. Have you inspected the eastern, or dip, workings of Ferndale Colliery? Yes; I was pretty well through them about six months back.
 1686. On what date did you last visit these? I think it must be about nine or ten months ago since I was down those workings last.
 1687. Were you aware of the situation of those workings with respect to the tidal swamps? No; I did not know that they were actually under the swamps, although I knew, of course, that they were going in that direction.
 1688. Do you consider there is any danger in working this coal under tidal swamps? Yes; in working the wide-bord system, certainly.
 1689. Had you any conversation with the manager as to the position of the eastern workings with respect to these swamps? After the accident I had.
 1690. Had you not any conversation with him on the subject before that? No; I do not know that I had.
 1691. Did you observe the nature of the roof in the eastern workings? Yes; I saw one or two places that had fallen there.
 1692. What was the nature of the roof? It was rather soft, flaky, argillaceous shale.
 1693. The argillaceous shale was between the conglomerate above and the roof beneath? Yes.
 1694. Was much timber used in the bords? Yes, they were well timbered.
 1695. Was there an unusual amount of timber used? Not more than was necessary.
 1696. Was there more timber used than was customary in the district? I do not think so, to any extent, considering the soft nature of the roof.
 1697. Can you assign a reason for so much timber being used? Yes; it was on account of the stone overhead being so soft. That I know from what the manager stated to me.
 1698. And also from what you saw? Yes; but the manager told me that they had to keep timbering closely with cap or crown-pieces, owing to the soft nature of the stone.
 1699. Did you observe any of the rise bords that had reached the crop to the north and east? Yes, I saw some of them, and I saw some falls that had come to the surface.
 1700. Did you see the falls in the underground workings? Yes; I saw where sand had actually come down from the surface.
 1701. Could you point out the position on the plan? Yes.
 Dictated by the Chairman: Mr. Croudace refers, in his remarks concerning these falls, to positions in the "J" headings.

Mr. T.
Croudace.

3 June, 1886.

1702. *The witness.*] Along the whole line of this northern outcrop there were two or three falls where the water came in.
1703. Did you see any material that came from that fall? I saw some of it which was of a soft, rotten character—some of it sand and mud.
1704. Did you see any shells? No, I did not notice any.
1705. Had you any conversation with the manager as to any of these falls? Yes. I told him to be very careful along there.
1706. Were these narrow headings? Yes; about 5 to 7 feet.
1707. They were for exploring purposes? Yes.
1708. Were you surprised to see a fall in that direction? Well, one would scarcely look for a fall in such a narrow place, but we knew that the strata overhead was very rotten.
1709. Did you see any other place where a fall had occurred in that part of the mine? I saw one near the surface where the fall-in occurred that flooded the colliery.
1710. Did you inquire, or were you given to understand, that the fall-in you refer to made its appearance on the surface? Yes.
1711. You understood it at that time? Yes.
1712. Did you walk over the surface along the margin of the tidal swamps, with the manager, on the occasion referred to? No; we just looked at it from a distance. I did not make any surface examination.
1713. You did not go up towards the swamps? No.
1714. In conversation with the manager, did you form any opinion as to the probable influence of these swamps on the working of the coal in that colliery? I told him that I considered it would be very dangerous to go so near the outcrop.
1715. Were you, from your knowledge of the Newcastle District, aware of the thickness of these swampy deposits? I had a general knowledge derived from the bore-holes that had been put down. (The witness here points to positions in the plan to indicate the direction of the bore-holes referred to.)
1716. Did you see the scene of the late accident? Yes.
1717. And did you hear what was the thickness of the surface deposits there, and the hard rock beneath? Yes: I heard Mr. Powell give it as nearly as he could state.
1718. Then how would you account for an accident occurring when the coal is covered by about 40 feet of rock? Well, the rock itself was rotten, and had not sufficient cohesive quality about it, and the weight of the mass broke the timber put in to support it.
1719. You are aware, I suppose, that the heading opposite to where the accident occurred was driven very narrow? Yes, I suppose it was a narrow heading.
1720. And that the bords in that position, and for some distance, were driven narrow, that is to say about 6 yards? I was not aware of that. I understood Mr. Powell to say 8 yards. A meeting was held to see what could be done under the circumstances, and, if I mistake not, Mr. Powell, in answer to a question which Mr. Neilson put to him, said that the bords were driven 8 yards wide.
1721. You are aware that the fall took place through about 40 feet of solid rock, and that the heading through which that fall took place was driven about 40 or 50 yards further to the rise and into the sand. Can you account for a fall taking place through that amount of solid rock, and in the face of that heading under the sand remaining, so far as we know, perfectly sound? Only in this way, that one portion of the roof is found at all times to be softer and not so tenacious as other portions.
1722. But it appears there was no roof at all in this particular heading I am speaking of. It was driven into the clay and sand? I was not aware of that. Of course we know that a narrow place with only a foot of covering may support a certain amount of weight better than a wide place when the cover has no tenacity.
1723. But here we have a narrow heading driven from the point where the accident took place, about 40 or 50 yards towards the rise, and the question I put is this—did you, as an engineer, draw from this accident at Ferndale any conclusion as to the safety or otherwise of working coal under the tidal swamps? I think, myself, it is very unsafe, and equally unwise, to attempt mining under such circumstances; but I know that where there has been a good cover, throughout the whole of workings I have seen, 4-yard bords have fallen when 8-yard bords have stood.
1724. That is frequently the case. Then, in your opinion, the coal should not in future be worked under these swamps, except under special conditions? No, certainly not, and I have advised the proprietors of Ferndale on the subject. I think it is altogether unwise to carry 8-yard bords. I would not do it for love or money for any Company.
1725. Then you are of opinion that some special precautions are required before the working of coal under these swamps should be attempted? I am.
1726. In working towards the rise in such a locality, with the object of finding the crop, do you think that any barriers should be left to protect the mining works and the lives of the men? I should say there ought to be some regulation of that kind, and a prudent manager would take care to have such proof of the outcrop that he would not go within the limits of possible danger.
1727. Then coming to what I was leading you to—you say you would approve of certain legislative enactments being introduced for the preservation of life and property in such workings. What form would you suggest that such legislation ought to take—would it be to leave barriers of coal near the crop, or to insist upon a maximum thickness of solid strata above the coal in the working of it? Well, that is a very difficult question to answer. Supposing you had the same conditions as are said to exist in Ferndale—in one direction a cover of rotten stone, and in another 40 feet of hard and solid conglomerate—I do not think the same measures would apply in both instances.
1728. So far as we know the conglomerate was of a hard and solid character for about 40 feet in thickness, and yet this accident occurred? Yes; but part of the conglomerate was of a rotten character.
1729. So far as we know that is not the case? Would you require time to consider that question? Yes, I should require to consider the circumstances.
1730. Who requested you to investigate Ferndale Colliery on the occasion you have referred to? The proprietors, through Mr. Howison, their secretary.
1731. And did you supply the owners with any report? Yes, I did.
1732. And a plan and section? I am not sure whether I sent in a plan or section.
1733. Did you enter into certain negotiations with reference to taking the position of consulting viewer or manager? Yes, on certain conditions.

Dictated

Mr.
T. Croudace.
3 June, 1886

Dictated by the President:—Mr. Croudace explains that he advised the owners to abandon certain workings, to the dip of the water-shaft, on account of the influx of water and the thinness of the coal.

1734. Did you suggest to the owners at that time that by agreeing with you to take the consulting managership at Ferndale it would only need an overman to carry on the work of the mine? I do not know exactly that I put it in that way. I said I would require some change in the management, because from what I saw there, I had not confidence in the system of working.

1735. If you did make such a suggestion, do you think that it would be a safe mode of conducting the operations of a coal-mine—I mean under the guidance of an overman only? Yes, I thought so, decidedly.

1736. Then would you place more reliance upon an overman than on an experienced manager? No, I would not. I must tell you that one reason was the cost that they were labouring under. The limited field and the expense of working the coal did not warrant very much outlay. It was not like an extensive colliery.

1737. Did you suggest that they should prosecute work in the main engine-plane from the time of your visit? From the water-shaft, yes. I knew that the engine-plane had not been continued well down to the dip, and that they could deal with the water if it came in.

1738. You were aware that the "jerry" was thick, and the coal thin? Yes.

1739. In other words, the coal from the dip would not be profitable to work? Quite so; but it is desirable that the shaft should be as far to the dip as possible. I am thinking more of the question of drainage. But the main object was to lessen the cost of production.

1740. But to lessen the cost you had to incur a large and uncertain expenditure in sinking a shaft, and working a large area of coal unprofitable to work.

Dictated by the President:—Mr. Croudace explains on the plan the purport of his suggestion in respect to sinking to the dip of the coal-field.

1741. Then did you, in reporting to the owners, express your fears as to the danger of working under these swamps? No, I did not at the time.

1742. Have you since expressed decided views on the matter? Yes, and it arose in this way. When I heard that these bords were carried 8 yards wide under these swamps, and within a short distance of another fall that occurred a few weeks back, I was astounded that any manager should have attempted to carry on those workings.

1743. You say that a fall took place within a few weeks of the last accident, and within I suppose about 40 or 50 yards or thereabout? Yes, as near as I can tell.

1744. How did you ascertain that? I was with Mr. Powell, the manager, on the Saturday following the accident. We were going to see the site of the fall-in, and, looking towards a depression, about 30 or 40 or perhaps 50 yards away, Mr. Powell said—"That is the place that fell in two or three weeks ago."

1745. Was anyone else present when Mr. Powell said this to you? No.

1746. We have evidence on that point, which goes to show that the fall you speak of took place nine or ten months before the accident (at "J" headings on the plan)? Well, I am quite positive that Mr. Powell told me what I have stated, that is, about a fall that had taken place six or seven weeks before the accident of March last. I said to him, "Is this the same heading as where the fall-in took place?" and he replied in the affirmative. I made no further remark; but it struck me as being very peculiar. I think it was referred to in evidence on the Saturday when the different managers were examining Mr. Powell.

1747. Would you be good enough to read the letter you subsequently wrote to the owners? Yes; I have a copy of it with me.

[Letter of March 22nd, 1886, from Mr. Croudace to the proprietors of the Ferndale Colliery, was then read.]

1748. Then, Mr. Croudace, during your first visit of inspection to Ferndale, you visited the eastern and north-eastern workings, and you were aware that they were proceeding towards, or were actually at that time considerably under, the swamps, and you have told us, in evidence, that you recommended further operations which would have extended the workings still further under the swamps. You have now read a letter which you sent to the proprietors after the accident took place, which letter contains a warning on this subject—do you not think that letter or warning you have just read would have been sounded to better purpose on the occasion of your first visit to Ferndale? Yes, had I been asked to report fully upon the mine, and as to whether it was carried on under a proper system, no doubt it would have been better; but I was not then asked to report on the management. It was simply a question of expense. They showed me their expenses, which were practically as much as they were getting for the coal. I said then I must see the mine and ascertain what was best to be done to cope with the heavy expense of production. I did not think it was any business of mine to discuss the question of where they were working.

1749. I understood you to say that you were asked by the proprietors, through their secretary, to inspect the property and report to the owners? It was principally as to whether I should take the management of it.

1750. Then, under the circumstances, did you think it possible that you could secure safety in the working and yet curtail the expense of production? The great expense arose from the peculiar undulation of the mine, and the water, and having to drag the coal up hill.

1751. Were you aware at that time that Ferndale had only a limited quantity of coal to work to the south-east—that in point of fact Ferndale was almost a worked-out colliery? Yes; I believe that it is to a large extent. I am quite aware that the Ferndale seam is very thin for a certain distance, but increases in thickness as it goes eastward; but whether it thickens in the property is another thing.

1752. We have evidence that it does not. Then to secure safety, would you advocate driving narrow bords? Yes; also, I would have had a system of chocking them, and I would have had a series of bores put down.

1753. Would the system you suggest not entail greater expense than the system which was then pursued? Well, so far as the mere working of the coal goes, the method employed at Ferndale was the least expensive, but it lost them their colliery in the end.

1754. What do you suppose the main deterrent would be in working narrow bords? It is entirely a question of price, and the cost of getting the coal.

1755.

1755. *Mr. Steinburn.*] Driving narrow bords would increase the expense? Yes.
1756. *Mr. Neilson.*] Are you aware that bores have been put down in all directions along the estate? The bores that I wanted principally were those contiguous to the workings.
1757. *Mr. Turnbull.*] When you were down in Ferndale, did you notice in the back places any of the narrow rock? Yes; I saw where it had broken down in two or three places.
1758. Did you ever notice any open faces in the rock? Well, there was one place where it was bleeding through an open fissure. It was raining down to the extent of about half the size of this room, and faster than the men could bail out.
1759. *Mr. Usher.*] I should like you to fix that spot where you say Mr. Powell told you there had been a fall.

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Dictated by the President:—In explanation, and on reference to the plan, the witness refers the fall to heading J.

1760. *Mr. Usher.*] And he told you that that fall had taken place only a few weeks before the last accident? Yes; and he told me he had got it filled up when the tide was out.
1761. After what has occurred, are you very glad that the owners did not agree with you to carry on the operations with only an overman there? Well, no owners, nor any living man, would have induced me to take wide bords under that swamp. My conscience would not have allowed me to do it.
1762. Did you make any statement of that kind to Mr. Powell when you were with him underground? I do not think so. I did not go there with a view of discussing that matter. My object was more to see whether I would take the management or not.
1763. Did you see any narrow bords of 6 or 4 yards there? Yes, I daresay I did. I saw the sand coming down in some places to the west of the fall-in.
1764. Is it still your opinion that in the event of your having taken the management, and reduced the width of the bords, and put in timber chocks, you could have effected a saving in the working expenses of the colliery? I would like to ask whether you mean if the workings were carried on under those swamps?
1765. I mean anywhere? I may tell you that I do not think the owners could have induced me to carry the workings under that swamp with such a cover overhead.
1766. What other portions of the estate could you have worked except in the swampy ground? I told the owners that the colliery was nearly worked out. I pointed out that it was on its last legs.
1767. *Mr. Jones.*] Do I understand you to be of opinion that coal-mining operations should be carried on with due regard to the safety of the men irrespective of the cost? Undoubtedly, because the cost of losing a man's life is a very heavy cost.
1768. *Mr. Davies.*] How long was it before this accident that you made a report to the proprietors? I cannot say the time.
1769. When you made that report, were you aware that the colliery was under tidal waters, with a shallow roof? No, I did not know.
1770. Did you make any inquiries as to that? I did not go with that view. It arose in this way: The directors had a conversation amongst themselves with regard to seeing if something could not be done to work the colliery in a more economical manner, and I was communicated with.
1771. Where were the falls you saw? Along the line of the northern outcrop.
1772. Did not that suggest to you danger underground, in working under the tidal waters? Certainly.
1773. Did you not think that that was of sufficient importance to induce you to report to the proprietors? As to that, I have already said that I did not go to report upon the method and principle or plan of working the colliery.
1774. Did you form an opinion as to the danger of working in that direction? You must have known that they were working under the swamp? Not necessarily so. There is no swamp up in this direction (pointing to the plan.)
1775. Did you not know, when Mr. Powell pointed out this fall to you that there was some danger? Do you mean as to the tidal waters?
1776. Yes? No, I did not.
1777. In your opinion, was that accident caused through injudicious working of the mine? Yes; I think it was caused by working 8-yard bords under the tidal swamp.
1778. Were you not aware that the bords were driven only 6 yards where the accident occurred? I could not have been, when Mr. Powell told me himself that it fell in an 8-yard bord; that was in the presence of Mr. Neilson, who expressed surprise.
1779. *Mr. Curley.*] From what you noticed, did you come to the conclusion that the colliery was well laid out, from an economical point of view, as to the cost of working? It is rather a one-sided colliery at the best, but the principal fault I found with it was that they had not carried the engine-plane down to the south. Perhaps I might have laid it out differently.
1780. From what you have seen since of the mode of working these bords near the crop, do you think the manager has had a due regard for the safety of the men? I have already told you that I do not think he was justified in carrying 8-yard bords with such a cover.
1781. Supposing the owners had a full knowledge that the workings of the colliery were being carried on in that direction, do you consider that they would have been showing due caution for the safety of the men working there? I am doubtful as to the owners having a knowledge as to how the work was carried on; and it might have been done from a want of knowledge.
1782. Do you think that if the Inspector of Collieries had had a full knowledge of these falls previous to the accident taking place and of barricades being put up, he should have taken due precautions to warn the Company? I think he would have warned them had he had such knowledge. I have always found Mr. Dixon a very prudent and careful man, and one very ready to find fault.
1783. Do you think that in any report to the Examiner of Coal-fields by the Inspector special notice should be taken of such a matter? Yes; I certainly think he should have reported it if he had knowledge of a fall in the vicinity of the swamp.
1784. Assuming that this colliery had been worked at the very cheapest rate, so as to meet the wishes of the owners, do you think the mode of working could have been a safe one? With 8-yard bords and that cover, I distinctly say no.
1785. Have you seen the aperture of the fall-in? No; but I have seen the locality. I went over on the Saturday. A gentleman belonging to one of the banks first told me of it.

- Mr. T. Croudace. 1786. *Mr. Neilson.*] When you inspected the mine twelve months ago, were they not working under the swamps then? No, I think not.
- 3 June, 1886. 1787. *Mr. Jones.*] You saw sand coming down, I understand, on one of your visits of inspection to the colliery—did you draw Mr. Powell's attention to it? Yes.
1788. And did you tell him that special care should be taken? Yes.
1789. Did Mr. Powell speak of any special steps that had been taken? No, I think not; but, as I have already said, I did not pay much attention to the mode of working the colliery. I went there more to satisfy myself as to whether or not I should take the consulting management.
1790. Then you are quite sure that you were not up in that district when a previous fall took place about fifteen months ago? I should certainly say I was not.
1791. *Mr. Thomas.*] With reference to your reports recommending the extension of the easterly heading into the flat, did you not consider that by extending this heading into the boundary you would go into the lowest portion of the ground? Yes.
1792. Did you not consider that there was considerable danger in working in that direction? No; I unhesitatingly say that the cover was better there: it was a harder roof.
1793. *President.*] When you were looking at a fall that you saw in the rise workings, did you know that you were looking at the same fall that you had seen above ground? No.
1794. *Mr. Thomas.*] You never expressed yourself prior to the accident as to there being any danger in the workings at Ferndale? No.
1795. *Mr. Jones.*] Did you see the plan before you went into the mine? Yes.
1796. *President.*] Then you think that with 40 feet of cover it is dangerous to work the coal under those swamps? Yes; with such a cover as this I certainly think it is dangerous.
1797. In view of future legislation, would you recommend the adoption of a minimum cover? No; I think it would be an injustice to the proprietary, and it would lead to endless disputes.
- The witness withdrew.

Mr. John Powell, senior recalled:—

- Mr. J. Powell, sen. 1798. *President.*] Do you remember Mr. Croudace visiting Ferndale Colliery? Yes.
- 3 June, 1886. 1799. And accompanying him through the workings? Yes? I took him up to the rise as far as it went at the time.
1800. And did you show him a fall underground? No.
1801. Mr. Croudace informs us that going round the rise workings you showed him a fall? I showed him no fall; he was not in the old workings at all.
1802. Mr. Croudace distinctly informed us that you took him to a point of the workings where a fall had taken place, and that he saw the sand and mullock and stone that had come down? No. There was no such thing to be seen in the mine.
1803. The point he referred to is known as the site of the little fall in this part of the J headings, to the west of the heading that had fallen in now? Oh, yes; I took him up there, and told him that it fell to the surface.
1804. Did you tell him that you were working under the swamps at that time? No; I took him round the workings so that he could see everything before him.
1805. Did you tell Mr. Croudace that you had filled in that fall when the tide was out? No.
1806. Where did you go with Mr. Croudace? I accompanied him down to the pumping-pit, then around the hill to the north-east, and then along the crop towards the winding-shaft.
1807. And while you were on the brow of the hill you pointed out to Mr. Croudace this fall? Yes.
1808. And from the position in which you were standing, what you pointed out was well within the swamps? Yes; I am positive of that.
1809. And you told him about that fall-in on the surface? Yes.
1810. And underground you showed him the fall? Yes.
1811. That is to say you connected the one with the other? Yes.
1812. You have no doubt about this? None whatever. He was perfectly well aware that the fall underground was the same as the fall that he saw on the surface.
1813. Did you tell Mr. Croudace that there were other such falls—a dozen, for instance? No. As a matter of fact there are not a dozen such falls. The little fall and the fall that caused the disaster are the only ones.
1814. Did you tell Mr. Croudace on the Saturday after the disaster, when he pointed to a pool of water and called your attention to it—did you tell him that that was the site of a fall that occurred about six or seven weeks before? No; I am quite positive that nothing of the kind ever occurred.
1815. What did you say to Mr. Croudace? I said nothing to him.
1816. Did he call your attention to a fall or cave-in at all? He did not.
1817. Was it possible for you or Mr. Croudace to see a cave-in, seeing that the place was all covered with water? No; you could see nothing.
1818. Was it or was it not the case that the swamp was covered with water? It was.
1819. Then he could not possibly call your attention to a hole in that direction? No, of course he could not.
1820. What was the width of the bords at the last cave-in? 6 yards.
1821. Did you tell Mr. Croudace and other managers that the bords were 8 yards wide there. No.
1822. That is to say, at the meeting of colliery managers, which was held in the office, after the disaster occurred? No; I said that the bord where the fall-in took place was 6 yards wide, and the bord behind 4 yards wide.
1823. Did you, or did you not, repeat to the colliery managers that those bords under the fall were 8 yards wide? No, I did not.
1824. If you did say so, was it an error? I could not say so, and I am quite sure that I did not.
1825. Did you hear Mr. Neilson remark anything about an 8-yard bord in a tone of surprise? I do not remember; but I am quite sure that if he did so he could not have referred to these bords.
1826. What is the depth of water in the winding-shaft? It is 24 feet, and 24 feet 6 inches from the surface.
1827. Does the water rise and fall there? Yes; about 2 or 3 feet.

1828. Did you point out to Mr. Croudace, when you were examining the underground workings, any part of the workings near the pumping-pit where several men were baling out of one bord? No.

1829. Do you know of any such bord? No.

1830. We have a statement from Mr. Croudace that in going round the workings he saw a place where there were several men baling, and where probably a few lengths of pipe to the engine suction would have answered the purpose. Is there any such place in the colliery? No; I showed him three different pumps that we had at the swallows, pumping the water back, and two Tangye's.

1831. Could you have levelled all these swallows so as to let the water run by gravitation into the pit? No; we had to carry the water back from one pump to another.

1832. Then, upon recollection, you adhere to your statement that you conducted Mr. Croudace through the whole of the underground workings, and directed his attention to the fall-in at this heading (J)? Yes; that was the only one.

1833. When taking him round on the surface, did you tell him that your workings had entered under the high-water-mark? I pointed out to him the position we were in. He asked me how far the water came up, and I told him. I showed him a point inside the high-water mark.

1834. When you directed his attention to the "little fall-in," did he make any remark to you as to the necessity for your being very careful in conducting your working? No; he never said a word about it.

1835. And do I understand that you left no doubt in his mind as to your working under the swamps? I am quite sure of it.

1836. *Mr. Jones.*] Did you incidently refer to the matter as you did to the Commissioners on their visit to the locality? I told him that he was opposite the fall-in.

1837. *President.*] On the Saturday after the accident, when you and Mr. Croudace were walking over the ground with the object of inspecting the last cave-in, did you or did you not say to Mr. Croudace that the little fall occurred six or seven weeks before that date? No.

1838. Do you adhere to your statement that he did not warn you of your danger? Yes, I do. I asked him what he thought about the mine, and he said it was one of the most difficult mines to work in the district.

1839. Did Mr. Croudace explain to you how you could do away with the water-balers? No, he did not.

1840. Lest there should be any misapprehension, did Mr. Croudace, in calling your attention to this pool of water, in a tone of surprise, when you were on the surface, did you, or did you not, say to him that that was the site of the fall that had occurred about seven weeks previously? No; I never said anything of the kind.

1841. Are you perfectly positive, Mr. Powell, that Mr. Croudace when he left Ferndale on that occasion knew exactly the position of the workings? Yes.

1842. And that they were within the tidal mark? Yes, certainly.

1843. *Mr. Usher.*] Can you give us an idea of the value of the plant underground? About £7,000 to £8,000.

The witness withdrew.

FRIDAY, 4 JUNE, 1886.

Present:—

J. R. M. ROBERTSON, Esq., PRESIDENT.

MR. THOMAS,
MR. TURNBULL,
MR. CURLEY,
MR. DAVIES,

MR. USHER,
MR. NEILSON,
MR. SWINBURN.
MR. JONES,

MR. DURIE.

Charles Woollett sworn and examined:—

1844. *President.*] What is your business or profession? I am a miner.

1845. Were you employed as a miner at Ferndale Colliery? Yes, for the last six months. Before that I was engaged as a water-baler. I was working at Ferndale close upon two years.

1846. In what part of the colliery were you employed? All over it, from the bottom flat.

1847. And your position enabled you to see all the different parts of the mine. Where you employed towards the rise of the mine, where a number of places were driven up to the surface? There were no places driven up to the surface to my knowledge. I knew of places being driven to the crop.

1848. What was the appearance of the coal in those places? The same as in other portions of the mine, excepting that there was no "jerry" in it.

1849. Do you remember a pair of narrow places being driven up in advance of the other bords, at the very rise of the workings? Yes; I knew of a pair of special headings.

1850. Do you recollect a fall having taken place? Yes.

1851. What was the nature of it? Well, what I saw of it was sand and water.

1852. Was there much water? No; there was not much water.

1853. Was the sand wet? Yes; if you took a shovelful out, it filled in again directly.

1854. Did you see any shells? Yes; it was sand and shells together, like the sea-beach.

1855. Did any rock come down? I did not see any.

1856. What was left on as a roof? I could not say.

1857. Do you know whether the fall took place suddenly, or did it give some warning? I cannot say; I was water-baling at the time.

1858. Did you not go to see the fall? Yes; I went up one breakfast time, out of curiosity. I had heard that it was coming in, and was filling up with sand.

1859. What did the men say about that—did they have any conversation about it? I never heard any.

1860. What did you think—were you apprehensive that any danger might arise from working in that direction? Yes, if it came when the tide was there.

1861.

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C. Woollett.

4 June, 1886.

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C. Woollett.
4 June, 1886.

1861. Did you know that you were working under the tide? I knew we must be very near in that direction, owing to the distance we were working from the winding-shaft.
1862. You had some little fear then as to the safety of the workings? You can call it fear if you like, but I thought we were right enough, so long as a fall did not take place when the tide was up—I mean the special spring-tides.
1863. Had you any fear as to the result, in the event of spring-tides covering a fall; or did you not look so long before you as that? Well, I did not think that the mine would cave in, so that we could not get out.
1864. Did you express your fears that it might cave in? No; I kept that to myself.
1865. Why did you keep it to yourself? Not being an experienced man, I thought it best not to express an opinion. I thought that if I did say anything Powell might tell me to mind my own business.
1866. Are you not aware that under the moral law that should govern humanity it was your duty, under the circumstances, to report to the manager? No.
1867. Supposing that having some doubts as to the safety of the mine, as you appear to have had, you left the colliery without saying anything, and that in a few days after your fears were realized, would you not have had a feeling that you did not act fairly and honestly with your fellow-men? No; I thought they ought to know the same as myself.
1868. But you went out of your way to inspect this fall, satisfied yourself that there was danger, and yet you said nothing to your fellow-workmen about it. Do you think that was right and proper, now that you come to think about it? Well, perhaps it was hardly right, but I did not look at it in that light before.
1869. I can quite understand that. When did this fall take place? About fifteen months ago.
1870. Did you think that it went to the surface? Yes.
1871. Did you satisfy yourself on that point by inspecting the surface? No; I heard other people say that.
1872. Who did you hear say that? I heard John Williams, a shift-man at the pit, say so. He has since gone to Queensland.
1873. Who else did you hear say so? Nobody.
1874. What was the purport of the conversation that you had with Williams? I heard him say that the heading had fallen up about 20 yards, near to the Waratah pumping-place.

NOTE.—The witness referred to a pump on the surface that supplies the Waratah Railway.

1875. Now think for a moment. Who else did you have a conversation with on this subject? I might have had a conversation with someone else, but I cannot recollect.
1876. Do you know the heading that this last accident happened in? No.
1877. Do you know the upper three or four bords towards the rise? No; I have never been up that way.
1878. What width of bord were you working in? It was supposed to be driven 8 yards wide.
1879. Did you drive it 8 yards wide? Well, as near as I could. I was under the superintendence of another man.
1880. What was the number of your bord? I think it was No. 27.
1881. That is counting from below upwards? Yes, from the lower flat.
1882. How many men were working in your bord? When the accident happened there was only one; before that there were two.
1883. Do you know a bord that was working with four men near to where you were working? Yes; it was the next bord to mine.
1884. Why were four men working in that bord? Because it was behind-hand.
1885. Was that an 8-yard bord also? It was supposed to be.
1886. Did you have occasion to put in extra strong timber? Not extra. I put in what I thought necessary.
1887. Was the roof good in your place? Not very good.
1888. What did you do when the roof was bad? I put up timber where I thought it was necessary.
1889. Were you paid for putting up that timber? No.
1890. Why were you not paid? Because the overman said it was not necessary.
1891. Did you put up double timber? Yes; that was what I was not paid for—putting up the crown pieces. The overman said the crown pieces were not necessary.
1892. Had he told you to put on crown pieces I suppose you would have been paid? Well, we were supposed to put in timber at our own discretion.
1893. How many sets did you put in? About thirty.
1894. And how many were you paid for? We were paid for all but seven.
1895. Did you consider the overman was right or wrong in his decision? I considered he was wrong.
1896. Was there any difference in the roof over these seven sets that you were not paid for? No; I am certain there was not much difference.
1897. Can you assign any reason why the overman did not pay you? Well, I suppose because it would affect the Company's pocket.
1898. How much did you get paid for the other twenty-three sets? 1s. 6d. per set.
1899. Are you aware whether the other workers were paid 1s. 6d. a set? Yes.
1900. Did you, after seeing the fall you have referred to in the rise headings, dismiss the matter from your mind? No; I thought there would be danger if it came in when the tide was up.
1901. But you knew that the tide would rise over the workings at spring-tide? Yes.
1902. Did you go down the mine daily after that? Yes.
1903. And you have said that you feared danger. Did you express that fear to any of your fellow-workmen? No; not to my knowledge.
1904. Did you see anything in any other parts of the mine to lead you to fear danger? No.
1905. It was seeing that fall that caused you to anticipate danger? Yes.
1906. But it seems strange that you did not mention your fears to your mate? Well, he had eyes as well as myself, and he ought to be able to judge for himself.
1907. But supposing he had no opportunity, how could he see over the mine? I cannot say.
1908. Did you see the site of this last accident? Yes.
1909. You saw that there was a rock cover there—that the fall went through a number of feet of rock? I only saw the rock on the surface.
- 1910.

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1910. You saw rock under the sand? Yes.
1911. And a hole through the rock? Yes.
1912. And of course that implied that it had broken through the rock? Yes, if you call it rock.
1913. What do you call it? I should call it sandstone.
1914. Then can you assign any cause for the sand breaking through the sandstone, to give it your own designation, at that spot? No.
1915. Did you consider the inundation of Ferndale a preventible accident; that is, could it, in your estimation, have been prevented? I do not consider that I am competent to enter into that question.
1916. For what reason? Because I do not understand the nature of the rock or of the surface.
1917. I will put it in another way—were you ever up in these headings as far as the position where the fall came in? No; I was only up as far as where they started to drive.
1918. Were you ever up to the spot where a narrow heading was driven in advance of the bords? No; I was never there.
1919. Then you can give no opinion for the reason that you have had no opportunity of judging of the character of the roof? Yes, that is the reason.
1920. Can you assign any reason for the sand breaking down through 30 or 40 feet of rock instead of breaking in at this other place where no rock existed. You see this fall broke through a rock cover, and you have told us about these special headings being driven up to the crop where no roof existed? I did not say that no roof existed.
1921. Then if you were told that no roof existed on top of the coal at that spot, could you say why this fall should take place through the rock, instead of coming away where no roof existed? No; excepting, I suppose, that the timber gave way.
1922. Did you see any indication of danger in the bords where you worked? No.
1923. Did you hear any of the men express fear? No.
1924. Did you know that you were working under the swamps? Yes.
1925. How did you know that? I knew that from the distance we were from the shaft.
1926. Do you know that the other men had a knowledge that they were working under the swamps? No; I did not know that.
1927. But you were certain of it yourself? Yes.
1928. Did you have any conversation with the men as to the position where you were working? I may have had, but I cannot say.
1929. Then it has made no impression on your mind? No.
1930. You have no recollection of any particular conversation? No.
1931. Did you think that there was any danger attending the working of this coal-seam under these swamps, looking at the position generally, *i.e.*, the working of coal-seams with only a limited amount of cover above them? No.
1932. You do not think there was any danger there? No.
1933. And you formed that opinion without knowing the nature or thickness of the surface deposits? What I mean is that I did not think there would be any danger if the timbering was looked after properly.
1934. You did not take into consideration the uncertain thickness of the surface deposits? No; I always left that to the manager, believing that he would never attempt to take the men under a bad place.
1935. When you went up to that first place that fell in, what kind of timber had they there? They had sets of timber sometimes 6 inches and at others a foot apart. They were split, and driven in on top.
1936. The sand was loose? Yes.
1937. Was the top like that? No; from what I could see of it it was like rock.
1938. Was there any coal there? No; there was no coal; it was a kind of "jerry," or black flaky stuff like you see on the top of coal.
1939. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Was the roof good or bad where you were standing? I thought it was pretty good.
1940. *Mr. Usher.*] How did you ascertain that the spring-tides came up over the fall-in of fifteen months ago? I have seen the spring-tides over that flat before it occurred. I have seen the spring-tides all over that flat when I was working at the smelting works.
1941. Did you know whether the water found its way down into the workings? I knew it was all salt water that was coming into the workings.
1942. Did you see any quantity of water escaping from the bottom of this fall-in? No, nothing unusual there was always a stream of water there, *i.e.*, from where they were working.
1943. *Mr. Jones.*] You have stated that the sand at the foot of the fall-in was of a running character. What steps were taken by the company to prevent encroachments of that kind? I cannot say.
1944. Were any special steps taken in the shape of erecting barricades? I have heard that stoppings were put in.
1945. *Mr. Thomas.*] When these bords were stopped, did you timber them well up? I never was in a place where they put stoppings in.
1946. *Mr. Jones.*] By whom were the stoppings put in that you have referred to? Jackerman told me that he put in one.
1947. *Mr. Curley.*] After the fall you say you were apprehensive of danger from inundations in this locality at spring-tides? Yes.
1948. Did such fear ever occur to you before the fall? Not before the first fall.
1949. Having been employed for over two years in various parts of the mine, did you ever see water issuing from any of the working places? Yes.
1950. Was that sufficient to stop the operations? Yes; I have seen places stopped for as much as six weeks.
1951. And then, after the water was drained off, would the work be resumed? Yes.
1952. *Mr. Davies.*] What experience had you as a coal-miner before working at Ferndale? I had no experience at all. That is the first mine in which I actually worked permanently below.
1953. In what district were you water-baling? I was baling all over the dip workings.
1954. Since the first fall-in, what part of the mine were you working? I was working up by the fall.
1955. And you say that you apprehended danger knowing that the spring-tides came over this flat? Yes.
1956. And yet you asked for work whilst apprehending this danger? Yes; what I wanted to get at was to learn to coal-mine, and it occurred to me that if other people could work there I could.
1957. About this timber—you have stated that the deputy refused to pay you for some of the sets you put in. Did you think that timber was needed there? Yes.

1958.

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1958. Was your bord extra timbered as compared with others? No.
1959. Was your bord 8 yards wide? Yes.
1960. Have you ever heard a complaint about the manager refusing to pay other men for timbering? No; but I have heard from John Williams that they have complained that the timber was too close.
1961. Did they pay him? Yes; they reckoned I was too inexperienced; that was the reason they did not pay me. It was the manager who last refused to pay me. The overman told me he would "fetch the old man in." I did not see him, but my mate told me he had come, and said the timber was not necessary. The timber we had put in was not more than what we had been paid for previously. I considered that if we took the roof down and threw it back we should weaken the whole body.
1962. Was it in the form of a conversation amongst you and your fellow-workmen, when you sat down to breakfast or dinner, that someone mentioned that you were working under the tidal swamps, and that danger was to be apprehended from it? I cannot recollect; it might have been?
1963. Do you think that the manager took all necessary precautions to insure your safety? Yes, I do.
1964. *Mr. Curley.*] Do you know if there were Check Inspectors at that colliery? Yes.
1965. Did you ever see them making any inspection? Yes; while I was water-baling, and also since I have been working on the coal.
1966. Who were they? One was Hopkins and the other Moorhouse.
1967. Do you know whether they had any knowledge of this first fall you speak about? No.
1968. Did you mention it to them? No.
1969. Are you aware whether any of the other miners did? No; but I think it was generally known in the pit.
1970. Were you ever at any meetings when the Check Inspectors read their reports? Only the last one.
1971. Did you ever know a remark to be made in one of the reports on the subject? No. The last report was only a fortnight before the fall took place.
1972. Did you ever make a remark yourself as to there being no mention in any of the reports concerning danger to be apprehended from working under these swamps? No; I was only a young member; and I should have been "sat upon."
1973. You have said something about working at the smelting works previous to your employment at Ferndale? Yes.
1974. Was it in going to and from the smelting works that you saw the waters coming over these flats? Yes, that is how I know it.
1975. Where do the principal portion of the miners reside? At Tighe's Hill.
1976. Did they have the same opportunity of knowing that the tide came up as you did? No, excepting they went up in that direction.
1977. From your knowledge of the waters coming over these swamps, did not you think it your duty to take some notice of it, and report it to the Check Inspectors? No; I thought the Check Inspectors would take notice of things like that.
1978. Do you not consider that it is the duty of every man to look after his personal safety and the safety of others? Yes; but seeing that I was not an experienced man, I should think that if I mentioned anything of that kind they would laugh at me.
1979. And simply because you thought people would laugh at you you would run the risk of going into dangerous places, and not mention the matter to the proper authorities? Yes.
1980. *President.*] I do not commend your sentiments.

The witness withdrew.

Alexander Ross, jun., sworn and examined:—

- Mr. A. Ross, jun.
4 June, 1886.
1981. *President.*] What are you by profession, Mr. Ross? I am manager of the Newcastle Colliery.
1982. Have you had any opportunity of inspecting the Ferndale Colliery? No.
1983. Do you know anything about the working of that colliery? No, with the exception of what I have seen on the plan of it.
1984. When did you see the plan? A day or two after the catastrophe occurred.
1985. That was on the Saturday? Yes, I think it was on Saturday morning.
1986. And you saw the cavity where the sand had fallen through? No; I cannot say that because the tide was up at the time.
1987. Was the nature of the fall explained to you? Yes.
1988. What explanation did you receive? I was told that it was a hole about 4 feet square, and that during the running of the water about an acre or two of sand had been carried down with it.
1989. Did you receive certain information from the manager in the colliery office as to the nature of the roof and character of the workings under this fall? I cannot say that I did exactly; I have a recollection of some question being put to him.
1990. That is to say that you did not put any question to him, but others did? Yes.
1991. Do you recollect any statement as to the width of the bords? Yes.
1992. What was stated to be the width of the bords under that fall? I heard him say that they were 6 yards wide.
1993. Did you hear the manager, Mr. Powell, make any statement as to previous falls? Yes; I heard him make one remark.
1994. As to what? As to one particular fall.
1995. Can you recollect the description he gave of this fall? Yes; he said that a fall had simply taken place, but it had choked itself. I am not prepared to say that he stated any time that had elapsed between that fall and the late catastrophe.
1996. Do you know whether he stated whether it was six or seven weeks or fifteen months? He did not state weeks, I am sure.
1997. Was it fifteen months? I cannot say as to that, but I understood it was a very considerable time before the last fall.
1998. Did you hear any explanation that Saturday morning as to the mode of conducting the coal-workings along the crop? Nothing particular, excepting as to their being 6-yard bords with ordinary pillars, and that extra care was taken as to timbering.

1999.

1999. Was it explained to you that certain narrow places were driven in the soft coal to define the line of the crop? I do not remember that.

2000. Have you seen the plan? Yes.

2001. Was the line of crop shown on the plan? That I cannot remember, but I do not think it was.

2002. Was it a finished plan or a tracing? It was a tracing.

2003. Would you look at that tracing and say whether it was the same that you saw? Yes, I think that is the same.

Mr.
A. Ross, jun.

4 June, 1886.

Dictated by the President:—Mr. Ross recognizes the special headings marked "J" on the tracing, as the place where Mr. Powell pointed to as the site of the fall that occurred some time before the catastrophe. Mr. Ross also recollects the site of the present fall as that marked on the plan.

2004. Then it was explained to you at the meeting on that Saturday that a considerable body of rock had fallen, and given access to the swamp waters? Well, I understood that a body of rock had fallen and made a cavity or hole about 4 feet square, and that round the mouth of that, in a bell shape, it had worked its way up through the action of the water, causing greater falls down below.

2005. As a matter of fact, it was explained to you that the surface deposits measured about 20 to 25 feet in thickness, and what had fallen down measured in thickness about 40 to 42 feet? I remember the depth stated by Mr. Powell was about 60 feet altogether.

2006. Did it occur to you that the weight of 25 feet of sand and water should be capable of bursting a hole of that size in such a thickness of rock? Well, it would be extraordinary in one way and yet not in another. In the event of the surface being composed of rotten rock it would not be very remarkable.

2007. But we have evidence that the rock that came away was composed of a considerable thickness of conglomerate, and that there was 9 or 10 feet of rock, such as you describe, at the bottom, which required to be supported by timber? I should think there was some flaw in the rock or fissure.

2008. Was it explained to you that the hole that had been formed was determined by lines and fissures? No, I do not remember that being explained.

2009. Did you form any opinion as to whether shallow coal-workings could with safety be continued under these tidal swamps? It has occurred to me that the greatest care should be taken in working under tidal swamps.

2010. In determining the amount of care that should be taken, would it be reasonable in your opinion to take into consideration the circumstances that 40 or 42 feet of solid strata had in this instance given way? Oh, yes, I think that should be taken into consideration.

2011. In other words, you consider that a very wide berth or margin should be given to the crop in these seams under tidal water? Yes, unless they have something very solid above them.

2012. And you are of opinion that care should be taken to ascertain that? Yes.

2013. And are you of opinion that considerable danger attends the indiscriminate working of coal under tidal swamps? Yes; I have formed an opinion that the greatest care should be taken.

2014. Do you mean to say that indiscriminate working is attended with considerable danger? I did not say there was any indiscriminate working there.

2015. You have stated already that the nature of the surface deposits and the strata ought to be ascertained? Yes.

2016. Well, if this were ascertained, would not that be indiscriminate working? I should consider it very injudicious to work under tidal waters without obtaining the fullest information as to what was above the coal.

2017. I understand you have no knowledge as to the underground workings of Ferndale? No; I was never down there.

2018. *Mr. Neilson.*] At the meeting of colliery managers, I believe the whole matter was discussed carefully and deliberately? Yes, and we arrived at an unanimous conclusion as to the probability of finding the body of the man drowned in the pit.

2019. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Did Mr. Powell say anything about certain bords being driven 4 yards wide? No; he did not mention that to my recollection.

2020. What width did he say the bords were driven in this particular part? 6 yards wide.

2021. *Mr. Davies.*] What special care should be taken, in your opinion, in working a colliery under these circumstances? Well, I should put in very good sets of timber to prevent the slightest subsidence anywhere.

2022. Was this meeting that you spoke of composed entirely of colliery managers? No; there were some there who are not now colliery managers.

2023. *Mr. Curley.*] When you were present at this meeting of colliery managers, in company with the manager of Ferndale Colliery, who was it that stated that the strata above these workings was composed of rotten rock? So far as my recollection goes, I think it was Mr. Powell, the manager of Ferndale, who made the statement.

2024. He stated that the rock was rotten? Yes, at that particular place.

2025. *President.*] That is the impression he left on your mind? Yes.

2026. *Mr. Curley.*] You have stated that great care should be exercised in working coal under these tidal waters. In what direction do you imply that remark—do you mean it to refer to the strata overhead, the width of bords, or what? Yes, it would embrace all that—the strata overhead, the width of the bords, and the timber to be used in the working.

2027. Has this idea occurred to you as a colliery manager, that a bord driven 6 yards wide could be narrowed at a certain distance in the workings and then widened out again? Oh, yes, that could be done.

2028. Has that idea ever struck you? No.

2029. *Mr. Thomas.*] I suppose it has occurred to you that in driving narrow bords with a rotten roof it would be advisable to use double timber? Yes.

2030. Do you think it would be safe to carry on bords 6 yards wide in such a place where the road has to be double timbered at intervals? That would all depend upon the upper strata. If it was good rock above then it would be quite safe.

2031. *Mr. Jones.*] You say that a sufficient amount of timber forms an element in the safe conducting of mines under such circumstances? Yes.

2032. But you could not depend upon the timber for more than a certain length of time? No; it would be for the safety of the men working there at the time.

2033. And would that not necessarily throw the weight of support back upon the pillars? Yes.

2034.

Mr. A. Ross, jun. 2034. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Would it be judicious to work that coal at all under the tidal swamps with such a roof as now exists? That would depend entirely upon what information the management was in possession of as to the nature of the strata. I have already answered the question.
 4 June, 1886. 2035. *President.*] In determining future workings, the fact should be taken into consideration, and kept steadily in view, that 40 feet of rock under these circumstances gave way? Yes, I am quite of that opinion.
 The witness withdrew.

James Hunter sworn and examined:—

Mr. J. Hunter. 2036. *President.*] What are you by profession? I am manager of Waratah Colliery.
 4 June, 1886. 2037. Have you had special opportunities of inspecting the Ferndale Colliery? No.
 2038. Have you been in the underground workings of Ferndale? No.
 2039. Were you at a meeting of managers held on the Saturday after the accident? Yes.
 2040. That meeting was convened by the proprietors, I presume? Yes, to consider the position.
 2041. And you of course heard the explanations that were given by the manager in reply to the questions put by the gentlemen assembled? Yes.
 2042. And you heard the thickness of the surface deposits? Yes.
 2043. Was it explained to you that some of these workings were narrow places that had been driven up to the crop? Yes.
 2044. And these narrow places that determined the line of the crop were under the tidal waters? Yes.
 2045. Do you recollect whether it was explained to you that a fall-in had taken place in one of these narrow workings some months before? Some time before, yes.
 2046. Do you recollect what was said about that fall, in explanation. Was it said that it choked itself with the stuff that fell? I did not hear that said.
 2047. Was it explained to you that the fall came to the surface? I cannot say definitely.
 2048. Was the position of that fall explained to you on the plan? Yes.
 2049. Can you recognise that position on the plan? Yes, I recognize the position—at "J" heading.
 2050. Do you recollect now whether it was explained to you that the fall came to the surface? I cannot recollect.
 2051. But you were told that these workings were under the tidal swamps? Oh, yes.
 2052. Did you form any impression as to the safety of working under these tidal swamps under such difficulties as existed here? Well, I thought they should be required to work under greater restrictions there.
 2053. With respect to the fall that had taken place two days before this meeting took place, can you recollect whether the manager explained to you the width of the bords in which the fall-in took place? I understood that the bords were an average of 8 yards; but I cannot say as to this particular bord.
 2054. Do you recollect definitely whether he explained to you that they were 8-yard bords? No; but that is the impression left on my mind.
 2055. Did you put the question yourself? No.
 2056. Did you not know that it was a question of vital importance in such an inquiry as to the width of the bords? I believe the question was put, and the impression was that they were driving an average of 8 yards.
 2057. Do you know who put the question? No.
 2058. Do you refer to the general system of working that was pursued in this colliery when you say that the bords were driven 8 yards wide, or do you mean to say you understood that 8-yard bords were driven in this particular locality where the inundation took place? I refer to the general system.
 2059. But I am speaking of the bords under the fall-in at this particular point? I cannot speak as to the exact width of those particular bords.
 2060. Then having formed an opinion as to the working of coal-seams under tidal swamps, can you tell us under what conditions, in your opinion, these coal-seams should be worked? Well, I should say that you ought to leave at least half of the coal on.
 2061. I mean, what conditions as to the roof, or the depth of these surface deposits. Do you mean to say that leaving half the coal in the direction of this fall would have materially strengthened the roof? Yes, I think so.
 2062. There was 30 feet of conglomerate and from 7 to 9 feet of shaly sandstone on top of the coal, and yet you think that leaving (say) 2½ feet of coal would have materially strengthened that roof? Yes, I think so.
 2063. And that it would have rendered the position safe? Yes.
 2064. Do you know the thickness of the coal that was worked in Ferndale? I believe it was about 4 feet.
 2065. Then by leaving 2½ feet there would only be 18 inches to recover. Do you think it possible to work coal under such conditions? I am speaking as regards the size of the pillars—not the vertical depth of the coal.
 2066. You mean to say that you would leave as much in pillars as you would take out, and that by this means you could safely work this coal under the swamps? I think it would be much safer.
 2067. And that is without taking into consideration the width of bords or thickness of pillars? Oh, yes.
 2068. What width of bords would you suggest? Not more than 5 yards, and the same size of pillars.
 2069. *Mr. Davies.*] Have you any experience of working coal under tidal influence? No.
 2070. *Mr. Curley.*] Had you known that in a narrow heading the roof had come in, would that alter your opinion about the bords being driven with safety at 5 yards? I understood that the fall had come in at the crop.
 2071. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Do you consider it would be wise to work with 5-yard pillars under all circumstances? Not if I had a knowledge of repeated falls-back from the crop.
 2072. Well, with your experience as a manager, what would you do under the circumstances? I should do as I have said—that is, take half of the coal and leave half.
 2073. And you are of opinion that you would be safe in doing so? Yes, I think so, unless there were any special indications to the contrary.
 2074. If you had any idea that you were working under tidal roofs, and you did not know the nature of overlying strata, would you not endeavour to ascertain what was above the coal? Yes, I should, before working it.

The witness withdrew.

Richard

Richard Cotterill sworn and examined.—

2075. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am a miner.
2076. And as a miner, were you employed at Ferndale Colliery? Yes; I went there as a shifter.
2077. Where did you work principally? All over the place; wherever I was sent.
2078. Have you had considerable experience as a miner, and if so, how long? I have been working underground for twenty-three years.
2079. Has your experience been in the Colony, or in other parts of the world? I have been working just round about Newcastle and the Maitland district.
2080. Was the safety of the men looked after in working the Ferndale Colliery? Yes; I believe the mine was safely conducted.
2081. What was the character of the roof over a great part of the workings? Conglomerate rock principally.
2082. Have you seen any place in Ferndale heavily timbered? Yes.
2083. Did you put sets of timber in where the conglomerate rock was? I was not called upon to put much timber in.
2084. What I want to know is, what the roof consisted of where the timber was put in? It was of a shaly nature.
2085. Was the timber put in simply to keep up the shaly roof? Yes; the men put it up to protect themselves.
2086. Did you know where the eastern workings were proceeding, or that they had already entered under the tidal swamps? Yes.
2087. You know that the workings were under the swamps? Yes.
2088. And also that they were covered by water at spring-tides? Yes.
2089. And that your roof was covered at high-water? I knew that since the fall-in took place, but not before.
2090. Have you been in any of the workings approaching the crop of the seam? Yes; there was a fall there about twelve months last February. I helped to put a stopping in there.
2091. What did that stopping consist of? It consisted of timber.
2092. How did you proceed? We set in uprights and cross-bars, and then piled the sleepers on top of one another.
2093. To retain the transverse sleepers you put vertical props into the pavement? Yes.
2094. And did the fall choke itself against that? Yes.
2095. What did the fall consist of? Of sand and clay.
2096. Were there any shells? Yes.
2097. And water? Yes.
2098. Was there much water? Yes, there was a good deal.
2099. Where did you think it came from? It must have come from the surface. I believed it did.
2100. Was the water fresh or salt? I cannot say that.
2101. Then you saw sand and shells and a deal of water coming down. Did it occur to you that this came from the swamps above? It did not strike me.
2102. Did you know where the fall was on the surface? No; I did not know where it fell in.
2103. Did it occur to you that these workings were conducted under circumstances of danger when you saw the shells and sand coming down? No; I did not think there was any danger.
2104. Where did you suppose the sand and shells came from—did you suppose they came from the swamps? No; I never gave the matter a thought before.
2105. Did you consider that the fall indicated danger? No.
2106. You are sure of that? Yes.
2107. Did you ever consider there was any danger there? No.
2108. Do you recollect having a conversation with some of your fellow-workmen on the occasion of the fall? No.
2109. And you did not tell your fellow-workmen that you apprehended danger? No.
2110. Do you recollect one Jackerman? Yes.
2111. Did you not have a conversation with him on the subject? Not that I can recollect.
2112. Is it possible that you might have had a conversation with him on the subject? I might have had.
2113. Is it possible you might have expressed a fear that this fall would give some trouble? I do not recollect saying so.
2114. Did you think so? No.
2115. You are sure of that? Yes.
2116. Supposing that Jackerman said that you did say so, would you alter your opinion? I might have said so, but I do not recollect.
2117. If you had not entertained such a belief, how would you account for making such a statement to Jackerman. Were you not aware that the fall had come down twice? No.
2118. Was the barricade sufficiently strong that you put in there? I should think so—I do not know that it has given way to this day.
2119. And you considered that it was a strong and sufficient stopping? I did.
2120. Did you ever work in a narrow heading that went towards the crop further to the east? The only narrow heading that I knew of is where we put that stopping in.
2121. You do not know of another heading nearer to the east—I mean where Teasdale and Cunliff worked during the last caving. You know those men? Yes.
2122. Well, they broke away two bords from the bottom of this heading? Yes, I know that place.
2123. Do you recollect what the width of the bords was in that direction? They were narrow bords.
2124. What width were they? 4 yards, I think.
2125. And the bord below that—what width was it? I cannot tell you, as I did not take any notice of it.
2126. You think the upper bords were narrow? Yes.
2127. Have you heard any reason assigned for driving those narrow bords? I do not know what Mr. Powell's intentions were in driving the bords narrow.
2128. Did you consider the management were looking sufficiently after the safety of the men in conducting those workings towards the east? Yes; he was careful in providing plenty of timber, and he stopped the bords when they were coming too near the crop. I believe he worked the mine with due care for the safety of the men.

Mr. R.
Cotterill.
4 June, 1886.

- Mr. R. Cotterill. 2129. Then you have no cause to complain of the management? No; I never had any cause.
 4 June, 1886. 2130. Were the men paid extra for putting up sets of timber? Yes.
 2131. Were the men allowed to put up what timber they liked, or was any control exercised over them in that direction? I cannot say.
 2132. What is the usual practice in such cases? Are the men allowed to put timber where they please without first consulting the overman? No; I do not think so.
 2133. Have you worked in the eastern workings as a miner? No.
 2134. *Mr. Usher.*] Do you know whether any fall took place between that first fall and the last one? No, I do not.
 2135. *Mr. Jones.*] Were you supplied with a copy of the rules of the colliery? When I was working on the roads I was.
 2136. *Mr. Davies.*] You are quite sure you never had any conversation with, or made any statement to, young Jackerman as to the safety or otherwise of working under these swamps? I have no recollection of it at all.
 2137. And you say that you had no thought of any danger? No; I had no thought of any danger then.
 2138. You have been all over the pit, I suppose? Yes.
 2139. When you were putting up the barricade, and saw the sand and sea-shells, did you not think that they came from the tide? I did wonder where the sands and shells came from, and it certainly did strike me as to where they came from, but I did not say anything about it.
 2140. In going about as a shift-man, you came frequently into contact with the miners? Yes.
 2141. Was it not a theme of conversation amongst them that they were working under these tidal swamps? No, nothing of the kind.
 2142. *Mr. Ourley.*] Who gave you instructions to put that stopping up? I am not certain whether it was Mr. John Smith or Mr. Joseph Powell.
 2143. Was he there when you started to put in the stopping, or did you go by yourselves? I think we went by ourselves.
 2144. What instructions did you receive? We were told to choke the fall up as much as we could—to build the stopping up well.
 2145. Had you much conversation about the fall with the overman at the time? No.
 2146. Can you tell us in so many words the instructions you received? No; I cannot tell you what the actual words were.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. Joseph Powell recalled:—

- Mr. Joseph Powell 2147. *President.*] In connection with this "little fall" that occurred at a part of J special heading, you are aware that it occurred about fifteen months ago. How did you become aware of it? I was sent for.
 4 June, 1886. 2148. By whom were you sent for? By the wheelers.
 2149. Did you send anybody to rectify the fall? Yes; I sent Joseph Jackerman and Richard Cotterill, to the best of my belief.
 2150. Can you state the exact words you used in giving the instructions? I gave them orders to put in a stopping there, with the object of preventing any further roof from coming down. The work was done, and nothing ran from them from that time until the accident occurred.
 2151. You gave orders generally as to the character of the stopping you wanted to be put in? Yes.
 2152. And you told them how to do it? Yes.
 2153. And did you visit them during the operations to see that they were carrying out your instructions? Yes, I did once.
 2154. Had you any conversation with any of the men subsequently about this fall? No.
 2155. Do you recollect a man named William Williams? Yes.
 2156. Did he at any time express fears to you as to the safety of the mine? No. I do not think Williams was working near that place at all.
 2157. I am asking whether, since the fall, William Williams had any conversation with you about it? Never; I do not think he ever saw the fall.
 2158. But he might have heard about it and spoken to you on the subject? No, he did not.
 2159. Did you ever state to any of the men that where the fall had occurred was a dangerous place, and that you ran a risk of being drowned out some day? No; I have no knowledge of having said anything of the kind.
 2160. Did you ever give expression to such words? No, not that I am aware of. I do not see how I could.
 2161. Did you state that the mine was in danger from this fall, and was likely to be drowned out? No; I cannot say that I did.
 2162. Do you recollect speaking to William Williams? Not in connection with anything in the mine.
 2163. Then had you any apprehension for the safety of the mine from this fall? I say the same now as I said before, that I never had any apprehension.
 2164. Did you know that this fall occurred under the swamp? Some time after it occurred I did. I think I said that before.
 2165. Had you suspected danger, I suppose you would not have concealed it from the proprietors? No.
 2166. Do you know Woollett? Yes.
 2167. Do you recollect the bord he was working in? Yes; I believe it was the 11th bord.
 2168. Did it require timbering? Not much. He used to put timber in there when it was not required.
 2169. And did you refuse to pay for seven sets? Yes; they were not necessary, and to make myself secure I took my father there. We sounded the roof; it was close on the conglomerate.
 2170. I suppose some little supervision was necessary to control the men in the pit? Yes, in some places.
 2171. Did the men often put in timber when and how they pleased? Yes.
 2172. *Mr. Thomas.*] Did you find from this first fall that you were inconvenienced at all by the quantity of water? No. There was very little water indeed coming. Many of the bords were making ten times as much water. It did not inconvenience anyone.

2173. *Mr. Neilson.*] I understand you to say that the miners pretty well exercised their own judgment in the matter of timbering? Yes; they were told always to secure themselves, and not to stint themselves as to timber. In case of a dispute occurring I go to the manager and leave it with him. Mr. Joseph Powell
4 June, 1886.

2174. *Mr. Usher.*] Did you ever object to pay for any timber in any other portion of the mine? I do not think we did.

2175. Woollett says that this timbering which you refused to pay for extended over a fortnight. How was it that you did not stop him before? Well, it was in this way. I could not go round every day, and when I went round to take the numbers, which I used to do every fortnight, I could then see that the timber he was putting in was not necessary.

2176. *Mr. Jones.*] How long was Woollett working the coal? About five months. He had been water-baling, and he prayed the manager to put him on the coal.

2177. Would a miner of greater experience have put this timber in? No; he would not take the trouble.

2178. Do you think it was want of experience which led him to put this unnecessary timber in? Well, I cannot say as to that. He was only five months on the coal, but he may have been shrewd enough to put in a set in order to get the money for it.

2179. If the skips were a little bit slack he would find time to put the timber in? Yes.

2180. *Mr. Davies.*] Was there any rule as to the distances at which you would place the timber? No; it would depend very much on the nature of the roof.

2181. I suppose the manager or the overman would be the judge as to the necessity for it? Yes.

2182. Was it not the duty of the deputy to visit the working-places every day? Yes.

2183. Did he ever report to you as to this unnecessary timbering? Not as to that particular case, but he has often told me that there was no necessity for so much timber.

2184. Do you think that your action with regard to Woollett was calculated to make the men careless where there was real necessity for timbering? No, I do not, because where they saw there was a necessity for it they would do it for their own safety.

2185. *Mr. Curley.*] In passing round the mine at the time this fall-in took place, did you ever casually mention the subject? No, not to the workmen; they could see it themselves.

The witness withdrew.

John Abrahams sworn and examined:—

2186. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am a coal-miner.

2187. Were you employed as a miner in Ferndale? Yes.

2188. In what part of the colliery did you work? I was working for six weeks before the last fall up in the rise workings. Mr. J. Abrahams.
4 June, 1886.

2189. While you were working in that part, did one of the bords go up towards the crop where the fall-in took place? Yes; I worked in that heading.

2190. Can you tell us what you got in the face? I can tell you that the place was safe.

2191. Did you drive up to the sand? I did not see any sand at all.

2192. What was the roof like? It was a shaly kind of sandstone.

2193. Was it a good roof? Yes.

2194. Did you see this little fall come in? Yes; about 20 yards of sand came in, and we could not get in to work; before we left at night I saw clay making in, and when we went in the next morning the fall had come in altogether.

2195. What did you see besides sand there? I saw oyster-shells.

2196. Was there much water? No, there was not much water.

2197. Where did you think that sand came from? I thought it came from the surface.

2198. Did you know where you were working at the time? No, not exactly.

2199. Did you not know that you were working under the swamps? Yes; towards the smelting works somewhere.

2200. Did you know that that heading you have spoken of was under the swamps? I believe it was.

2201. But did you know it at the time you were working that heading, that it was under the tidal swamps? I did not know until she fell in.

2202. Who told you that? I heard a man say so.

2203. Did you think there was any danger after you saw that fall-in? Well, no; I did not then, because it was stopped.

2204. But knowing that you were working the coal beyond the fall, did you not think you were incurring danger? No; I did not think of any danger then; I never worked there after that.

2205. Where did you work after that? In the next bord, below where we turned off a bord.

2206. What width did you turn that bord off? 4 yards.

2207. And, below you, were the bords worked? Yes.

2208. What width? 8 yards, I think.

2209. Your bord was 4 yards, you say? Yes, turning off the heading, and then widening out to 8 yards.

2210. Was it timbered? Yes; we timbered all the way.

2211. Had you ever any dispute about the timber? No; we were always paid for it.

2212. Was the roof bad there? No; it was as sound as a bell.

2213. What was the object of putting timber in such a roof? Just for safety.

2214. Does not a roof like a bell constitute safety? The timbers were a good distance from each other, and if the roof looked bad at any place we would then put them closer.

2215. Do you know of any other narrow bords being put in? No; I left for New Zealand then, and when I came back I worked for about seven weeks at the colliery before the big fall-in occurred.

2216. Where did you work during those seven weeks? Down in the lower workings; I did not know the place where the last fall-in took place.

2217. Do you think the mine was safely conducted? Yes; I considered it a safe mine.

2218. Did you apprehend danger of any kind from working at that colliery? No.

2219. Have you ever heard any of your fellow-workmen talk about possible danger in the mine? No; I never heard anyone speak of danger.

2220. On coming back to that fall next morning, you noticed that it had gone back about 20 yards; did you

Mr.
J. Abrahams.
4 June, 1886.

- you think that you lived in a perfect state of safety there after you had seen that fall—did it not occur to you that you ran a little risk in working there? No, not at all.
2221. Did it occur to you that another fall might take place, similar to the one you saw? No; I never thought about it.
2222. *Mr. Usher.*] What was the extent of the fall? About 20 yards; we guessed it pretty well.
2223. Could you get over the fall? Not right to the face.
2224. What was the drive there? About 8 feet.
2225. *Mr. Davies.*] When you saw those oyster-shells, did it occur to you that they were deposited by water? Yes; of course I knew that.
2226. And you had no thought of any danger? No.
2227. *Mr. Curley.*] Was there any timber in that heading? Yes, about 3 feet.
2228. Did the roof appear to be jointed? Yes, rather.
2229. Were there any slips in it—any graybacks? It was a little shaly.
2230. Did you see any hard rock there? No.

The witness withdrew.

James Thomas sworn and examined:—

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2231. *President.*] What are you by profession? I am manager of the New Lambton Colliery.
2232. Have you inspected the Ferndale Colliery? I have not been down the pit.
2233. Did you, in answer to a circular letter, visit Ferndale after the water had broken in? Yes.
2234. And you heard some explanation as to the method of working at Ferndale? Yes.
2235. And as to the character of the strata that had fallen in? Yes.
2236. Was it explained to you that the principal workings had reached the crop? Yes.
2237. And you understood that they were under the tidal swamps? Yes.
2238. Did you hear anything of a fall that had taken place in one of these bords some time before? No, I did not.
2239. You did not hear Mr. Powell mention that? No.
2240. Did you hear Mr. Powell make any statement as to the width of the bords under the fall you were inspecting? Yes.
2241. What width of bords did he say were in that direction? He said they were driving 6-yard bords there.
2242. You have no doubt about that? None whatever.
2243. Did Mr. Powell explain to you that the bords required extra timbering? No. He explained that the headings required extra timbering on account of the softness of the roof.
2244. That is the headings approaching the crop? Yes.
2245. Have you had any experience of the cost of putting in these double sets of timber? Yes.
2246. Does it add considerably to the cost of working a colliery? Oh, yes, certainly.
2247. Does working these bords narrower involve extra expense? Yes.
2248. Do you consider 6-yard bords narrow bords? Yes; anything under 8 yards.
2249. It has been explained to you that about 40 feet of rock or conglomerate fell in, and that about 25 feet of sand and clay rested on that rock. Under these circumstances, what opinion did you form as to the cause of the accident? I thought it was through slants or joints in the ground underneath.
2250. Can you detect these slants or joints in the underground workings at all times? No; sometimes you can, and sometimes you cannot.
2251. And is there any means of knowing how far they may run up? No; not in my experience.
2252. As to the working of coal under the swamp, has this accident caused you to ponder over the mode of working the coal that should be adopted—has it not caused you to think that some special precautions should be adopted? Well, I thought they were taking precautions by working those bords only 6 yards wide. I think that ought to have been sufficient under ordinary circumstances.
2253. But here 40 feet of rock has fallen? No; that was on account of the broken strata. Of course if a man knew that he had fissures or joints in the roof above him he would take special precautions.
2254. Here are bords 6 yards wide. Here is 40 feet of rock lying between the sand and the coal, and yet the rock gave way, the colliery was flooded, and all the men had a narrow escape of death, while one poor fellow was drowned and buried in the mine. Under these circumstances, do I understand it to be clear to your mind that the bords must be driven narrower, or a greater thickness of rock must intervene between the surface deposits and the coal? Yes, that is my opinion.
2255. *Mr. Curley.*] Would you be good enough to look at the plan, Mr. Thomas, and tell us whether you had pointed out to you where the little fall took place some time previous to this accident? I cannot say whether it was explained at the meeting of managers? I was not aware of it.
2256. Supposing that you had been aware of that, and that 20 yards of sand had come down from this fall, would you have thought it wise to drive 6-yard bords here in the locality of the fall? It would all depend upon my knowledge of the coal.

The witness withdrew.

SATURDAY, 5 JUNE, 1886.

Present:

J. R. M. ROBERTSON, Esq., PRESIDENT.	
MR. USHER.	MR. SWINBURN.
MR. THOMAS.	MR. CURLEY.
MR. NEILSON.	MR. JONES.
MR. TURNBULL.	MR. DAVIES.
MR. DURIE.	

The Hon. James Fletcher sworn and examined:—

2257. *President.*] I believe you are one of the proprietors of Ferndale Colliery? Yes.

2258. Have you taken an active part in the management of the colliery in any way? No, none whatever. I have only taken the interest in it of an ordinary proprietor. Perhaps, however, I should correct myself. Being myself a practical man, the manager, if he had any proposal to make, might consult me for my opinion on any subject. But beyond that I took no part whatever in connection with the management of the colliery.

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2259. Did you frequently examine the underground workings? No; I think I have been once or twice in the pit since we bought it.

2260. To whom did you delegate the control of the underground workings? To Mr. Powell, the manager, who we looked upon as a thoroughly competent man.

2261. You had every confidence in Mr. Powell's ability? Yes, every confidence.

2262. Are you aware whether the underground workings were worked under difficult conditions? Yes; I am aware that it was worked under circumstances of greater difficulty than any colliery in the district.

2263. Are you aware that the eastern workings were under the tidal swamps? Well, to tell you the truth, I never paid any attention to it. I left the whole of those matters in the hands of Mr. Powell.

2264. Did Mr. Powell never inform you that the eastern workings had approached the tidal swamps? We called the whole of that the swamp—all the field to the left of the hill.

2265. Did Mr. Powell, in communicating with you, ever refer to some crop workings that he had driven? No; I do not think he ever said a word to me about crop workings. I think he mentioned to the Board of Directors something about not going beyond a certain point towards the rise workings, and I think he pointed to a place on the plan.

2266. Did he mention anything to you about a fall having taken place towards the rise fifteen months ago? I do not remember that. I believe we had several falls, but nothing of special importance.

2267. He did not specially refer to any particular fall? No.

2268. Are you aware that some of the working bords were extra timbered—that double sets of timber were put in? Yes; I have heard from the reports, and from what Mr. Powell told me in conversation, that between the overlying rock and the coal-seam there was some soft shaly substance that took a considerable quantity of timber to keep it up.

2269. Did you understand that the object of putting in this extra timber was to keep up this shaly rock underlying the conglomerate, and to resist any pressure there might be from the surface? Certainly not.

2270. Were you aware that the bords were driven narrow towards the rise? Yes; Mr. Powell informed me and the other proprietors that he thought it would be better to err on the safe side by driving 6-yard bords there instead of 8-yard bords. We have done something similar in the Co-operative Colliery.

2271. This course was not taken through anticipating danger from the surface deposits? No.

2272. Did Mr. Powell, in his conferences with the owners, ever state that he anticipated danger from these workings? No; and he is too good a man to have run into danger; had he anticipated there was danger he would have stopped at once.

2273. You are quite positive that he did not make any intimation as to anticipating danger there? Yes; I am perfectly sure of it.

2274. And you did not hear of any falls having taken place, and which came to the surface within the tidal waters before the last accident? No, I did not.

2275. Were you satisfied with the general arrangements that had been made by Mr. Powell for the practical working of the colliery? I was; I thought that under the circumstances he produced the coal exceptionally cheap.

2276. And, as a practical man, having long experience of working coal-seams in the Newcastle District, you had reason to feel perfectly satisfied with Mr. Powell's management? Yes, I was perfectly satisfied.

2277. You are aware that the coal was produced at a high price as compared with other collieries in the district? Yes.

2278. Notwithstanding the fact that you were paying a much higher price than other collieries, you considered that the circumstances warranted the increased amount paid? I did, indeed.

2279. Then you found Mr. Powell a thoughtful, economical, and careful manager? Yes; I knew him thirty odd years ago, and had worked in the next bord to him as a miner. My experience of him as a manager fully bore out my previous experience of his character and abilities.

2280. As to his integrity and honesty you have no doubt then? None whatever; I would trust my life to him.

2281. It comes to this—you have every confidence in the good judgment of Mr. Powell? I have.

2282. About the beginning of last year some of your partners in Ferndale formed a different opinion from you as to the cost of raising the coal? Yes, they did.

2283. Some of them had doubts in their minds as to whether the coal was raised in the most economical way? Yes.

2284. And some arrangement was entered into, and Mr. Croudace was consulted. Were you aware of the intention to call in Mr. Croudace's aid? I am aware of this, Mr. President: That they did not go out seeking for information as to the cost of our production, but Mr. Croudace did volunteer to give them his

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his opinion on the subject of getting the coal at Ferndale. Mr. Sweetland told us of the circumstances that led up to it. Mr. Croudace, knowing the business connections, saw Mr. Sweetland, and reference was made to our cost of production. Mr. Croudace went out of his way, I thought, to hazard a statement that in his opinion, and knowing the circumstances, that the coal should be produced for 7s. per ton. Considering the difference between what the coal was really costing and Mr. Croudace's estimate, my co-partners thought that something ought to be done to give effect to what Mr. Croudace said he was able to perform, and they suggested the propriety of engaging Mr. Croudace as consulting viewer or engineer. They wrote to me accordingly on the subject, and I at once coincided with their views, but I added 3d. per ton over and above the sum that was mentioned, viz., 7s. I said I was quite prepared to give the extra 3d. to come and go upon, and made it a *sine qua non* that if he produced the coal for that amount that we should give him £400 or £450 a year instead of the sum that he had suggested. But it was to be on the distinct understanding that the coal was to be got out at the price stated. Then I was asked to see Mr. Croudace, which I did, but after he had seen the colliery he submitted proposals which would have cost £10,000 to give effect to. He proposed to sink a shaft to the dip, and start away a pair of winning-places, and work the coal to the rise. He also said that it might be necessary to depose Mr. Powell, and appoint a man of his own there. I told him that if he was prepared to carry on the colliery with the present appliances, with the object in view, and Mr. Powell would not act under his instructions, he would have to be removed, and some other person appointed in his place; but if he, in order to give effect to his voluntary promise to get the coal at 7s. per ton, must, in the first place, undertake works of such cost and magnitude, then, of course, Mr. Powell was equally capable of doing it himself.

2285. Did Mr. Croudace, in entering into any particulars with you, state how he proposed to work the coal? Yes; he wanted to drive a pair of winning-places away ahead in the thin coal, for half a mile or thereabouts. Then a shaft was to be sunk to the dip. To my mind, seeing that the water was as much as we could contend with, I thought it would cost considerably more to adopt Mr. Croudace's scheme.

2286. Were you aware that the thickness of the coal there was 2 feet 6 inches? No, I was not aware; but I know we had to pay extra to the miners working in that part.

2287. Then, from your experience of winning coal at Newcastle, do you think that it was possible to win the coal and effect economy with such thin coal as you had? Certainly not, and that is why I condemned his scheme. It was agreed by most of us to work from our present working-places, as far as we could, and then to go beyond and make fresh workings.

2288. Then Mr. Croudace did not satisfy you, in his personal explanation, that he was able to effect the economies he had indicated? No; but he did satisfy me that he wanted to interfere with the duties of those who knew more than he did.

2289. From his proposition, did you understand that he was aware of the position of these eastern workings? He never said a word about danger being there.

2290. I did not ask you that, Mr. Fletcher. Did you understand that he was acquainted with the position of these workings? Yes.

2291. And that he was aware of the difficulties of the surface at the place where he proposed to sink the new shaft? Yes.

2292. Did he send a report to the owners after his visit? At that time he did.

2293. And knowing the positions that these workings held with respect to the surface, and knowing that they were well within the tidal waters, did he give you any advice as to the amount of caution that should be observed in the working of the coal under these swamps? No; he did not do so, either by direct communication or inference.

2294. Did he mention the word danger to you in connection with the workings? No.

2295. Neither then nor at any future time? Yes; he became a wise man after the fall had taken place.

2296. Mr. Croudace, you say, made a proposition to the proprietors, that on certain conditions, if he was appointed "viewer" or consulting engineer, he would be able to carry on the workings under these tidal swamps by means of sinking a shaft and other operations, &c.? Yes, that was the proposition he made to us.

2297. Did you consider these as safe propositions for a colliery manager to make? I did not, because I thought we could not get a better man than we had, nor, indeed, as good a one.

2298. Do you consider that it would be an advantage to Mr. Croudace, with all his experience and local knowledge, to have a good and tried manager to carry out his behests in preference to an overman? I certainly do; Mr. Croudace, when he was below, made a great point against the management about some trifling matter of steam coming out from a cylinder in connection with some of the pumping apparatus.

2299. We attach no importance to that? I think you are right, but I was only telling you.

2300. As a practical man, you were not to be taken in in that way? No, I was not.

2301. And with respect to Mr. Croudace's report, it was discussed by the proprietors, I suppose? Yes.

2302. Did you see Mr. Croudace thereafter? No. I think Mr. Sweetland was authorized to inform him that we were unanimously of opinion that, in consequence of the amount we would have to expend, as compared with the value of his professional services, we would do better to remain as we were.

2303. You did not estimate his anticipated savings at the amount of the salary he required? No. We decided that he could not effect the savings that he professed to be able to effect.

2304. With respect to the disaster that occurred at Ferndale in March last, did you visit the scene of the disaster? I did.

2305. And did you make inquiries as to the width of the places below the fall? I did.

2306. And what answer did you receive? I was told by Mr. Powell that the bords were driven 6 yards wide, and barely that.

2307. Did Mr. Powell assign any reason for such a thickness of rock breaking down? Yes; he did say that there must have been a rotten place in the rock, and that the water coming there had made the breach so much larger, and eventually caused the fall. I asked him particularly if he had thought there was any danger to be apprehended, and his reply was that he had seen none whatever, and that the men did not consider it unsafe.

2308. In working coal, you often have occasion to find joints or fissures in the roof? Yes.

2309. Can you always tell how far these joints extend upward? No; and I once experienced a difficulty from that cause myself, where a fall took place in a narrow bord, and the water came in from a creek, to cross which, in safety, every precaution had been taken.

Mr. J. Y. Neilson corroborated this statement.

2310.

2310. And in working the coal there, had you no means of estimating the danger? No; everything appeared to be sound.

2311. Having examined Mr. Powell as to this late accident, what conclusion did you come to? I came to the conclusion that it was not brought about by any carelessness on the part of the management, because every precaution had been taken. In other words, I thought it was one of those unexpected events which no human eye can foresee.

2312. Did he mention to you at the time that a fall-in had taken place in the direction of a special heading? He showed me a subsidence.

2313. Do you consider the fact of such an accident occurring at Ferndale—where 40 feet of rock, under a pressure of 25 feet of sand and water, broke down—a sufficient reason why special precautions should be taken in working coal under tidal swamps for the future? I think it is a question well deserving the serious consideration of practical men? I think that I, in a manner, demonstrated this in the appointment of a Commission specially qualified to advise as to whether, in their opinion, in working coal under similar circumstances some alteration in the system ought to be made; and I should prefer to reserve my opinion until the Commission inquires into the matter, and advises the Government thereupon—in fact, until the Commission has performed its part of the duty.

2314. Did Mr. Croudace tender to the proprietary any other documentary communication than the report referred to? He reported after the accident occurred. He voluntarily sent a communication to my co-partners.

2315. In that report he gave you some opinion as to the workings at Ferndale. Do you not think that, as a practical man, he ought to have tendered that advice some months before? Certainly, if he knew of it. Either he was ignorant of the danger, or he was dishonest in withholding his knowledge of it.

2316. Did he explain to you how he proposed to work the thin coal to the dip with 6-yard bords with profit and timber them? I do not remember.

2317. If so, would that have effected your reception of his proposal? I do not think so.

2318. Can you point to any reason why Mr. Croudace was anxious to depose Mr. Powell? No.

2319. *Mr. Neilson.*] He never gave you to understand there was any danger? No.

2320. *Mr. Usher.*] Mr. Croudace proposes that the workings should extend to the east; do you see where it would go to. Yes.

[Position explained on the plan.]

2321. *Mr. Jones.*] And no pressure had been brought to bear upon the management which would impair the safety of the mine, notwithstanding the high cost of working the coal? Never. Instructions were given quite to the contrary. Mr. Sweetland has a copy of a communication on the subject, and I think it is only fair that you should know what my opinion was in that connection. I am very glad that the Commission appear to understand that the subsidence of the surface was in no way due to defective timbering of the roof.

2322. *Mr. Davics.*] Do you remember what instructions were given to Mr. Croudace as to what he was to report upon? All I know is what I have already told you, that he voluntarily told one of my co-partners that he was in a position to produce the coal at 7s. per ton, and he went to the colliery to examine it with a view to seeing what he could do to bring about the idea.

2323. Do you remember in any of Mr. Powell's reports whether he mentioned a fall having taken place in a portion of the mine near to the scene of the late accident, and that shells and sand and mud came down there? I never had any idea of it.

2324. Was there anything said as to excessive cost of timbering—that is, was there any objection to the cost incurred? Never. I knew it was better to bring timber than to clear away the falls. I always said, "Use your own judgment, Powell, and keep everything safe."

2325. You are quite sure that Mr. Croudace, before the accident, never pointed out to you or any of your co-partners the existence of any probable danger through working under these swamps? I am quite sure of it. The very idea of his proposing to go a considerable distance beyond the danger (as recently shown) incontestably proves that he could not have done so.

2326. *Mr. Curley.*] I understand that the Ferndale Company offered the consulting viewership to Mr. Croudace—is that so? Yes, on certain conditions.

2327. Did he make an offer to take the position at a certain figure? Yes. I think it was £4 or £5 per week; but I offered him £400 or £500 per annum, providing that he could give effect to the proposals which he had made to the Company.

2328. From your knowledge of coal-mining, did you consider that the offer made by the Company was a fair one? I think so.

2329. Had you a knowledge of a subsidence of the surface that took place fifteen months ago near the crop? I remember we had a fall near to the Waratah Company's railway.

2330. Was it in the vicinity of the late fall? No; I had no particular intimation as to the immediate vicinity.

2331. Suppose you had a special knowledge that in a heading well timbered, and with an apparently sound roof, a fall had taken place, and that sand had come down, would you not have considered it dangerous to work this particular part? That would depend upon circumstances. If I found it to be merely a pit-hole I should have paid very little attention to it, but if it appeared to be the result of a general absence of rock it would have made me very anxious indeed.

At this stage Mr. Croudace's report, of March 20, 1885, with letter attached, dated August 3, 1885, were produced and read.

2332. *President.*] Then, having received Mr. Croudace's suggestions, you considered they were of too trifling a character to entertain? Yes, that they were thoroughly impracticable.

2333. And would have made no appreciable reduction in the cost of the work? No.

The witness withdrew.

W. M. F. Tilley sworn and examined:—

2334. *President.*] I understand you are a reporter on the *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate*? I am.

2335. As a reporter, were you present at Ferndale after the accident? Yes.

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Tilley.

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- Mr. W. M. F. 2336. Did you hear certain questions put to Mr. Powell, the manager of Ferndale Colliery? I did.
 Tilley. 2337. And the replies given by Mr. Powell? Yes.
 5 June, 1886. 2338. Among the questions asked, do you recollect whether Mr. Powell was asked as to the width of bords under the fall, and if so, what reply did he give? He explained the plan of the pit, commencing from the working-shaft.
 2339. You have no knowledge of coal-mining? No.
 2340. The witness hands in paper, dated March 22, 1886, containing report of the meeting of managers at Ferndale, as referred to.

The witness withdrew.

MONDAY, 7 JUNE, 1886.

Present:—

J. R. M. ROBERTSON, Esq., PRESIDENT,

MR. USHER,	MR. SWINBURN,
MR. THOMAS,	MR. CURLEY,
MR. NELSON,	MR. JONES,
MR. TURNBULL,	MR. DAVIES,
MR. DURIE.	

James Fletcher, jun., sworn and examined:—

- Mr. J. 2341. *President.* You are manager of the Co-operative Colliery? Yes.
 Fletcher, jun. 2342. Have you had opportunities of inspecting the Ferndale Colliery? I have been there when I was asked by Mr. Powell to give friendly advice.
 7 June, 1886. 2343. Were you engaged as consulting manager? No.
 2344. How often have you been down the dip workings? I was never in the dip workings towards the east.
 2345. Had you ever been towards the swamps? I had nothing to do with the workings at all.
 2346. Then your connection with Ferndale was only as to advice? Yes; with reference to laying out the engine-plane, &c.
 2347. How long prior to the last accident was it that you visited the mine? It was about twelve months last January—say about fourteen months prior to the accident. Since that time I have been there on the surface, but not below. Mr. Powell never advised me as to the details of the workings.
 2348. Did you, at any of your visits to the colliery, think that under the circumstances it was being economically managed? Yes; I did as to the working.
 2349. Were there any special features connected with the working of this mine? Yes; as to the water and timbering. I thought Powell was doing as well as any man could do under the circumstances.
 2350. Have you known Mr. Powell for some time? Yes.
 2351. And as a colliery manager, did you consider him a capable man for the position he occupied? Yes; I considered him a first-class man—a good practical man.
 2352. That is one in whom you could repose perfect confidence? Certainly.

The witness withdrew.

APPENDIX.

FERNDALE COLLIERY.

Record of borings lodged by Wm. Henderson.

No. 1 BORE.

At pumping-shaft.

	ft.	in.
Sandy shale	9	0
Conglomerate	42	9
Brown clay	0	9
Coal	0	4
White shale	0	4
Conglomerate	2	5
Shaly sandstone	1	6
Conglomerate	20	6
Clay	0	6
Conglomerate	20	0
Dark shale	5	3
Coal	1	6
Brown clay	1	10
Soft coal	0	6
White clay	0	8
Coal	3	3
Grey sandstone	0	6
Total depth	111	7

BORE No. 2.

To N. and E. above high-water-mark.

	ft.	in.
Surface	1	0
Conglomerate	48	3
Shaly sandstone	5	0
Conglomerate	11	0
Shaly sandstone	22	6
Shaly clay	9	0
Coal	1	10
Coal and dirt	0	9
Coal	3	2
Grey sandstone	0	6
Total depth	103	0

No. 3 BORE.

Near Tighe's Bridge, South of Robinson's Colliery.

	ft.	in.
Depth of shaft	52	0
Bore commenced.		
Conglomerate	33	0
Shale	5	0
Soft coal	1	6
Coal	3	0
Shale with coal bands	3	0
Coal	2	7
Grey sandstone	0	6
Total depth	100	7

BORE No. 7.

Outside of road near bridge across Tighe's Creek, from Wickham to east of Pumping-pit—Site of shaft recommended by Mr. Crundace.

	ft.	in.
Loose sand	40	0
Clay	18	0
Smut	0	3
Sandy shale	59	7
Brown clay	0	3
	118	1
Coal	1	8
Coal and clay	2	5
Coal	4	4
Shaly clay with coal pipes	5	3
Coal	2	4
Clay band	0	7
Coal	0	7
Clay band	1	4
Coal	3	8
Grey post	0	6
Total depth	140	9

ROYAL COMMISSION ON COLLIERIES—APPENDIX.

BORE No. 9.

In East Swamps, contiguous to road to Smelting Works.

	ft.	in.
Loose sand	48	0
Sandy shale.....	3	0
Conglomerate	22	0
Clays	0	3
Coal inferior.....	0	6
Coal and clay	0	11
Coal	3	2
Sandy shale	11	6
Conglomerate	3	0
Shaly clay with coal pipes	2	6
Shaly sandstone	33	8
Shale	5	0
Coal	3	9
Grey sandstone	0	9
Total depth.....	148	0

BORE No. 10.

In East Swamp, M on plan.

	ft.	in.
Loose sand	52	0
Conglomerate	48	6
Clay	0	2
Coal	1	0
Soft band.....	0	5
Coal	3	8
Grey sandstone	1	3
Total depth.....	107	0

BORE No. 11.

South of Pumping-shaft, marked O on plan.

	ft.	in.
Loose sand	20	0
Conglomerate	30	0
Clay bed	0	6
Conglomerate	25	0
Dark shale	4	0
Shaly sandstone	22	0
Shaly clay	6	0
Coal	3	3
Sandstone grey	0	7
Total depth.....	111	4

BORE No. 12.

In centre of flat, north-east of Pumping-pit.

	ft.	in.
Loose sand	61	0
Conglomerate	22	0
Soft bed with gravel	0	6
Shaly clay	14	6
Sandy shale.....	13	6
Coal	0	9
Clay band.....	1	3
Coal	0	8
Clay band.....	1	9
Coal	3	3
Grey sandstone	0	4
Total depth.....	119	6

Account of boring for the Waratah Coal Company, north of Waratah Co.'s line of Railway, and east of Ferndale Coal Co.'s working-shaft, 1864 and 5.

	ft.	in.
Dry sand	2	0
Quicksand	28	0
Blue clay	20	0
Soft conglomerate	16	0
Hard conglomerate	60	0
Post and metal mixed	13	6

The remainder of this line shows sections of post metal and shales to the depth of 362 feet 10 inches, but no coal found.

Reports by Mr. Inspector Dixon on Ferndale Colliery.

Sir,

Glebeland, 26 September, 1885.

I have the honor to report inspection of the above colliery on 8th inst., as follows:—

The total in-take current of air was about 17,000 cubic feet per minute for about 130 men, &c.

I was all through the working headings in the two splits, and found a good circulation of air in each heading, in fact upon the whole the ventilation in Ferndale on this occasion was better than ever I found it before.

The travelling roads were in good order, and a plentiful supply of timber on the various flats ready for use.

I have, &c.,

John Mackenzie, Esq.,
Examiner of Coal-fields.

JOHN DIXON,
Inspector of Collieries.

Sir,

Water is found in all parts of the mine, and, with the exception of the Blake and Tangye pumps, only primitive and crude appliances exist for dealing with it, which, I need scarcely say, are at all times the most expensive. Such may be and are daily resorted to as a temporary arrangement, but rarely where permanent water supplies are met with. You require better appliances and to make more use of gravitation; in fact, instead of working with nature—always an ally of man—you are working against her. Observing one or two self-evident facts, I asked your manager if he had any sections or levels of various parts of the mine, but to my astonishment he said, "No, not one," thus showing that the system pursued is what I may term the rule of thumb.

The Blake engine is in a dreadful state of oxidation. The Tangye I could not see for steam, and the manager could not get the pet-cocks to move either one way or the other. I might continue enumerating defects, but will briefly state there is ample room for improvement, which can only be effected by having sections and levels taken in various parts of the mine. Money expended—which, if judiciously expended two or three years ago, would now be saving you considerable outlay daily—and other little matters attended to and adopted, all of which I shall be willing to point out to you by personal interview or report.

Upon ascending the shaft or tunnel, I inspected the surface position, and can only say I was strengthened in my opinion as regards the necessary work you should execute to assure more economical working.

I further strengthened my opinion as regards your heaviest costs by examination briefly of your pay-sheet.

I sent to Newcastle for the sections of sundry boreholes, which were sent to me; these I left in charge of your clerk at the colliery.

I have, &c.,

THOS. CROUDACE.

To the Proprietors of Ferndale Colliery, near Newcastle,—
Gentlemen,

Lambton Colliery, Lambton, 3 August, 1885.

Mr. Fletcher, a few weeks ago, asked me to take the consulting managership of your colliery, at a salary of £200 per annum, or say £4 per week. Since then I have again visited your colliery, have had levels taken from the shaft to the fault last struck, have taken a summary of hands employed, and have come to the conclusion that I can by a comparatively moderate outlay considerably reduce your costs of working within a few months; but this will entail a change in your management which you may not consider desirable. As it is, I consider an overman quite sufficient to carry out my views. It will also necessitate a reduction in the number of hands employed; and as the work and thought required from me will be pretty heavy, at least for a time, I must ask you £5 per week.

Therefore, if you will take this statement into consideration, and weigh carefully the position, I am prepared to accept the result of your decision, whatever it may be: or should you wish to discuss the position with me, I am prepared to meet you at any time.

I am, &c.,

THOMAS CROUDACE.

Letter from Hon. Jas. Fletcher, *re* Mr. Croudace's proposals.

Messrs. Stokes and Sweetland, Newcastle,—

Newcastle, 21 January, 1885.

My dear sir,

Your joint letter of the 16th instant, *re* "Ferndale matters" has had my very serious attention, and I can only say that I am equally anxious with yourselves to see the coal produced at the lowest possible cost with due regard to keeping up the efficiency of the colliery.

The working of the coal at the Ferndale Colliery is, and has been for some time past, of a very exceptional character indeed. The roof for the most part is of such a nature that it can only be kept up by an expensive system of timbering, even after the miner has performed his part of the work. What I mean is, that gangs of men have to be kept specially employed to go round the bords and set up extra timber. Not only has this expensive drawback to be contended with, but, in consequence of the uneven nature of the floor, water-baling is exceptionally heavy. These two items themselves add very considerably to the cost of production.

We sank, as you are aware, a shaft for pumping purposes on what we believed to be the deepest part of the field. The drive, as you will remember, going towards the water-shaft dips so heavily that a horse could only bring one skip from the face. Indeed, the dip was so great that we unanimously agreed to let it stand, and tap the workings from the water-pit when it was sunk. Instead, however, of the drive rising from the shaft at the face of the old workings, as we expected, it dipped for nearly the whole of the distance, and only rose from some 20 or 30 yards before the two drives met. Consequently, instead of the water, as we anticipated, running to the pumping-shaft, the water had to be pumped from the workings to it.

The same difficulty had to be encountered in driving to the eastward. It rose from the pit bottom for a very short distance, and then commenced to dip, so that all the water now made in the workings has either to be baled or pumped before it reaches the bottom of the water-shaft.

My son has paid frequent visits to the colliery, and conversed with Mr. Powell. He is of opinion that the latter is doing all that could be done under the circumstances. However, if Mr. Croudace can see his way clear to produce the coal at the figure named, 7s. per ton, I, for one, would say by all means let him be appointed at once. Nay, I would go further, and say if he can produce the coal to us at even 7s. 3d. per ton, I would be prepared, as one, to give him from £100 to £150 per annum, stipulating, of course, that the coal should not cost more than the sum named.

It is to the interest of all of us to have the coal got at the least possible cost, and if Mr. Croudace can do for us what we have been unable to do for ourselves, I shall certainly not stand in the way of his getting the chance. I therefore at once say that you have my full and complete concurrence to engage the services of Mr. Croudace on the lines that I have mentioned, and let him commence his duties without one moment's delay.

I am quite sure that Mr. Powell will be very glad to act under instructions from Mr. Croudace, especially if the coal is to be produced at a figure so much below what it now costs us: but even if he will not, that is no reason why Mr. Croudace should not be employed, and a gentleman put there who would be willing to carry out the orders of Mr. Croudace in every particular.

There are collieries and collieries, and whilst there may be some so similarly situated that the difference in the cost of production would be scarcely perceptible; yet there are others with local drawbacks which add very considerably to such cost, when compared with collieries more favourably situated. I believe that Ferndale Colliery is one of the latter kind; but I am only one, and there is no reason why my opinion should be taken in the face of the statement made by Mr. Croudace.

My desire is to have the liabilities of the colliery cleared off as soon as possible, and no feeling of mine will ever be allowed to stand in the way of any gentleman undertaking to do that which I myself may have failed to accomplish.

I am, &c.,

JAMES FLETCHER.

P.S.—Of course the efficiency of the colliery must be maintained whilst the economical system of working is carried out.

Letter from Mr. Croudace to Proprietors of Ferndale, subsequent to the catastrophe.

The Proprietors of the Ferndale Colliery, Newcastle,—
Gentlemen,

22 March, 1886.

On Saturday morning I received a letter from your secretary, asking me to meet your manager at the Ferndale Colliery office, in order to give my opinion as to the best means of coping with the recent disaster.

Setting other engagements aside, I at once started, and upon arrival at the office found Messrs. Mackenzie and Dixon, as also several other colliery managers, present.

I proceeded to the scene of the accident, which is situated on a mud flat, to the north-east of your working-shaft, and (say) a distance of half a mile. I found the bulk of this flat subject to the influence of the tidal waters. Accompanied by Mr. Powell, your resident manager, I went into the waters with the view of ascertaining the extent of the fall-in. We went round the whole of it; and I consider there is about 1½ acre of ground, more or less, affected by the original "fall-in," all of which surface, composed of sand and mud, seems to have been washed into the mine. I estimate it at about 86,000 cubic yards. I must

Mr. Fletcher explains this to be in addition to the sum named by Mr. Croudace.—R.M.B.

must here mention that while examining the site of the present calamity I observed, quite close to it, that is, on the same mud flat, and subject to the same tidal influence, another depression, which Mr. Powell informed me was another "fall-in," that had taken place a few weeks previously, but which they had successfully filled up. I will later on specially refer to this, as a feature of great moment and vital importance in this sad accident.

The various managers and Government representatives met—say about 12 o'clock—in your colliery office. I was unanimously elected Chairman. We were then informed that we had been asked to meet to consider the best means of recovering the body of the man Jenkins. Some discussion ensued. I pointed out that the first action to be taken must be to ascertain from Mr. Powell the extent of the workings, their average thickness, the position of depth of the various shafts, the position of the water in these shafts, &c., &c. Mr. Powell told us the working-shaft, which is situated to the rise of the workings, and west of the property, is 40 feet deep, that the engine-plane runs easterly and south-easterly for about 48 to 50 chains, and is an incline from the shaft all the way. At a distance of about 30 chains due east from the working-shaft there is a water-shaft of 111 feet in depth. At a distance of about 25 chains, and in nearly a due north direction from this water-shaft, is the "fall-in," the scene of the accident. He stated the distance of the "fall-in" from the surface to the coal as being about 65 feet; from the surface to the stone-head there were about 25 feet of mud and sand, and 2 feet of clay next, leaving about 38 feet of stone, composed of shale and rotten conglomerate. During the after-discussion Mr. Powell frequently described the stone overhead as very soft and rotten. Several managers spoke of the softness and rottenness of the stone overhead, and when I suggested the use of cylinders at the site of the "fall-in" one manager said he did not believe the stone would bear them. We calculated from the plan that about 110 acres of land had been worked, but allowing for pillars, faults, falls, &c., only 55 acres of open space could be taken for the water to accumulate in. The average thickness of the seam we assumed at 6 feet—it varies from 2 feet 9 inches to (say) 12 feet—equal (say) to 89,842,500 gallons of water in the mine. One gentleman calculated it at 144,000,000. Having worked it out hurriedly, I admit I may be wrong.

I gave it as my opinion that it is quite possible, and not difficult, to stop the influx of water at the fall-in. It is also possible to pump out the water; but supposing this to be done, it must take many months, during which time the body of Jenkins is decomposing, and when got out could only be a sad and harrowing sight to his relatives. If his body is got out, then your mine is re-opened. Notwithstanding that, I am prepared to admit, and do submit, that it is quite possible to attain this end. There is one element, and a very important one, that prevents me from recommending any attempt to be made to accomplish such end, namely, the existence of the injudicious system of mining that you have pursued under such circumstances as exist at your mine. During your mining operations you have had more than one warning, and quite recently you had a warning of the loudest character. I now allude to the "fall-in" adjoining the scene of this, may I say, in one sense, most fortunate accident. I say "most fortunate," for I feel that for weeks past the whole of your men have been daily subject to most fearful danger. It appalls me—it astounds me—as to how your management dare to allow the mine to be worked after the first "fall-in" in the swamps took place. Had I been your consulting manager (which appointment, you will recollect, you offered me some time ago) I would not for any money have allowed these workings to proceed one inch from that date. Feeling and realizing all this, I cannot now recommend that the lives of good men should be jeopardized to obtain a dead body, or to give back to you your property, even if it were twice the value it is.

You have my fullest sympathy, and if in aught else I can in any way assist you I shall be very glad to do so. I notice in the papers a statement that you may sink other shafts on the property, and leave a barrier next to those drowned-out workings. Let me warn you to be very careful, and adopt some other principle of working, for, in my opinion, very great danger hangs over your heads.

I am, &c.,
THOMAS CROUDACE, M.E.

P.S.—As this sad accident has caused great public excitement and sympathy, so far as I am concerned, you are quite at liberty to publish this letter.—T. C.

Check Inspectors' Reports.

Ferndale Miners,

Ferndale Colliery, 11 March, 1885.

We, the undersigned, having examined the travelling-roads, workings, &c., &c., report as follows:—

In-take on engine-bank, 10,804 cubic feet per minute; thermometer, 68 degrees; air passing from engine-bank to No. 7 headings, 7,805 cubic feet per minute; thermometer, 73 degrees.

At the top part of No. 7 heading the anemometer gave 2,800 cubic feet per minute; thermometer, 74 degrees. There were sixteen men, two boys, and one horse employed here—the air being a fraction over 147 cubic feet per minute for each man, boy, and horse.

Middle part of No. 7 heading.—In-take from top narrow bord, 4,346 cubic feet per minute. There were nineteen men, four boys, and two horses employed here, having a little over 173 cubic feet per minute for each man, boy, and horse. Thermometer, 73 degrees. There has been a great improvement in the last sections since our last visit.

Lower part of No. 7 heading.—At the cut-through from Lawson's narrow bord, which supplies air to section, we could not get sufficient air to move the anemometer. Thermometer, 75 degrees. We tried in several places in this heading, but each time the anemometer would not work. There were twenty-six men, four boys, and two horses, and complaints were made by several of the bad state of the air, some of the bords being in as much as 50 or 60 yards. We are of opinion that a quantity of air that should come through this part goes back Lawson's narrow bord, and then finds its way into the heading at the bottom part, for, on passing into the No. 8 narrow bord from the heading last referred to, the anemometer registered 2,707 cubic feet per minute—that must have come through this heading.

We next visited No. 3 heading. At the cut-through from the narrow bord there was not sufficient air to move the anemometer. There were "cut-throughs" to the other bords, but they were nearly blocked up, and it was almost impossible to get through them. The men here complain very much about the bad state of the air. The thermometer registered 78 degrees. There were ten men, two boys, and one horse here.

No. 4 heading.—In-take in cut-through from narrow bord, 2,850 cubic feet per minute; nine men, two boys, and one horse. Thermometer, 74 degrees. Cut-through in No. 4 bord completely blocked up with dirt.

No. 5 heading.—In-take from engine-bank, 826 cubic feet per minute, for ten men, two boys, and one horse, giving 68½ cubic feet per minute for each man, boy, and horse. Thermometer, 75 degrees.

There were also fifteen men, two boys, and one horse in different parts of the mine, which have not been taken into the above account, that have a fair supply of air.

We measured the return air to the up-cast, and found 8,614 cubic feet per minute, but we were unable to take them all in consequence of the way it splits up here.

We noticed a fair supply of timber in each place.

WM. LLOYD,
JOSEPH BOWDITCH, } Check Inspectors.

Ferndale Colliery, 10 April, 1885.

We, the undersigned, having examined the several workings, air-ways, &c., of the Ferndale Colliery, report as follows:—

In-take of air on engine-bank, 9,250 feet per minute; thermometer, 68 degrees. In-take from old furnace-shaft, 1,800 cubic feet per minute; thermometer, 68 degrees.

Air passing from engine-bank to No. 7 heading, 4,600 cubic feet per minute. Air passing from old furnace-shaft to No. 7 heading, 1,800 cubic feet per minute.

Top part of No. 7 heading. Anemometer gave 2,550 cubic feet per minute for nineteen men, four boys, and two horses, being 102 cubic feet per minute for each man, boy, and horse; thermometer, 71 degrees.

Middle part of No. 7 heading.—Air passing cut-through from top narrow bord, 4,138 cubic feet per minute, for twenty-nine men, four boys, and two horses, being a fraction over 118 cubic feet per minute for each man, boy, and horse; thermometer, 71 degrees.

Lower part of No. 7 heading.—At cut-through from narrow bord the anemometer gave 2,844 cubic feet per minute; thermometer, 74 degrees. After passing seven bords, the anemometer registered 4,260 cubic feet per minute. There are twenty-two men, five boys, and two horses employed here. There is a very marked improvement in this part since our last inspection.

We next visited No. 3 heading; but at the cut-through from No. 8 narrow bord, the area being so large, there was not sufficient air to move the anemometer. The cut-throughs had been cleared, and there were no complaints about the air. There were eight men, two boys, and one horse working here; thermometer, 74 degrees.

No. 4 heading.—Two men, with a fair supply of air.

No. 5.

No. 5 heading.—In-take from engine-bank, 575 cubic feet per minute. There were six men, two boys, and one horse employed here, giving each 64 cubic feet per minute; thermometer, 72 degrees.

Returns from No. 4 heading gave 3,032 cubic feet per minute. Return at main flat, 5,402 cubic feet per minute; but all returns cannot be taken here. Each place was well timbered.

WM. LLOYD,
JOSEPH BOWDITCH, } Check Inspectors.

Ferndale Colliery, 2 July, 1885.

WE, the undersigned, having examined the several workings, air-ways, &c., &c., report as follows:—

In-take of air on engine-bank, 14,430 cubic feet per minute; thermometer, 61 degrees. In-take of air from old furnace-shaft, 1,800 cubic feet per minute; thermometer, 61 degrees. Air passing from engine-bank to No. 1 heading, 6,346 cubic feet per minute; thermometer, 68 degrees.

Top part of No. 1 heading.—The anemometer registered 4,070 cubic feet per minute; thermometer, 72 degrees. This gave 185 cubic feet per minute each for fifteen men, five boys, and two horses.

At the cut-through from No. 27 narrow bord the anemometer registered 5,730 cubic feet per minute; thermometer, 71 degrees. At the two cut-throughs from No. 13 narrow bord the current had increased to 6,320 cubic feet per minute. This current of air has to supply fifty-seven men, thirteen boys, and six horses, giving each a fraction over 83 cubic feet per minute. There were twenty-nine men, eight boys, and four horses, from 27 to 13 bord inclusive, and twenty-three men, five boys, and two horses, from 12 to 7 bords, both inclusive, and four men in two bords in Nos. 3 and 4 headings, and one man pumping, making in all fifty-seven men, thirteen boys, and six horses supplied from the above current. In Nos. 1 and 2 bords the air was very slack, the thermometer registering 78 degrees. The bord in No. 3 heading is in nearly 60 yards without a cut-through; thermometer, 76 degrees in this bord. Our attention was drawn to the road of No. 19 bord being dangerous for the boys wheeling, but a cut-through, being nearly holed, will remedy that in a day or two.

At No. 5 heading the air passing from engine-bank through one cut-through is 744 cubic feet per minute. We were told the other cut-through was closed, but on passing next morning I found a large current of air passing through. Nine men, one boy, and one horse employed here.

Return from No. 4 heading, 3,485 cubic feet per minute; return at furnace-shaft, 10,030 cubic feet per minute; total returns, 13,515 cubic feet per minute. But in consequence of the way it splits up here we were unable to get all the returns correctly. There was a plentiful supply of timber in the headings.

JOSEPH BOWDITCH, } Check Inspectors.
C. WILLIAMS,

Ferndale Colliery, 23 October, 1885.

WE, the undersigned, having examined the several workings, air-ways, &c., of the above colliery, report as follows:—

In-take at engine-bank, 12,960 cubic feet of air per minute; thermometer, 68 degrees. In-take from the old furnace-shaft, 2,812 cubic feet per minute. Air passing from engine-bank to No. 1 heading, 5,964 cubic feet per minute.

Top part of No. 1 heading. Anemometer registered 4,890 cubic feet per minute for twenty-seven men, six boys, and four horses, being a fraction over 132 cubic feet per minute for each man, boy, and horse; thermometer, 72 degrees.

At the cut-through at the top "gannon-bord" the anemometer registered 4,050 cubic feet per minute for eighteen men, four boys, and two horses, being 168½ cubic feet per minute for each man, boy, and horse; thermometer, 75 degrees.

At the cut-through in No. 17 bord the anemometer registered 2,450 cubic feet per minute for fifteen men, four boys, and two horses, being 116½ cubic feet per minute for each man, boy, and horse; thermometer, 78 degrees.

At the cut-through at the lower "gannon-bord" the anemometer registered 3,870 cubic feet per minute for twenty-two men, six boys, and three horses, a fraction over 124½ cubic feet per minute for each man, boy, and horse; thermometer, 75 degrees.

There were two men working off the right-hand of No. 8 heading, but the area being too large there was not sufficient air to move the anemometer.

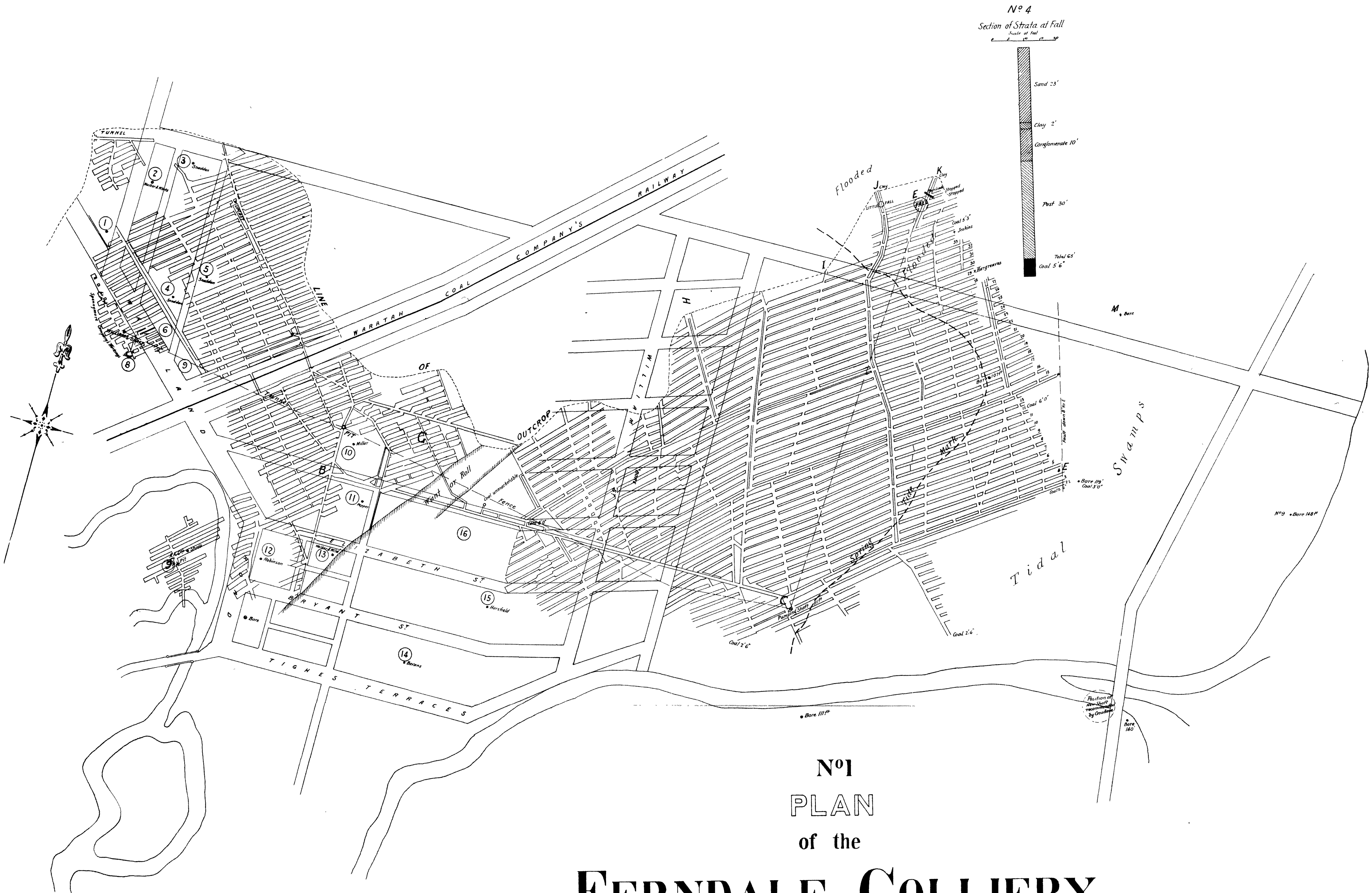
No. 5 heading.—In-take from engine-bank, 1,633 cubic feet per minute for eight men, two boys, and one horse, giving a fraction over 148½ cubic feet per minute for each man, boy, and horse; thermometer, 72 degrees.

Returns from No. 4 heading, 2,940 cubic feet per minute; thermometer, 75 degrees. But all the returns cannot be taken here.

Each place was well supplied with timber.

WM. LLOYD,
DAVID HOPKINS, } Check Inspectors.

[Three Plans.]



(671-)

Nº1 PLAN of the FERNDAL COLLIERY

Scale of Chains
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
SYDNEY NEW SOUTH WALES.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
NEW SOUTH WALES.



ROYAL COMMISSION ON COLLIERIES.

THIRD REPORT:

ON

THE CONDITION OF THE COLLIERIES ADJACENT TO FERNDALE.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,

21 *October*, 1886.

SYDNEY: CHARLES POTTER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1886.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON COLLIERIES.

THIRD REPORT.

To His Excellency, the Right Honorable CHARLES ROBERT BARON CARRINGTON,
Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and
Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of New South
Wales and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

Having presented to your Excellency their reports, *first*, on the accidents that had occurred at Lithgow Valley Colliery, and *second*, on the accident that occurred at Ferndale Colliery, the Commission met at Newcastle on the 30th of June; and after considering their report on the accident at Ferndale Colliery, and arranging the course to pursue in obtaining and examining witnesses to supplement the impressions or opinions they might form from a personal inspection of the collieries adjacent to Ferndale, they commenced a series of visitations on the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, and again on the 16th, 17th, and 20th of July, minutely inspecting the underground workings of the collieries, embraced in this report, viz.,—1. Stevenson's Colliery; 2. Broughall and Griffiths'; 3. Maryville; 4. Wickham; 5. Bullock Island; 6. Hetton; 7. Stockton; 8. Australian Agricultural Company's No. 2 Pit; 9. Newcastle Coal-mining Company's B Pit; 10. Burwood Colliery; 11. The site of boring and sinking operations on Stockton Peninsula; and 12. The surface of Spenny-more and other collieries on Tighe's Hill. Thereafter they considered it advisable to adjourn to enable some necessary plans to be prepared, to collect records of borings, and, with the assistance of the Mining Lodges interested, to fix upon the names of witnesses that in their opinion could give intelligible evidence on the subjects embraced in this inquiry.

The Commission reassembled on the 9th of August, and at once proceeded to take evidence, and continued to do so until the evening of the 13th August, when, from the unavoidable absence of important witnesses the Commission unwillingly adjourned, to resume the examination of those witnesses on the 27th of August, when from the lack of further evidence, this branch of the inquiry was closed. During these sittings forty-five witnesses were examined. While the examination of witnesses was proceeding, advertisements were inserted in all the local papers inviting any one desirous of giving evidence to communicate with the Secretary, but to this oft repeated invitation the Commission regret that no response was obtained.

In visiting and inspecting the collieries embraced in this report, and in the examination of the practical and scientific witnesses whom the Commission summoned to give evidence, and in considering the draft of this report, the Commission sat during eighteen days from six to eight hours daily.

In

In approaching the inquiry into the condition of the collieries adjacent to Ferndale, the Commission experienced some difficulty in deciding what collieries should come within this definition, and also in determining the exact scope or limitation of their inquiries; that is to say, they were uncertain whether their commission was intended to confine them strictly to an examination of the condition of the collieries aforesaid, or entitled them to pursue their inquiries to enable them to embrace in this report their views or opinions: 1. On the manner these collieries are at present being or are in future intended to be worked; 2. Their views or suggestions on the methods or schemes of underground working that in their opinion might be made on existing systems, or those best adapted to the circumstances or conditions of the several leaseholds, especially in the case of those where it is intended to work thick coal-seams under tidal waters or the bed of the ocean.

After mature consideration it was considered advisable to take this comprehensive view of their powers, and to extend the inquiry to the prospective workings of coal from under the waters of the harbour or the Pacific Ocean.

It thus became necessary for the Commission to examine and minutely investigate the nature and character of the strata, shafts, and underground workings in collieries some miles distant from Newcastle Harbour but adjoining the Pacific Ocean.

The Commission desire to express their satisfaction at the readiness and courtesy of the Government officials; of the owners and managers of the several collieries visited, in conducting them through the underground workings, in preparing for their use and guidance, copies of their working plans, and supplying records of bores put down on their respective properties, and in affording them the fullest information on any subject required of them, and facilitating generally the work of the Commission. Their efforts were likewise seconded by the secretaries of the various mining lodges to whom it became necessary to apply for information, and to furnish the names of witnesses for the purposes of this inquiry; and finally to those gentlemen who at great personal inconvenience appeared and enabled the Commission to elicit from them their individual experiences and the views they had formed, and the best methods of mining and working, and the precautions necessary for the protection of life and property in the collieries under review, and especially in winning coal under the Pacific Ocean.

The area embraced in this report measures from north to south about $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and from east to west at its widest part about 4 miles, and comprises portions of the parishes of Kahibah on the south and of Newcastle, in counties of Gloucester and Northumberland. It includes the southern two-thirds of Stockton Peninsula, the ocean leasehold belonging to Stockton and Hetton Collieries, the harbour and roadstead of Newcastle, the town of Newcastle with Signal Hill and the Nobby's, the land and coal under the ocean leased or held by the owners of the Australian Agricultural Company and others; it also includes portions of some of the oldest and most important collieries in the Colony, as well as those recently opened to win the coal under and adjoining the harbour and the Stockton Peninsula.

Geologically considered, the district is overlaid with rocks belonging to the lower coal-measures. The Newcastle or Borehole coal-seam—the lowest workable coal of this important series of carboniferous rocks as well as the higher and super-imposed coal-seams, once covered the whole area under review, but has been
subsequently

subsequently denuded in certain portions by the action of the atmosphere, rain, frosts, or of running water at a time when the relative height of the land to that of the ocean was different to what it is at present. This alteration in the relative position of land and water may have been caused by changes in the earth's ecliptic, probably arising from the effects of climate near the Poles; or it may be (but less likely), from the volcanic forces with which the vast insular continent of Australia was assailed during post-tertiary or, geologically considered, in comparatively recent times.

The study of the geology of this district affords to the studious and contemplative mind an ample and interesting field for investigating the cosmoplastic changes that in past time this division of the Colony has undergone.

The lower coal-seam—worked at Lithgow in the western district, and worthless so far as is known in the Illawarra district of the Colony—is here within a narrow zone extending along the present outcrop, developed in its finest and most valuable form.

The coal-seams and intervening strata overlying the lowest, or as it is called the Borehole coal-seam (the most valuable in the colony) has, by nature's forces, acting through untold cycles of time, been ground and denuded from a large portion of the district embraced in this report. Valleys have been formed that were once covered by hundreds of feet of coal-measures; the remnant of the coal-beds being now preserved in the hill ranges, south and to the dip of Lambton and Wallsend, and to the north and west of Lake Macquarie.

The coal-measures of this district are for the most part composed of silicious rocks or shaly beds. In certain horizons beds of pebbly conglomerate rocks are found composed of water-worn and storm-tossed and current-borne pebbles, cemented together in a matrix of carbonate of lime, that have been carried from distant localities. These are also liable to extreme variations of grade and thickness (see sheet XI., Appendix.) The coal-beds also contain interlaminated silicious, or aluminous bands, and are peculiarly unstable even over limited areas. There is, in short, an absence of persistency or positive qualities about the coal measures—of milestones, so to speak, or of well defined beds to guide the miner, and to enable him to identify positions in distant localities.

When the upper coal-seams and dividing strata were deposited, the country surrounding Newcastle was in all probability a vast plain, composed of carboniferous strata.

In the course of time, the relative levels of land and ocean appear to have changed, and in consequence of the operation of forces on which scientists may but speculate, the sea slowly encroached upon the land, which became in part submerged and enveloped.

Flood and rain, climate and time, and natural decay grooved and wore out watercourses in the higher levels, and, in the course of ages, these became ravines and valleys, admitting the sea as fjörds some miles inland.

The harbour of Sydney with its numerous coves and branches, the Hawkesbury with its charming creeks, and the picturesque inland sea known as Lake Macquarie, and others, with the interminable ravines and gullies of the Hawkesbury, sandstone and carboniferous formations, may be referred to the operation of similar causes.

The

The tops of the higher land, preserved from destruction or erosion by texture or eddies, remained above the tides, beacons in a silent world, indicating the extent of the submergence.

To cataclysms such as these the physical aspect of the scenery at and around Newcastle may be referred. The carboniferous rocks, undermined by climate, and the restless waters of prehistoric times, crumbled and yielded, exposing new faces, and the natural forces operating and obeying uniform and inexorable law, insidiously wore down the strata that preserved the higher coal seams. Enormous masses of rock have been slowly ground down, and large areas of coal have been removed. Valleys and gullies have in this way been carved out of hill ranges, and eminences were contoured and formed when the ocean penetrated far up the present valley of the Hunter, and Teralba Flat was the sheltered sound of a primeval sea.

The importance of this unceasing process of rock decay, of denudation and of time, in the economy of nature is self-evident. It is but a step in the grand scheme of building up and levelling down, and of gradually fitting the universe for the support and habitation of the higher forms of animated existences. All sedimentary strata have been derived from the destruction of pre-existing rocks, and so *ad infinitum*, and probably all estimates of the epochs of time required for the accumulation and destruction of these strata, as they are based on estimates of the forces now in operation, are at fault. At present the wear of land surfaces over this district is slow; the sedimentary strata here, as elsewhere, consist of the *débris* of older surfaces, and are altogether derivative. They were derived from Paleozoic rocks, and have been laid down, and cover these rocks situated on a lower level. Ancient rivers carried these down in the form of loam, clay, and sand, with loose fragments of more indestructible rock, forming the great bulk of the existing land, while the sea thundering on the coast break up and distributes similiar *débris*.

Because of the very abundance of materials in the ages when the great sedimentary deposits were completed, the work of denudation must have proceeded at a more rapid rate than at present. And this may be the reason why the earlier formations were of such vast thickness.

The coalbeds of this district have been laid down on a remarkably level floor, as may be seen by inspecting the Government quarries at Waratah, with a gentle dip to the east or west of south, and no violent force has subsequently disturbed to any serious extent (except in localities) the gentle inclination or continuity of the stratifications. A long and remarkable period of tranquility has characterized the epoch during which colonial coal measures were laid down.

The natural pitch or inclination of the strata causes the lower beds to rise gradually and evenly towards the north. It is impossible to state how far the sequence or northerly limit of the lowest coal-bed (Borehole seam) extended beyond the present crop.

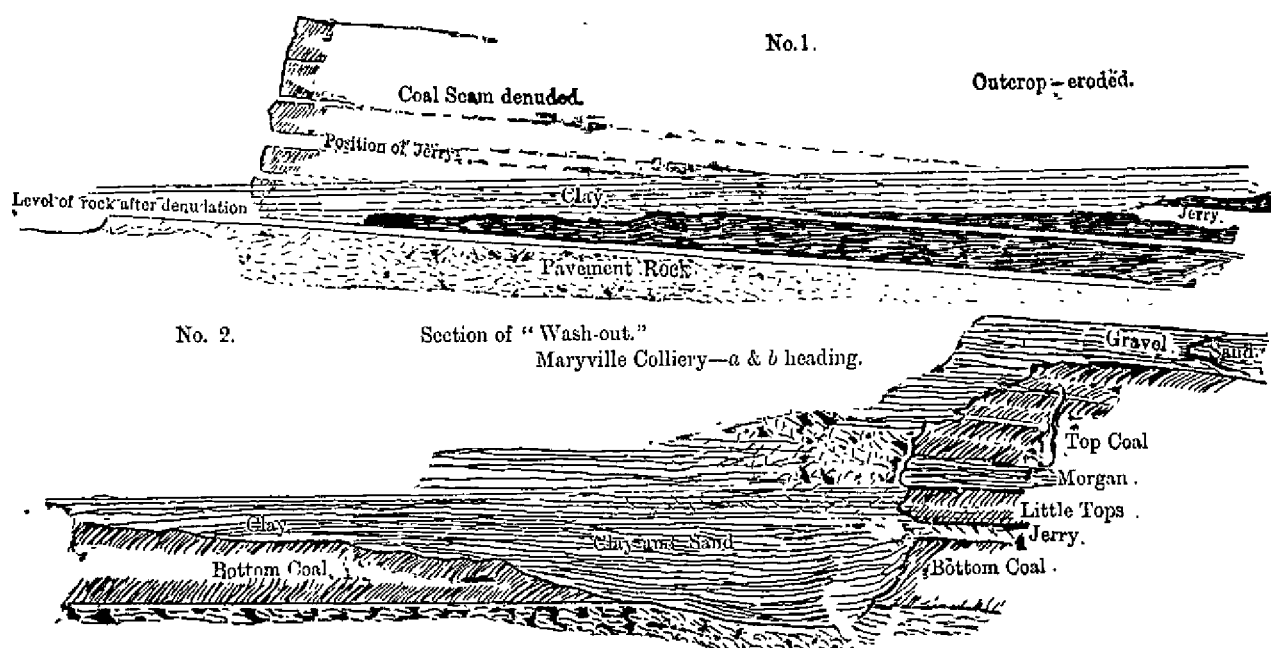
Ages revolve, and the ocean level, in obedience to the same occult and subtle laws, again began to change, and the submerged and water-logged continent gradually rose from the depths.

Slowly the lesser heights, such as Nobby's, Shepherd's Hill, on the north slope of which Newcastle is built, the low hills of Waratah and Lambton, still retaining a
fragmentary

fragmentary portion of the thick lower coal, emerge above the billows; yet over the lesser conglomerate elevation of Tighe's Hill the surges break. The tide, confined to the circumscribed channel, denuded the lower coal-seam and a portion of its floor from the valley that separates Tighe's Hill from Waratah and to the south-east towards the reserve near Adamstown. At this time, Nobby's, Shepherd's Hill, and Tighe's Hill were still islands in a shallow sea, and currents swept round their base. In course of time,—the altering level offering an impediment,—the tides and currents laden with mud and sand deposit this *débris* in the land-locked bays, and formed what we now know as the Delta of the Hunter—so intimately associated with this inquiry. It is difficult to form correct estimates of the age and antiquity of deltas. Those of Britain and the north of Europe can certainly be referred to one or other of the glacial periods which has in recent geological times prevailed. The case may be different in this Colony, where direct evidence of glaciation is not so evident, but may be due to a climate influenced by ocean currents and by the greater floods of distant times.

The cause of deltas, however, is less obscure. The finer *débris* of the land, carried incessantly down into the seas by the rivers, is borne by ocean currents to places far beyond all apparent tidal action. When, however, the seas become enclosed, or the ocean currents become weak, the check to this river action leads to the immediate precipitation of the triturated transported material and *cæteris paribus*, the ready formation of deltas.

The thick coal-seam towards the natural rise of the strata, where protected by its sandstone roof, formed the margins of the streams, its natural low pitch causing the gradual thinning or shelving out of the seam that is observed towards the crop of several of the coal-pits and "washouts" that have at various points been recently discovered in process of working the lower coal in this district, as follows:—



On account of the low pitch, a large area of coal has been denuded from the level land, commencing in a *cul-de-sac* (*vide* No. 2 plan) near to, but to the north-west of, Adamstown, and widening to the north-east. The outcrop sweeps past Hamilton on the south-east, and to Waratah Hill on the north-west, including (in the

the denuded portion) the junction of the Homebush and Waratah Line with the Great Northern Railway. The south and east margin curves round, to the west of the high-level bridge, and from thence probably runs towards Wickham shaft; then it follows a tortuous course through the lands leased by Maryville Estate, and in all likelihood joins the margin of the "washout" that forms the western limit of the coal-workings at Spennymoor—Bevan's and Broughall's and Griffiths's colliery. It curves round Tighe's Hill, and has been traced in Ferndale, as defined in the general plan of the workings of that colliery (*vide* Appendix, Ferndale Report; reproduced in No. 1 plan, Appendix), and from this crosses the harbour and Stockton Peninsula, and into the Pacific Ocean.

Although the first discovery of coal in New South Wales was made near Wollongong, the first coal-workings in the Colony were opened under the present site of the city of Newcastle.

From the natural outcrop to the north of Tighe's Hill the coal gradually falls or dips towards the south-east. The rising land of Shepherd's Hill affords cover for the coal-seams that, next in regular sequence, are known to overlie the lower coal-seam. These have been named the "yard seam," and above it the "dirty seam." Both have received their names from their physical appearance at some particular spot or locality. Of these two coal-seams the "yard seam" is the better quality. It is separated by a thickness of 130 to 170 feet of strata from the lower coal-seam. It varies in thickness, but it is reported to have measured under Newcastle from 2 ft. 9 in. to 3 ft. 3 in. The "dirty seam" is composed of three layers of coal interlaminated with bands of clay or stone, and is worthless. It overlies the yard seam about 40 feet. About 80 feet above the dirty seam the Burwood coal is found. This is a thick coal-seam of second-rate quality, that is unlikely to be worked in the existing conditions of the coal trade, at all events while the lower or Borehole seam can be obtained in the quantities required to supply the demand.

The yard seam has been denuded from the low-lying land forming the lower valley of the Hunter to the north and east of Shepherd's Hill. It, however, extends under the cover afforded by the carboniferous sandstone and rocks, on which Newcastle is built, and is seen cropping out on the coast-line a few feet above high-water mark, around Signal and Shepherd's Hills and under the Nobby's. Attracted by this outcrop the early settlers, and after them the Australian Agricultural Company, modestly inaugurated the now important industry of coal-mining, by opening up this seam in the early years of the present century. Several shafts were sunk (shown on Plan No. 1, Appendix), and from these shafts this coal-seam was extensively worked out to the sea beach and under what is now the city of Newcastle, and, it is affirmed, for a short distance under the harbour of Newcastle, contiguous to the present shoots or staiths, at a depth of about 80 feet under the surface.

The Commission were unable to obtain any precise information of the coal workings in this seam.

Several important faults and intrusive dykes (dolerite) are seen to intersect the strata at this part of the coast. These are shown on plan No. 1. The course of the fault contiguous to the Reserve boundary is uncertain, but apparently has a north and south course, and is a down-throw of about 50' north. The basalt dyke No. 3 is seen to intersect the low ledges of rock that are covered by high water, and,

as

as it enters the cliffs under the old gaol, is seen to divide. Its course is apparently N. 15° W. No. 2 basalt dyke cuts through and shatters the east side of Signal Hill (see sketch, sheet No. 11) and is seen again on the low cliffs in the little bay at the base of the breakwater.

The yard coal-seam is completely altered in character on approaching this intrusive dyke. Its course is apparently N. 10° W.

The Nobby's (see sketch No. 3, sheet No. 11) is a name given to a prominent headland connected by a narrow ledge of rock to the mainland. It consists of strata overlying the "yard" seam. The aluminous beds have become transmuted and rendered more or less crystalline, probably through the influence of a well defined igneous or intrusive dyke that is seen to intersect the cliffs from top to bottom. The course of this dyke is about N. 18° W. The "yard seam" is seen along the margin of Nobby's a few feet above high-water mark. The "dirty coal seam" is also in position about 50 feet higher up. This prominent headland, exposed to the gales and the full force of the waves, is rapidly being undermined. The soft strata, with which the cherty layers are interlaminated, readily yields to the searching and wearing influence of salt spray or the impact of sea water, and thus relieves the higher beds that fall in masses, and must in the course of years obliterate this interesting outlier of altered carboniferous rocks.

South of Shepherd's Hill is a low coast-line, about 1 mile wide, formed of drives of sea sand in a constant state of drift, and elevated only a few feet above sea-level, or the general surface-level of the Australian Agricultural Company's Estate. No rocks appear in this part of the coast. It is probable that at no very remote period this valley formed an outlet for the waters of the Hunter River. The lagoons or marshes that extend from the neighbourhood of Throsby's Creek to the south-east, through the estate belonging to the Australian Agricultural Company, may be considered as marking the course of this ancient branch of the estuary of the Hunter, that has become obliterated by the two extremities becoming blocked by sand thrown up by the fury of the gales or tides. The depth of the surface or silty deposits overlying the solid strata on this low part of the coast has not, we believe, been determined.

The Newcastle Coal Mining Company have lately completed the sinking of a shaft to the Newcastle or Borehole seam (here 12 feet thick), about half a mile from the sea, which is their eastern boundary, and have commenced to work coal from under the sand-covered plain and towards the sea. The depth of this shaft is 190 feet, of which 72 feet is surface deposits and soft strata (see record sheet No. 14, Appendix).

To the south of this sand beach the mural cliffs are intersected by many faults. The mineral railway of the Burwood Coal Company passes through a belt of disturbed country, the focus of innumerable disturbances. The Burwood seam is observed in the cuttings to be so much altered as scarcely to be identified. The stratifications are broken and tossed in such a tumultuous manner by a network of disturbances or faults as to preclude any reassuring prognostications as to the profitable working of the lower seam under this wide belt of country.

South of the faulty belt of country referred to, a salt-water lagoon of no great depth stretches for over half a mile inland, and terminates in a gorge or ravine that conveys the drainage of an area of hilly country to the west. The lagoon is the space between ridges of carboniferous rocks, that decrease in height and open out seaward,

seaward, and is found in the supposed line of a dolerite dyke that intersects the coal-seam worked in estates to the north-west. The lagoon, indeed, may owe its origin to the rapid weathering of this dyke. It is of no great width.

On the southern margin of this lagoon (see plans Nos. 1 and 9, Appendix), and about 26 chains distant from the shores of the Pacific, the Burwood Coal Company have sunk a shaft 230 feet deep to the Newcastle coal-seam. It does not appear that this Company have ascertained the depth of the surface deposits under the lagoon or nearer to the sea coast, where the sandstone rocks dip below the sandy coast line. During easterly gales the sea sand becomes banked up, impounding the waters of the creek. When the level rises, the water trickling over this sand soon wears a channel that rapidly deepens and widens, and the increasing rush of waters washes away the barrier of sand, again admitting the sea to a point beyond the colliery.

The Burwood coal-seam, that is separated from the lower coal by about 240 feet of strata, outcrops on the cliffs (plan No. 1) to the south and north of the shaft, and was worked to a considerable extent before the lower (and better quality of) coal-seam was discovered. This seam was reopened about two years ago, when the present Company was formed, but was abandoned when the lower and more marketable coal was sunk to.

To the south of Shepherd's Hill across the "links" or sand dunes, to the west towards Hamilton, on to the north-west towards Bullock Island or Tighe's Hill, the flat land is composed of a considerable thickness of silty or estuarine deposits, that thin or taper off towards the places named. As there is no evidence of a glacial period in this Colony, the Commission consider that these deposits represent a fractional part of the enormous wear and tear to which the rocks have been subjected by the friction of water, decay, or attrition of tides loaded with *débris*.

The Commission would respectfully draw the attention of your Excellency to plans Nos. 10 and 11, Appendix, which they consider fairly represent a hypothetical section of these estuarine or surface deposits on the lines *a a*, *b b*, *c c*, and *e e*, shown on plan No. 1.

The sections through *a a* and *b b* represent deposits that have filled up a channel that, to a recent date, connected the estuary of the Hunter with the ocean, south of Shepherd's Hill, while *c c* section is across what probably always has been the deeper waters of the estuary or sound.

The thick deposits of clay are the result of extensive denudation and trituration of aluminous schists or shales. Alternating with the clay are beds of gravel or sand. Near Hetton, where these deposits are thickest, there are several thick layers of plastic clay divided by beds of sand. The area over which this clay is found is somewhat extensive, and to all appearance covers the rock to a given level over the whole delta of the Hunter; and it has an important bearing upon the safe mining of the Northern division of the district under notice.

The clay overlies the coal-seam on Wickham and Mr. Dangar's estate, leased to the Ferndale Coal Company. This clay has not been specially prospected over the space intervening between Maryville and Broughall's colliery, but as a thin layer of it is found around Tighe's Hill under the sand or surface deposits, it is probable that the top maintains its level, and the thickness of the deposit is determined by the rise or pitch of the strata. (See section *d d*, north end, or *c c*).

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The conchological remains found in these clays do not appear to point to a boreal climate, but rather to cool ocean currents, such as sweep round the shores of Tasmania or Kermadec Island.

The layer of quicksand overlying this clay is of recent origin; its derivation may be traced to the action of the waves pounding on the mural cliffs that bristle on the coast line, or on the shelving bottom of the sea. This sand thickens seaward, especially over the narrowest part of Stockton Peninsula (see section *e e*, No. 11 plan), and it covers the whole of the low-lying ground under review.

It would thus appear that the valley or low-lying land to the north and west of Newcastle, after being denuded, has been covered by a stratum of clay, or clay and sand, that represent the amount of destruction or decay of schistose or aluminous beds, from paleozoic rocks deposited in a state of fine division, on rocks that had already been subjected to extensive erosion. This clay fills up the hollows and irregularities worn in these rocks, and where the roof-rocks had been denuded, as at Maryville, it forms the roof of the coal-seam itself, and has thus preserved it (the coal-seam) from decomposition or further wear. The evidence of the "wash-outs" that have been proved, and afterwards to be referred to, would seem to indicate that subsequent to the deposition of this protecting envelope of clay, currents had been directed (probably of fresh water) across its surface, and these had cut it down and worn it into deep channels.

These currents seem to have carved out a course down to and ultimately through the coal-seam.

Such appears to have been the "wash-out" at Broughall's and Maryville collieries. This clay appears to obtain its maximum thickness in the neighbourhood of Maryville and Hetton, and to thin off towards the north and east or natural rise of the strata, and also to the west of Newcastle harbour and Stockton Peninsula, and may disappear entirely under the bed of the Pacific.

This thick and impervious pad, or envelope of plastic clay, immediately underlying the lower coal-seam or the superincumbent strata, forms a most important factor, and will have a material influence on the economy of coal-mining in the localities covered by it, and one that cannot well be overlooked or disregarded in any investigation into the condition of the collieries, or the methods of mining and working the same.

The ever-increasing importance of this theatre of coal-mining, and the peculiar geological interest which invests the district, and the circumstance that the importance of the surface or post-pliocene deposits and their relations to coal-mining have only recently been recognized, and have not, so far as the Commissioners are aware, been hitherto described, is the apology that the Commission have to offer to your Excellency for the somewhat fragmentary and discursive description they have just given of these deposits in the area embraced in this report (in plan No. 1.)

The underground working of the collieries that have been examined by the Commission, and the line of the principal faults that intersect these workings, also positions of the bores put down over the districts, have been laid down on a general plan (No. 1, Appendix). A record of the strata passed through in these bores is given

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on pages 165 to 178. The colliery workings are shown on plans Nos. 3, 3A, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Appendix; while sections of the colliery shafts and of coal seams, of the surface deposits and special features relating to the physical aspect of the more prominent parts of the district, as well as to elucidate some points of interest in the collieries under notice, are given in sheets Nos. 10, 11, 13, 14.

The coal-workings shown on plan No. 1, considering that they are reduced from the working plans to the small scale of 16 chains to 1 inch, are not intended to do more than to represent approximately the position and extent of these workings at or about the date of the inspection by the Commission.

SPENNYMOOR AND TIGHE'S HILL COLLIERIES.

(Reference in Appendix, plan No. 1).

These shallow coal-workings are situated on the extreme northern edge or outcrop of the coalfield, and have worked small portions of the thick coal that has been preserved by the conglomerate ridge of Tighe's Hill. These and several other small collieries were established to work corners, or small patches of thick coal, that had not been leased to the adjoining and more extensive colliery of Ferndale.

The collieries referred to, and their relation to others marked by figures within circles, together with the north-east coal workings of Ferndale Colliery, are shown on plan No. 1, Appendix. The whole of these have underground communication with each other.

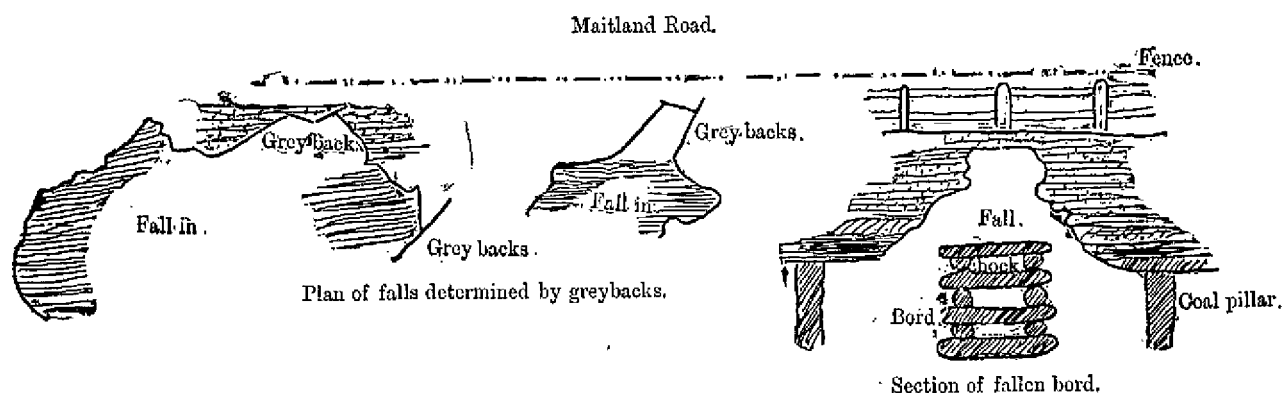
The approximate line of outcrop is shown on plan No. 2 to follow a curved line slightly to the south of the Maitland Road. This important thoroughfare runs along the crest of the low ridge. The narrow tidal stream known as Tighe's Creek follows a tortuous course and sweeps along the base of this ridge a few yards south of this highway.

The Maitland Road may therefore, to all intents, be considered to mark the outcrop of the coal-field. Under it, the seam measured 18 feet in thickness, and was found at a depth of only a few feet (15 feet to the top of the seam). The coal under this throughfare was the property of Government, and so far as the Commission could discover no leases appear to have been applied for or granted to any of the owners, to entitle them to work and remove the valuable bed of mineral from under the road.

Notwithstanding, the owners of these small coal-works seem to have burrowed and worked every possible ton of mineral from under the highway, and this in defiance, it would appear, of the expostulations of the Examiner of Coal-fields and Inspector of Collieries. If this be so, the owners of these collieries were in the position of unauthorised interlopers, and were liable to the Government in damages to a serious amount.

The road has been honeycombed by coal-workings. Towards the south and north, the thin pillars having in part been removed, the whole surface is a tumultuous mass of open pitfalls. Looking into some of these, the surface of the Maitland Road, resting on a thin crust of sandstone very much intersected with fissures, is seen to be supported on coal pillars from 2 to 4 feet thick. In some of these pitfalls, where the surface has subsided to within a few feet of the road, the lines of fracture are
seen

seen to be defined by glassy surfaces of "greybacks," of which the following sketches may convey some idea. In one or two instances, notably in a large cavity



contiguous to Spennymoor shaft, the roof appears to have rested almost entirely on wooden chocks.

Spennymoor was the last of the small collieries that was at work, and the workings were drowned out or flooded when Ferndale was inundated. It was therefore stopped before the visit of the Commission. The thick coal crops out or comes to-day under the bed of the creek, and bords have been driven, and pillars of diminutive size have been robbed so close to its banks, that a subsidence has taken place permitting the waters of the creek to enter the cavity. The tide rises and falls in all the pitfalls examined. So regardless have the workers of this coal been of consequences to their own or neighbours' property, (with which they were freely communicated), that had not Ferndale been inundated, the admission of sea-water at the fallen workings of Spennymoor, referred to, almost simultaneous with the catastrophe at Ferndale, would have inundated, or at least given the owners of that colliery much trouble and concern.

STEVENSON'S COLLIERY.

(Reference in Appendix Plan No. 1, and Sections in Plans Nos. 13 and 14.)

Has been sunk on an allotment of land at the corner of the Maitland Road and Tighe's Terrace-street. The shaft has been sunk since the inundation of Ferndale, and had just reached the coal, but had not commenced working on the date when the Commission visited it (2nd June, 1886.)

The Colliery has been sunk on the line of a "roll" or fault or disturbed belt of coal that intersected, and was a source of much trouble and expense to the owners of Ferndale Colliery.

The owners of this colliery have long been engaged in coal-getting and are intimately acquainted with the workings on Tighe's Hill. At the date of the inundation of Ferndale, they were working a colliery a few hundred yards to the east. The workings of this colliery communicated with another, which in turn had worked through on Ferndale, in consequence of which both of these became inundated.

Both of these collieries were sunk on a disturbed belt of coal. On sheet No. 13 a section of the coal in these shafts is given. By referring to this, the influence that the "roll" has on the coal seam will be shown.

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The shaft under notice is sunk on a small building allotment distant about 60 or 70 yards south of a sheth of bords from Ferndale, that worked the coal from under the Maitland Road. Being to the west of the "roll," the coal under this thoroughfare has not been affected by this disturbance, and is 15 to 18 feet in thickness. Considering the proximity of such a valuable piece of coal, the Commission were most particular in their inquiries as to whether it was intended to apply for liberty to work this coal from under the road. To set all doubt at rest, they examined one of the owners (see evidence of Thomas Stevens, page 133,) who positively asserted (question 2,698) that his Company had no intention of doing so, being aware of the danger of approaching inundated coal-workings, that may not be fully delineated on the plans. Application had been made by them for permission to put a drive across Tighe's Terrace-street (and this has since been granted), to work the coal from under 13 acres that the Company had secured on lease to the south of that street and east of Tighe's Creek, and of 9 acres under the bed of that creek they have on lease from Government.

The coal intended to be worked by this Company is the upper part of the coal-seam, 7 ft. 6 in. thick, of which only 4 feet is workable. If the jerry is not found too thick to the east of the "roll" the whole section may be worked together. The intention of the owners at the date of the visit of the Commission was, considering the circumstances, to work the coal—at all events the top coal—by bords 4 yards in width, leaving pillars of the usual width of 4 yards for the support of the strata.

The whole of the Company's leasehold is situated to the dip or south-cast of their working shaft. The ridge, consisting of conglomerate beds, falls towards the creek; and as the inclination of the surface does not exceed the pitch of the strata, which is high, the depth to the coal under the creek will probably not be less than at the shaft. The creek itself forms at this place a network of branches. Where the shaft has been sunk, there is no solid stratum overlying the coal. It is composed of the broken materials that indicate proximity to solid strata. Towards the fall of the ridge and along the margin of the creek the probability is that the seam will be covered only by deposits of sand, having no cohesion or consistency to support the superincumbent strata.

It is impossible to foretell what effect the disturbance referred to may have on the coal-seam or overlying strata under the creek. The circumstance that its effect at Ferndale Colliery to the north, and at the former winning belonging to Stevens and party, was to divide and reduce the thickness of the coal seam, and that the same phenomenon is observable in the winning under consideration, and that no attempt has been made to obtain precise or reliable information of the character and thickness of the strata superimposed on the coal-seam under the bed of the creek, are in the opinion of the Commission cogent reasons for extreme caution being exercised on the part of the lessees, lest an accident of a character similar to Ferndale might unexpectedly occur.

At the adjoining colliery (Broughall's) deposits of sand and clay rest directly on the roof of the coal; but there the coal is of such a thickness (and the weight to be supported so insignificant) that some feet of coal can be left on as a roof to protect the workers.

The ground leased by this Company is traversed by a disturbed belt of strata, referred to, and one effect of this has been to thicken the band of impure coal (coal
and

and fire-clay mixed), known as jerry, from an inch or two to a thickness of 7 ft. 6 in.; and this thickening has occurred at the expense of the good coal. The seam is thus separated into an upper and a lower bed.

The upper division, which it is intended to work, does not possess the marginal thickness necessary to support the roof and yet leave sufficient below to enable it to be worked. If the lower coal-seam were of workable thickness the same observations would not apply, as in that case the thickness of the jerry and of the coal overlying it would enable it to be worked.

In the colliery immediately adjoining a complete "washout" (see plans Nos. 11 and 12) has been traced. In all probability this was caused by running water, and, as the courses of currents are often confined by tortuous banks, it is impossible to predict that, as at Maryville (see plan No. 1), the line of this "washout" may not suddenly turn and cut off the workings. Should the line of this "washout" intersect the coal under the creek, the Commission fear that danger might result, especially if the top seam were worked.

The Commission understand that the coal held by Stevens and party under Tighe's Creek is owned by the Government, and is a grant assigned to them by those to whom it was granted. They are unaware that any provisions exist in the original grant ordaining them to work the mineral in any particular manner. While it would be undesirable to hamper lessees in the working of minerals, by confining them by restrictions difficult, if not impossible under present conditions, to carry out, yet the circumstances of this colliery would seem to justify some special supervision. And the Commission have pleasure in endorsing the decided opinion expressed by the Examiner of Coalfields and by Mr. John Dixon (*vide* Evidence, questions 2868-72), that it is more than desirable that accurate data should be obtained of the surface deposits, and the strata (if any) above the coal under the bed of Tighe's Creek, before any attempt is made to win it in that locality.

The colliery is owned by a party of intelligent practical men who have for years worked on Tighe's Hill, and who seem to have considered the special circumstances under which they proposed to win coal; and although the Commission were given to understand that it was not the intention of the owners to employ outside labour, they can discover no reason in this circumstance to exclude them from the operation of these suggestions.

BROUGHALL AND GRIFFITHS' COLLIERY.

(Reference in Appendix, to plans Nos. 1, 3, 12, 13, 14).

The position and the coal workings of the colliery are delineated on plan Nos. 1 and 3. It is situated on a low, flat elbow of Tighe's Creek, which here sweeps round the western escarpment of Tighe's Hill. The surface of the flat land enclosed by the windings of the creek, is elevated about four feet above ordinary high-water mark. During floods, this low-lying land is covered with water. The area of this level land does not exceed a few acres. It forms part of the estate belonging to the Australian Agricultural Company.

On this sandy flat, a small colliery was sunk about two years ago to an extension westwards of the thick coal-seam worked under the Maitland Road adjoining, and to the east by the collieries of Ferndale and Robinson's.

By

By referring to plan No. 1, your Excellency will observe the position of this colliery with respect to the branches of Tighe's Creek and the collieries of Ferndale and Robinson's. The position of underground workings at the date of the last recorded survey is delineated.

The total thickness of the coal-seam (see sheet No. 12) is 17 ft.; of this 5 ft. of the top is mixed with bands and is practically unworkable. Of the lower 12 ft., about 7 ft. is being worked, the remaining 5 ft. is left as a roof, with the intention of afterwards working about 2 ft. 8 in. of it. (*Vide* Evidence, Thomas Broughall, question 2571). The band of impure coal locally known as "jerry" varies from 6 in. to 10 in. in thickness; while at Stevenson's, to the east, the effect of the disturbance (evidently caused by some agitation during the process of deposition) or "roll," has been to increase this worthless band to a thickness of 7 ft. 6 in., and to entirely alter the character of the coal to the eastward.

The depth of the shafts by which this thick coal-seam has been won measures only 23 feet to the top of the coal. This is composed of 5 ft. of sand and of 18 ft. of sandy clay. No solid stratum overlies the coal seam. The clay forms the sole protection for preventing the permeation of surface waters.

The coal falls or pitches to the south-east at the low gradient of 1-30.

The seam has been won by a modification of the district system of working, viz., on the north side of the shaft by driving bords 5 yards wide, and to the south of the shaft by bords of 4 yards wide. The pillars are left of the usual thickness of 4 yards; but in inspecting the colliery, some of the Commission observed pillars of 3 and of 2 yards in thickness, while the majority on the north side did not appear to average more than 3 yards. Notwithstanding, the colliery appears to be worked systematically, and they have the assurance of Mr. Dixon (question 2858) that in this respect it can compare with the other collieries in the district.

When the north level had reached about 80 yards from the bottom of the shaft the coal cut out, and it was seen that a wall of sand occupied its place. Several bords driven to the west were also stopped by sand; and the line of a complete "washout" was established (see sketch, plan No. 12). The workings to the south of the shaft, going west, had not been driven a sufficient distance to meet with the line of this ancient channel; but the manager and owner seemed confident that the line would in all probability run as shown.

A similar "washout" occurs at Maryville Colliery, and it is not improbable that it may be but a continuation of that at Broughall's. The imaginary course of this "washout" is shown by a dotted line in plans Nos. 1 and 2.

At the date of the inundation of Ferndale Colliery (18th March), one of the eastern bords from the north heading had been driven well under the bed of Tighe's Creek. The bottom of this stream probably does not exceed 17 feet from the top of the coal. When the workings of this colliery were laid down on Ferndale plan, it was seen that the face of this bord was within 16 yards of the advanced bords from the inundated workings of Ferndale. The uncertainty that exists as to whether the last-named workings had been surveyed after or before they had been stopped weighed on the mind of the Examiner of Coalfields and the Inspector of Collieries, who thereupon ordered the owners to cease working.

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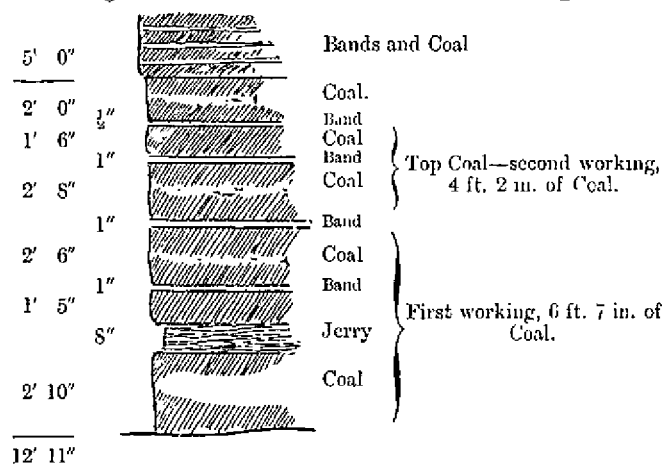
T. Broughall (*vide* Evidence, question 2556), on being examined, explained that the bord referred to by Mr. Dixon had been stopped before he received the notice. At all events, he did not withdraw the men and cease working; but, as this would have involved him in a serious loss, he consulted his lawyer, with the result that he continued to work the pit. In connection with this subject the Examiner of Coal-fields explained to the Commission that this was referred to the Attorney-General, who gave it as his opinion that unless danger was certain and manifest (or words to this effect) the Government official had no power to cause a proprietor to cease working. (See correspondence, page 161.)

At the date of the inspection by the Commission this bord was standing open, and Mr. Broughall explained that he proposed putting in a brick dam, as a precaution against any accident occurring from Ferndale. The Commission impressed upon this gentleman the desirability of acting upon this resolve; and in giving his evidence on the 12th of August, he intimated the completion of the work, and explained the details of construction in a way that leads the Commission to feel satisfied that it has been substantially executed.

A considerable quantity of salt water exudes from the jerry and bottom coal for 6 yards from the face of this bord. In reply to interrogations on the spot, Mr. Broughall assured the Commission that the quantity of water that "bleeds" from the coal in this place had not increased since the inundation of Ferndale. This being so, the probability is that it percolates through the surface from the creek overhead.

To the south, the dip heading face was, at the date of our inspection, under the main branch of the creek, and was running in the direction of the bridge, and several bords had been broken off towards the east and south. These had made considerable progress when Mr. Broughall was examined (12th of August). It is intended to work the coal-seam in this section, under the bed of the creek, and in the narrow strip of land to the south of it skirting the Maitland road, by bords 4 yards wide, and leaving pillars of a similar thickness (*vide* answer to questions 2585-6). It is not intended to remove any of the pillars in this section (*vide* questions 25-87).

The following is a section of the coal seam in the face of the south-west heading on the date the Commission inspected the colliery:—



Over the whole colliery the roof, composed of top coal, was firm and to all appearance perfectly sound, and only showed signs of weakness in the bords approaching and where very close to the crop or "washout." Numerous bores, put down on the flat heath-covered land to the east of this crop, prove that over the broad valley between this and Waratah, on the south-east, and towards Adamstown, on the south, no coal exists (having been denuded).

It is evident that the top coal, left unworked, is the only protection and safeguard that exists to prevent this colliery from inundation. The Commission concur

with Mr. Inspector Dixon (questions 2859-60) that it would be unwise, considering the surface, to attempt to take out any of the pillars, or even to drop or work the top coal under or near Tighe's Creek.

The Commission would likewise desire to impress upon the owners the necessity of very great caution in approaching the line of the "washout," especially where it crosses the creek. It would be unwise to depend upon such surface deposits of this thickness resisting the passage of water.

The best proof that they do permit the percolation of water is that the bords broken off the south-west headings facing the creek all bleed salt water. The amount of water that finds its way into this little colliery is very considerable, and requires the use of a special steam-pump fixed at the bottom to unwater the mine.

It is the intention of the owners to raise an embankment around the margin of the creek to confine the flood-waters to the channel, and to work out the top coal and pillars from the northern section of the colliery whenever the southern division is exhausted. A bed of clay underlies the land in this division, and several depressions have already taken place contiguous to the shaft, where pillars have been taken out, and where the roof has given way. During rain these depressions become filled with water, and it is affirmed that it does not find its way into the workings.

No one can estimate the danger until a beginning has been made in the work of removing the pillars. It is exceedingly doubtful whether an embankment would prevent the flood water from the creek from flowing under the embankment, seeing that there is a stratum of 5 or 6 feet of sharp sand under the surface. And if water does flow into such depressions, all will depend on the plastic character of the clay in resisting the percolation of this into the workings.

On the whole the Commission, while regretting the loss of so much excellent coal, are nevertheless apprehensive that any attempt to work the top coal, or remove the pillars contiguous to or under the creek, may prove disastrous to the colliery and expose workmen to danger.

MARYVILLE COLLIERY.

(Reference to this is made in Appendix, pages 162-3—Bore No. 14, page 168—Plans Nos. 1, 4, 12, 13, 14.)

This colliery was sunk about eighteen months before the date on which the Commission inspected it (16th July, 1886), to work out the coal under 100 acres of Mr. Hannell's Estate. The site of the colliery, with reference to Throsby's Creek and Wickham Colliery, is shown on plan No. 1. The colliery workings possess some special and unique features of much interest to students of natural science, and show the uncertainty and risks attending mining operations in situations where surface deposits rest directly upon the coal. The Commission have prepared plan No. 4, reduced from the colliery plan, showing some of the special features referred to.

The colliery is owned by a company registered in Sydney, and has been sunk and managed by Mr. Henry Harper, a gentleman who, for over thirty years, has been identified with the Newcastle coal trade.

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The coal-seam is an extension of the lower or Borehole seam. Before sinking operations were commenced, two bores (Nos. 11 and 12 on plan 1, recorded on page 168) had proved the existence of the coal-seam. No. 11 gave equivocal results. Bores put down on the adjoining lands, as well as Wickham shaft, had likewise proved the existence of coal under this estate. An inspection of these enables some idea to be formed of the special features of the coal-field, as far as depth and character of the roof are concerned. The land is perfectly level, and is bounded on the east by Throsby's Creek. Its general level is only a few feet above high-water mark. During floods it is covered by pools of water. The shaft has been sunk 390 yards distant from Throsby's Creek and contiguous to the southern boundary of the estate.

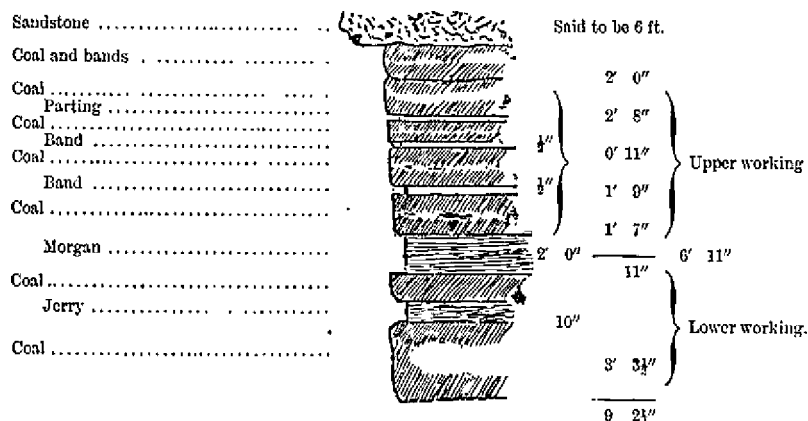
Having determined upon a site, a shaft was sunk 10 feet in diameter, secured by brick cylinders resting upon a "curb." This was sunk through the stratum of quicksand and oyster-shells, measuring 32 feet in thickness, and on entering the clay which measured 101 feet, the brick cylinders were built from below upwards. A bed of gravel 2 ft. 6 in. in thickness rested directly upon the top of the coal, and this appears to have given the manager considerable trouble. It gave off a large amount of water. (For section, see sheet 14.) It may be remarked that this gravel-bed is of uneven distribution, and seems to overlie the coal in patches only. So far as the Commission could ascertain, it has only been found in the vicinity of the "washout." It was obvious to the Commission that it did not extend over the coal to the north-east, where the nature of the roof has been ascertained by several bores put up for this purpose, as well as from falls in bords from which the top coal has been removed. The amount of water given off by this gravel-bed, and which exuded from the coal, appears in the early months to have been very considerable. This has, by constant draining, been materially reduced, and is now inconsiderable. The reason of this is, no doubt, due to the circumstance (and is a proof) that the thick stratum of clay acts as a puddle, and prevents the percolation of surface water, and permits of the complete drainage of the lower stratum of clay and gravel. This is a well-known feature of similar deposits.

In the light of future operations this must be regarded as a favourable indication, as, by draining the sandy clay of its contained water, the roof will be prevented to a great extent from running in the event of a fall taking place; and some members of the Commission had an opportunity afforded them of inspecting an extensive fall in a bord, where the top coal had fallen and permitted a large quantity of perfectly dry, unconsolidated "clod" or sand to descend into the workings. The same circumstance has been observed by Mr. Inspector Dixon, on whose mind it seems to have made a powerful impression, and to have had the effect of modifying to a considerable extent the views he had entertained as to the advisability of permitting certain operations to be continued. (*Vide* J. Dixon's answers to question 2890.)

Plan No. 4, Appendix, is, the Commission believe, a faithful chart of the underground workings of this colliery as at 20th July, 1886.

The coal seam, protected at the site of the shaft by this thick sheet of clay, measures about 16 feet in thickness, and in no very material respect differs from the seam last described at Broughall's Colliery, Tighe's Hill, with this exception, that the bands of shale or inferior coal, known as "Morgan," or "Jerry," have considerably thickened in this colliery, and in consequence the difficulty and cost of getting

getting is proportionately increased. The following section, taken in No. 1 bord, G heading, may be regarded as fairly representing the average thickness of the coal seam :—



On the shaft reaching the coal seam, levels were broken off in the usual way (marked W and E) on both sides of the shaft. That marked E was intersected by a fault about 20 yards distant from the bottom. This proved to be a downthrow fault, that displaced the coal 7 feet. The course of this fault is N. 35 E., and its effect is to displace the top coal towards the east to a level with the bottom coal. On crossing this fault the drive had not proceeded many yards when the coal-seam was again suddenly cut off by another fault, and sand appeared in front. A similar result attended the formation of a lodgment put into the dip or south of the shaft, where a "washout" was exposed. (Section of E level is shown on sheet No. 12.) The west level (marked W on plan) was driven in good coal for a distance of about 120 yards, when the workmen unexpectedly exposed a face of sand, showing that the "washout" had turned to the north. This gave off much water, and stopped operations towards the west. Meantime, for the purpose of opening up the colliery, two headings (marked ○○ on plan No. 4) were broken off the west level. As these proceeded, ordinary bords were broken off to either side. The bords going to the west were stopped one after the other by a wall of sand and clay, coming down and cutting off the coal seam; thus proving the line of the "washout" trending northwards. When the headings referred to had proceeded northwards 130 yards, their further progress was arrested by a similar interruption. It then became evident that this "washout" followed a tortuous course, and that the shaft had been sunk on a projection of coal, surrounded on three sides by the site of an ancient watercourse from which the coal had been denuded. C and D headings had been commenced simultaneously with those referred to. On C heading reaching a point 130 yards from E level, it touched the line of the same "washout," and was stopped; but as D heading was not interrupted, C heading was moved a few yards to the east, when it also passed the termination of the "washout." Bords were broken, at the usual intervals, off these headings. Those going west are stopped by the continuance of this "wash" northwards. The distance that each of these bords proceeds proves that the line of the "wash" is bearing off to the north-west. (Section No. 10, No. 12 sheet, taken at No. 15 bord, C heading, shows how the "washout" occurs.)

The manager, with the record of bore XI, marked on plan No. 1, before him, and knowing that coal had been found 40 or 50 yards from the spot where ○○ levels had been stopped, resolved to run a pair of drives to prove the country to the north-west. Accordingly, A and B headings were commenced. For 2 chains these headings passed

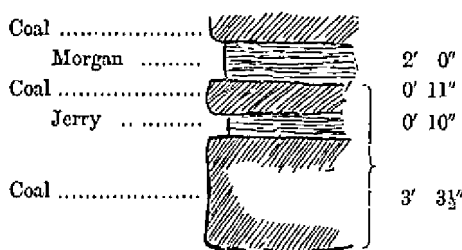
passed through clay, the floor remaining intact and unaffected. At this distance the coal began to appear in the floor, and thickened till the parting on top of the lower coal appeared. It remained at this thickness for a distance of 7 chains, when the drifts were stopped. A section of this drive is shown by a section on sheet 12. It would thus appear that this "washout" was caused by a current confined by a narrow channel, the margins, according as they are steep or sloping, telling the direction or impact of the current. From the data supplied by these workings, the Commission have shown by dotted lines the probable course of this channel. From a study of Plans Nos. 1 and 4, together with sections on sheet 12, it will be apparent that the "washout," however interesting as a geological problem, has unfortunately cut off a considerable portion of this coal-field situated to the west. The exact effect it has on the coal to the north-west, and towards the branch creek, has not been ascertained by any prospecting works. The disheartening character of the undertaking in the past has probably deterred the shareholders from incurring expense in order to elucidate, or set at rest, this question.

Returning to the east side of the shaft, I heading, or north-east cross-cut, was commenced to strip the coal along, or run in the direction of the 7 feet down-throw fault. At intervals, E and F, G, and H headings were commenced, to open out to the rise or north.

Where E heading was broken off, a roadway (j on plan 4) was put over the 7ft. fault. This was driven for 20 yards level, when another down-throw fault, running parallel to the first, was discovered. This was crossed, and on the date of our inspection a road was being driven with coarse, apparently decomposed, conglomerate as a roof, which was confined by close slabbing. A section of this is shown (No. 8, sheet 12) as well as through A. B, near the junction of the north-east cross-cut and main level.

At various parts of the north-east workings, off E, F, and G headings, the manager has caused drill-holes to be bored upwards through the top coal and into the overlying strata. This gentleman informed the Commission when conducting them through the workings, and repeated it under examination, that for 6 feet these drills had penetrated rock. (*Vide* answers to questions 1979, 1980, 1981.)

The system of winning adopted at this colliery has been to work the lower two bands of coal separated by the "jerry," measuring as per margin 5 feet, of which 4 feet and 2 inches is coal.



At first the bords were driven 8 yards wide, leaving the usual 4-yard pillars to support the roof. Finding, however, that the dead pressure of the clay weighted the top coal to an extent that rendered an alteration advisable, the width of the bords has since been reduced to 6 yards, still leaving pillars 4 yards in thickness. The Commission, however, regret to learn (*vide* C. Peters' reply, 1065-6-7) that orders had been received to open out bords to 7 yards, thus reducing the thickness of the pillars to 9 feet, a width, in the opinion of

of the Commission, inadequate to support such a roof when the top coal is removed. The principle for recovering coal in this colliery has been to work the bords in the lower coal to the cut-off heading, and on reaching that point to cut up the tops to a point within 1 foot 6 inches from the upper band, when the top coal is worked coming back. This mode of working is explained by section No. 3, and on sheet 12.

As the lower coal is within the minimum measurement that regulates the hewing price required in the district, and contains a band of inferior coal that entails an addition to be made on that price, it is found impossible to work this coal to yield a satisfactory profit.

Finding that the roof improved towards the north-east, and that owing to the strata superincumbent on the coal having become drained, any falls that occurred showed no tendency to run, but became choked by the clay overhead, the manager, being desirous to reduce the working cost, determined just before the visit of the Commission to abandon the lower coal entirely, and to confine his operations to the recovery of the top coal alone. This he proposed to accomplish by carrying in the top coal in precisely the same manner as he had formerly worked the lower coal. (Section No. 4, sheet 12, shows this mode.) On introducing this system, the men, knowing the nature of the overlying strata, held a meeting, and requested their secretary to communicate with Mr. Inspector Dixon, asking him to interfere. Mr. Dixon (*vide* question 2878) had entertained apprehensions as to the wisdom of working the top coal in this colliery, and feeling uneasy had notified the owners to cease working. (See page 163, appendix.) This demand was not attended to, and finding that the Attorney-General had given it as his opinion, in the case of another colliery, that danger must be apparent before such a proceeding could be taken, the Examiner of Coal-fields advised the Inspector to take no responsibility. Mr. Dixon, while admitting his suspicions as to the stability of this roof, frankly admitted that he was much surprised (*vide* question 2890) to find, in the case of a large fall depressing the surface, "no appearance of sand or water where it fell in"; and he continues, "this affords an example of how a man may be mistaken," and, "I had made sure that a fall there would let in water, and when I went there again the place was as dry as possible."

The attention of the Commission having been drawn to this subject, and feeling that your Excellency might expect from them an expression of opinion as to the relative merits of the two systems of working, they have no hesitation in stating that in their opinion the former method, by which the lower coal was worked going out and the top coal was recovered coming back (in the second working), has decided advantages in respect to safety over the second described system, by which the lower coal is left unworked (and absolutely lost), and the top coal alone is recovered by bords extending outwards.

In the former method, while the lower coal is worked outwards, the whole thickness of the "Morgan," and of the top coal is left on as a roof, and when it is worked backwards and recovered, should a fall occur, the men have an open exit both before and behind by which to escape. In the case of the second method, by which the top coal alone is worked, a fall could only occur behind the men, in all probability completely shutting off the only outlet they possess of escaping.

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The practical witnesses who could speak from personal knowledge of this colliery were closely examined upon this important point, and the opinion expressed above is shared by them (*vide* C. Peter's reply, 1073-74-75-79; also J. Robb's reply, 1017-19), while witness T. Williams favoured the working of the top coal going in. The Examiner of Coal-fields, and notably Mr. Inspector Dixon, concur in the advisability of continuing the former method of recovering the top coal. Mr. Harper also (as was to be expected) supported the second or new mode of working, on the ground that if a fall took place it would have less cavity to fill, and would consequently sooner choke itself. This, however, contemplates a state of matters that would probably have disastrous consequences to the workmen employed. Nevertheless, as by the former system a loss, or probably no profit, was made in working the bottom coal, the Commission feel that in these circumstances it is hard to offer any impediment to a struggling Company to work at a profit. It is unlikely that men who are alive to the risks of their colliery, and are cognizant of the character of the roof and overlying strata, would work where danger appeared, or that the Inspector of Collieries could long permit a dangerous system to be pursued with impunity. The Commission agree with Mr. Inspector Dixon in the candid expression of his belief that the real safety of Maryville lies in the thick body of clay that overlies the coal, and that the chief danger to be apprehended is that the gravel may again come in above the coal. If such a body of clay subsides, it will act as a dam, and effectually prevent the passage of water from above. It would be most desirable that, in all cases where the roof and safety of a mine depends upon the continuity of a body of clay, every effort should be made, and at the earliest possible date, to ascertain its exact geography, or area over which it extends. It is to be deplored that so much valuable coal is apparently destined to be absolutely wasted, beyond all hope of ultimate recovery, on account of the alleged impossibility of working the lower coal to a profit. Such waste, if it widely pervades a coal-mining district, must eventually be productive of baneful results to all connected with coal-mining. So far as the Commission are aware, no scheme for working the pillars in this colliery has been proposed. This, if attempted in ignorance of the surface geology, would assuredly be attended by more than the average of mining risk. The Commission feel that when the "lower tops" are once worked, the difficulty of attempting to work out pillars will, with such an incohesive roof, be considerable, and may, moreover, be attended with dangers that cannot be properly estimated or anticipated.

The extraordinary character of this coal-field, and the difficulties of no ordinary description that have been met with in the course of working, render any remarks other than those affecting general principles unnecessary, and probably out of the province of this investigation. If they may be permitted to exceed their powers in this respect, the Commission would suggest that to lay off a colliery with such a roof as this in a regular system of panels with sufficient and effective barriers all round that could be shut off in event of accident occurring, it is probable that the maximum amount of coal could be won with the minimum liability of danger. Experiments could, under such a system, be conducted without endangering the surrounding workings. In any case, they desire to express their dissent from the recent order given to reduce the size of pillars and increase the width of bords. They consider that the stability of such a colliery consists in the regularity and substantial area of pillars, and paying particular attention to the timbering of the workings.

No second or outlet shaft had, at the date of our visit, been begun, although the time allowed by the Coalfields Regulation Act (clause 12, rule 1) had all but

but expired. The manager seemed to be anxious to commence this very necessary work, but the directors hesitated, according to Mr. Croudace to commence this work, as the closing of the colliery was then under consideration.

NEW FERNDALE COLLIERY—DANGAR'S ESTATE.

(Reference is made to this Leasehold in Appendix, page 169—Bores 13, 14, 5—Plan 1.)

The Ferndale Coal Company have secured a lease of the coal under Mr. Dangar's estate, situated between the lands of Mr. Fleming on the north, and the main road to Maitland on the south, the waters of Throsby's Creek on the east, and Wickham Reserve on the west. The lands are intersected by the mineral railway leading to the loading staiths at the Dyke. A portion of the lands has been sold for building allotments and for the erection of public works.

A bore (No. 17 on No. 1 plan) put down some years ago near to the Junction of the Maitland and Wickham Road, proved the presence of the Borehole seam, (17 ft. 7 in. thick, including bands) at a depth of 233 feet. The coal-seam was here covered by 106 ft. of rock, and this by 118 ft. of surface deposits, including 81 ft. of clay and 44 ft. of sand on the top.

In June or July of this year, this Coal Company put down a bore (marked 13, No. 1 plan), west of Hudson's waggon works, for the purpose of proving this portion of their leasehold, and were rewarded by finding the Borehole coal-seam 15 ft. 5 in. thick, at a depth of 135 feet, the cover consisting of 27 ft. of sand, 100 ft. of clay, and 8 ft. of rock.

According to the statement of Mr. Powell, the Company's manager, it is proposed to sink shafts to win this coal in the position marked on plan No. 1. The position is certainly convenient to the railway and to shipping.

The similarity between the surface deposits at Maryville, Wickham, at Ferndale bore, and at No. 17 referred to above, will be seen by comparing the records of sections. Here, however, the analogy ceases. At No. 13 bore the coal ought to have been found at a depth slightly greater than at Wickham shaft (170 feet); on the contrary it was found 33 feet shallower, while the depth at No. 17 is greater than it ought to be, either taking it in connection with the depth at No. 13 or at No. 18 in the property of the A. A. Company. An anticlinal fold of the strata from No. 18 could scarcely account for this, and looking at some of the records of bores in the estate of the A. A. Company, the probability of one if not two east and west faults suggests itself as a reason for the depth of the coal-seam at the respective places named (*vide* section CC, Nos. 10 & 11 sheets).

Although it is all as yet conjecture, it is more than likely that the fault that is supposed to exist between Newcastle and Stockton may by dividing (as faults not unfrequently do) account for the interruption of the continuity of the strata.

The probabilities are that the "washout" traced in Maryville and Wickham may be continued through this estate, and ultimately join the crop of the coal-seam that passes to the north of Hamilton, and is there protected by the pebbly sandstone that forms the main roof.

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This should be kept in view by the lessees, and as this "washout," if it does exist, must do so further west than No. 13 bore, it might be wise to win the coal-seam as far to the east as possible.

The coal-seam is of excellent quality and thickness. The great thickness of tenacious clay that overlies it will in all likelihood prove a sufficient protection against the percolation of surface waters; but it would be well in the event of the colliery being commenced for the lessees to insist upon the coal-workings being regularly laid off, and worked with the utmost wariness, caution, and skill, to pay close attention to timbering the stalls, and to proportion the width of bords and thickness of pillars so that the latter will easily support the weight of the overlying strata without incurring the danger of the roof breaking or squeezing over them.

It would likewise, in the opinion of the Commission, be wise, in order to to minimize the risk of danger, to work this or similar coal-fields in districts, and to exhaust or work the top coal, or reduce the size of pillars only in the second or home-ward working.

WICKHAM AND BULLOCK ISLAND.

(Reference is made to this on plan Nos. 1, 2, 10, 12, 13, 14; pages 161, 170, 179-81, Appendix).

These are the separate and distinct leaseholds belonging to separate proprietors. The former (Wickham) is held on lease from Mr. Peter Fleming, and the last-named is held on lease from the Government.

The shallow, saltwater and tidal creek (a branch of the estuary of the Hunter that forms Bullock Island), known as Throsby Creek, divides the two estates. Bullock Island forms the western margin of Newcastle Harbour.

Throsby Creek is here about 230 yards broad, with an average depth of four feet at low-water. The rise and fall of the tide is from 3 to 4 feet.

Many years ago, a bore was put down on Fleming's estate at Wickham, in proximity to the present shaft; but on account of the soft nature and thickness of the surface or superficial deposits, no attempt was made at that time to win the thick coal found here. The record of this bore is given on sheet No. 13, Appendix, and page 170.

About 1879 or 1880, Hugh Walker and Alan Wilde, who had for some time been associated in the working of a neighbouring colliery, conceived the idea of winning the coal-seam at a point adjacent to and advantageously situated to the harbour, and obtained a lease of the coal from Mr. Fleming. Operations were at once commenced, about 400 yards south-east of Maryville; and as the leasehold only extended over 50 acres, the intention was to sink two small shafts to the coal; the first, 5 ft. 6 in. in diameter, was sunk by means of cylinders through the quicksand that is found under the surface.

This (*vide* bore No. 16) measures 40 feet thick. When these cylinders had entered a few feet into the clay, the difficulty of obtaining money to carry on the operations forced the proprietors to sink through the remaining detrital deposit by means of wooden curbing. This (with the pecuniary assistance obtained from Messrs. Wood and Cordon, of Newcastle) was successfully accomplished, and the shaft was sunk through, and opened up the Borehole seam of excellent quality and about 12 feet in thickness.

The depth of this shaft to the bottom of the coal-seam is 170 feet. The coal-seam is overlaid by about 22 feet of soft conglomerate (*vide* replies 3159-3168). (Journal of bore No. 16, page 170, put down contiguous to the shaft.)

The winning of such an excellent and thick coal-seam contiguous to Newcastle Harbour created some interest in mining circles. The mine was inspected by the Government officers, who, with an intimate knowledge of the surroundings, formed a high estimate of the value of the property; and this estimate is still held by them. (*Vide* replies to questions No. 2924, 3159, 3163, 3180-4).

The pecuniary difficulties that beset the lessees of Wickham brought about an amalgamation with the lessees of coal under Bullock Island and Throsby's Creek, and a public Company (in consequence of this arrangement) was formed to work the conjoined properties. This amalgamation was brought about through the instrumentality of Mr. Winchester, of the Coal-fields Office. (*Vide* questions 74-80.)

Bullock Island lease is held off the Crown, and at the date of the Company being formed, consisted of 400 acres of coal, including the coal under a portion of Throsby's Creek. This area has subsequently been extended to the coal under the remainder of the creek to the south, and under the major portion of the basin, west of the lower dyke or staiths, known as the "Dock."

The area held off Government for coal-mining purposes now exceeds 800 acres. It may be considered as a northerly extension of the Australian Agricultural Company's freehold. The major portion of this leasehold is covered by tidal waters. That under Throsby's Creek and the Dock is permanently covered by a depth of water varying from 3 to 8 feet; the highest portion of the land is now covered by tenements of houses, and is only a few feet above tidal mark.

The leasehold forms the western boundary of the harbour or the shipping staiths on the dyke, and is therefore most conveniently situated for the expeditious shipment of coal.

No part of this leasehold has been proved by bores.

A site having been selected contiguous to the railway, a shaft composed of cast-iron plates $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. in thickness, in segments 3 ft. and 1 ft. deep, strengthened by strong flanges and brackets, and 10 ft. in diameter, was commenced.

The contractor for this shaft was Mr. Hugh Walker, and the work was managed by Mr. Archibald Fairley, an engineer of experience and judgment.

The position of this shaft is shown on plan No. 1, Appendix.

The cylinders, having been secured by piles and a framework, were sunk in the usual way, by loading them with weights sufficient to overcome the pressure of the surface deposits on the outside of the cylinders.

These cylinders have been sunk almost plumb. No special difficulty attended the operation of sinking them, the thick deposits of clay proving as easy as solid strata to sink through (*vide* replies to questions 89, 90). For a description of the sinking (see H. Walker and A. Fairley's questions, 90-112-127). The section of this shaft is given (sheet 14, Appendix and sections c.c., plan 10), and from this it will be seen that, with the exception of the 15 feet of sand and gravel (*vide* No. 14 section referred

referred to) encountered at a depth of 116 feet, no special difficulties presented themselves in this sinking. About 45 feet* of rock was sunk through before reaching the coal-seam, which, including stone or other bands, measured 19 feet in thickness.

The close similarity between the record given of the sinking at Wickham and that at Bullock Island will be apparent by the examination of the sections in No. 14 sheet; and the Commission have prepared a cross-section on No. 12, for the purpose of further elucidating this point.

In these the probable sequence of strata is shown.

During the progress of the sinking, the Examiner of Coal-fields and Mr. John Dixon visited the works (*vide* reply 96, also 3197) and saw no cause to object to the manner in which the work was executed, and considered the colliery was perfectly safe and a valuable property. (*Vide* replies to questions 96 and 2911-12, also 3197 to 3202.)

After inspecting the underground workings of this colliery, several members of the Commission, before coming to the surface, inspected the shaft, and felt satisfied of the substantial nature of the work and the marginal strength of the cylinders. The foot of these had not, however, been secured by a wedging curb, or rested on a basement of rock or walling. No water exuded from under the free edge of the plates (see sketch, No. 12 plan), the thickness and pressure of the clay proving an impassable barrier to the percolation of water from above.

While at the colliery, Mr. Gardner, the manager, stated that the rock under the surface and above the coal measured 45 feet in thickness. He repeated this in evidence (*vide* question 2094), also when recalled (Nos. 3353-4), and lodged coloured sections to prove this. Mr. Fairley, in reply to question 2683, stated 43 feet as the thickness; while Mr. Inspector Dixon (question 2907) states about 40 feet. One of the witnesses, George Minickham, who had been employed as a sinker, positively stated that only 25 feet of rock overlies the coal seam, of which the upper 15 feet was useless as a roof (see questions 1207-8, &c.) This witness (see question 1203-5, also 1256) considered the shaft unsafe, but admitted (questions 1218-19) that he had no experience of such shafts or cylinders. This, he explained, arose from the cylinders having cracked while being forced down. He further stated that these cracks were $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide (*vide* reply No. 1249) and extended diagonally through five segments (reply No. 1251), and that he had been employed several shifts in blocking these cracks (reply 1234). This witness had been appointed as check-inspector for the men, and laid much stress upon the report which he gave on the occasion. This report appears in page 164, Appendix.

Strange to say, this witness had not complained to the manager about these cylinders (see questions 2121-22).

Having doubts as to the perfect reliability of this witness while giving evidence, the Commission requested two of their number—Messrs. Turnbull and Curley—to proceed to the colliery and investigate the truth of the statements made by him. The report of these gentlemen, appended hereto, page 180, Appendix, shows the apparently reckless character of the statements made. The two Commissioners referred to measured 28 ft. 9 in. from the top of the coal to the bottom of the cylinders.

It

* From 10 feet to 51 feet, according to the statements of the different witnesses.

It was however evident that these had entered some distance into the rock, but they had, of course, had no means of ascertaining this with precision. It was, however, clear that a mistake had been made, which in the most direct way was contradicted. Hugh Walker the contractor, who during his examination in chief had not been interrogated on the point, on being recalled (*vide* questions 3017-20) explained that the cylinders had entered the rock 13 to 14 feet, and, in reply to question 3021, he stated that the rock above the coal measured over 40 feet; and furthermore, to meet the charge of George Minickham, that the upper 15 feet of rock was soft and of no use as a roof, this witness, who was at the shaft during the whole of the operations (see reply No. 3026), stated (No. 3028) that no portion of the rock in Bullock Island shaft was of a soft or rotten nature, but "was sound and solid post right through." A. Fairley (question No. 2688) also stated that the rock is "hard sandstone post." And that it is so can be seen by an examination of the exposed portion of the shaft. Mr. Fairley (question 2684) stated that the cylinders had been carried into the rock about 9 feet. This left a discrepancy of about 5 feet between the alleged thickness of the rock above the coal, and the measurement of Messrs. Turnbull and Curley added to 9 feet—the distance it was at first stated by Mr. Fairley the cylinders had been carried into the rock. On being recalled (question 3032), the witness (Mr. Fairley) explained that after the cylinders had been entered 9 to 10 feet into the rock, they dropped a few feet from the pressure upon them, and sunk down in this unexpected manner some feet further (question 3034). They had thus actually entered the rock 13 or 14 feet. As has already been remarked, Mr. Walker made a similar statement as to the length the cylinders had entered the rock before the recall of Mr. Fairley. Mr. Wood (reply 2440) stated the thickness at 51 feet.

On this point the Commission have no reason to doubt the general accuracy of the testimony offered.

After Bullock Island shaft was sunk, operations were at once commenced to effect a junction with the adjoining colliery of Wickham, to comply with the provisions of the Act requiring a second or outlet shaft. A mine shown on plan No. 5 was driven in the lower part of the coal-seam, across Throsby's Creek, and joined the workings from Wickham shaft. Thereafter, Wickham shaft became the second or outlet shaft, provided in clause 12, section 1, of the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1876. At the date of the inspection by the Commission this was used as the down-cast shaft; it is 5 feet 6 inches in diameter. The engine that had raised the coal from the workings, shown on the plan, remains on the surface, and is the means provided to draw the men out of the mine should occasion require. It is unfortunate that a shaft so small in area as this should ever have been sunk, even as an exploring shaft to a coal-seam. The first cost is just about as great as one of larger area and of a more practicable and useful size. To use this as an upcast shaft for a large colliery, the velocity of the air will be undesirably great, and consequently the motive power required to overcome this, in addition to the drag of a large volume of air through a narrow outlet, will be considerable.

WICKHAM—(DIP, SOUTH-EAST).

The bottom of this is 50 feet above that of the adjoining colliery of Bullock Island. The inclination or pitch of the communication mine averages 1 in 14. This
mine

mine crossed a few small faults that displaced the coal-seam 4 feet or so to the west. Reference to plan No. 5 will show the situation of these works in relation to the railway and Throsby's Creek.

The workings shown on the plan were for the most part finished before the two collieries were communicated. The narrow heading driven north from the shaft-bottom crosses an east and west fault, that has also been crossed in Wallace's headings in Bullock Island works. This fault displaces the coal to the north about 4 feet. It seems also to have had a marked effect upon the roof, as beyond it (to the north) the roof is very hollow and soft. Towards the face of this heading the sand cuts off the top coal, and at length cuts off the bottom coal. In consequence of the softness of the roof and the sand in the face, a wooden wall or chock was built across the level; beyond this inspection was impossible. The probability is, that the heading has proved a continuation of the same "washout" that passes Maryville Colliery a few yards south of the shaft. Notwithstanding the narrow width of the drive, the hollow nature of the roof necessitates centre props to support the ordinary timber set to keep the roof; there is a heavy pressure up to the bottom of the shaft.

The coal workings to the west of the dip, or south dip road, have been stopped on the downthrow fault shown upon the plan, and running north-west and south-east. The level from the shaft-bottom has crossed this fault, and four bords have been driven 7 yards wide, although intended to be 6 yards. They had all been stopped for months before the date of our inspection; the roof did not appear to possess much residual strength. The east and west and north fault disturbs the coal-seam considerably in No. 2 heading. The roof is hollow, and at one place soft sand appears. This section has been abandoned.

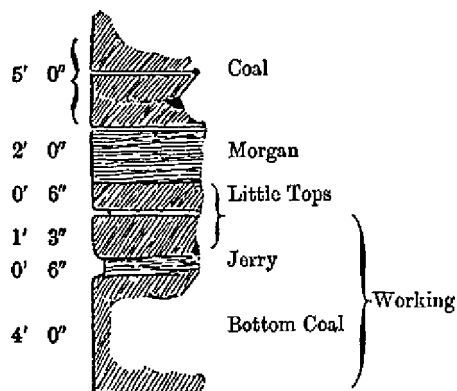
The west headings marked A and B have been driven 6 ft. wide. The intention is to leave a barrier of coal 18 yards thick to the west, and another to the south, to guard against any inundation coming from Maryville Colliery, as shown on plan No. 5; through these barriers the narrow headings are intended to be driven. To the west and south in these, flood-gates will be inserted to prevent any inundation filling the main workings.

The Commission do not anticipate any inundation from Maryville, nor from the "washout," and judging from the course south of that colliery, they would not be surprised to find that it intersected Wickham Estate west of the present workings, and probably it is this that has been tapped in the face of the north level. (For probable course, see plan No. 1.) The pent-up water, which exuded from the coal when first sunk to, has been drained off, and the workings are now dry.

Considering the nature of the roof to the rise or north of the shaft, and also at Maryville, it may probably be found expedient to drive narrower bords in any future workings in this estate. Taking the depth and all the circumstances into consideration, security may better be attained by narrowing the width of the bords than by increasing the thickness of the pillars. The permanent roads under the railways should be properly secured.

Hitherto only the lower division of the coal-seam has been operated upon; the top coal having been left as a support to the roof. The following section, taken
in

in the west levels, shows how much the coal seam has improved in the space that separates it from Maryville.



By leaving the band of coal 6 in. thick under the "Morgan," the liability of the latter to fall will be obviated, and a much cleaner working obtained. The water that falls down the shaft and exudes from the bottom of the coal is insignificant in amount, and finds its way to Bullock Island Colliery. It is brackish, but horses drink it.

BULLOCK ISLAND COLLIERY.

This shaft is 10 ft. in diameter and is intended to work and win the whole coal from under Bullock Island, Throsby Creek, and Wickham Estate to the left of that creek. It is fitted with single-decked cages, one skip being drawn at a time. The workings shown upon the plan No. 4 represent the progress made up to the 19th June and 6th of July respectively. The coal at the shaft measures (see report) 18 ft. 6 in. of which the bottom coal only has been worked. This, with the band called the "jerry," measures 5 feet 6 inches or so, and is shown on sheet No. 3, by section at A B C D—the four extremities of the workings—and at E, on Wallace's Heading, where an overlap or side-thrust occurs.

The principal part of the workings is situated to the north of the railway.

The necessity of driving narrow headings across the railway line, and of leaving a large pillar under an allotment that the owners had failed to acquire, must have considerably hampered the primary operations.

Three pairs of narrow headings only 6 ft. wide have been driven to the rise or north-west, and off the back headings the bords have been broken off full width on the facings or planes of the coal. Two of these headings, the north or "straight-in" and Dunn's, had been driven 14 and 15 chains respectively from the shaft at the date of our inspection, and from these the greater bulk of the output was drawn.

The pitch of the seam to the north of the shaft is very slight, so that with a down-fault of a few feet, the face of Dunn's heading was, at our inspection, only 2 ft. higher than the bottom of the shaft. As is the case in the majority of flat seams the floor forms "swallys" (or hollows, or troughs), out of which the water requires to be bailed at great expense. Salt water drops freely from the top coal, and exudes from the "jerry."

The top coal has not been disturbed in any portion of the colliery; it forms a sound and most excellent roof, and no fall had, at the date of receiving evidence, occurred.

No

No attempt had been made in the two advanced headings named to ascertain the thickness of the top coal; but at Wallace's heading, where an overlap occurred at a fault, the thickness is stated to be 22 feet.

Mr. Gardener, the manager, when examined (question 2089-90) informed the Commission that the question of working the top coal was under consideration, but had not been determined upon.

To the east of the "straight-in" headings the coalfield is practically intact.

Wallace's heading (about 100 yards west of Dunn's) had crossed a downthrow fault of about 5 feet, and is simply cutting off the bords driven off Dunn's heading. This heading is well under the channel of Throsby's Creek, as are all the bords broken off Dunn's heading. This pair of roads are, on account of a bend in the channel, heading straight across the creek, while the face of the "straight-in" headings must ere this have passed under the same channel.

To the south of the railway the dip-road had reached a point $5\frac{1}{2}$ chains distant from the shaft. The coal to the south has a more decided pitch than towards the north. A special pump has been placed in the dip-road, and this unwaters the whole mine by forcing it in one lift to the surface. The total growth of water probably does not exceed 60 gallons per minute.

Very little has been done to the south or east of the shaft. The coal increases in thickness to the dip or south (see section c.c., No. 10 sheet).

The "winning off" headings in this colliery have been driven only 6 ft. wide, and may probably be found to be too narrow when a system of rope haulage is introduced, or even for ventilating purposes.

Instead of following the district custom of driving bords 8 yards wide, and leaving pillars only four yards in thickness to support the weight of the superincumbent strata, the Directors of this colliery have adopted the rule of driving bords 6 yards wide, leaving pillars 8 yards in thickness. Their directions to their manager may be judged from the evidence of Mr. Wood (replies No. 2434—2439). This as a matter of course entails an increase in the cost of getting, but it is an earnest of the care the Directors have shown for the general security. The top coal measuring, with bands, about 15 ft. thick has also been left undisturbed.

The plan shows that these pillars are not of perfectly uniform size or shape. This may in part be due to the occurrence of "swallys," or the desire to drive at right angles to the natural facings. It could be avoided if strict attention were paid to breaking bords off to a common bearing, and to maintain the straight line by means of plumbs hung from the roof. This is particularly necessary in the case of the headings.

An excellent rule prevails in this colliery of imposing a fine in event of any workman exceeding the specified width of his drive. If the same attention and regard had been paid to straight lines, the object aimed at by this departure from a district custom would be obtained.

One of the witnesses in his evidence (reply No. 1263), states that the mine was unsafe, and explains that sufficient means of exit had not been provided, and
recommended

recommended a ladder to be fixed in Wickham shaft because (*vide* reply 1264) it took about three hours to raise steam for the engine placed there. Mr. Gardner, the manager, on being examined (*vide* reply No. 2021) did not look upon this witness as an authority upon mining matters. And in connection with this point denies (question 2156) that he ever was requested to put ladders in the Wickham shaft; but (see reply No. 2167) explained that it was he who suggested this, and stated (reply to questions No. 2197) that steam is constantly kept up at the outlet shaft.

The Commission regret that the area of this outlet shaft is so small, yet in the knowledge that this was an experimental opening, and is not singular in its arrangements, size, or fittings from others at existing collieries, and out of the scope of this inquiry, they can see no cogent reason for singling it out for comment further than to say that it complies with requirements of the Coal-fields Regulation Act, and that the suggestion, whether advanced in all seriousness or in sarcasm to fix ladders in it, is worthy of consideration, and if properly arranged need not offer any serious impediment to the ventilating current.

The Commission concur in the opinions expressed by Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Dixon, and every practical miner and manager, who has examined or could speak from personal experience of the colliery, that the workings are to all appearance safe, and that no danger is obvious.

The Commission would desire to point out that portions of the extensive coal-workings of the A. A. Co. are under surface deposits almost as thick as those at Bullock Island, while the thickness of rock may not be materially greater.

The Commission feel that the directors and manager of this colliery have taken a proper and commendable departure from a stereotyped district custom, by lessening the width of the bords and increasing the thickness and area of the pillars, with the object of increasing the safety of their workmen and of their mining works.

The Commission are of opinion that the continuity of the thick deposit of clay that overlies the rock, and has undoubtedly a somewhat wide distribution, may be considered as the sheet-anchor and a protection that cannot be over-estimated to coal-workings that underlie tidal waters, or sand that is held in a state of suspension by the presence of salt water.

In the event of a serious subsidence, as the result of an extensive underground fall taking place, no greater security could exist than the presence of a continuous sheet of plastic clay adherent to or covering the natural surface of the rock, and filling its joints and fissures to prevent the descent of water or of loose silty deposits.

In event of a depression occurring, this plastic or puddle-clay would yield and accommodate itself to the inequalities, while the pressure of the incohesive materials above it would squeeze it into a solid mass, as impervious to the passage of water as it was before being disturbed. Numerous instances of the perfect security afforded by a stratum of brick-clay in preventing the descent of surface or canal waters into coal workings on the removal of thick coal pillars at a moderate depth are known, and have come under the experience of some of the members of this Commission.

The experienced sinking contractor, Hugh Walker, in describing the character of the yellow clay immediately overlying the rock (reply 125-6) graphically, described it as "resembling indiarubber." In reply to question 127, he considered "neither surface

nor

nor anything else will go through it"; and in a subsequent reply "considers this clay a perfect safeguard." A. Gardener, with a varied experience (in reply, question No. 2097), also considers this clay a protection from surface deposits. Mr. Inspector Dixon, in his evidence (question 2916) describes this as one of "the strongest clays I have ever seen in my life." In questions Nos. 2917-8, the same gentleman considers this a most valuable adjunct to the rock, and reposes confidence in it resisting the percolation of surface water. (See also A. Ross, Nos. 2268-9.)

The Examiner of Coal-fields, as well as Mr. Inspector Dixon, were decided in their opinion of this colliery. In his replies (Nos. 3197 to 3211), Mr. Mackenzie states that he visited the colliery during the progress of the sinking operations, and approved of the manner in which they were conducted. He was satisfied with the stability of the shaft, and with the manner the underground workings were laid off; and that the modification of the district system of mining introduced in this colliery meets with his approbation. Mr. Joseph Wood, a director of the Company, of much experience in mining (question 2443) endorses this. Mr. Inspector Dixon is equally decided. The practical miners examined, viz., J. Miller, G. Minickham, and David Hynd, concur in this opinion, the last suggesting that the top coal should be left under Throsby's Creek until the last. These witnesses expressed their entire confidence in the manner the mine was worked, and could suggest nothing that would increase the general safety. Mr. Croudace (see replies Nos. 3411-12) testifies to the value and security of a stratum of clay above the rock, overlying a coal-seam. The same gentleman (reply No. 3429) proposes a system of working to all intents similar to that pursued in this colliery, and in replies Nos. 3426-7-8 admits that had he been aware that such a course was pursued, and that the manager had been guided by circumstances, he would have made an exception in his favour, in the series of letters he had contributed to the local papers on delta collieries. Under these circumstances, it is unfortunate that this correspondence ever appeared.

In an indirect manner the Commission have already expressed their satisfaction at the desire for safety, and the wisdom of the manager and directors (see H. Cordon, questions 2367-8-9, and Joseph Wood, 2438-9) in departing from a stereotyped custom, and in its stead inaugurating, at considerable expense, a modification that commends itself to their approbation, and which has also merited the approval of the Examiner of Coal-fields and Mr. Inspector Dixon, as well as the confidence of those of the workmen (3197 to 3214 and 2914-2919 to 2924) who presented themselves for examination, and this they trust may satisfy the natural anxiety of your Excellency respecting the condition of this colliery.

The Commission trust that strict attention will in future be paid to maintain perfect uniformity in the laying off and forming the pillars, and that the rule laid down by the Directors as to the area of these pillars and the width of the bords will be rigidly adhered to. If this is done, and system and regularity maintained, the Commission see no reason to doubt the safety of the mine, so far as the method of working is concerned. They consider that it would be desirable to exercise much caution in approaching the unproved ground under Throsby's Creek, especially north of the shaft, until the exact geography and distribution of the surface deposits have been ascertained. They also think it right to remark that, as a pure precautionary measure, the request of Mr. Inspector Dixon to keep a borehole in advance of the leading headings should be cheerfully seconded by the manager and owners of this, as well as all the other collieries notified on the subject.

The Commission agree with the gentlemen of their number who paid a special visit to inspect the condition of the cylinders, that the cracks do not materially affect the stability or security of the iron tubbing. Being horizontal cracks, they can easily be remedied and made of any required strength; but the great marginal strength of the castings and the circumstance that they occur opposite a body of impervious clay, from which not a drop of water exudes, raises no apprehension in their mind as to danger from this source. By constant draining the probability is that in a very short time this clay will become as hard and stable as the rock itself. It would have been more workmanlike if the cylinders had rested on walling, or that a solid bed of rock had been levelled and prepared, and a wedging curb inserted. With a little trouble and the foresight of experience, the slight leaks that occur at some of the joints and bolt-holes could have been wedged so tight that not a drop of water would have found its way into the shaft, and thus have attained one of the principal objects of iron tubbing. As has been already remarked, *no water* enters the shaft from the bottom of this tubbing.

The stratum of clay referred to, and its continuity over the area of the coal-field, is undoubtedly such an important factor in the economy of coal-getting that the Commission would suggest that accurate and precise information should be obtained as to its distribution, character, and thickness. They feel that too much knowledge cannot be obtained on such a subject.

This is especially desirable under Throsby's Creek and the tidal waters to the south. The means for obtaining it need neither be expensive nor of an elaborate character.

To the south the Australian Agricultural Company are working their coal-seam towards their private "staiths," just beyond the south-east corner of Bullock Island leasehold. Some years ago this Company put down a bore at this spot. A record of this is given on page 173, No. 24 Bore. At this place the yard coal was overlaid by 53 feet only of surface deposits. From soundings of the harbour supplied by the Harbour Engineer, the Commission find that from the A.A. Co.'s staiths northward, and for a distance of at least 600 yards in that direction, rock is found at a depth varying from 12 to 24 feet at low water. This is evidence that the thickness of these deposits decreases towards the south, which implies that the thickness of the rock will increase. It would, however, be unwise to argue positively from the evidence afforded by sinkings situated at such a distance apart.

From the information at their disposal the Commission have prepared section through *c c* on plan No. 1, and shown on sheet No. 10, being a section from Shepherd's Hill through the Australian Agricultural Company's staiths and on to Ferndale.

The question of recovering the maximum quantity of coal from a coal-seam, and of modifying the system of working to suit circumstances, depends on and is intimately connected with the accuracy of the information at the disposal of the lessees as to the condition and character of the surface deposits, and the rocks superincumbent upon the coal; and this, in the opinion of the Commission, should be a sufficient incentive for ascertaining the information referred to.

Bullock Island coal-field belongs to and is leased from the Government, and, so far as the Commission could ascertain, the lease contains no provisions or stipulations as to the system of working to be pursued, *i.e.* or the area or form of the pillars

pillars to be left. As the amount of mineral that can safely be removed depends upon the system of working that is adopted, and as the system should be determined by the conditions referred to, the desirability of obtaining exact information of the overlying deposits and strata is manifest.

Considering that the royalties or revenue per acre will depend upon the system of mining that is pursued, and as it is of moment that the property of the State—the national resources—should be conserved, and unnecessary loss of minerals averted, it may be worthy the consideration of the Government whether it would not be wise on their part to put down a line of surface bores, to set at rest the character of the estuarine deposits over the areas of coal owned by them.

With the object of arranging the principle of working to be adopted by the lessees without responsibility to the lessor, such a system, and for the above object, is by no means uncommon in Britain, and is productive of the most satisfactory results.

HETTON.

(Reference to this Colliery is made on plan No. 1.)

This colliery is at present in process of being sunk. The Company have acquired the rights granted to Messrs. Steel, Hutchinson, and others to work the coal from under the harbour of Newcastle or the estuary of the Hunter. The area of coal leased is of a semi-lunar form and measures 1,000 acres, and is shown on plan No. 1. Outside the harbour it opens out towards the north, and, including the Oyster Bank (a peculiarly exposed portion of the coast), joins the ocean leasehold belonging to the Stockton Coal Company. Inside the harbour it opens out towards the north, but beyond the probable line of out-crop of the coal-seam.

The holding of the Company is peculiar, in having practically no coal except under the tidal waters of the estuary or harbour. An allotment of about 6 acres having been secured of oblong shape on the sand and marshes of Bullock Island, a shaft 16 ft. in diameter has been commenced, and at the date of our inspection it had been sunk to a depth of 66 ft.

The position of the shaft is about 200 yds. to the north of the engine-house for working the cranes on the dyke. It is shown on plan No. 1, Appendix .

A bore put down to the north-east gave the following data :—

Sand.....	45 ft.
Clay.....	125 „
	<hr/> 170 ft.

It is much to be regretted that this bore was stopped on its reaching or touching the rock.

The position of the colliery is to the rise of strata from Bullock Island shaft; the rock will probably in this case be thinner than at the last-named colliery. On the thickness of the clay the safety of the mine to a very large extent depends.

The shaft was being sunk with iron cylinders $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness, with internal webs and flanges of adequate strength. These had passed through the stratum of sand 45 ft. in thickness that overlies the district, and had been forced into the clay for a distance of 20 ft. This was not a puddle clay, but was salt and of a peculiar friable

friable description. This becomes plastic in depth. The method employed for sinking these cylinders is to force them down in advance of the internal excavation by the pressure of weights piled on the top ring—about 600 tons of rails were used to load these cylinders at the date of our visit. The cylinders had been sunk perfectly plumb, but the joints were “weeping” to a small extent. The lower plates had become fractured, and the weight was being removed. The cause of these fractures may be due to the quality of the cast-iron used, but it may be also due to the mode of loading employed.

When the cylinders have entered the clay, the course pursued is to add plates as the clay is dug out. If, however, beds of quicksand or gravel, with water, are encountered, this simple process is no longer practicable; when, from the suction or adhesion and pressure of clay over such an enormous surface of metal, the cylinders may refuse to move by any practicable amount of loading. Some of the Commission have in their own experience been enabled to successfully sink cylinders under similar circumstances, by resorting to the simple expedient of telescoping, or sinking one tier of cylinders within another, when much difficulty was experienced in sinking the former tier.

To obtain access to the coal under the harbour, the Company will require to receive permission to drive the necessary roads under the hydraulic cranes and wharfs opposite to their colliery, and after driving out into their leasehold, to work the coal from their peculiarly shaped leasehold. This will require rare tact, and the exercise of much judgment, caution, and mining erudition.

The Commission feel that the question of the safe working of at least the northern section of this leasehold will depend upon the presence or absence of the thick stratum of plastic clay impervious to water, already referred to, as well as a reasonable thickness of sound rock. The Commission place great importance upon an accurate knowledge of the distribution and character of this clay and superimposed rock being obtained, especially in a colliery such as this is, that does not possess any coal save that which underlies thick estuarine deposits entirely under the waters of the harbour. They disclaim any intention of being pessimists, but from a solemn sense of the public duty devolving upon them, and looking to the natural pitch and strike of the strata, and what is known of the coal workings in Stockton colliery on the east, and in Bullock Island colliery on the west, they are inclined to think that a disturbance or fault, or faults, may be encountered under the harbour no great distance from the staiths. This with the circumstance that the sand is known to thicken (see record bores, pages 177–8) to the north-east, and that the character of the surface deposits changes for the worse in that direction, is, in their opinion, sufficient reason why the greatest caution should be exercised, and the most accurate information of the deposits overlying the coal should be ascertained, at several points over this leasehold, before any scheme of winning a thick coal-seam is elaborated or begun.

STOCKTON COLLIERY.

(Reference to this Colliery is made in plans 1, 2, 11, 13, 14, and pages 162–4, 177–8, and 180, Appendix.)

The peninsula of this name, to the north of the harbour of Newcastle, is entirely composed of sand, raised a few feet above the sea-level, and is covered by low scrub. It separates the Pacific Ocean from the estuary of the Hunter, and the harbour of Newcastle.

In

In appearance, the peninsula resembles the club or "waddy" of an aboriginal, with the thick end turned to the south.

It measures about 6 miles in length. The lower portion alone is supposed to contain coal.

The peninsula is shown on plan No. 1. It presents an unbroken beach of pure sand 6 miles in length, and for this distance not a rock is visible.

Twenty-three years ago the late Mr. Jonathan Dixon put down several bores over this peninsula, and proved the existence of formidable deposits of quicksand and clay overlying the Borehole coal-seam. The quicksand was of a peculiarly "quick" nature, and appeared to be held in a state of suspension by water below the level of the sea. Wells in this peninsula, if they tap surface water, and are sunk below high water mark, are brackish or salt (*vide* evidence, J. Errington, question 567) during high tide, becoming fresh again when the tide recedes. The difficult nature of the surface deposits was attested by the evidence of Mr. Mackenzie, Examiner of Coal-fields, Mr. Walker, Mr. Croudace, Mr. Fairley, Mr. Inspector Dixon, and Mr. Harrison, the two last-named witnesses giving it as their opinion that an underground "set" or current exists in this quicksand, between the Pacific and the estuary of the Hunter. At all events, the sand, from experience gained years ago, at the sinking of the Scottish-Australian Coal-mining Company, as well as from bores put down, appears to be semi-fluid.

The Commission desire to refer your Excellency to the record of Stockton shaft, and of several bores, Nos. 32 to 36, given on pages 177-8. The positions of these are shown on plan No. 1; while on sheet 11, they have also prepared a horizontal section of the superficial deposits and strata in the course of the line *e e*, plan No. 1; and this, they hope, will enable your Excellency to understand the nature of the estuarine deposits, and the influence that these may have on future attempts to work coal in the peninsula, or under the ocean.

By referring to this plan, it will be seen that the "yard" coal crops out on the sea cliffs under Signal Hill, and has been worked under the city of Newcastle. Along the southern margin of the hill, the rock is seen on the shores of the harbour. At this place the harbour is about 500 yards wide, and about 250 yards from the southern shore, or edge of the sand, the Stockton Coal Company have put down their shafts. The natural pitch of the strata is to the south-east. Had this pitch been maintained without any interruption to the continuity of the beds, the yard coal-seam that outcrops a few feet above the sea-level on the south side of the harbour and sea cliffs ought not to have been found further to the north of these points.

We find, however, at Stockton shaft, that a thickness of 66 ft. of sand and clay overlies rock that to the south of the harbour has no alluvial covering. At a depth of 129 ft. the dirty coal-seam that is seen to overlie the yard coal at Nobby's was sunk through, and at a depth of 182 ft. 6 in. the position of the yard coal itself was reached. In a normal condition of the strata, that is to say, if the natural pitch had been uninterrupted, and before the work of denudation had been begun, the position of the "yard seam" should have been found at a horizon probably 35 ft. above the surface level of Stockton shafts. The section through *c c* on No. 11 sheet shows that at a depth of 238 feet the A. A. Company, near their staiths on the south side of the harbour, found the borehole seam to measure 17 ft. 8 in. thick, and their coal workings from their No. 2 shaft

shaft are now approaching this part of their property. This point (A. A. Co's. staiths) also ought (in a natural condition of the strata) to be to the dip of the coal-level from Stockton, but it is actually 100 feet shallower than the depth of the coal at Stockton. It is surmised by the Commission that the strata have been dislocated, or the continuity broken to an extent of upwards of 200 ft. (217 ft.), and that a downthrow fault of this extent intersects the strata somewhere between Signal Hill and Newcastle to the south and Stockton to the north. The existence, and trend of this supposed fault is of course pure conjecture. As faults have played an important part in moulding the scenery of a district, so this surmised break may have had some connection with the horseshoe form of the harbour outlet.

At about three-quarters of a mile to the north, No. 32 bore (page 177) was put down; the surface deposits had increased to a thickness of 144 feet, and the bottom of the Borchole coal-seam was found in this bore at a depth of 248 ft., or 114 ft. above the level of the bottom of the coal in Stockton shaft. This involves a pitch, almost three times greater than that natural to the seam. Again, referring to plan No. 1 and records of bores 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, page 178, the next succeeding two bores, viz., Nos. 33 and 34 did not penetrate the surface deposits, while No. 35 just reached the rocks. In No. 36 bore, on the narrow neck of sand, Mr. Dixon succeeded in penetrating the thick deposit of quicksand, which measured 192 ft. 10 in., and at a depth of 253 feet passed through a coal seam 6 ft. 9 in. thick.

Unless, on the supposition that at some point north of the present coal workings of Stockton, the stratum undulates or takes a reverse dip or pitch to the north, it is difficult to account for the depth at which the coal was reached in these bores. So far as one is justified in judging from records alone, the character of the coal is much altered from that found at Bullock Island to the west, or at Stockton to the south. A vague suspicion is forced upon the Commission that No. 32 bore has been put down in near proximity to a fault, and this is somewhat strengthened when its position is viewed with respect to the coal-level from Bullock Island shaft. With our present knowledge of these coal workings, and apparent direction of faults on the beach near to Newcastle Reserve, the occurrence of a large fault intersecting the harbour and Stockton Peninsula is by no means improbable.

Considered in the concrete, it will be obvious that from Newcastle on the south along the line of section *e e*, plan No. 1; the surface deposits thicken towards the north.

The Stockton Coal Company have sunk their shafts on a small leasehold containing about 120 acres, at the southern extremity of the peninsula. The lease includes, it is understood, the coal under the buildings and streets of the township of that name.

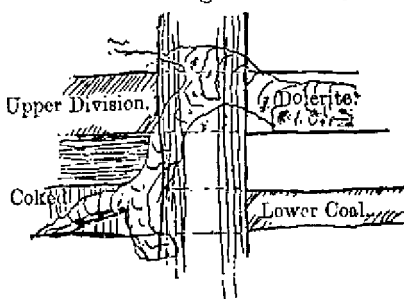
The winding shaft, 15 ft. in diameter, has been sunk at a point about 250 yards from the wharf of Stockton, and (say) 400 yards from the shores of the Pacific. The leasehold is surrounded on three sides by the Pacific, or estuary of the Hunter.

The extent of the workings is shown on plan No. 6, and on Sheet No. 14 a journal or record of the shaft is given. From a cursory glance at this plan, it will be obvious that the working of the coal-seams at this colliery have been beset on all sides by difficulties of no ordinary character. The colliery has been sunk and opened out amid a plexus of faults and intrusive dykes, that in parts destroy the structure of the coal, and have greatly impeded the work of development. The occurrence

occurrence of the faults and the peculiar disposition of the coal-seam make it a most difficult matter to describe the workings in a manner that may be intelligible to your Excellency.

The disturbances delineated on plans Nos. 6 and 11 are due to intrusive dykes of dolerite, that intersect the strata in the lines of least resistance, and do much damage to the coal seams. It is impossible to say whether the faults shown are separate and distinct dykes, or are branches of one main dyke. To the south of the harbour, in the cliff under the old gaol, a dolerite dyke is seen intersecting the rocks in a straight line, heading for Stockton shaft. This has already been referred to, pages 6 and 9, and is delineated on plan No 1. The intrusive dykes at Signal Hill and at Nobby's are unlikely to be met with until the workings extend further to the east and north.

Below the quicksand, Stockton shaft passed through 265 feet of solid rock, or natural strata, above the top of the coal-seam. Just before reaching the coal, the edge of a dolerite dyke appeared, and inclined across the shaft as follows: On one side, the west, a thick seam of coal was found, but on the opposite side of the shaft, the coal is obliterated—scorched to a cinder. Continuing the sinking of the shaft, and after passing through 6 or 7 feet of blue bind, or arenaceous shale, another coal-seam 9 ft. 6 in. thick was found. This coal-seam, on the east side, was uninjured by the presence of the intrusive dyke; but towards the west, the coal is almost unrecognizable over many yards, the very texture being destroyed by reason of the severe coking process to which it has been subjected by masses and sheets of dolerite injected into its substance. See sketch on Plan 11.



These two seams of coal together form, in the opinion of the Commission, the well-known Borcholt seam, but separated by a layer of blue shale, that is probably a localized thickening of the band known as the "Morgan," and this may thin off when the workings are pushed into a part of the field free from disturbances. Similar phenomena are of frequent occurrence in coal-seams containing stone-bands, especially in the vicinity of faults or disturbed country.

It was impossible for the Commission to devote the time necessary to fully study the somewhat confusing picture occasioned by this dyke. In a geological aspect, the study of the effects of this intrusive dyke on the occurrence and economy of the coal-seam is one possessing features of surpassing interest. In a commercial aspect, however, it ruins a considerable area of coal, and has involved a heavy expenditure of capital.

On sheet No. 11 Appendix, the Commission have prepared a section of the west bottom of the colliery, showing the baneful influence that this dolerite dyke has upon the coal-seam. They venture to think that an attentive study of this section will convey an impression of this occurrence more intelligible than is possible by any description. It will be seen that the dyke, on reaching the bottom coal, not only intersects it, but has injected a sheet of fluid dolerite into the bottom of the coal-seam. Isolated and strangulated masses and strips of dolerite are seen to occur in the very substance of the seam of coal, destroying its structure beyond recognition for 40 yards, when the intrusive rock sinks into the floor. A few yards further

further west, a sheet of dolerite curves out of the roof, and occupies the centre of the coal, and at a point about 110 yards from the shaft rises into the roof, when the bedding of the coal appears, and at 120 yards the coal is again of excellent quality. Directly above, the upper and thicker division of the coal-seam is untouched; but at a point almost above where the second described sheet of dolerite rises upwards the upper coal is cut off by a dyke of basalt, and the appearance of this is shown in the section referred to.

Whether this is the line of a second dyke is an unsettled question. In some aspects it would almost appear that the part of the upper-seam between the shaft and the point to the west, where it is cut off by the dolerite, is really embraced above and below by sheets of dolerite injected from the main dyke, and going to the west probably in the line of a fracture.

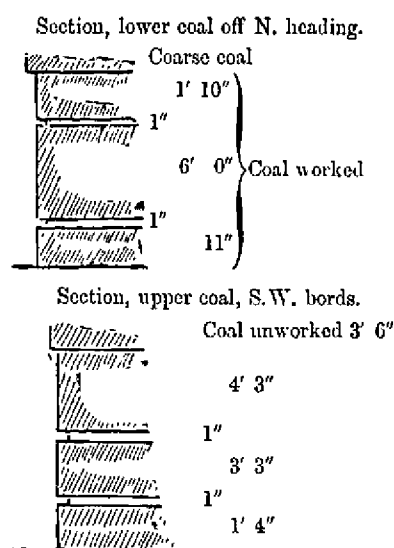
To the east, the upper division near the shaft is perfectly obliterated by dolerite, while the lower division is untouched.

This division has been worked for about 130 yards, when the floor begins to rise, and gradually wedges out. At the same point the upper division is found in excellent condition, but when worked backwards becomes coked or cindered. The probable cause of the lower coal checking out (but this the Commission could not fully investigate) is due to the influence of dolerite that sweeps around in a circular form as shown on plan No. 6. The heading in the upper coal going east at the date of the (second) visitation of some members of the Commission, had an unnatural appearance, and has since, they understand, been cut off by another fault. The west drive, which on the occasion of our visit was opening out so well, has also been cut off by a fault.

The difficulties that have been overcome from the interposition of faults in this colliery have been of no ordinary description; and from the evidence of other faults on either side, on the cliffs to the south of Newcastle, and on Signal Hill and Nobby's, as well as the doubts that exist as to the continuity or repose of the strata, to the west it would almost appear that Stockton Peninsula is intersected by dislocations that must of necessity handicap to a very serious extent the successful and economical development of the colliery.

For reasons given, it does not appear that, (except over a small area to the south of the shaft), the two divisions of the coal have been worked, the one above the other. Indeed, the management and Government officers (replies to question 2939 and 1599) have doubts as to whether two seams or divisions of coal really do exist. An attentive study and inspection of the seams, as well as of the lower division where it is coked to the west, and of the upper division directly above it, the character and appearance of the bands, and of the coal itself, afford in the opinion of the Commission sufficient evidence that the two divisions are parts of one seam, divided or separated by six feet of shale that may be considered to be but a thickening of the "Morgan" from local causes; the solution of this question being hindered or delayed by the small amount of prospecting work done, and the confusing occurrence of the dolerite referred to.

The sections of the coal-seams given in the margin were taken at the points named. The lower coal-seam, although of good quality is inferior to the upper coal. The top of this coal is coarse, and contains "brasses" (iron pyrites) and impurities that require removal, and the parting is rough and indifferent, the thickness of coal worked varies from 6 ft. 9 in. to 8 ft. The roof over the divisions where this coal is worked is fine, and drops or "bleeds" water rather freely. The major part of the output was obtained in the lower coal at the date of our inspection.



The upper coal measures about 13 ft. thick, but about 9 ft. only is worked. Only two thin bands 1 in. thick are found in this truly beautiful coal-seam. The quality is all that could be desired. The parting from the roof is excellent. It forms an ideal coal-seam, and one that can scarcely be surpassed.

This division was being opened up at several points shown on plan No. 6, where dolerite had cut off the lower workings. The presence of dolerite may have exercised a favourable influence on the quality of the seam.

Both of these seams of coal are soft, and will not stand pressure, handling, or the rough usage of transport. They contain many peculiar nodules of pure coal.

The occurrence of the faults referred to has retarded the development of this colliery, and prevented it from being opened out in the regular and methodical manner it otherwise, no doubt, would have been. The second or outlet shaft was being sunk, and the iron cylinders had been completed in a workmanlike manner, and sinking operations had commenced in the rock on the date of our inspection. Notwithstanding the want of this shaft, upwards of 120 miners were employed at one time, and about 450 tons of large coal per day was being raised.

Some months prior to our inspection Mr. Inspector Dixon had notified the owners and managers to keep boreholes in advance of the leading headings, and this was being complied with in the headings facing the sea (reply of J. Evans, questions Nos. 1705-7). Surrounded as this colliery is by sea frontages totally unprotected, and intersected by faults and dykes, the action of the Inspector is, in the opinion of the Commission, to be commended. The Commission regrets, however, that except in the matter of ventilation, the Inspector has no power to control the number of men employed until a second outlet is provided. The provision in the English Act applying to two shafts, in so far as it limits the number of men (to twenty-five—and a limited time), who may be employed at one time in such mine, until the second shaft is sunk, and to this extent only permitting the partial opening up of the colliery until a second shaft is provided, is, in the opinion of this Commission, an improvement on the Act of 1876 in force in New South Wales. Considering the experimental character of the sinkings, and the great cost of these compared with similar works in Britain, a provision such as this would probably prove less irritating and restrictive and oppressive than an amended provision enforcing the simultaneous sinking of the two shafts required by law.

Both of the coal-seams are supposed to have been opened out on a system of working slightly differing from the district custom. While the 8-yard bords have

been continued, the pillars were intended to have been increased to 6 yards in thickness. It is probable that some of the pillars have been left of this thickness; but the majority of those inspected by the Commission did not approach this standard. The Commission are perfectly aware of the difficulty of maintaining a perfectly uniform size of pillar or width of bord. The facility with which workmen (uncontrolled, or who are not guided by plumb-lines hung for the purpose) will increase the width of an already wide bord, and swerve to one side or another, thus causing misshapen and unseemly pillars, is well known.

Mr. Evans, in his examination (reply No. 1614), stated that the thickness of pillars was from 4 to 6 yards, and the bords 8 yards wide; and although the plan shows the pillars to average that width, there are many much smaller. In C and D headings the bords have been broken off at irregular intervals, and in some cases it will only be by extreme care that they will be prevented from holing into the next adjoining. In the west side of the shaft this has already occurred (J. Dixon, questions Nos. 2955, 2962). Nor can a plan show to a foot every little irregularity that occurs in the width of bord or thickness of pillar; but it ought to be, as far as practicable, a faithful record of the operations up to date of each survey, which ought also to be recorded on the plan. The attention of some of the Commissioners was particularly directed to the plan of the upper coal workings going to the south-west, at A on plan. These are not altogether correctly delineated. The pillars marked 7, 2, 3, 4, by the plan, measure 9, 7, 8, and 5 yards respectively; whereas they only measure at the "cut-through" respectively 6, 5, 3, and 2 yards, the soft and friable coal-seam showing incipient signs of "flaking" or "crushing." These thin pillars separate bords 11, 9, $8\frac{1}{2}$, and 8 yards wide. As these pillars are not supported by any slack or rubbish, they possess almost no marginal strength.

The manager, in his examination (question No. 1617), informed the Commission that these very wide bords and extremely thin pillars were commenced by his predecessor. This may be so, but the Commission could see in this no reason why they should have been continued. This gentleman did not see that any serious irregularity had been committed (questions No. 1623-5), but it was satisfactory to know that on account of the representations of Mr. Inspector Dixon, his intention was to support the centre of these bords by wooden chocks. In Jones and Ellery's bord, in the same section, and marked on the plan 11, the coal, 10 feet thick, has been worked by a bord upwards of 11 yards wide.

It has not been the rule at this colliery to drive roads or bords by plumb-lines, or to impose any fine upon workmen who disobeyed instructions as to the direction or width of the same. The objection urged against this by the manager was solely on account of the extra expense it would entail (question No. 1593). This the Commission regard as a weak defence of a loose and perfunctory system that, if persisted in, must eventually bring about unsatisfactory results.

In a case of necessity, and as a stop-gap, wooden chocks, properly built in the centre of wide bords, may be adopted, but the Commission cannot look upon them in any other light. In collieries where it is imperatively necessary to maintain the rigidity and integrity of the roof and of the coal pillars for a long period of time, it would, in their opinion, be unwise to introduce a system that in the first cost would prove more expensive and be less enduring than the readier and more simple and sensible expedient, viz., of increasing the area of the pillars in collieries such as this, where any movement of the roof or strata is undesirable. In the damp atmosphere
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of a mine timber is peculiarly apt to decay, so that where safety depends upon the freshness or soundness of wooden chocks, the natural and inevitable decay of timber placed to supply the marginal strength of attenuated pillars, or to maintain the integrity of a roof over a great area of wide bords, would speedily bring about the very evil that their pressure was intended to avert. The Commission therefore agree with Mr. Dixon, that in general practice it is safer to trust to a large pillar than in the temporary yet more expensive support afforded by timber.

The Commission are of opinion that considering the depth from the surface, the nature of the alluvial deposits, the surroundings, and the numerous faults that unfortunately break the continuity and strength of the strata, the Directors of this company would do wisely to see that the rule already laid down by them as to the respective thickness of pillars and width of bords be rigidly and methodically carried out and adhered to—that it be a real, not an imaginary provision. Considering the tendency of men to increase the width of their working-places, and the difficulty from this cause of maintaining a uniform thickness of pillars, it might be wisdom to increase the standard of 6-yard pillars in this colliery. If the two divisions of the coal-seam are ever worked above each other, the necessity of increasing the size of the pillars, especially in the lower coal-seam, very materially, and in placing the pillars in the upper seam directly above these, is apparent, else disastrous consequences would in all probability ensue. Hitherto, from the influence of the igneous dykes met with in one or other of the divisions of this coal-seam, this has not been possible. The Commission, knowing from experience the importance of this, directed the attention of the Manager to the point (questions 1599-1604), in the hope that by doing so a thoroughly sound system of laying off and maintaining these might be introduced, and consequences detrimental to the colliery be averted. The headings and bords ought to be driven by plumb-lines, and a system of fines imposed on workmen who may, inadvertently or otherwise, increase the width of the bords or headings. In such a colliery the leading headings should at all times be well in advance of the bords, and the further in advance the better.

The feverish anxiety of the Directors to produce an output of coal at the earliest possible moment, and the indirect pressure they appear to have brought to bear upon their manager to do so, is, no doubt, to some extent the cause of the irregular and insufficient size of the pillars, and the extreme width of bords referred to. This was clearly brought out in evidence (questions Nos. 1706-7, 1735, 2998.) If such a course is continued in a colliery like Stockton, the ultimate results may prove the fallacy of their importunity.

It is impossible that the custom of uniform pillars and bords adapted to shallow workings under favourable conditions, such as has prevailed in Newcastle, can be maintained when the circumstances and surroundings entirely alter. Depth from the surface itself demands an alteration, and special surroundings such as those that prevail at Stockton, cannot be disregarded with impunity. A little additional latitude allowed to the manager might have ensured more real progress in the leading and winning off headings—thus proving their field as it deserves—and encouraging him to leave pillars of a uniform thickness. This would have enabled a steady output to have been established whenever their second or escape outlet was finished; after which they could in a perfectly legitimate manner exhaust every device to increase their output.

The

The winding shaft is secured by metal tubing in segment, strengthened by strong flanges and webs. The thickness of the metal is $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches, and as they extend to a depth of about 100 feet, the marginal strength is ample. No water exudes through the joints of the segments. They rest on brick walling, set in cement. This walling has cracked, and gives vent to a large volume or growth of brackish or salt water. It is to be regretted when so much money has been spent in cast-iron cylinders, that these should not have been continued down into the rock until a solid bed was reached, and there rested in a "moss box," or wedging curb, set in a perfectly level and smooth bed, and from this wedged with wood and iron until every drop of water was stopped. This is one of the principal objects of cast-iron tubing, and the aim of those who have resort to them in the older coal-fields of Europe. In consequence, the whole of the shaft-water requires to be pumped at much expense from a depth of 360 feet.

In the course of this investigation several gentlemen submitted themselves for examination, for the purpose of fulfilling their duty to their co-proprietors, by affording to the Commission what information they possessed on reports freely circulated and damaging to the interests of at least two of the collieries embraced in this enquiry. But for the anxiety of the public, and the source from whence these reports emanated, the Commission would not have considered it any part of their duty to have referred to subjects already disposed of.

It would appear that two Government officials—original owners—whose good opinion induced several of their friends to invest large sums of money in Bullock Island Colliery, disposed of their interest after the shaft was finished, and soon after vague rumours calculated to unsettle the confidence of the public in the undertaking began to circulate. The nature and source of these rumours may be gathered from the evidence of A. K. Morsen, Joseph Wood, and A. Gardener. (Replies Nos. 1386-1405, 2489-90); and the Commission would here desire to express their disapproval of officers connected with this branch of the public service holding any interest in mining properties. A deal of trouble was taken to get to the bottom of this matter, with the result that nothing of a specific nature, or in any way questioning the safety of this mine appears to have been uttered. It is probable that the reason given by Messrs. Corden and Wood was the cause of these unfortunate rumours. On the question of safety Mr. Mackenzie (questions 3197 to 3214) in unqualified language gives his opinion of the property and the high estimate he holds of it, as well as the manner it has been laid out and the system of working adopted. The Commission have already expressed their opinion on some letters published in March last by Mr. Croudace, of Lambton, which created some impression on the public mind. An index of the extent of this anxiety is to be found in the evidence of Mr. H. Corden and Mr. Wood, who informed the Commission that the value of Bullock Island Colliery alone was affected to the extent of £38,000. (Reply to questions 2384-85); and to that of Captain O'Sullivan, who stated that the value of Stockton was affected to a less extent—probably about £8,000 (See question 2502). Mr. Wood, whose calm judgment and practical experience is well known, expressed his surprise that the letters referred to should have emanated from Mr. Croudace, as that gentleman had no knowledge of the colliery; and Mr. Croudace (*vide* replies to questions 3423-4, 3427 to 3433), admitted that when he wrote the letters he had not been down any of the collieries he referred to except Ferndale, nor did he know in what manner they were conducted.

The Commission have already in the case of Ferndale commented upon these letters, and need only repeat here their regret that, considering the position of the
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author, and the extreme sensitiveness of the public to accept charges of this description, he should have condescended to indite letters on the condition of collieries and their management, however vaguely expressed, that he had not personally inspected and had no knowledge of.

SCOTTISH AUSTRALIAN COMPANY'S MINING LEASE, STOCKTON PENINSULA.

(Reference to this is made in Plan No. 1, pages 177-8, Plan No. 11.)

This lease is held from the Government, and was acquired by this Company many years ago. It contains 614 acres and includes the whole of the peninsula of Stockton from the Stockton boundary for a length of 2 miles. In shape it resembles an hour-glass. Its southern boundary measures about 900 yards, from the harbour on one side to the Pacific on the other. Both shores gradually converge until at a point 1 mile north the low sand-covered peninsula measures about 250 yards across; and from this narrow neck the width increases to its northern boundary.

Many years ago five bores were put down on the leasehold (See record pages 177-8). The positions of these are shown on plan No. 1. Subsequently this Company have attempted to penetrate the quicksand by bores on the narrower part of the peninsula, but failed to reach solid strata at a depth of 150 feet. Of the recorded bores, Nos. 32 and 36 reached the coal, and No. 35 reached the top of the rock. In section above referred to, sheet 11, the Commission have put down the surface deposits and the rock above the coal from the data at their command. As has already been explained, the surface deposits at Stockton shaft, measuring 66 feet, increase to 144 feet at No. 33 bore. At No. 36 bore these have increased to 164 feet; while at No. 37 bore, on the narrowest part of the peninsula, the surface deposit measures 193 feet.

Respecting the coal-seam at Stockton, the Borehole seam is divided by what appears to be a thickening of the "Morgan" into two seams measuring, the upper about 13 feet thick and the lower about 9 feet. At No. 32 bore, on the north boundary of Stockton, a very material change has occurred. Coal-pipes interlaminated with the strata is all that represents the beautiful upper coal-seam now worked at Stockton. In No. 36 bore, a mile further north, about 3 ft. 6 in. of black shale and coal-pipes are found in the position of the upper division as found at Stockton. The Commission have already expressed their fear that this as well as the depth of the coal in these bores, taken in connection with the depth and appearances at Bullock Island Colliery and at the A.A. Company's staiths and Stockton, is due to the proximity of a fault or faults and probably to a synclinal fold, the result of these disturbances. In no other way can they account for the phenomena referred to. Nothing is known of the quality of what remains of the thick coal of Stockton in this leasehold.

For the purpose of winning this coal the Company attempted to sink a shaft about 6 ft. 6 in. in diameter some years ago. The cylinders were only $\frac{5}{8}$ in. or $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in thickness, and were sunk with great difficulty, it is said, to the top of the clay. They seem to have canted. At all events, the undertaking was abandoned, and has not been resumed; and the water stands at the level of the tide. The diameter of this shaft is insufficient for the purposes of a colliery, even as a water or an outlet shaft, and it is unlikely that any attempt will now be made to repair it.

The stratum overlying the coal towards the narrow neck is not considered by Mr. Inspector Dixon, who bored this land, to be over sound, while the thick deposit
above

above it is designated by that gentleman (see question 2971) as "the most wicked he has ever seen." Mr. Croudace (question 3389) is of opinion, and has been of opinion for years, that the working of coal at this situation "would entail much care upon the part of the management to work it safely and correctly." The same gentleman also considers it would be unsafe to work coal to the seaward of this portion of the peninsula. The quicksand extends down to the rock, and is held in a state of semi-suspension by sea-water. The water in wells, in sinkings, or in bores, rises and falls with the tides. The rock has no protection at the neck of land, or for some distance south of it, from the plastic clay that is such a valuable adjunct at other collieries, and there are doubts of a disturbed state of the strata existing there.

The Commission are inclined to look upon coal workings in the neighbourhood of this narrow part of the peninsula to all intents and purposes as equivalent to working under the ocean, and fraught (as it would be) with as much danger.

They consider that the same accurate information ought to be obtained, the same scrupulous care exercised in initiating works, and the same precautionary measures relative to working will be required as if mining were being prosecuted under the bed of the Pacific.

The sand composing the peninsula of Stockton has evidently been laid down in some eddy, or at the meeting of ocean currents, and afterwards raised into dunes and drifts by the gales and waves. The sand is everywhere permeated by sea water, and this must soak and soften the surface of the rock. There is nothing to prevent or interfere with the free passage of the surface waters into fissures, joints, or cleavages. No impervious material apparently fills up the natural ravines, irregularities, or depressions. The broken ground in the line of faults, unprotected by impervious and plastic clay, would prove a certain source of danger that no genius or foresight could remove, mitigate, or avert. The opinions of the Examiner of Coal-fields, of Mr. Inspector Dixon (question 2977), and of Mr. Croudace (question 3408), that the working of coal under existing conditions under the ocean would not only be visited with special danger, but could not be safely undertaken, applies with equal force to the major part of the land under review.

It is very difficult to distinguish between the danger that would attend working with the ocean directly above strata covered by quicksand, and of similar strata covered by similar sand kept open or suspended in sea-water that is supposed to freely pass through the peninsula. In circumstances that demand extreme caution, and where accurate details are wanting, it would be unwise to give countenance to hair-splitting differences, lest a false sense of security might be induced that might eventually lead to disastrous results.

For these reasons the Commission are unable to distinguish or consider this part of the leasehold in any other light than an ocean leasehold. The portion towards the southern boundary, where clay underlies the surface quicksand, is undoubtedly in a better position, not only from its greater width, but from the undoubted security afforded by that deposit. And yet if the bed of sand that underlies this clay directly communicates with the quicksand to the north, the value of the clay is counterbalanced by the lower bed of sand acting as a channel for water.

It is therefore obvious that specific information is wanted, and necessary, before any definite opinion can be offered as to the relative security afforded by the deposit of clay in the part of the property in which this occurs.

AUSTRALIAN

AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY, No. 2 SHAFT.

(References made to this Colliery in Plans Nos. 1, 7, 10, 11, 13, and 14, pages 171-175.)

This is one of the oldest and most important trading corporations connected with Australia, and one of the first to identify itself with the early settlement of the Colony. In exchange for Crown grants of large tracts of land, this Company undertook to introduce at their own cost a certain number of immigrants. Among the land grants ceded to the Company was one of about 2,000 acres, shown on plan 1, and to the west of the city of Newcastle, having a sea frontage to the south and one to the harbour of Newcastle opposite the end of the present dyke. The frontage to the harbour is really part of the wharves and is of great intrinsic value.

The Company were the pioneers of mining operations in the Colony in the early part of the century. For many years coal-mining was confined, as has already been remarked, to the mining of the yard seam along the sea cliffs and under the hill on which Newcastle has been built. The approximate positions of the old shafts are shown on the plans referred to.

The yard seam, the coal seam that crops out along the edges of Shepherd's Hill, received its name from its average thickness at the spot where it was first opened.

Sections of this coal are given below, at G, on the sea cliffs (plan No. 1).

At G, Signal Hill.	No. 25 Bore.	No. 24 Bore.	No. 22 Bore.
Coal..... 5"	Pebbles.	Roof. 6"	Roof. Coal pipes.
Coal..... 1' 3"	1' 11"	1' 3½"	1' 6"
Coal..... 1' 2"	½"	½"	½"
Fireclay.... 7"	102"	1' 8"	1' 6"
			Fireclay.

This seam varied in thickness according to the statements of some of the witnesses from 2 ft. 6 in. to 3 ft. 3 in. It seems to have been worked by bord and pillar, and in a somewhat free and easy fashion. Very little positive and authentic information could be obtained on the point; but it is believed that the workings extended, if not actually under the waters of the harbour, at least close up to the site of the present staiths; while to the south the workings from F pit went out to the crop on the sea coast.

The seam was abandoned many years ago, soon after the discovery of the thicker and finer coal—(Borehole seam), about 180 feet lower—the distance varies considerably. Strange to say, this yard coal seam has not been found of workable thickness or quality in any other part of the district.

For 2¼ miles to the west of Newcastle and Shepherd's Hill, the surface of this Company's estate is almost level, and is covered by low brushwood and intersected by deep marshes or lagoons. To the east of the Homebush railway the roof rock of the lower coal-seam forms a slight elevation on which the township of Hamilton has been built. This ridge extends irregularly to the south-west, towards Adamstown.

To the north of Hamilton, the Company's land extends in a narrow strip bounded by the Maitland Road; on the east, to Tighe's Hill and Spennymoor.

It

It is on the north-eastern extremity of this strip, where it is intersected by Tighe's Creek, that Broughall's and Griffith's colliery is situated.

The position of the Company's land north of Hamilton is covered with sand, is perfectly level, and forms part of the valley if not the delta of the Hunter River.

The Commission have traced on plan No. 2 the probable outcrop of the lower coal seam, according to the best information at their disposal.

It will be seen to include a few acres of the north-east corner of the Company's estate near Tighe's Hill.

Towards the south and east the line of outcrop has not been traced, but from the appearance at Maryville it would almost seem to sweep through that estate, probably to bend back towards Wickham shaft, and leaving this to swerve to the south-west, through Mr. Dangar's estate, and entering the Company's land to the west of the high-level bridge to follow an irregular course to the west and south, and curving round Hamilton it sweeps towards the land of the Waratah Coal Company.

Between East Waratah and New Lambton is a belt of thin coal, due most likely to erosion, as explained page 7.

The Commission believe that the line delineated on plan No. 2 is approximately correct.

The country between Hamilton and Shepherd's Hill and the staiths to the southern boundary is composed of low undulations of wind-blown sand, and is sparsely covered by coarse grass and scrub. It is of no agricultural value.

Some portions of this have been sold for building allotments and public works. It is intersected by the Great Northern Railway and by the private mineral lines belonging to the Newcastle Coal-mining Company and the Burwood Coal Company, as well as by the Company's own lines of railways that convey the output of their extensive collieries to their private staiths at the harbour of Newcastle (shown on plan No. 1).

The whole of the valley or flat country between Shepherd's Hill on the east to Hamilton on the west, and southward along the boundary of Merewether's estate, and also the north boundary, with the exception of the washout in the northern projection towards Tighe's Hill and shown on plan No. 1, contains an extension of the Borehole coal-seam, as described in the case of Maryville, Bullock Island, and other collieries.

Towards the western boundary some of the early winnings in proximity to the crops followed the lower parts of this thick coal-seam until it became too thin to work to profit. This was evidently caused by denudation and erosion in the manner described and illustrated on page 7. Further south, towards Adamstown, the dividing bands that are comparatively thin in the bulk of the estate to the east and north, thicken, and the upper divisions of the coal appear to merge into, or are replaced by coaly shale. Judging from coal workings further to the west and without this investigation, a belt of inferior coal begins towards the south-west of the Company's ground, and extends to the west and south. It is found that the coal-seam in the
principal

principal collieries in this district as it approaches this belt, thins and becomes worthless. This will ultimately determine the life of some of the principal collieries, unless a system of working better adapted to thin coal-seams is introduced.

The principal part of the coal owned and worked by this Company is that which underlies the flat sand-covered and marshy land between the Glebe on the south, Hamilton on the north, and Shepherd's Hill on the east. Under the major part of this area the coal measures from 13 to 21 feet in thickness, including the usual divisional stone-bands, and has been won and worked for the most part by D and E pits, No. 23, and Hamilton shafts.

The winning called the New Winning (Sea Pit—the position of which is shown on plan No. 1) is intended to work the coal under Shepherd's Hill, and possibly under the ocean leasehold held by the Company, which will be specially dealt with hereafter.

The major portion of the Company's estate really forms part of the delta of the Hunter River, and at no very remote period the part under consideration was apparently intersected by a branch of the estuary that entered the ocean south of Shepherd's Hill, at the low sand-covered beach forming part of the estate of Mr. Merewether, and leased to the Newcastle Coal Mining Company, Limited. From bores put down by this Company and others, this ancient waterway seems to have opened out from this outlet on the coast, and to have swept round Shepherd's Hill to the Company's staiths, on the west it included the sites of B pit, Newcastle Coal Mining Company, and the shafts of the Australian Agricultural Company, and on to Hamilton. Taking a more comprehensive view of the subject, if the line of the northern part of Throsby's Creek were continued past Maryville and Wickham shafts, and from these made to form a gentle curve with its convexity to the south-west, to the centre of the low part of the coast referred to, it would approximately mark the deepest part of this ancient channel as near as this can (from the data before the Commission) be ascertained.

On this line the coal seam is covered by a thickness of strata varying from 90 to 140 feet. (Bores shown on pages 171-4). These show that the deepest part of the channel in this Company's estate is close to the Brewery. In No. 20 bore, to the west of this, the surface deposits had thinned to a thickness of 83 feet. At D pit and No. 2 shafts, and at B pit, Newcastle Coal Mining Company, it has also thinned off to the west. At 21 bore, to the east, they are 69 feet, and from this decrease towards Shepherd's Hill. (A cross section of this valley is shown on sheet No. 10.)

The surface indications of an ancient channel are marked at present by the irregular line of lagoons or swamps, that cover several hundreds of acres of surface, and that stretch from Throsby's Creek for more than a mile towards the low opening on the coast referred to.

The coal workings under this valley have crossed several faults that have a general trend towards the same low part of the coast line. The positions of these faults are shown on Plan No. 1, and they will be hereafter referred to. In all probability they have (by breaking up the strata) enabled decomposition and erosion to proceed at a more rapid rate in the line traversed by them than in places where the strata was undisturbed, and in this way they may have played a most important part in moulding the scenery and contour of the district.

Since No. 1 pit was stopped, the coal from this area is drawn from No. 2 shaft. At this point the coal is found 180 feet in depth, of which about 80 feet is composed of surface deposits. (See No. 10 sheet.)

The Main Engine Plane (see plan No. 7) from this shaft is driven to the south-east, to the boundary near to the "junction," and off this plane three main branches are driven at right angles or almost due north-east. Of No. 1 way, Nos. 2, 3, and 4 roads branch, and these work the coal towards the high-level bridge and Brewery. No. 6 way, with its slant road, works the coal towards the gas-works and racecourse. The skeleton workings of No. 2 shaft are put down on plans Nos. 1 and 7. Appendix No. 1 branch intersects several faults. Two of these are of peculiar interest, being somewhat uncommon.

That marked M, No. 1 branch, plan No. 7, is really not a fault, but a partial "washout," about 200 yards where this way crosses it. This must have occurred very soon after the coal was deposited, and before the roof-rock was laid down. It appears to the Commission to mark the site of an ancient pool or lagoon. Mr. Turnbull, who accompanied the Commission, explained that to the north-west this want or so called fault was not found, while towards the south-east, in No. 5 branch, it was only a few yards broad (See plan No. 1). The following is a section of this occurrence, taken by the Commission, through No. 1 branch :—

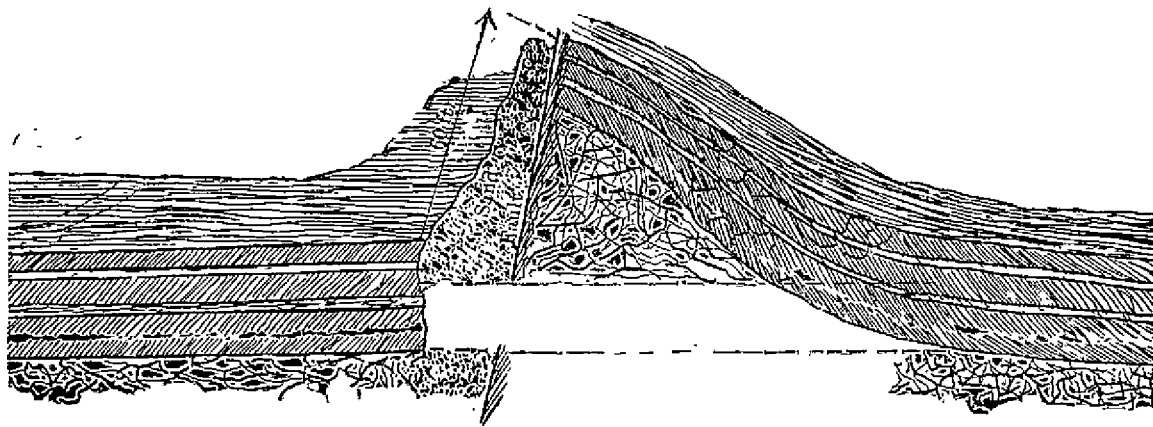


The coal-seam was found on the same horizon, when the shale that fills up the position once occupied by it was penetrated by the main drive.

The line of fault marked N in No. 1 branch occurs some chains to the north-east of the "washout" referred to. On approaching it the coal became foul, and a dyke composed of coarse sand was suddenly encountered that gave off a large volume of water. This was cut through, and the "veise" or the broken ground marking the line of a fault was found. This proved to be an upthrow, that displaced the coal for no less a height than 60 feet. Exploring drifts discovered its altitude, and followed the coal as it dipped to the north-east.

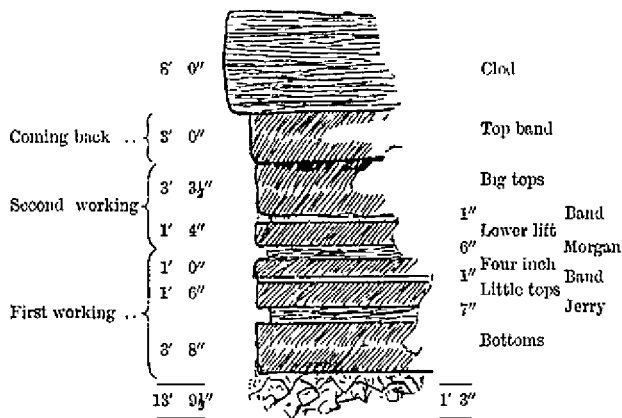
This fault exercised a most prejudicial influence on the coal-seam to the north-east. Until the seam regained its proper level, it was found to be brassy, thin, full of bands and open joints that were filled with small coal extremely liable to spontaneous combustion. Some of the small coal is coated with iron pyrites.

A mine was driven in the pavement rock (which is open and full of joints and fissures) until it intersected the coal-seam. The fault is shown in the following section :—



After

After crossing this fault the coal-seam dips 1-20 to the north-east, and is liable to form "swallys" or hollows in consequence, several special pumps actuated by compressed air are placed in the inside workings, to force the water that accumulates in the faces to a part of the road where by gravity it can run to the pit bottom.



Towards the Brewery the following is a section of the whole seam in No. 8 bord. The coal is covered by about 195 ft. of stratification, of which 130 ft. or thereabout is composed of surface deposits. (See Nos. 14, 18, bore appendix.) To the south of this, coal has been worked by means of 8-yard bords, leaving 4-yard pillars to support the roof and strata.

The coal in this part is worked in lifts as indicated on the section.

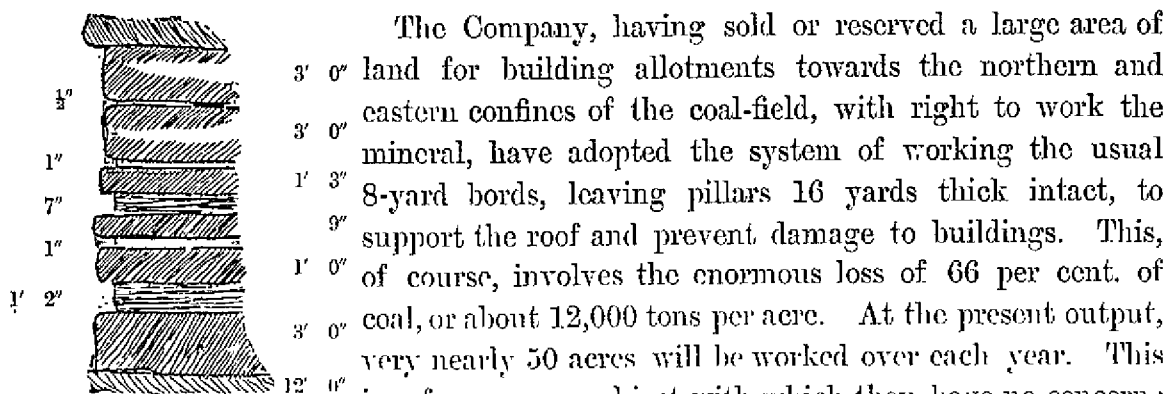
No. 5 Engine Plane, which is working the coal to the south-east of the Brewery towards Arnott's bakery, under the racecourse and in the direction of the harbour, is driven in the big tops.

The bords after being broken away are worked as follows. The coal is broken up till the floor is reached, after which the working proceeds as above. This plan is adopted to enable the water to be more advantageously dealt with.

The section of the coal-seam in the face of No. 5 Engine Plane is practically the same as in No. 1 branch-way.

The cross-cut off No. 5 is proceeding to the north of the Junction Hotel, and of a bore put down on the side of the railway. At this place the coal is 192 feet under the surface, of which 70 feet is composed of surface deposits. (See No. 21, bore appendix.)

At the date of our inspection a fault (3 feet up) appeared in the face. Water dropped freely out of the "tops." The following is a section of the coal at the face of this crosscut.



still, the Commission, considering how rapidly this fine coal-seam is being exhausted in the principal collieries, and the comparatively shallow depth of the seam, cannot but

but regret the loss of so much valuable mineral under worthless land, a large portion of which has not, they are informed, been sold. While they think that it would be wise to permanently support the roof over the outskirts of the estate already or likely to be built upon, or under the portion of the estate where the silty deposits are deepest; still, this desirable result might have been attained by leaving a smaller proportion of coal. As this portion of the field is to the dip of their shaft, when the workings are permitted to fill with water, the pressure of this on the roof would in all probability ever after prevent any serious subsidence (if protected by pillars of adequate if not of such large proportions as those indicated) occurring.

The major part of the Company's estate already worked is supported on pillars only 4 yards in thickness. These over circumscribed areas have already been extracted, causing considerable subsidences to occur. In one place south of the Brewery on the racecourse, in the course of recovering these thin pillars, an immense fall occurred, when the roots of trees were forced into the workings, and many pillars were crushed to atoms. This is referred to by the Commission in order to point out (and this has no doubt been anticipated by the management) that in an extensive colliery such as this, where some hundreds of acres of surface (a large portion of which consists of considerable thickness of silty deposits charged to saturation with water) is supported on pillars having little marginal strength, very great care must be exercised to prevent the pressure of the superincumbent strata, especially if that be of a hard and unyielding nature, from running over these attenuated pillars and causing a crush, or an extremely irregular subsidence until arrested by coal barriers of sufficient strength. The risk attaching to abstracting pillars under the swamps would consist in letting down surface waters, and overpowering the pumping plant provided. There would be little danger to life if such were to occur, as the enormous "goaf" (existing after nearly thirty years' work at 1,000 tons a day) in this thick seam would afford abundance of standage for any quantity of water that could find access through the breaks of a subsidence, and enable all the men to be withdrawn. The thick deposits of clay that overlie the rock, afford, however, the best protection against any such eventuality occurring. It may be expected to form a cushion that will yield readily to altered conditions, and by the pressure exercised by the moving mass, become solid and impervious to the passage of surface water. Extensive subsidences have already attended the abstraction of pillars, especially one between the Globe and the racecourse, but no waters have in consequence found their way into the workings.

The protection afforded by this stratum of clay in preventing the passage downwards of water cannot be overlooked, and must be viewed with satisfaction by all those interested directly or indirectly with coal-mining. Its presence enables enormous stores of minerals, that without it would be wasted or worked at great risk, to be utilized, and to give employment for years to upwards of 38 per cent. of the labour originally employed in mining coal from the bords.

Nevertheless, in circumstances such as prevail where pillars are not extracted as they are formed, the conviction forces itself on the Commission that advantage would arise if ranges of pillars of increased area were left at intervals to arrest the progress of a crush, or the pillars themselves should be originally left of larger area than the so-called 4-yard pillars, common to this district. In situations where surface deposits give no concern, and where the character of the roof will admit of it,

a modification of the district custom might with advantage be introduced, whereby the whole of the pillars would be extracted in small districts as soon after they are formed as possible, and so prevent the deterioration of the coal due to "winding" or exposure, to crush or underground fires, and prevent the leakage of air into wastes, that could with more advantage be employed in sweeping round the working faces.

The large new colliery, called the "New Winning," at present being sunk is intended to work the coal under Shepherd's Hill, and under the waters of the Pacific, to be hereafter specially referred to. It is intended to leave a thick and solid barrier of coal between the workings of No. 2 Pit, and the coal-field allotted to this winning.

The colliery was only sunk to the "yard" coal at the date of our inspection. No danger need be apprehended from the surface in the land area to be worked in this winning, as the area to be worked encroaches only slightly on ground covered by the silts of ancient channels.

The underground operations of this colliery are carried on in a methodical and satisfactory manner. The large output is drawn and disposed of with the regularity that is the best proof of ability and good discipline. The resolution of the Company to leave pillars 16 yards in thickness by 35 yards long intact, with the primary object of preserving the stability of the surface, removes all fear of accident, except over the limited area south of the reserved workings, and to these only the above remarks may apply.

NEWCASTLE COAL-MINING COMPANY (LIMITED.)

(Reference to Plans Nos. 1, 8, 10, 14).

B PIT.

This shaft, 15 ft. in diameter, has recently been opened to develop the north-east portion of the estate held on lease by the Company from Mr. Merewether. It has been sunk to the Borchole coal-seam. The position of the shaft is shown on plan No. 1, and the coal-workings on No. 8 plan. The surface level is only a few feet above the sand-ridges of the adjoining coast line, from which it is distant about 940 yards. A record of the surface deposits and the strata passed through is given (No. 14 sheet, Appendix). According to this, the former consists of 71 ft. 6 in. composed of clay, and this is secured by brickwork 9 in. and 14 in. thick.

The depth to the top of the coal-seam is 178 ft. and to the bottom 190 ft. 6 in. The section of the coal-seam in the shaft at O, face of north heading, and at P, at face of south heading, are given on sheet No. 13, and from these the slight differences that occur in the thickness of bands of coal and stone-bands may be studied. It will be seen that the thickness of the coal-seam is slightly less than the seam as it occurs in the adjoining estate of the A. A. Company. The coal is strong, has good natural facings, and a sound roof. The eastern bord is worked by taking in the top coal and lifting the bottom. This is not uncommon in the district, and is to be preferred if water lies on the floor.

The pitch of the coal is very low, and it gives off an insignificant amount of water. With the intention of avoiding the creeps, or crushing of attenuated 4-yard pillars, that had occurred at A pit belonging to this Company, the manager has commenced the colliery by supporting the strata with coal pillars 8 yards

yards in thickness. This is undoubtedly a precaution that deserves commendation. The workings to the north and east will extend under the low sand-covered strath or "links" that debouch on the sea coast referred to. No borings appear to have been put down for the purpose of acquiring a knowledge of the deposits overlying the rock over this part. The uncertainty of what the nature of these deposits is contiguous to the coast line, the knowledge that the trend of several faults is towards this part, and the comparatively shallow depth at which the coal is found, suggest the propriety of obtaining this in any case desirable information before the workings extend to this part of the leasehold, and this knowledge might obviate the risk of accidents. In this view Mr. Ross, the manager, generally concurs (question 2235).

If these surface deposits do not materially thicken, and especially if the rock is protected by a thick body of clay, little danger need be apprehended from coal-mining operations conducted with ordinary caution, as long as those operations are confined to the west of the beach; but in order to accurately gauge the amount of safety, the Commission are impressed with the necessity of proving the nature and thickness of the surface deposits over the portion of the leasehold referred to.

To the south of B pit, the valley ends along the base of spurs from the hill range to the south. On these spurs, about 50 feet or so above the level of the surface at B pit, the Burwood coal-seam outcrops, and in the early days of coal-mining this coal-seam was extensively worked by the Messrs. Brown and others, now of Duckenfield. The working of the seam was, however, abandoned when the lower and better coal could be obtained in abundance. The outcrop of this follows the irregular contour of the ranges, and is approximately shown on plan No. 42. It is unlikely that this coal-seam will be worked while the demand can be supplied from the Borehole seam; and the life of this seam in existing collieries will depend to a great extent on the introduction of systems of mining that have not as yet been generally practised in the Colony.

BURWOOD COLLIERY.

(Reference to this Colliery in Plans Nos. 1, 9, page 175).

This Coal Company was formed about two years ago to lease a portion of the estate of Mr. Merewether, (south of the land held by the Newcastle Coal-mining Company,) at Little Redhead. The lands had before been worked by the Coal and Copper Company, the former operations being confined to the Burwood coal-seam that crops out to the day along the ravines and sea slopes of the ridges and hills along Flaggy Creek.

The colliery is approached by a railway laid along the sea-coast from the junction at the Glebe. This railway is conducted through the cliffs by means of a tunnel, supported by timber. On either side the cliffs are seen to be very much disturbed by the intersection of several faults. To the south of the tunnel the Burwood seam can be traced, but so disturbed and destroyed as almost to defy recognition. Referring to No. 1 plan, several large faults, found in the workings of the A. A. Company and Newcastle Coal-mining Company, are seen to trend towards this part. So disturbed is this belt of country that little hope need be entertained of finding the lower coal under it in a state that would enable it to be profitably worked.

It

It will be seen from No. 1 and 9 plans, that Flaggy Creek approaches the sea by means of a ravine, worn through the carboniferous rocks, above and below the Burwood seam, and forms a lagoon or inlet known as Glenrock Lagoon. This lagoon receives the waters of Flaggy Creek, which collects and carries off the rainfall and drainage of the sandstone ranges to the west. The ravine opens out towards the sea, and along the coast the rocks slope off and disappear under a sand-covered beach, some chains in breadth. During southerly and easterly gales the force of the sea throws up banks of sand that impound the fresh water of the creek; the waters rise, and when they begin to overflow they work a channel in the coarse sand, which rapidly increases until the rush of water sweeps away the sand bar and admits the water of the Pacific into the ravine. At a spot about 880 yards from the coast line the company have put down their main shaft 13 ft. 6 in. in diameter, and within 50 yards of the south margin of the lagoon, to the Borehole coal-seam, which Mr. Merewether, the proprietor, had proved by a diamond drill bore put down in the vicinity. The record of this bore is given in page 175, Appendix.

The Burwood-coal seam crops out, and has been worked by "ingoing eyes," or adit, a few feet above the level of the shaft. The hill-slopes are steep, and the second shaft, commenced just behind the engine-house, has been sunk through the coal-seam. Notwithstanding the proximity of the winding shaft to the outcrop of the Burwood coal-seam, the main shaft passed through no less than 70 feet of broken rock and surface deposit before reaching solid strata, and this 70 feet has been secured by means of brickwork. The depth of the Borehole coal-seam is at this shaft 270 feet to the floor. The depth of the surface deposits in the lagoon have not been ascertained, but it is probable that these *exceed the thickness* found in the shaft, and that they increase towards the low coast line. Its origin is to be traced to the action of the sea on strata much broken by faults, and of intrusive dykes that readily yield to the influence of the weather.

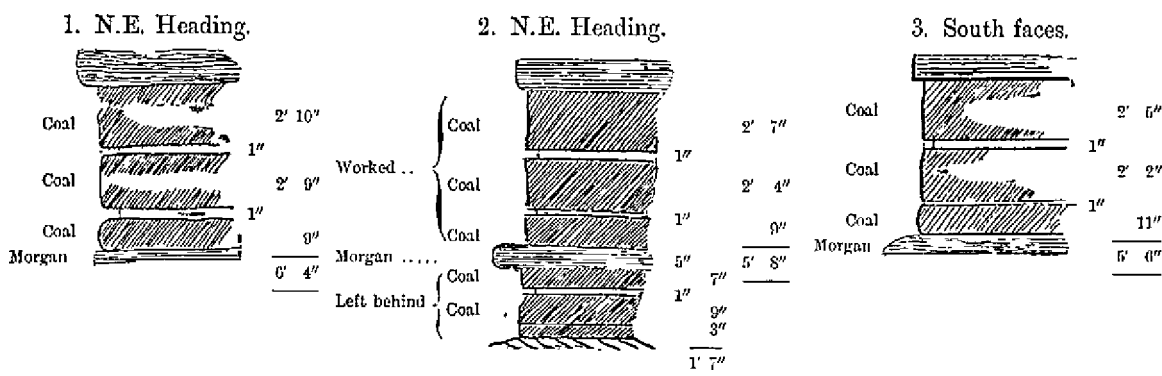
The following is the section of the coal-seam found in the bottom of this shaft:—

Clod ...	
Coal.....	2' 9"
Band ..	1"
Coal.....	2' 4"
Band ...	1"
Coal.....	1' 5"
Morgan ..	5"
Coal.....	0' 7"
Band ..	1" 1' 0"
Coal.....	18"
Jerry ...	
Coal... ..	1' 0"
	<hr/>
	9' 1"

The shaft appears to have been sunk on the top or apex of a ridge, from which the coal dips in all directions. The tendency of the coal is to form hollows or "swallys," that are a source of annoyance and expense.

The north heading had reached a point only 80 yards from the shaft, when a basalt dyke 7 feet thick was encountered. The coal was found at the same level on the other side, but it was cindered and useless. Eleven yards of this cindered coal was passed through when another basalt dyke, which proved to be 6 yards thick, was found. These dykes are almost under the lagoon. The coal dipped to the north—or a reverse dip—on crossing the second dyke, it was followed for 30 yards, when a third basalt dyke was touched, but had not been cut at the date of our visit. The workings to the north of the shaft are confined to the narrow space between the second and third

third dykes, and up to the first dyke. (See plan No. 9.) The following sections of the coal were taken in the bords marked 1, 2, and 3, in the north-west, north-east, and southern workings, and may be taken as representing the seam worked. At 2, a section of the floor is given, from which it will be seen that about 1 ft. 6 in. of coal in two bands is left unworked above the "jerry" and under the "morgan," which at this place is 5 inches in thickness.



Comparing the above sections with the same seam as it is found at the collieries already described, it will be seen that it has undergone a great diminution in thickness. The lower part of the seam is unworkable by itself, both on account of the thickness of the coal and the thickness of the "jerry" and bands. This has been abandoned, and the upper part of the seam is only worked. It is fine in texture, had good facings, and gives off a little gas (light carbonetted hydrogen). The occurrence of the basalt dykes may have some influence on the texture of the coal and the presence of gas.

The colliery has been laid off with 6-yard pillars, the bords being 8 yards, and these widths appear to be fairly adhered to. The roof, composed of clod, is not strong, but is readily supported by props. The hollows which form in the coal-seam, especially to the south-east, are troublesome, and may be due to the puckering of the stratifications caused by faults or volcanic forces.

The igneous and intrusive dykes have proved a great impediment to the development of the northern portion of the leasehold. These dykes can be traced intersecting the collieries to the north-east, and to their decomposition the origin of the inlet or lagoon may be referred. The sketch, No. 9 sheet, may illustrate better than any description the manner in which these intrusive dykes interfere with the coal-workings.

The "country" further to the north is, to all appearance, very much disturbed.

To the south of the shaft, the headings, after crossing two faults, first a down fault of 2 ft. 6 in., and second an up fault of 3 ft., have been driven for a distance of 300 yards towards the southern boundary, beyond which the Company have acquired on lease from other owners another area of coal. In this direction the land rises, and in consequence the direct pressure on the coal-pillars increases. This being so, it would be advisable, especially if there is any intention of working the pillars, to increase their area or thickness. It is always safer and easier to work pillars having ample marginal strength than those of a size barely sufficient to sustain the pressure of the superincumbent strata. The proportion of large coal in the case of large pillars is also greater.

The

The area covered by surface deposits of unknown character or thickness is comparatively small. So far as the Commission could ascertain, this area is confined to the lagoon, and its diverging or trumpet-shaped mouth or entrance to the ocean. It may be that the course of the basalt dykes, that have meantime stopped operations to the north of the shaft, may cut this area off from the southern workings; but if not, the Commission would recommend that the proprietors should at once ascertain, by borings, the thickness and extent of these deposits. From the sorrowful experience of some of their number, with regard to the liability of basalt dykes to let down the waters of the ocean under circumstances very similar to those at Burwood, they would caution the management to be extremely careful in unnecessarily stripping or penetrating these intrusive dykes under tidal influence.

The Commission heard with pleasure the views of Mr. Pendleton (the manager) as to the precautions, that in his opinion, it was necessary to take in approaching submarine mining, and they hope that the same caution and crudition will be displayed in approaching a part of the coast by underground workings, where, from the very want of knowledge of that which exists, caution is essential and the best indication of a manager's ability.

OCEAN COAL-GRANTS OR LEASEHOLDS.

Under this general designation the Commission include seven large areas of coal underlying the waters of the Pacific, and extending seaward in one instance to a distance of 190 chains, or nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from high-water mark.

The ocean coal-leases that have been granted by Government, opposite or against the collieries described and reported upon, are shown on plan No. 1, Appendix. These are as follows:—1st, a grant or lease of coal under 40 acres, along the foreshores of the Pacific, to T. Cowlshaw, and another grant to T. Garrett, of coal, under 640 acres, under the ocean, now transferred—so it is understood—to the Stockton Coal Company; 2nd, a grant or lease of coal, under portion of the harbour, and of the entrance thereto, known as the Oyster Bank, and measuring 530 acres, or thereby. 3rd, a grant or lease of coal, under the Pacific Ocean, to Messrs. Franck and Garrett, measuring 2,516 acres; 4th, a grant or lease of coal, under the Pacific Ocean, to the south of the last-named, in name of Jesse Gregson, and measuring 2,560 acres; 5th, a grant or lease of coal, along the foreshores of the Pacific Ocean, south of the last leasehold, and opposite the low sand-covered land already referred to, made to Mr. Merewether, and measuring 1,280 acres; and 7th, a lease of coal, south of the above, extending for a distance of half a mile from the shore, acreage unknown, to a Mr. Constable.

STOCKTON OCEAN GRANT OR LEASE.

To the north, against Stockton Peninsula, an area of 680 acres, applied for by Mr. T. Garrett and Mr. Cowlshaw, since transferred to the Stockton Coal Company. This grant commences 30 chains north of the shaft by a narrow strip 20 chains wide, and continues of this width along the beach for about 30 chains. The depth of the sea on the Oyster Bank, on the outside of this narrow strip, may be about 20 or 21 feet at low-water.

Where this ends to the north the principal grant begins. Its southern boundary extends due east into the Pacific for a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The west boundary extends northwards along the sandy shores of the Peninsula for a distance of $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles, and includes the ocean opposite the narrow neck of land so frequently referred to. From this point the northern boundary extends at right angles to the beach seawards for a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, while the eastern boundary is a straight line connecting the terminal points of the north and south boundaries.

No soundings whatever have by the lessees been taken over this ocean area, while those given on the Admiralty charts are at distances too great to be of any value.

From the Admiralty chart of the coast over this area, the soundings would indicate a gradual slope of the sand-covered coast seaward. The water increases about 20 feet in depth for every 40 chains. It is apparently only 80 feet deep at a distance of $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the shore. Particular soundings every 100 yards or so might reveal a less regular sea-bottom, while borings, which are after all the most essential precaution to adopt, at stated intervals would enable a specific opinion to be formed regarding the practicability or feasibility of working coal under the ocean at this part.

The coast is an unbroken line of sand, not a rock being visible on it for some miles. From section *d d*, and the records given on sheet 11 of bores Nos. 31, 32, 33 to 36, the nature of the surface deposits over the low sandy peninsula opposite this ocean grant will be gathered. Almost opposite the southern boundary of this grant, bores No. 33-5, first penetrated the surface deposits at a depth of 164 ft.

In the centre of the neck of land the surface deposits have increased to 193 ft. in thickness, with 53 ft. of strata, of which 8 ft. consists of coal and shale above the coal-seam—here only 6 ft. 9 in. thick. These deposits almost entirely consist of quicksand, and other attempts to pierce them with a number of bores have failed. The tendency of these deposits is to increase (especially the quicksand) in thickness towards the north.

The very difficult nature of these deposits may be gathered from the foot-note of Mr. Inspector Dixon, who kindly supplied the Commission with the record of bores put down by himself and his father some years ago, wherein he states that so "quick" was the sand that it was necessary to force the tubes down almost to the coal head. Mr. Croudace, in his evidence, gives additional particulars (see replies to questions 3395-3400, 3407), and corroborates other witnesses in stating that the sand is held in suspension, and that the sea-water rises and falls with the tide. In reply to question 3401, Mr. Croudace endorses Mr. Dixon's opinion as to the thinning of the rock above the coal to the north. Jas. Harrison (question 1844-6) gave a graphic account of the extremely difficult nature of this surface.

The Commission agree with the opinion of the Examiner of Coal-fields (question No. 3370), and Mr. Dixon, Inspector of Collieries, that extreme caution must be exercised in winning coal under conditions such as these under the dry land; indeed, precautions of no ordinary description will be necessary to ensure safety; and, after looking at this in the broadest and most favourable and national aspect, are inclined to agree with Mr. Croudace (see question 3408), that the winning of the coal beneath the ocean under conditions such as those we suppose exist *cannot* be safely undertaken.

Until

Until it can be established on perfectly reliable data that coal exists beneath the ocean, covered by strata unmistakably more favourable than that which overlies the coal-seam on the peninsula, it would be imprudent if not unwise to make any systematic attempt to work coal under this ocean lease.

The disturbed character of the ground already opened up in Stockton Colliery has been adverted to, but nothing whatever is known of the coal under the Pacific. The inference and strong probability is, however, that it will be intersected by faults of the same description as have already been met with.

To the south of the harbour a large dolerite dyke intersects the north-east corner of Signal Hill or the Battery, and this can be traced intersecting the strata towards the shore side of the Oyster Bank. Nobby's also, as has been described, is cut through by a similar and perfectly defined intrusive dyke, the course of which is apparently towards the narrow neck of land. These are by no means comforting indications or prospects, but they cannot be disregarded, and have influenced the Commission to some extent in forming an opinion on this ocean leasehold. These faults are seen, and can be estimated; but it is impossible to estimate those that may and are likely to occur in disturbed country, and which from surrounding physical reasons, although unseen, may be anticipated.

Attention has already been directed to the depth at which the coal-seam was found in bores Nos. 32 and 35. The circumstance of the apparent discrepancy in the levels, as well as the unmistakable alteration that has occurred to the coal-seam itself, is corroborative evidence, and suggestive of a disturbed condition of the strata in the vicinity of these bores.

No borings or special soundings have been made for the purpose of ascertaining the depth of water, or the thickness (if any) of the sand above the rock at specific points over this ocean leasehold. The lessees possess no knowledge that can assist them in forming an opinion on the risks attending the working of coal under the ocean; nor do they appear to have as yet discussed this subject. The comparatively small area of land held by the Company on the peninsula may force a consideration of this important question within many years. The somewhat awkward position of the leasehold—lying seaward of a coal-field owned by an extensive existing Colliery Company—may suggest some arrangement with conterminous proprietors as to modification of boundaries, or for proving the property at joint expense.

The Commission cannot in the absence of specific information do more than give emphasis to the evidence of every witness whom they examined, and who could speak with a knowledge of the conditions existing at the peninsula of Stockton, that the very greatest of care and judgment must be continually exercised, and that the working of a leasehold such as this should only be resolved upon after every particular necessary to arrive at a decision has been ascertained, weighed, and discussed in a dispassionate and intelligent manner.

HETTON GRANT.

It has already been explained that the whole of the coal held by this Company is held on lease from Government, and is entirely covered by the tide. The coal under the harbour, between the dyke and the foreshore of Stockton Peninsula, is

is held under one lease. The present grant, applied for by W. A. Hutchison, includes the south end, (Horseshoe Bend,) of the harbour and the triangular offing between the breakwater, Stockton, and the southern boundary of the grant belonging to the Stockton Coal Company. This comprises an area of about 530 acres. Owing to the semi-lunar shape of the leasehold belonging to the Company, every fault that intersects the strata under the city of Newcastle, or under Signal Hill, or the Nobby's, as well as others that are supposed to exist at the entrance to the harbour (see evidence, Mr. John Dixon's reply to question 2,938), will assuredly intersect this remarkable leasehold.

The depth of water on the Horseshoe Bend varies between 26 to 40 ft., and this increases to about 82 to 85 ft. at the eastern boundary beyond the Oyster Bank.

In the absence of any borings, the Commission do not consider that the rock will be overlaid with any considerable thickness of superficial deposits under the anchorage, the thickness of the sand found in Stockton being in all probability replaced by water. On the southern shores of the harbour the rock is seen along high-water mark. At the south end of the dyke, as has been referred to when discussing Bullock Island Colliery, rock is found at a depth of from 12 to 14 ft. under low-water mark. Opposite the southern apex of Stockton Peninsula, and about 130 yards from the foreshore, rock is found at a depth of 24 ft. at low-water, so that the 66 ft. of sand passed through in Stockton Shaft has been caused by one of those sudden on-takes of surface so frequently seen where sandstone measures, somewhat disturbed, have been subjected to violent erosion.

From a consideration of these circumstances, the Commission entertain the opinion that the solid strata is unlikely to be covered by any considerable thickness of clay or silty deposits. There is a certainty of this leasehold being broken and disturbed and intersected by several intrusive dykes, by more than one fault, and very probably by an east and west fault of some magnitude, that must, if found, exercise a most prejudicial influence on mining operations.

Disclaiming any desire to entertain pessimist views on a totally unproved field, the Commission, from their past experience of mining under similar circumstances, and bearing in view the physical phenomena seen on the coast-line and in the coal-workings of Stockton, would suggest that, as nothing is known of the sea-bottom over this grant, the line of the known intrusive dykes be approached with the utmost caution and regard for safety. It is possible that these intrusive dykes may not give off any serious amount of water on being penetrated with drives or mines. This will depend on the nature of the deposits that overlie the rock. Under very similar circumstances—it is within the experience of members of the Commission—large volumes of sea-water have obtained access to extensive mines from open “cutters” or joints that are so common in basaltic rock.

FRANCK AND GARRETT'S LEASEHOLD.

This embraces an area of 2,516 acres; its north-western boundary is the breakwater that joins Signal Hill to the Nobby's, and runs out to sea about 1 mile beyond the end of the breakwater.

The

The southern boundary forms the northern boundary of the lease granted to Jesse Gregson, Esq., the general superintendent of the A. A. Company. It extends seaward in a south-west direction for a distance of about 2 miles.

The eastern boundary is a line running seaward about north 3° east for 2 miles, while the north-eastern boundary joins the apexes of the north-west and eastern lines.

So far as the Commission are aware this leasehold, measuring 4 square miles, does not include any dry land, but is entirely under the ocean, outside the breakwater and Nobby's. The part of the foreshore to the west of this lease is rocky. At Signal Hill a basalt dyke cuts off the corner of the lease (see plan 1).

Another intrusive dyke intersects Nobby's and has transmuted the aluminous and silicious schists that overlies the "yard" coal.

It is, of course, impossible to form an opinion as to whether other faults exist seaward, or the influence that these will have upon the lower coal seam. Judging from the destruction done to the coal at Stockton by intrusive dykes, the prospect is not of a reassuring description. It is, however, right to mention that the occurrences in Stockton Colliery are of a unique character, and that it is unlikely that the same prejudicial effects will be noticeable over the whole coal-field.

Intrusive dykes are at all times objectionable features of a coal-field, especially so in a leasehold property where the rock overlying the coal forms the bed of the ocean. The liability of igneous rock to form joints and fissures in the process of contraction during the cooling stage is well known, and large volumes of water have, as has been remarked, been let into coal-workings by tapping or driving mines through these from this cause. So far as the Commission know, no clay overlies the rock or forms the bottom of the ocean. Such a deposit, by filling up the surface inequalities or fissures, would of course exercise a material influence in preventing the admission or passage of water downwards.

No attempt has been made to ascertain the exact character of the bottom, or the depth of water covering this large leasehold. While the Admiralty Chart shows a depth of only 60 feet at the extreme north-east corner, gradually shallowing towards the shore; the particular chart of Newcastle Harbour (sheet 14A, Appendix), gives a depth of 82 feet at a distance of about 400 yards from the breakwater. The depth of water over this and similar leaseholds, where the rock above the coal forms the sole protection against accidents, is of supreme importance. The waves thundering on shoals, and rolling over rocky bottoms of this exposed coast expend an incalculable force over and above the direct weight of the water. As the whole and sole measure of safety of coal workings, underlying a leasehold such as this, lies entirely on the soundness and integrity of the rock overlying the coal-seam, it is manifest that the danger of a coal mine existing under the rocky bed of the ocean must be measured by the thickness and character of sound strata that intervene between the coal at any particular spot and the ocean.

Throughout the investigations the Commission, impressed with the knowledge that the roof of the Borehole seam contains greybacks, or joints that break the continuity or cohesion of the roof where they occur, directed the attention of many of the witnesses to this point, with a view to ascertain whether, in the case of a leasehold

(say)

(say) such as this, it would not be wisdom to stipulate that a minimum thickness of strata (and the thickness graduated to circumstances) shall always exist above the coal, and to forbid mineral to be worked where at least the minimum thickness of strata does not exist. In some instances the witnesses saw the importance of the question, and generally acquiesced in the reasonableness of the proposition. In the majority of instances, however, the witnesses considered the provision might be felt as an arbitrary one (see T. Croudace, question No. 3,511), and would lead to abuse, and be considered as an irritating and harassing interference. On the other hand, A. Ross (No. 2,327) thought this might be a wise proceeding.

The Commission would deprecate all attempts to harass or restrain the great industry of coal-mining, but in the case of this and similar leaseholds, where the coal is likely to be won under conditions entirely novel to the Colony, there can be little hardship felt in imposing sensible restrictions, with the sole object of preventing or averting danger to life, and this before any attempt has been made to utilize the leasehold.

The Commission are fully impressed with the gravity of the question, but the absence of information essential to its intelligent consideration prevents them from discussing it with the freedom it deserves.

Without attempting to do more than enunciate general principles, they are convinced, (and they feel it must be self-evident), that a minimum thickness of strata is essential to the security of any coal-workings prosecuted under the ocean; and in calculating or arriving at this minimum, an ample allowance must be made for the occurrence of contingencies which may be anticipated, but cannot be foreseen or narrowly calculated, such as the impact of waves on a sloping sea bottom, "grey-backs" in the rock, sudden inequalities, ravines or depressions of the rock-surface, or of fissures and "faults," all of which are liable to occur and to weaken the strength of the roof. As the power of a roof to resist pressure under normal conditions is dependant to a great extent on the form, arrangement, and area of the coal-pillars left for its support, as well as the width of the bords, due allowance should of course be made for, and consideration given to, the system of winning that is pursued.

The opinion of every witness examined went to show that the custom of the district as to width of bords and thickness of pillars cannot be pursued with impunity in mining coal under the ocean, and that material alterations in the system would be necessary. The consensus of opinion was that the width of the bords must be reduced, and the thickness of pillars increased.

Presumably with the object of increasing the width of the bords, some witnesses of repute proposed to support the roof by a system of wooden chocks. On this subject the Commission may at once state that they do not approve of such a proposal, because timber in the atmosphere of a mine is not everlasting, but is liable to speedy decay. As they see no way of renewing these supports, and as their cost would probably exceed the saving effected in the width of the bords they would permit of, they prefer the easier, less experimental, and more reliable support afforded by an increased area of pillars.

As showing the necessity of allowing an ample margin, and giving a wide berth in calculating a minimum thickness of the strata, the Commission would again draw the attention of your Excellency to the circumstance that the thickness of the strata dividing the "yard" from the Borehole seam is extremely variable, and this too over comparatively limited distances. At Burwood the thickness of the divisional strata is only 77 feet at bore No. 26, on the foreshore at Shepherd's

herd's Hill, the thickness has increased to about 170 feet, while in Stockton Colliery 149 feet separates these coal-seams. The cause of this thickening need not be discussed here. The comparatively sudden alteration of the thickness is, however, the point that invests this with special interest and importance while considering these ocean leaseholds and the margin of safety that should be allowed. In the face of stratifications subject to sudden alteration, not only in quality or character but in thickness, the danger of calculating thickness from an average pitch of strata below ground in connection with soundings only above must be apparent. In this case probably nothing short of borings to the actual coal-seam afford the necessary information with the accuracy required.

JESSE GREGSON'S OCEAN LEASEHOLD

Embraces an area under the Pacific Ocean of 4 square miles, and extends, in the shape of a paralelogram, for a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles seawards. It is delineated on plan No. 1. The western boundary is confined to the rocky coast-line of Shepherd's Hill against the original grant of the A.A. Company as well as the reserve of Newcastle.

The lessee is the General Superintendent of the extensive estates of the Australian Agricultural Company, and it is presumably in the interests, and for and on behalf of his company, that this ocean-lease has been secured.

The coast-line is rocky and precipitous over a considerable portion of the foreshore, comparatively deep water coming up to the precipices, especially towards the southern part of the western boundary.

Over the major portion of the coast-line the position of the "yard" coal can be traced, while towards the south the workings from the F pit in that coal-seam went out "to day" on the sea cliffs.

The intrusive dykes showing at Nobby's at Signal Hill, and on the coast under the old gaol (close to the northern boundary), will intersect this property. The fault shown on plan No. 1, in proximity to the public baths, will likewise intersect, at an acute angle, the shore end of this large leasehold.

Bore No. 26, on the foreshore, was put down some years ago, and reached the Borehole coal-seam at a depth of 158 feet.

At this part the stratum that divides the "yard" seam from the Borehole seam appears to attain its maximum thickness, and thins to the south and north and towards the east.

The Company having secured the lease of coal under the ocean, commenced to open a new working near to their old F pit, on the lower slopes of Shepherd's Hill. This is called the "New Winning," and its position is approximately shown on plan No. 1. The winding-shaft of this winning is considerably advanced, and there is every indication that the colliery is intended to be opened on an extensive scale.

It is at present proposed to isolate this from the present working collieries to the west, by leaving a solid and thick barrier of coal in event of any inundation occurring.

This

This colliery will, of course, work a comparatively large area of land under Shepherd's Hill; but it is undoubtedly the intention of the Company to lay it off with the special object of winning the coal from underneath the waters of the Pacific.

The Commission entertain no doubt that from the resources at the command of this powerful Company, and the experience they have gained in coal-mining, the winning of coal under the ocean will be conducted in the most systematic and regular manner, and with that regard for safety which may be expected from a wealthy Corporation, who for many years have been the owners of large and well regulated collieries that have taken a leading place in the coal-mining industry of the Colony. Still the Commission would draw your Excellency's attention to the circumstance that no evidence whatever exists as to the character of the sea-bottom over this leasehold, or the thickness of strata that may overlie the coal-seam at any particular spot, whether the seam extends under the whole or only a part of it, and if the latter, how and in what manner it is cut off.

Coal-mining in Britain has for years been conducted on an extensive scale under the ocean, but at depths so great as to preclude any fear of the workings being inundated. The colliery manager of this Company (and who is one of the members of the Commission) has had much experience in the mining of coal at Seaham Harbour, one of the deep collieries referred to, and may therefore be relied upon to lay and carry out a system of working, so far as he is concerned, in a manner that will leave little to be objected to; but the Commission, impressed with a sense of their duty, would desire to point out that as coal-mining under the ocean is likely to be inaugurated in this leasehold, and by a Company which there is every reason to believe will conduct their operations in a regular manner, with a single eye to safety, it is most desirable that certain points connected with mining in this locality should be clearly pointed out and recognized.

The Commission have no reason to believe that any plastic material, such as clay, or any deposits of a cohesive description underlie the bed or bottom of the ocean, over this large ocean area. The soundings shown in the small scale Admiralty Charts are far too meagre to serve as a guide to the Commission. Soundings of a more elaborate and particular description are necessary before drawing any definite conclusions on this point. At about half a mile from the coast, a depth of 60 feet is shown, at a distance of a mile, a depth of 90 feet is given, at two miles, 114 feet; and about the same at each boundary of the concession. Along the southern boundary-line the depths have slightly increased.

The Commission, in the absence of positive information and data, feel that there is reason to believe that the same ledges and irregularities which are apparent on the surface of the sandstone formation overlying the coal where it occurs on dry land will characterize the same rocks in the bed of the ocean; that is to say, that ravines, fissures, and depressions may be anticipated to occur over the ocean bed.

The "yard seam" is seen to outcrop over a large portion of this leasehold at horizons varying from a few feet and upwards above the level of high water, the level depending to some extent upon the influence of "faults" that are known to intersect the concession. At Bore No. 26, on the seashore towards the southern boundary, the "yard seam" appears to be separated from the Borehole seam by about 170 feet of solid strata. The Commission are disposed to think that the protection afforded by 170 feet of
rock

rock (*minus the depth of water*) will not give much marginal security when a proper allowance is made for fissures, ledges, greybacks, depressions, or disturbed strata, and when to these the tremendous force or impact of the waves is superadded. The fact must not be overlooked *that the strength of this rock is the strength only of the weakest part of it*. This from physical reasons may be difficult to ascertain. The Commission are not aware of any systematic attempt having been made in the older mining countries to win a similarly thick coal under conditions as to depth anything approaching those existing here. Some extensive mines in the north of England have prosecuted their mining works under tidal rivers, and have conducted the operations with scrupulous care. Many years ago, Percy Main Colliery was flooded, from the Tyne penetrating the workings. A similar catastrophe occurred in a Cumberland coal-mine; while within recent years a very great volume of sea-water obtained access to a coal-mine in the east of Scotland in the process of driving a mine through a basalt dyke, at a depth of 500 feet below the surface. These may doubtless be supplemented by innumerable instances of mining under rivers or the ocean, where no accident has occurred. To all intents, the extensive collieries in England and north of Europe, where coal-seams are won under the open spaces existing in the Magnesian limestone or chalk, are really in the position of mines that work coal under reservoirs of water, that, if it obtained access to the workings, no pumping power could probably ever surmount. Still, the great depth of the mines and the care and exactitude, and the perfect regularity of the system of mining pursued, have removed them from the category of dangerous mines.

The great thickness of the coal seam, and the comparative thinness of the strata separating the bed of the ocean from the top of the coal, the knowledge that the ocean-bed is disturbed by faults and may be liable to depressions or fissures, and the anxiety felt at a knowledge of these circumstances by the Commission, are the reasons why they deem it their duty to specially draw the attention of your Excellency to the subject.

So far as this leasehold is concerned, they consider that the working of coal under it will not be attended with any greater difficulty or danger than in the case of others. Indeed, the knowledge of the ample resources of the owners, and the reputation and experience they have gained in conducting large collieries with order and regularity, is probably the best security that can be had of the careful and wary manner the working of coal under the ocean will be conducted. They feel that to such a Company any suggestions, from whatever source they come, and that are calculated to obviate danger, will be esteemed and cordially acted upon.

MEREWETHER'S OCEAN LEASEHOLD.

The lease embraces 1,280 acres of the ocean-bed, and extends along the coastline from the southern boundary of the A.A. Company's leasehold for a distance of 3 miles, extending out to sea for a distance of 50 chains.

The leasehold includes the ocean against the frontage or property of the owner, and at present leased to the Newcastle Coal-mining Company and the Burwood Coal Company.

The form of the leasehold is shown on plans Nos. 1 and 8. The northern part embraces the sea opposite the low valley or sand-covered beach to the south of Shepherd's Hill. The thickness of the surface deposits under this is unknown.

It is probable that the coal-workings of the Newcastle Coal-mining Company's B pit will eventually proceed under this low part of the coast; and the Commission, when dealing with the workings from this shaft, expressed the hope that the Company would adopt measures with the object of ascertaining exact data concerning the thickness and character of the deposits in this part.

The knowledge that certain faults have a trend towards this valley suggests that these may have been in part the cause of this depression, now filled with surface deposits.

The top of the Borchole seam is found at a depth of 177 feet, of which 80 feet is composed of clay and surface. The absence of any data as to the thickness of the surface deposits in the valley, especially towards the sea-coast, is of itself sufficient reason for the Commission to discourage any attempt to work coal—certainly eastward of the sea-beach—until most reliable information in this direction has been obtained.

The soundings given on the Admiralty chart show a depth of 60 feet at a distance of 50 chains seaward of Shepherd's Hill. Opposite the low sand coast-line this depth has increased to 80 feet, and at the southern extremity (south of Burwood Lagoon) the same depth of 80 feet obtains.

The disturbed condition of the strata of the coast-line over the major part of this foreshore demands that exceeding care be taken in this part. If the Commission may be permitted to express an opinion, by weighing surrounding circumstances only, they would be inclined to doubt the propriety of mining under the bed of the ocean in a leasehold wherein the continuity of the strata is so much broken by faults as it appears to be in this neighbourhood. The difficulty of dealing with faults, superadded to the restrictions or modifications necessary to secure safety, may prove a burden greater than the majority of collieries would in all likelihood be able to bear.

In the opinion of the Commission it would be inadvisable, if not reprehensible, for lessees to commence a colliery to work coal under the sea, in positions such as this, until they had first obtained ample and unquestionable data, in order to enable them to form opinions and arrive at conclusions, so that their mining works could be laid out in a system evolved from a knowledge of the facts, and calculated to ensure safety and inspire confidence.

The above remarks apply equally to Constable's leasehold, situated to the south of the above. So far as the Commission are aware, the owner of this does not possess one square yard of dry land; and, as the minerals under the surface adjoining the leasehold have been let or leased, it is difficult to understand how the owner proposes to utilize his possession.

From their inspection of the collieries embraced in this report, and the opinions or views of the numerous witnesses examined, the Commission have already, as the condition of each colliery was considered, expressed their views on the salient points that had a distinct and specific bearing upon their condition; and, having directed the attention of the several witnesses to the prospective scene of operations of those

those collieries that contemplate the mining of a thick coal-seam under tidal waters or the ocean, desire, in concluding their report "On the condition of the collieries adjacent to Ferndale"—to summarize briefly the points that they, as practical men connected in their various capacities with mining pursuits, believe should be observed on the part of those whose duty it will be to conduct these operations.

The comparatively shallow depth to the lower coal-seam in the collieries enumerated, renders it necessary that the most accurate and trustworthy information should be obtained, not only of the depth of water and character of the sea-bottom, but (in collieries mining under the delta) of the thickness and character of the deposits that overlie the rock, some of which (such as clay) it has been seen add so materially to the security and safety of the mines. From a sincere desire to ensure safety to life and security to mining works, the Commission—looking to the thickness of the strata overlying the coal-seam in the case of these leaseholds (ocean) where, it is probable, no surface deposits exist and the rock itself may form the bed of the ocean—consider that, as the workings would be extended, so to speak, towards the unknown (although it may appear arbitrary and to some extent may restrict operations), a minimum thickness of solid strata should—indeed, must—intervene between the top of the coal and the bed of the ocean. In the case of undoubted proof of strong plastic clay overlying the rock-head, due consideration should be given to that circumstance. To the north of Stockton the surface deposits are, so far as proven, of so ominous a nature, that, unless carefully conducted operations reveal improved conditions, the Commission do not at present see any practicable method whereby mining operations can with safety be conducted under the ocean at that part of the district.

The Commission are fully aware that, so far as they know, no restrictions such as those indicated have been as yet considered necessary in Britain or her Colonies; but they are likewise unaware of coal-mining being prosecuted under similar circumstances. The peculiar conditions of the coal-fields under consideration is in their opinion a justification for calling attention thus early to the sources from whence danger may be apprehended. The Coal Mines Regulation Act enforces certain precautions being observed in approaching suspected danger.

The Commission cannot distinguish any reason why these precautionary measures should not be extended, with a view to avert danger from a source novel to colonial coal-mining and not contemplated when the Act of 1876 was passed.

Considering that several collieries are producing comparatively large outputs of coal *before the second outlet has been provided*, the Commission consider that the provisions of the English Act in respect to second or outlet shafts might with advantage be substituted in lieu of those in the existing Coal-fields Regulation Act, 1876. Strong opinions have been expressed pointing to the necessity of sinking the two shafts simultaneously. In the case of a known and proven coal-field, this might not prove to be any hardship. As, however, the collieries that are likely to be sunk for many years to come will be to a great extent experimental, and considering the very variable nature and quality of the coal-seams, an enactment compelling the expenditure of a large capital on trial works of a duplicate character would certainly fetter the industry and be productive of no corresponding good results. The provisions of the English Act, *limiting the time* when a second outlet must be completed, and the number of men that may be employed at one time (to 25), until the second outlet is provided, would probably serve all the purposes required.

The

The measure of safety that the workers in collieries such as that indicated will enjoy may be gauged by the degree of order, system, and regularity that is insisted upon by the management. Perfect discipline and strict observance on the part of the workmen of any rule rendered necessary for the better protection of life and property, and this, with diligent, careful, and regular inspection on the part of the officers appointed by the Government, will materially contribute towards this end.

The workings should be laid off systematically and conducted carefully, and the width of bords and thickness of pillars strictly adhered to; and any laxity or carelessness on the part of the workmen should be instantly met by the imposition of a suitable fine, and in the case of continued negligence, by some easily obtained and summary form of punishment.

In the case of collieries working under the conditions anticipated, the coal-workings should be accurately surveyed every term, and the coal taken out during the previous term represented by some conspicuous colour, and the dates of such surveys affixed in ink. Colliery plans should be a faithful and honest record of all faults and occurrences that are met with in the mine; and the workings should be delineated on them *as they are*, not *as they were intended to be*. They should also have delineated on them the leading surface or topographical features, and this applies equally to ocean leaseholds and those on the mainland.

In one road of every pair of "winning off" or leading headings or levels a bore should be kept going (say) 9 feet in advance for the purpose of foretelling the presence of any fissure, open joint, or fault, or otherwise; and in the case of workings under the ocean, all winning off heading or level should be driven at least one hundred yards in advance of the working bords.

The width of the bords and the area and arrangement of pillars, while they ought in all cases to be graduated to suit circumstances, such as depth, character of roof, floor, or particular conditions overhead—in the case of collieries working under the ocean at the limited depths referred to (and without reference to the ordinary circumstances that should regulate the width and thickness or area of bords and pillars), may fairly be considered in a special light. The impossibility of calculating the conditions of the superincumbent strata and the forces that repose in the ocean, makes it necessary, in the opinion of the Commission, to increase the ordinary margin considered sufficient for the safety of a mine. As no attempt, under these circumstances, could be made to work out or recover pillars, it becomes necessary to consider the coal pillars as so much mineral won, or impossible to recover for this reason. The size of pillars must be such as to afford ample support *after* exposure to the crumbling effect of the air over many years.

The Commission are therefore of opinion that the thickness of pillars should be materially increased beyond that generally considered necessary in the district. The strength of these pillars may be increased by a judicious arrangement of cut-throughs and roads, so as to have as few roads intersecting or branching from a main road at one place as possible. Zig-zagging pillars, with respect to cut-throughs, may be advisable. The width of bords in the district is 8 yards. In the case of collieries working under the above conditions, this width would, in the opinion of the Commission, court disaster. The width of bords should be materially reduced, and the greatest care taken to secure the roof with timber. In these general opinions the

Commission

Commission are supported by almost every witness who submitted himself for examination. While many of these gentlemen condescended upon specific widths of bords and thickness of pillars, the Commission prefer, in the absence of particular and detailed information, to enunciate general opinion only, and to repeat that while these should be graduated or fixed by a knowledge of all the circumstances, yet it might be advisable to state that in the case of ocean leaseholds a minimum thickness of (say) 8 yards for pillars, or maximum width of 6 yards for bords, might be insisted upon, leaving the management free to exercise their discretion in altering these (by increasing the maximum thickness or decreasing the minimum width) so as to increase the general safety.

Knowing the tendency that "faults" possess of weakening the roof, and of permitting the passage of water through the broken material that is frequently found along their line, or through open joints in their substance, it would be well in discovering a fault or fissure in a bore to take precautions against possible danger from this source before opening it up by the drive.

In the case of some of these Ocean leaseholds it may be impossible; but when possible, the coal underlying the ocean should be attacked only after a large "goaf" has been made by extensive coal-workings under the main land. This, in addition to special and unusual facilities being provided for the escape of men by the shafts, would afford a measure of security difficult to over-estimate.

The Commission, aware of the impossibility of preventing accidents by Act of Parliament, and the danger of absolute rules, are confident, in pointing out some of the general lines in which protection to life and property can best be secured, and allowing ample scope for skilful management, that greater benefits will probably result than by recommending regulations of a hard and fast and unbending nature, that would be found in practice to be unworkable, to bear with especial severity on individuals, and to induce results detrimental to an important industry.

It is obvious that if coal-mining is to be conducted under the precarious conditions narrated, it must of necessity be guided by managers thoughtful, experienced, and skilful, and under regulations and discipline that will eventually, by appealing to the reflective faculties of the workmen, impress and identify them with a sense of their individual and collective responsibility. It is possible that the chief security may be found to rest in the skill and thoughtful care of those engaged in these avocations.

JAMES R. M. ROBERTSON.
JOHN THOMAS.
WILLIAM TURNBULL.
JOHN JONES.
JAS. SWINBURN.
ARCHIBALD DURIE.
WILLIAM DAVIES.
J. Y. NEILSON.
JAMES CURLEY.
JOHN USHER.

Witness to signatures :

AUGUSTUS VIALOUX.

Newcastle, 13 October, 1886.

MONDAY, 9 AUGUST, 1886.

Present:—

J. R. M. ROBERTSON, Esq., PRESIDENT.

MR. JOHN USHER,
MR. J. Y. NEILSON,
MR. W. TURNBULL,
MR. J. JONES,

MR. A. DURIE.
MR. J. SWINBURN,
MR. W. DAVIES,
MR. J. THOMAS.

Hugh Walker sworn and examined:—

1. *President.*] What is your profession, Mr. Walker? I am a miner.
2. How long have you been in New South Wales? Twenty-seven years.
3. And before that? I was in Tasmania about three years, in Scotland part of the time, and I have been through the whole of America.
4. Have you followed the occupation of a miner all your life? Yes, I have been all my life following mining in its different departments.
5. Of late years I believe you have been engaged in sinking shafts? Yes, I have been so engaged during the last four or five years in this Colony.
6. Had you any experience of sinking shafts before the period you have mentioned? Yes. I may say that the principal part of my experience has been in that direction—both in Scotland and America, in my young days.
7. And in sinking in Scotland and America, had you any experience in sinking through soft surface deposits? Yes.
8. Did you put down the Wickham shaft in this district? I was one of those who sank that shaft.
9. What method did you adopt to pierce the surface deposits? We used cylinders.
10. Cast-iron cylinders? Yes.
11. Why did you elect to sink with cylinders? Well, in my opinion, they are the best.
12. Were you guided in your opinion by any bores put down when you started to sink the shaft? I did not put down the bore myself.
13. Was a bore put down in Fleming's land? Yes, on the corner of it.
14. Had that bore been put down some time before sinking with these cylinders? Yes.
15. For Potor Fleming? Yes.
16. Do you recollect the thickness of the surface deposit there? I think it was something like 35 ft. or 37 ft.
17. In the journal of a bore put down for Messrs. Walker and Wilde on the Linwood lease, now the Wickham and Bullock Island Company's leasehold, there is recorded 127 ft. 9 in. of surface deposits, including clay? I am only speaking of the sand as surface deposits.
18. The journal shows 40 ft. of sand first, and then, after passing through 50 ft. of clay, you get some coarse sand and gravel, then oyster-shells and mud; but you refer only to the sand? Yes, as surface deposit.
19. Had you any difficulty in sinking through the sand? No.
20. It gave you no trouble? No.
21. And you kept the cylinders going before you? Yes.
22. Then as to the clay—did you force the cylinders through the clay, or how did you proceed? We sank through to the clay, and then put timber in. She is timbered from about 9 ft. in the clay.
23. How many cylinders are there in Wickham shaft? 49 ft. of cylinders, and the rest is timbered.
24. What is the size of the shaft? 5 ft. 6 in.
25. What object had you in view in sinking such a small shaft? Well, there were only two of us, and the lease was only 50 acres, so we intended to comply with the law, which compelled us to sink two shafts, and we considered the small pit was quite sufficient to work out all the coal in the 50 acres.
26. You proposed to work with one rope in each shaft? Yes.
27. And you experienced no difficulty in sinking this shaft? No, none whatever. We had only to exercise care and attention.
28. Before commencing to sink the Wickham shaft, were you aware of previous attempts having been made to sink cylinders on the Stockton Peninsula? Yes, over on the Stockton side, on what belongs to the Lambton Company, between the Bluff Head and the Stockton Estate.
29. What is the diameter of the shaft there? 7 feet, I think, but I would not be sure for a few inches.
30. Do you know what the thickness of the surface deposit is there? I think there is 60 feet or 70 feet of sand there.
31. Were these cylinders successfully sunk at Lambton? No.
32. Are they plumb? I think not; but I would not be certain, as I only speak from hearsay.
33. Why did you say they were not successfully sunk? Because they jammed them up, and they could not go any further.
34. Do you know whether they have gone off the plumb? Yes; the surface shows her to be off the plumb.
35. Then the cylinders have canted? Yes; I think so.
36. Can you tell me the particular use of these small shafts as exploring shafts—what advantage do they possess? Well, there is no advantage gained by small shafts at all.
37. Would it not be easier and wiser to sink one a few feet larger than 5 feet? It cannot be easier to sink where there is the most stuff to come out. But apart from that, it is as easy to sink one 14 ft. or 15 ft. as 3 ft.
38. That is your answer? Yes.
39. With the knowledge before you of the Scottish Australian sinking, were you impressed with the necessity for exercising caution in regard to the surface deposits at Wickham? No; I cannot say that.
40. What did it impress you with? I never gave it a thought in that light, because when they first went at it I thought they would not get to the bottom of it.
41. For what reason? Well, they did not commence properly, and I thought they would not end properly.
42. How did they commence? I cannot tell that. I am only speaking of it as I saw it.

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43. The general mode of working did not impress you with the belief that they would reach their destination—is that what you mean? Yes; that was my belief.
44. Who was associated with you in the Wickham lease? Allan Wilde.
45. Is he in Newcastle at present? Yes; he lives at the Junction.
46. You experienced no particular difficulty in sinking to the coal at Wickham? None whatever—only the want of money.
47. Who supplied you with money—where were your principal sources of supply? There was Mr. J. Wood, and Mr. Corden of the Joint Stock Bank.
48. On reaching the coal, did you indulge in rejoicings? No; I do not know that we did.
49. Did you not have a banquet? Oh, yes; I think we did—a good bit after the coal was got.
50. Who did you invite to the banquet? I do not remember. There were a good many. There was Mr. Fletcher, and, I think, Mr. Neilson.
51. Did you invite the then Minister for Mines? No.
52. Or the Examiner of Coal-fields? I think he was invited.
53. Did he attend? I cannot be positive whether he did or not. It is so long since.
54. After the Wickham shaft was sunk, did you commence to work the coal? No; I only drove the heading 50 or 60 yards. I suppose Wilde carried it out.
55. Then Wilde succeeded you? Yes; I left then, as there was no use in two of us being there.
56. After the pit was sunk, is it the case that the coal was worked? Yes.
57. During these operations, did the Inspector of Collieries, Mr. Dixon, or the Examiner of Coal-fields, Mr. Mackenzie, inspect the workings? Yes.
58. How often did they inspect? Once in my time, I think. I was only up there a few days after the coal-working was commenced.
59. That is within a few days after the Wickham pit was sunk? Yes.
60. Was it Mr. Mackenzie who came there? Yes.
61. In what year was the Wickham pit sunk? It was about five years ago. I think it was in 1880.
62. In working the coal, are you aware whether the Government officials ever enjoined caution upon you or your partner in opening up the coal from Wickham pit? No; I do not think they did to me.
63. At all events they did not do it to you? No.
64. In reference to the safety of the working, did they enjoin caution upon you in the way you were opening up the mine? No.
65. Are you aware whether your partner, Mr. Wilde, was cautioned in this respect? No; I was not there.
66. When Mr. Mackenzie descended your pit shortly after you got the coal, did he congratulate you on your good fortune? I cannot say exactly, but I think he did. I believe he said, "Well, Walker, you have done now what everybody said you would not do"—that is, got down; it was generally believed we would never reach the coal, and it was said that those who gave us money to do so must be madmen. I think he made that remark when we were at the bottom of the pit—when he measured the section.
67. Then he measured the section? Yes.
68. Was any remark passed about the coal-seam? No; I do not think there was.
69. The clay on the surface descended to the coal head? For 40 or 50 feet; there was rock going down to the vices.
70. I believe Wickham and Bullock Island Collieries were amalgamated? Yes.
71. When were they amalgamated? It was shortly after we got the coal; I think it was in the year 1881.
72. Who was it that first brought about the amalgamation? It was through Garrett and Dr. Mackenzie.
73. Who was the go-between? I was myself.
74. Did Mr. Winchester take no part in it? He gave me a letter of introduction to Dr. Mackenzie.
75. After receiving a letter of introduction from Mr. Winchester, did you conduct your own negotiations? Yes, and carried them out.
- 75½. Did you have any conversation with him upon the subject of the amalgamation—as to the advisability of it or otherwise? Oh, yes; at different times.
76. Did Mr. Mackenzie have any conversation with you on the subject? No; I do not think I ever spoke to him on the subject.
77. It was confined to Mr. Winchester? Yes.
78. At that time, did you know that Mr. Winchester was a partner in the Bullock Island lease? He was not a partner then.
79. When did he become a partner? After the amalgamation took place.
80. How did he become a partner? Well, I gave him 200 shares myself.
81. Then, was he not a go-between? No; he never went between us at all. He gave me Dr. Mackenzie's address, and I went down that night, and before I left the thing was settled.
82. Was the Examiner of Coal-fields a partner in Bullock Island at that time? No; I think he was a partner, but not at that time.
83. Do you know when he purchased into the Company? I cannot say, but I believe he did hold an interest at one time.
84. Do you know whether he held an interest in Bullock Island when it was coaled or after it was coaled? He did not hold an interest in it till after it was coaled for many a day.
85. Are you certain of that? I am positive he did not.
86. Were you also the contractor for sinking Bullock Island shaft? Yes.
87. Did the Inspector of Coal-fields and the Examiner visit you during the progress of that work? Yes.
88. Did they convey any expression of opinion to you as to how you were going to succeed, or as to the value of the property? No; I do not think they did; at the same time they might make a casual remark upon the subject.
89. Did you experience any difficulty in sinking the cylinders in Bullock Island Colliery? No.
90. Did any portion of the surface give you any trouble? No; there was no trouble but what we expected. Of course there is trouble in them all.
91. You anticipated everything? Yes; you could not expect to get through without some trouble.
92. Did you force the cylinders down with weights until you came to the clay at Bullock Island? Yes.
93. And then how did you proceed? We forced them in until we came to the clay, and then we put them in plate by plate below.
94. Did any water come in with the clay in process of sinking? No.
95. The clay was impervious to water? Yes.

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96. When the pit was being sunk, did the Inspector or the Examiner give you any opinion as to the coal or the value of the property? No; not to my knowledge. I have heard him say it was a valuable property.
97. Do you mean the Examiner? Yes; I think it was Mr. Mackenzie.
98. Were you aware whether Mr. Winchester and the Examiner of Coal-fields were shareholders in the Bullock Island Colliery by the time you reached the coal there? I should say Mr. Winchester was, unless he had sold out.
99. Were they original or contributing shareholders; did they purchase into the Company, I mean? Well, Winchester was made a shareholder by Wilde giving him 200 shares, and me giving him 200 shares—that is, paid-up shares. How Mackenzie came to be a shareholder, I cannot say.
100. Mr. Winchester held none previously; are you aware whether he held any other interest or not? How do you mean?
101. I mean any other independent interest than you have spoken of? It is quite possible, but I cannot say.
102. Do you not know to the contrary? Know! I only know what I have stated.
103. But he might have held more? Yes.
104. Did you know Mr. Winchester's opinion of the colliery? Yes; he held a high opinion of it, I believe.
105. Has he any special knowledge of coal-mining? I do not know.
106. Do you know whether Mr. Mackenzie and Winchester are shareholders now? I do not know, I am sure.
107. Do you know whether Mr. Mackenzie has sold out or not? I cannot say.
108. Are you sure? I have heard that he did sell out; but whether he has sold out or not, I cannot say.
109. Do you know whether Mr. Mackenzie has since altered his opinion with regard to Bullock Island Colliery? I cannot say.
110. Have you had any conversation with him since the shaft was coaled? We had conversation at different times, but I do not think we have spoken for eighteen months.
111. Have you heard any disparaging report circulated as to Bullock Island Colliery? No; that is, I have heard that it was actually working under the water, and it was not safe. But I have not heard anyone say so who was competent to judge, and I paid no attention to such statements.
112. Do you recollect the nature of the surface passed through in sinking at Bullock Island? It is all clay ground and sand.
113. That is, 8 feet of sand and shells, and 9 feet of clay, and then the oyster-bed—is that so? There is 43 feet of sand, I think, and 3 feet of oyster-bed.
114. Was there any water in the oyster-bed? No, none at all.
115. And was there no water in the blue clay and gravel below that? Yes; there was water in the gravel.
116. That divides the clay? Yes.
117. And there was water in that? Yes.
118. Had you any difficulty in sinking through that? No; but we had some difficulty in sinking through the clay.
119. Did it give off much water? Yes; a good deal at first.
120. What strata did you cut into? A strong blue clay, then yellow clay, then the solid rock. It was a plastic clay.
121. You had come to yellow clay in Wickham? Yes; very thin.
122. What is the nature of the clay above the gravel bed and under the surface sand? A strong blue clay. In Bullock Island there is one small bed of rock 2 or 3 inches or 6 inches thick.
123. Is the upper clay a puddle clay? Yes.
124. And the yellow clay is very plastic? Yes; and so is the black clay below the gravel bed; it will not allow the water to come through it. That yellow clay is like indiarubber.
125. Does it resemble the brick clay of the west of Scotland? I cannot say. It is a puddle clay. I remember we used to go miles to get similar clay at Home for puddling back of the borings.
126. Does that clay form a good bed or protection to prevent the surface sand or water from coming down? Yes. My opinion is that neither surface sand nor anything else will go through it.
127. That is if the clay extends? Of course.
128. Then you look upon the clay as a perfect safeguard? Yes.
129. Do you know what area the clay extends over? No; I have only sunk in the two places.
130. You are sinking at Hetton at present? We have not got down that far yet. Steel put down one. But I do not know.
131. Does Steel's bore correspond with Bullock Island shaft as to the strata passed through? There is very little difference. The metals, I think, are thickening towards that way.
132. Have you the contract for sinking the cylinders at Stockton second shaft? Yes.
133. Does this clay extend over the Stockton ground? There is no clay in the little pit; but the clay in the bore of the old pit measured 30 feet. It is the same kind as that I have spoken of. You cannot pull it asunder.
134. That clay suddenly checks off a little to the north-east at Stockton, does it not? Yes.
135. Are you into the rock now? Yes.
136. Towards Maryville, do you know where the clay extends over Maryville? No; I never was over that way.
137. Have you not inquired? No.
138. Or towards the corner of the Maitland Road—Dangar's land? I think it runs out there altogether.
139. Then, Mr. Walker, as to the safe working of these collieries we have been talking of—say Bullock Island and Wickham—would you consider it was a desirable measure to put down rows of bores to ascertain the nature and extent of these surface and clay deposits? I do not see the use of it.
140. You have told us that at Stockton the clay checks out altogether within a short distance? My opinion is that it is caused by a roll or fault.
141. What I want to know is, would you consider it a desirable measure of precaution to ascertain the area of depression of that surface clay? In my opinion it would be a foolish waste of money, because with that thickness of clay it would be impossible for the surface to come in.
142. But you have given us an instance where the clay checks out. Let us suppose you were working coal with a very strong rock above, but depending upon a deposit of clay to prevent the surface deposits coming down, and you met a roll such as you have described, and you suddenly found that you had no clay

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- in front or above you, do not you think that you would be subjecting yourself to considerable danger? No, I do not think so; I think if I saw danger I should take means to stop it.
143. Could you always be prepared for the emergency? I have never seen rolls in my lifetime but what would tell me whether any danger was likely to come from the surface or not. The working would show me where danger was to be apprehended. My opinion is that putting down bores is as useless as a third wheel to a cart.
144. Why do you put down bores at all? I do not know.
145. You have stated that you get certain information at Stockton by that means? Yes, but out of ten bores that you put down you will not get half to correspond?
146. You say that this bed of clay is unevenly distributed over the area you have referred to. Surely in the case of ten bores put down within that area the ten bores must go through this yellow clay, and surely you must see it in the bores? No; it does not follow. I have seen plenty of bores go through a certain formation, and yet not cut it.
147. Would not that be through some irregularity on the part of the borers? No; it might be on account of the roll.
148. But if the quality of the clay is what you say it is, you must admit that if the clay exists the bore will show it? No; I have seen many a bore put down that did not show it.
149. What reason would you assign for that? I do not know what the reason is. It may be that when they put the chisel through it they did not want it known.
150. But if you were depending on this blue clay as a roof and protection from the surface deposits, surely you must admit it would be an advantage to know the area of distribution of that clay—it would be some advantage to know where the clay exists within a given area before going forward with the workings? It would be an advantage to have a tunnel driven through any fault. If you could turn up the whole of the surface and see what is on top of the coal, it would certainly be an advantage; but as to the necessity of it, I do not see it.
151. I am asking your opinion? Well, my opinion is that it is no use.
152. Do you really mean that it would be of no use and of no value to know what you have before you? How do you mean?
153. Do you, in working the coal, consider it is unnecessary to know what is before you? That is not the question. You asked me whether I thought it was necessary to put down bores, and I say no, because I do not believe it would let me know what I wanted.
154. I am asking you if bores can be put down that will give you a true record of the various deposits, would these prove an advantage to you? I do not know.
155. That is, you have no opinion? I have given you my opinion, I think.
156. Are the surface deposits at Hetton, so far as you know, similar to those at Bullock Island? Yes; but we are only to the sand at present.
157. What is the diameter of Hetton shaft? It is 16 feet.
158. How far are you down in these? 73 feet.
159. And you are putting on the plates in the bottom? No; we have to put them on now.
160. At the Stockton air-shaft, are you through the surface deposits? Yes.
161. And you have reached the rock? Yes.
162. What thickness are the surface deposits at Stockton air-shaft? There is about 60 feet of sand. We go through about 40 or 50 feet of drift sand before coming to the water-level at all.
163. At Hetton, had you anything to guide you as to the thickness of the surface deposits before coming to the rock? Nothing, except that bore that Steel put down.
164. What thickness did it give? About the same as Bullock Island—160 feet to the rock.
165. You have followed the occupation of a coal-miner during a long period of your existence. Have you any views to offer as to the conditions under which the coal seams beneath these thick surface deposits ought to be worked to insure safety? I do not see that you require to work this coal differently from any other where you have the same surface. You require to exercise caution whatever it may be like.
166. What, in your opinion, would be the proper method to work with safety? Well, I think there should be a proper distribution of pillars.
167. What would be a proper size of pillars, in your opinion? I should leave 6-yard pillars.
168. And what width of bords? From 7 to 8 yard bords.
169. You think there would be no necessity for a diminution of the width? No; I think the principal thing is to see the pillars kept of an uniform and a regular size.
170. Do you think any part of the safety would depend upon the width of the bords? If you have a soft roof the wider your workings are the better, as the coal comes away in a body, and there is no "cutting."
171. Would you recommend longwall working under soft roofs? No. The coal is too high for longwall. If it was a small seam, from 3 feet to 4 feet thick, and the coal were my own, I would not leave one ounce standing in it.
172. Supposing you came to a position in the course of working where the solid strata cut out altogether under the surface, and the clay came down, how would you proceed—would you still take out all the coal? With a roof of clay I would take the coal out with as much confidence as with a roof of rock.
173. Would you not take any extra precautions in working the coal under the harbour or under the sea in these collieries? No.
174. Are no extra precautions required as to width of bords? No. Of course there is necessity for caution there, as elsewhere.
175. Do you consider the roof strengthened by increasing the width of pillars and decreasing the width of bords? No; I do not see the use of it.
176. But going on the assumption that the roof is very good—and it is quite obvious that some precautions must be taken in working the coal under tidal waters or the ocean—would you strengthen or weaken the roof by leaving larger pillars than is customary, and decreasing the size of the bords? You must strengthen it that way, of course; but it is quite possible to give it that much strength that it would cut up as with a knife or scissors.
177. Then you would leave 6-yard pillars, and work 7-yard or 8-yard bords? My opinion is that in working the coal anywhere you want to distribute the pillars evenly, so that you would not have a pillar standing in one place 12 yards wide, and then go for a long distance without any pillars at all. If you are leaving a 6-yard or an 8-yard bord, leave your pillars in proportion to it. 178.

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178. You advocate regularity or uniformity in working? Yes.
179. I quite agree with you in that; but what I want to know is, would it add or contribute to the strength of the mine, say Bullock Island, for example, to work as I have stated, by increasing the size of the pillars and reducing the width of the bords? No.
180. Then you would advocate wider places? No; I would not advocate 10 or 12 yard bords.
181. Is it a fact or not that the wider you work the bords the more weight is thrown upon the pillars? Yes, because you will have the less coal there to stand it.
182. The pillars support everything above? Yes.
183. Then it follows that the wider you work the bords the more weight there must be on the pillars? Yes.
184. Proceeding from that, does it not come as a natural sequence that if you decrease the width of the bords you decrease the amount of weight upon every pillar? Yes; but still it does not allow any deflection to take place, and where no deflection takes place in soft coal she cuts.
185. You are now taking a case of your own. I was referring to the collieries under review? Well, I have said I can see no difference in working these from any other.
186. Define what you mean? Well, I always liked a wide bord myself, and it is the duty of the manager to see that the bords are kept of a uniform width. When I was working on the coal I would sooner have an 8-yard bord than a 6-yard bord.
187. Do you recollect any letters appearing in the Newcastle newspapers a few days after the Ferndale accident, written by different colliery managers—Mr. Croudace, for instance? Yes; I noticed one letter from Mr. Croudace.
188. Are you aware of the contents of that letter? I forget now. Something about the Delta Collieries, I think. I only saw one of two or three that he wrote. I did not pay much attention to it. As far as I recollect, it was a reflection upon the management, because he thought none of the Delta Collieries could be worked, except with a supervision on the management.
189. Were you alarmed when you saw that letter? Not in the least. I thought it was the raving of a madman.
190. In your opinion, were these letters calculated to create alarm in the minds of persons who know less than you? Yes; I know that it created alarm in the commercial world.
191. It unsettled people's minds? Yes. It was said Stockton and Hetton were going to the Devil now.
- 191½. As a matter of fact, then, these letters did create alarm? Yes; it was that which drew my attention to it. I was shown a paper containing the letter I have referred to.
192. Were the parties who drew your attention to these letters interested in the mine? Yes; at least the one who showed me a paper containing Croudace's letter was interested; he was a shareholder in Bullock Island; and he told me afterwards that he had sold his shares for something like 17s. per share, and he was sorry then that he had done so. I saw him the last time I was in Sydney.
193. What was the price of Bullock Island shares previous to those letters appearing? I think they were 22s.
194. And they dropped? Yes; it might have been that the Ferndale accident also had some effect upon the market. I know that I sold a number of Bullock Island shares for 27s. 6d. net, and I suppose there was 2s. or 3s. commission on the sale.
195. Have you any doubt in your mind that these letters did create alarm in the minds of a section of the public at least, and that the effect of the letters was also to depreciate the value of the shares? No; I have no doubt at all. The fact of the shares falling led me to believe that was the reason.
196. *Mr. Neilson.*] As to the working of coal under tidal waters, Mr. Walker, have you any knowledge of a quantity of coal being left in collieries round the Newcastle District under swamps or creeks? No; I have no such knowledge, for the reason that I never worked on the coal in the Newcastle District. All my work has been in the A.A. Company, and I have worked there till the sand and water and all have come away, but, as you see, I am here still.
197. Then you are not aware of large quantities of coal being left in some of the collieries in the district working under tidal creeks and swamps? No; there might be such for all I know.
198. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Suppose you met a fault or outcrop, or anything of that kind, where you thought there was a soft cover, how would you proceed for safety to drive into that, seeing that you think there is no necessity for bores down from the surface. If I struck a fault or roll that showed me there was an opening in the metals, I would take precautions, and be guided by what I saw. In Wickham we came to the seam where she showed the "Viese" right up into the sand; the clay kept it back.
199. Did the clay come down? Yes; and then we stopped it.
200. Could not the strata be proved by putting up holes from the bottom? The question would be, which was the cheapest. My opinion is that any fissures that may be met with will show the workman the way to provide for the safety of his work.
201. *Mr. Usher.*] Have you, in giving your very decided opinion on this subject, taken into consideration the very disturbed state of the ground round the harbour, and in all probability extending across the harbour? We have driven 500 yards in the Bullock Island pit without meeting anything more than a small slip about 7 inches.
202. Coming away from that, and going further north and west, you are aware of a dyke at Nobby's, taking which into consideration, and that the fault extends in that direction, does it not suggest to your mind the advisability or necessity of borings to the north? No; because the faults in Nobby's extend all the way.
203. Supposing, in driving northward in these collieries under the harbour, they were to meet with a dislocation or slip of strata, do you think there would be no danger there? I think it would choke itself. I have seen a slip 20 inches wide choked up with clay.
204. Then, knowing that several faults do exist to the north there, you would not make any borings, but would approve of the difficulties being dealt with as you met them? Yes. The nature of the fault would teach me how to deal with it.
205. Supposing you put down several bores within a given area, would not they tell you the nature of the deposits passed through? Yes; but they would not teach me where I was to meet with a fault between the distances.
206. Then you would not take any further precaution than to drive up to the fault? The only necessity I see for bores is in the opening up of a new field, to see whether there are likely to be any faults or not.

- Mr. H. Walker. 207. Did you ever hear of a colliery being inundated by water coming down by the side of a dyke or fault? No, not in a fault. I have known of two in my time, but not in the solid measures.
- 9 Aug., 1886. 208. Mr. Jones.] I understood you to say that there was some 25 feet of hard rock above the coal in Wickham Colliery? Yes.
209. Are you aware that the sand came down upon the head of coal a little to the west of the shaft? Yes. It was not the surface sand.
210. No matter; it was sand, nevertheless? Yes.
211. Have you heard of it coming down in any other part of the mine? No, but it is quite possible.
212. How thick is it there? The sand there is not above 4 inches thick.
213. Was not that portion of the work discontinued in consequence? No; it was in the heading.
214. Have you ever heard of any precautions being taken, such as leaving large barriers of coal, to prevent the sand coming down there? No.
215. Do you consider the clay in the Hetton Colliery a good puddle-clay? I have not tested the clay yet. It is more a thin vegetable matter than clay, as far as I have got.
216. Did I understand you to say you could not depend upon the bores, Mr. Walker? Yes.
217. That the bores being put down would not prove the ground? Yes; that is my opinion.
218. You seem to depend entirely upon this 9 or 10 feet of puddle-clay as being a safeguard for the property and the men? That 7 feet of clay is one of the best clays I ever saw; but throughout the whole of that field there is about 170 to 180 feet of clay altogether.
219. I understood you to say that some distance away that clay went right out? No; we cut that clay in the Little pit and Bullock Island pit.
220. Is it of the same thickness? I cannot be positive to a few inches; but both clays are there, and I think the beds vary very little in thickness.
221. You have given an opinion here as to the width of the bords;—you say, as an old and experienced miner, that the soft roof cuts up in narrow places, and you think there would be less danger in working under a soft roof with 7- or 8-yard bords? Yes, with proper pillars; I think they would stand better than a 4-yard bord with 2-yard pillars.
222. You think there is no danger in the ordinary system prevailing in this district? Well, so far as I know, I would not work the "system" prevailing here, because I never saw any system about it.
223. But you think there would be no danger in working 8-yard bords with 6-yard pillars? No; let them be wrought uniformly, and in that case I should say there would be no danger.
224. You were the contractor for the Hetton shaft? Yes.
225. How far did the bore go down there? I think it went down about 160 ft.
226. Are you not aware that they did not go any further than the rock. It is about that distance to the rock; what is between that and the surface? It is all clay. The journal I got from Steel does not define the different strata. It gives just so many feet of clay and sand.
227. You have had considerable experience in sinking through sand. Do you find any difference between sinking here and in Scotland? There is much less difficulty here than in Scotland.
228. Then you are of opinion that to put down bores is not useful for exploring purposes? I think it is no use at all.
229. Mr. Curley.] So far as you have gone with the shaft, Mr. Walker, does it correspond with the bore put down by Mr. Steel? Well, it corresponds with his bore, because he defines it as all clay. I expect he would call clay the measure I am on now; but it is really a vegetable matter.
230. That is as far as you have gone? The depth of sand is the same, and that is all I have gone through.
231. Is not that to your mind some indication of the utility of a bore? No; I just think that the bore I got from him, although it is within 20 ft. of the pit going down, is like the third wheel of a cart.
232. What is the size of the seam there at Bullock Island? It is 19 ft. from roof to pavement.
233. Are you still a shareholder in that colliery? No.
234. Up to what date were you a shareholder? I cannot say exactly; up to within seven or eight months ago. It was previous to the Ferndale disaster. I sold the last 700 I had.
235. Only the lower section of the seam in Bullock Island is being worked, I believe? Yes.
236. Can you assign any reason why the upper section has not been worked up to the present time? I suppose the time has not arrived yet.
237. How long has the pit been in operation? About eighteen months, I suppose. I know I had her for twelve months, and I was bound that I could not put a pick in the upper section.
238. Referring to your connection with Mr. Winchester, did you go to him, or did he go to you? I think it sprung from one of the examinations when Mr. Mackenzie was out at Wickham.
239. Did you have a conversation with them on the subject of the amalgamation? No.
240. President.] Except in the way you have stated? Yes. He gave me a letter to Dr. Mackenzie, and the amalgamation was struck before I left Sydney; but the Company was not formed till twelve months after that. It was only on condition that we should get the coal.
241. I understood that the amalgamation took place after the coal was got? So it did; but I had a guarantee from them that when we got the coal in that pit they were bound to give us the permit which they had from the Government, and they were to be at the expense afterwards; and then the Company was formed.
242. Mr. Curley.] You know something about the coal-field at Tighe's Hill in connection with Ferndale? Yes, a little.
243. Supposing that a sudden rise was to take place in the coal there towards the surface, do not you think it would be desirable to ascertain in some way the nature of the deposits above that? The deepest that I went through was not above 40 ft., and if it rose much it would go to the surface altogether.
244. But taking the case of Wickham and Bullock Island, do you not consider it necessary to ascertain the nature of the surface deposits? Well, I think they are doing right by having a drive between the two pits; the great object is to keep the headings far enough in front, so as to know what may be expected ahead of you.
245. Then you think the headings should be kept well in advance? Yes; I would always open up the ground in front of me, as by that means alone I would know what I was likely to meet with in the shape of coal or faults. One heading is worth a dozen bores in my opinion, and one pit is worth the same.
246. Mr. Thomas.] You know the heading driven from Bullock Island pit to the intersection with Wickham heading under Throsby's Creek? Yes; you mean the N.E. end.

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247. Do you consider that sufficient precaution was taken in going under the channel there? I have not been in it since the heading was driven. But I consider precaution was taken, because they adopted a 4-foot bord.

248. Do you consider that ordinary timbering is sufficient in going under that body of water? Yes.

249. Would it not be wise to use brickwork there to insure the safety of the men, to say nothing of the interests of the employers? No; I do not think so. In my opinion there is plenty of material there to prevent any water coming down.

250. Then you do not consider there is any danger to be apprehended from working under tidal waters? No, or I would not be so often in the pits.

251. You think there is no danger from cracks or crevices running through from the tidal waters? No; where there is a crack in the rock there is quite sufficient clay there to fill it up.

252. *Mr. Neilson.*] I think you have stated in your evidence that you had a good bed of rock on top of the coal in the shaft at Wickham? Yes; I think there was about 15 feet of rock.

253. Is there not a curve in that shaft? She is not quite plumb, being blown out at one side.

254. Can you explain the reason of this? Yes; it was caused through the running of the sand bed I have spoken of, and the men made no provision to stop the running, with the result that the weight on the other side pressed it over.

255. Is there no rock close to the bottom of Wickham shaft? Yes, there is rock there, but there is a passing through it there.

256. The curve in the shaft is close to the bottom, is it? The curve is about 14 feet to 15 feet above the rock. There is about 28 feet of iron cylinders which go right through the rock.

257. I believe you were going towards Throsby's Creek when Mr. Mackenzie stopped you? Yes.

258. I believe there was a large quantity of water coming from the roof at that time? No; there was no water coming there except from that from the shaft.

259. Did not all the men work there with oilskins? The face of the working there was as dry as this room.

260. Were the men not working with oilskins on? No; there was no water on the roof.

261. *Mr. Usher.*] You say there are 49 feet of cylinders in Wickham shaft? Yes, through the surface sand.

262. What do they rest on? On the clay.

263. How far do they go into the clay? About 10 feet, I think.

264. Have you any curb bedded in the clay? Yes; it is all wooden curbing below it.

265. Supposing there were unmistakable evidences of a fault of some kind between Stockton on one side of the harbour, and Newcastle, on the other side; do you think it would be desirable to exercise any precaution as to driving narrow places for the purpose of exploring the ground? I think it is a question I cannot answer without I know the nature of the faults.

266. Supposing that upon an examination of the strata at Nobbys and Signal Hill, and also the ground on the Stockton side, you found unmistakable evidences of faults existing in the intervening space, do you think, in driving for coal, that there is no necessity for any precautionary measures beyond driving these narrow exploring headings? Well, if I had driven a heading 200 yards in front of me, and in front of that there was a fault, I would not be in the least timid about working there.

267. But in the event of there being unmistakable evidence of a dislocation to a large extent, would you not adopt the precaution of putting in bores ahead of those narrow places, by way of searching for faults? If I got the fault at Nobbys, and took bearings, I would know where my narrow places would strike it, and I would not be afraid to strike it with my narrow places. I would keep prospecting ahead of me, and be satisfied with that.

268. *President.*] And you think no other precautions would be necessary? Yes; I would be satisfied with that.

269. *Mr. Usher.*] You would not anticipate any difficulty in striking a fault or dyke, or whatever it might be, existing there? No; I would anticipate no difficulty in striking any fault with a narrow heading.

270. *Mr. Ourley.*] In pressing down the cylinders, Mr. Walker, did you ever meet with a mishap in connection with the cylinders; did they crack? Well, I have been in them when they have cracked and struck me, but I do not think I ought to be asked that question.

271. *President.*] I do not think there is anything objectionable in the question as put, Mr. Walker. Did any of the cylinders crack in any of these collieries? You can answer that, simply yes or no? Well, so far as to whether the cylinders cracked or no, I do not think I have any right to answer it. I have had cylinders cracked before they left the foundry.

272. You stated that you have had experience in sinking collieries at Home through surface deposits, and that you had greater difficulties to encounter there than you have met with out here. In what did the difference consist? The greatest difficulty I experienced was in sinking at Prince Edward Island.

273. What depth were the shafts? The shafts would run from 40 to 90 fathoms.

274. That is about 600 feet. What depth were the surface deposits? About 90 feet.

275. How did you work the coal when you did get down? I never worked the coal there.

276. Do you know that it was worked? Oh, yes.

277. And what system was worked there? Pillar and stall, with 8-yard bords. When I was a boy they were all 8-yard bords.

278. What district of Scotland did you come from? From Ayrshire.

279. In what part? Kilwinning. I was in the Prince of Wales Colliery for nine years on and off.

280. What depth was the shaft? Close on 200 fathoms.

281. In winning the coal at these collieries in Kilwinning, what system was pursued? Longwall.

282. *Mr. Jones.*] Are you aware, Mr. Walker, that any of the men used oilskins in the working-places at Bullock Island pit? No. I know, at the side going west, there was plenty of water, but I was not long there after they got the coal. It was stopped by Mr. Mackenzie, because they were crossing the railway.

The witness withdrew.

James

James Bowditch sworn and examined:—

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283. *President.*] You are employed at Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery at Tighe's Hill, I believe? Yes.
284. Following the occupation of a miner? Yes.
285. Have you been working as a miner for any length of time? I have been a miner for twenty-four years.
286. In this Colony? No; I have been about seven years in this Colony.
287. And before that? Before that I was in South Wales and in Somersetshire.
288. Have you worked throughout the different collieries in this district? Yes.
289. What is the system pursued—they observe a uniform system of working, I believe? Yes.
290. What width of bords and size of pillars? 8-yard bords and 6-yard pillars.
291. Have you had any experience in working the coal under the sea and beneath a soft surface? No; not under the sea.
292. Or under any thick or difficult surface deposits? I have had at the present time where I am working now.
293. That is the only one? Yes.
294. Then you are working at Broughall's Colliery at present with the surface deposits going down to the coal? Yes.
295. What do you leave as a roof between these surface deposits and the working-bords? We leave the coal.
296. How many feet of coal do you leave? In one bord it was 4ft. 6in. going near the crop.
297. What width of bords do you work? We work 4-yard bords, leaving 4-yard pillars—that is, taking out half the coal.
298. Do you think that the width of the bords and the thickness or size of the pillars should be proportioned to the nature of the superincumbent strata? Yes; I am quite satisfied of that.
299. What is your opinion as to working under these soft deposits—what width would the bords be? Well, where there is a surface of soft deposit, I am of opinion the bords should be 4 yards wide—certainly not more than 5 yards.
300. And what size of pillars? Do I express your opinion in saying that you would proportion the size of your pillars to the difficulties you have to contend with? Yes.
301. Would you consider it safe to follow the district custom of coal-winning under all conditions? No; not in all conditions. I think the custom pursued where I have been working is safe, but I should not think it safe to work with 8-yard bords.
302. In your opinion, would it ensure you greater safety to work with 3-yard bords? No; I think you can ensure as much safety with 4-yard bords.
303. What is your reason for saying so? Well, it is hardly possible for the coal to break up in a 4-yard bord any more than in a 3-yard bord. If the coal is strong, it will stand as well in one as the other.
304. Have you worked in the deeper collieries of the district? Yes; I have worked on the Borehole seam.
305. Have you worked in the Lambton or Wallsend Collieries? No. I worked for a short time at East Waratah. They were working 10-yard bords and 4-yard pillars there.
306. About what depth was it? I should say about 400 feet; perhaps more.
307. Still you are of opinion that the width and size of pillars should be proportioned to the weight they have to bear? Yes; at the same time, where you have a good rock roof, you have no need to be so particular.
308. Supposing you had 600 feet of a rock roof and 600 feet of sand as a roof, which would weigh the heavier? The sand I should think.
309. I differ from you. However, the pillar supports the roof? Yes.
310. And the pillars ought to be proportioned to the weight they have to bear? Yes.
311. In working the coal under a stratum of sand in Broughall's Colliery, is the system a safe one? Yes.
312. You have no fear of danger? Not as long as it is worked with 4-yard bords and 4-yard pillars.
313. You have not seen any attempt to depart from that system? No; the same system has been pursued there for five years.
314. Have any bords been worked a greater thickness than 5 yards? No; not in my time, and I have been working there for six months.
315. Have you been in any of the headings going towards Ferndale? I worked a short piece towards Ferndale—4 yards I think it was.
316. Have you noticed whether the pillars were left 4 yards wide there? Yes; all the pillars are 4 yards there that I have noticed.
317. Are you quite sure? Yes. At least I have never noticed any less.
318. Have you been in any of the abandoned workings going towards the creek and approaching Ferndale? I was in the part you are speaking of some time ago. They have put a dam in there.
319. Have you measured the pillars adjoining these bords? I was only there for a minute or two, and did not take any particular notice.
320. Have you been in any part in Broughall and Griffiths' approaching the "washout" to the west? Yes; I worked there.
321. Did the sand come down in front? Yes; it comes from the crop.
322. Does the roof become tender where the sand comes down? Yes; the roof gets soft before you come to the sand.
323. And does it show any disposition to fall? Not exactly. It runs into smut and soft coal, and is easily detected, and then we stop.
324. Have you worked in any of the collieries contiguous to the harbour? Only Ferndale.
325. Then you have not worked in any of the existing collieries, such as Bullock Island, Maryville, or Stockton? No.
326. Have you come prepared to offer any opinion as to the mode you would propose to work the coal under the harbour or under the sea? No; that is a question I am not prepared to answer. I have never worked under the water.
327. Well, as to thick surface deposits on top of the coal, have you any opinion to offer as to the measures that should be adopted to ensure safety in the working of the coal? If there is not a good deposit of rock

rock I should say there ought to be narrow bords—(say) 4- or 5- or 6-yard bords at the outside, and 4-yard pillars.

328. Under any circumstances, you would have or advocate 4-yard pillars? Yes.

329. That is, whether the colliery was deep or shallow, you would work with 4-yard pillars? Yes; that is my opinion.

330. Are you wedded to your opinion. Do you not think that pillars should be proportioned to the weight they have to bear. For example,—you say that in a shallow colliery 4-yard pillars would be sufficient to bear up the superincumbent strata. Supposing you are wrong even with regard to shallow collieries, should not the pillars be increased in size if they have more weight to bear? My opinion is that under any circumstances.

331. Where the bords are turned away 4 yards wide, and 4-yard pillars are left, and these bords are widened out to 5 yards, then the pillars become so much less? Yes, of course.

332. You were working at Ferndale when the inundation took place, and are you not aware that it was a 6-yard bord where the water broke in? They were all supposed to be 6-yard bords according to the system in that district, but I could not say whether it was a 6-yard bord or a 4-yard bord.

333. Have you not found in your experience that frequently the roof will cut up in a very narrow place? Well, it will cut up in a 6-feet place where there is no coal left. I have seen it myself.

334. Would it cut up in an 8-yard bord the same? Yes; but not so much in an 8-yard bord as in a 6-yard bord. I have seen the roof cut up in a narrow heading when it would not cut up in an 8-yard bord at all.

335. In turning off a bord, is it not a frequent occurrence that the bord will be increased in width before you have got half-way? Yes; they are frequently a little over the width.

336. And that diminishes the strength of the pillars? Of course.

337. You have worked in Wales? Yes.

338. And you know that the bords are driven by line there, and the men are not allowed to encroach in any way? Yes.

339. What system were you accustomed to in working the coal in South Wales? In the last place I was working in it was "longwall."

340. *President.*] Then there is nothing against a system of driving bords by line and maintaining a regular size of pillars? Certainly not. That should be the rule.

The witness withdrew.

Benjamin Bradley sworn and examined:—

341. *President.*] You are a miner? Yes.

342. Where are you employed? I am working at Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery, Tighe's Hill.

343. How long have you been working in that colliery? About nine months.

344. And before that, where were you working? In Broughall and Griffiths' lower pit.

345. And before that? In New Zealand.

346. How long have you been in the Colonies? Close upon eight years.

347. Did you follow the occupation of a miner in the Old Country? Yes.

348. In what part of Britain did you work? In Lancashire, Staffordshire, and in the north of England—several parts.

349. In what part of Lancashire? Wigan.

350. What system of working prevailed there? The "longwall."

351. Have you had any experience of working the coal under the sea? No; I never was under the sea.

352. Or under any very thick surface deposits? Yes; I have had experience of that.

353. Where? In Yorkshire. The last place I was in was Featherstone.

354. What was the thickness of the surface deposits there? About 400 ft.

355. That is to say, the strata of coal would be found 400 ft. deep? Yes.

356. Near Leeds, what was the system of working pursued? Bords and pillars.

357. At 400 ft. deep, what was the width of bords and size of pillars left? The bords would be 8 yards wide, and the pillars about 6 yards.

358. Are you quite certain? Quite. I am certain the bords were 8 yards, and the pillars about 6 yards.

359. Do you know anything about the collieries adjoining the harbour of Newcastle—Bullock Island, Stockton, or Maryville? No; I have never worked in any of those places.

360. Do you know that at Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery the surface sand comes down to the coal head? Yes.

361. Are you of opinion that there is any special danger in working under that deposit? No; I do not see any danger at all.

362. Can you give a reason? Yes; the depth is slight, and the coal left on is sufficient to support it.

363. What width are the bords driven? 4 yards wide.

364. Is that the width all over the pit? Yes, at present.

365. Have you ever seen any bords driven 5 yards wide there? Yes; there were some driven 5 yards in one place.

366. With what thickness of pillars? From 3- to 4-yard pillars—that is, 4 yards under the creek and 3 yards elsewhere.

367. Then they increased the thickness of the pillars under the creek? Yes; they strengthened the roof.

368. In working the coal under very thick deposits, such as sand and clay and silt, with water above you, do you consider that extra precautions should be taken? Yes.

369. In general terms, in what way would you propose that precautions should be taken? I should suggest narrowing the bords and thickening the pillars.

370. To what width? Well, just what they could stand.

371. Do I understand you to mean that you would proportion the width of bords and size of pillars to circumstances? Yes.

372. Then, with the exception of Broughall & Griffiths' Colliery, you have not worked in any of the Newcastle collieries? No.

373. If you were told that the district custom of working the Borehole seam was to drive 8-yard bords and

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and leave 4-yard pillars, would you consider that system of working under the sea or under the harbour in comparatively shallow workings a safe system to pursue? Do you mean with a shallow roof?

374. Yes; say 40 or 50 feet of rock and 60 feet of sand? Well, when it comes to the rock with that thickness I think there ought to be sufficient to hold.

375. But you have already said that the bords should be decreased in width and the pillars increased in thickness, in proportion to circumstances. Now, therefore, let us suppose a case where there is 50 feet of rock with 170 feet of sand or sea-water? Well, I think you should narrow the bords and thicken the pillars in that case.

376. That would be as a precautionary measure? Yes.

377. Have you had any experience of working coal with a clay cover? Yes.

378. Where? In South Staffordshire.

379. Well, when a fall took place, what influence had the clay? The clay would come straight down, and the props would go right up through it.

380. Can you imagine what influence clay would have lying on top of the coal. Would it come down and choke the face? Yes, and they would have to rip it up again.

381. Would you look upon a thick stratum of clay as affording a certain amount of protection in a mine? I would not put any trust in clay at all.

382. Supposing a fall took place and forced the clay down, do you think, if the clay was sufficiently thick, it would dam back the water that would otherwise come down? No; I would not trust to clay myself.

383. You have not had much experience in that direction? No, sir.

384. You are aware that the Commission is sitting at present for the purpose of taking evidence as to the opinion of workmen and others with regard to the conditions best calculated to insure safety in the working of those collieries adjacent to the harbour of Newcastle? Yes.

385. Have you come prepared with any scheme you would like to propose? The only plan I can see is to narrow the bords from 5 to 4 yards, and widen the pillars. I do not know any alteration that could be made except that.

386. In the particular colliery you are engaged in you have no complaint or suggestion to make as to the system of working? No, none whatever.

387. Then, as a general answer to a general question, you approve of decreasing the width of bords and increasing the size of pillars, in proportion to the depth and according to circumstances? Yes.

388. *Mr. Usher.*] In what part of New Zealand were you working? At Kaitangata.

389. Were you troubled with any water there? No, no water.

390. In what part of England were you working? At Hetton—North Hetton.

391. Have you any idea of the depth of Hetton? No, I have not.

392. What system were you working there? "Longwall."

393. Were you working under the pillar and stall system in the north of England? No.

394. *Mr. Turnbull.*] What system were you working at North Hetton? The low main seam.

395. Were you aware that you were working under a body of water there? No, I was not.

396. Do you not know that there was water lying there between the magnesian limestone? No.

397. *President.*] Still you do not think that "longwall" would be a sensible way to work Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery? No. I would not like to try it.

398. You are of opinion, and you advocate, that circumstances should govern everything? Yes, sir; that is my opinion.

399. *Mr. Davies.*] You are perfectly satisfied that you are safe in working at Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery? Yes.

400. You have no apprehension of danger at all? No, none.

401. *Mr. Jones.*] Are you aware that the Inspector of Collieries served the proprietors of Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery with notice that he was apprehensive of danger? Yes; I recollect it.

402. And notwithstanding that you are sure you are perfectly safe? Yes; I think so.

The witness withdrew.

J. Jones sworn and examined:—

Mr.
J. Jones.
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403. *President.*] How long have you been a miner, Mr. Jones? About thirty-six years.

404. Have you worked much in the Old Country? Yes.

405. In what part? I belong to Gloucester. I was brought up in South Wales.

406. Have you had any experience of working coal seams under the sea? Well, I worked for some time on the Earl of Lonsdale's estate in Cumberland—the Williams' pit.

407. What system of working was employed there? Pillar and stall—10-yard bords and 6-yard pillars.

408. And what was the fate of that colliery? I do not know. I do not remember.

409. Is it still working? I think so.

410. What seam were you working in? I think it was the Hamilton seam. I was only working there for a short time, and I do not recollect very well.

411. What depth was it? About 200 yards.

412. How far was it from the main band seam? I cannot tell.

413. Do you know anything about that pit being drowned out? Not there. I know there was one about 6 miles distant.

414. How long have you been working in this district? About nine years.

415. Have you worked in the different collieries surrounding Newcastle? I have worked in four of them—at Raspberry Gully, the Glebe, and Lambton, and Maryville.

416. Was the same system worked in all of these collieries—that is, bord and pillar? Yes.

417. And the average width of the bords is about 8 yards, and the pillars 6 yards—is that so? Yes, about 6-yard pillars.

418. Where are they 6 yards—the pillars I mean? In the Glebe Colliery.

419. Then at Maryville, do you know the thickness of the sand-clay, or call them the surface deposits, that overlie the coal? I think there is about 32 feet of a sand bed, and from that it is all clay.

420. Was it strong, stiff clay? Yes; very strong, stiff clay. I have seen a good deal of clay, but I never saw anything stronger. I was sinking there.

421. What about that gravel bed about 2 feet 6 inches that overlies the coal? It was close gravel, and very little water came off it.

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422. When you broke off the workings from Maryville shaft, what width of bords did you break off with? Six-yard bords.
423. Did you never drive wider than 6 yards? Well, we did try some 8 yards wide.
424. And why did you alter the system? I cannot tell you; I had nothing to do with altering them.
425. How much coal did you leave on? About 7 or 8 inches.
426. What is the extent of the seam there? We had 14 feet 8 inches of coal at the shaft; that is, coal and jerry and band.
427. And of that, what amount did you work? We worked 5 feet 2 inches.
428. That is to say, you worked the bottom coal? Yes, and the little tops.
429. And do you leave the top coal in as a roof? It has been done.
430. Then what is the width of the bords now? 6 yards.
431. Did you consider that they were safe when you were working them 8 yards? Yes; I considered them as safe at 8 yards as they are at 6 yards.
432. What size of pillars is left? 4-yard pillars.
433. Have you been in towards the west workings from the shaft approaching Dangar's land? Yes.
434. You are aware the coal-seam nips out there, and soft deposits? Yes.
435. Have you seen any fall that took place at the face in that level? I saw the first that there was.
436. What took place? It broke through in a narrow place, and ran back about 50 yards, and we had to put up two or three stoppings. There was nothing dangerous.
437. Supposing that had broken in with a wide bord? Well, if the clay had come down it would have choked itself. In a narrow bord it would not have room to fall down.
438. If a fall took place and let down the surface deposits, would not that be a danger to the colliery? I cannot see how it would. We have had three or four bords come down together.
439. Where was that—when they came down together? Where the pillars were taken out. Under this soft roof, it cuts down by the side of the rib, and chokes itself, and gradually fills up. There may be a little water for a couple of hours or so, but then it ceases, and is all over.
440. Is that the result of actual observation on your part at Maryville? Yes; I have seen it.
441. Then do you apprehend any danger at all, in working forward to the washout? I do not, sir, in the least.
442. Supposing that Maryville desired to work towards or under Throsby's Creek, would the same system be permissible? Well, I should not be at all frightened of going under the creek if the clay kept the same.
443. Supposing it should not keep the same? That is a different matter.
444. Then you pin your faith on the presence of the clay? Yes.
445. Would it not be desirable that you should have some information as to the area the clay extends over? Take the case of working under Throsby's Creek, for example: Would it not be of advantage to know that the clay overlaid the coal under the creek? Certainly it would.
446. And would you consider it an advantage to prospect the area of that clay by a series of surface bores? Well, I don't know; I don't think it is necessary.
447. Supposing one or two bores told you that the clay extended over a certain area, would it be an advantage or a disadvantage to have that information? Of course it must be an advantage.
448. Have you a second opening to the day at Maryville? No; we have not at present.
449. Then supposing you did not know the area over which this clay extended, and an accident was to take place, and let down a large amount of surface water, something similar to Ferndale, do not you think the mine would be placed in some danger? Not where we are now. We have put up bores to prove what we have above us. So far as we have gone we have been very careful.
450. That is, to prove the surface that has already been worked? Yes.
451. But is there any objection to know what there is in advance? I understand that there are two or three holes in advance of us now.
452. Do these bores record the presence of clay? Yes, and rock.
453. Have you anything to suggest as to the mode of working at Maryville to ensure increased safety? No. I do not think there is any necessity whatever for any alteration.
454. Have you had any experience of the adjoining collieries of Bullock Island or Stockton? No.
455. Have you ever given any thought to the difficult question of working coal under the Hunter River and the harbour? No. I have never bothered myself about it. I have thought of it occasionally, but it would not profit me to look into it.
456. The Commission is sitting to investigate the question of security for the men's lives in working these collieries, and we asked you, as a practical man, to come here and give us your opinion as to the conditions under which these coal-seams can be worked to ensure perfect safety to the men; what would you advocate, in a general way? Would you suggest a decreased width of bords, or an increased size of pillars, or what? As far as that goes, I do not see any advantage in working 8-yard bords.
457. But I am referring more particularly to working under the harbour? Well, that is a different matter. I have never worked there.
458. Is not the surface sometimes covered with water at Maryville? No.
459. Not at flood time? No. We are clear of all water there.
460. Do you think there is any extra safety afforded by driving narrow bords instead of wide bords? Take the collieries working under the harbour;—do you think the men would be working with a greater measure of safety if narrow bords became the rule? I think it would be well to keep narrow bords ahead, and a good bore in front for a few yards.
461. In regular workings, what width would you advise under the existing thick, soft surface, or under the water of the harbour;—do you think there is any additional safety to be secured by narrowing the bords or increasing the size of the pillars? I cannot see that there is any extra safety by increasing the size of the pillars.
462. Supposing you had a shaft 300 yards deep, would you consider it as safe to work with 4-yard pillars as with 20-yard pillars? It would depend upon the roof.
463. In the case of a soft roof? Well, small pillars are equally as good as large pillars for resisting pressure.
464. That is your opinion? Yes, and that is what I have seen.
465. *Mr. Usher.*] Did I understand you to say that in working under the Williams pit at Home you drove the bords 10 yard wide, and left 6-yard pillars? Yes, sir.

466.

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466. At what depth was that? I cannot say exactly. It was a rock cover, and there were several seams above us.
467. Are you quite sure that they were 10-yard bords and 6-yard pillars? Yes; and some of them were 13 yards wide.
468. Who was the manager? I cannot exactly tell you, but Blain was the head man there.
469. *Mr. Jones.*] You have spoken of one fall at Maryville—have you seen others there? Yes; I have seen three or four falls that came to the surface there.
470. You have seen the clay forced by pressure on the pillars over three or four in succession? Yes.
471. We have been informed that the tidal waters rise at and around the shaft there on the Maryville Estate, but you say you have never seen it? I have never seen it.
472. And you have worked there from the time of the sinking of the shaft? Yes. They were down about 17 feet only when I went there.
473. Then you would say that the persons who informed this Commission as to water being there made an erroneous statement? Yes; there is no water whatever around there.
474. *Mr. Davies.*] Are you working on the coal now? No; I am a labourer.
475. Had you any conversation with anybody as to your evidence before you came here to-day? No.
476. You are perfectly satisfied that you do not apprehend any danger in working at Maryville? Not in the least.
477. You say you have known of three or four bords to come in—what width were they? They were 8-yard bords.
478. Do you say that an 8-yard bord would be equally as effective as a 4-yard bord? I think an 8-yard bord is as safe as a 4-yard bord.
479. In what direction were these falls—where was the first? To the left of the shaft.
480. And the next? It was a little more to the east.
481. And where was the next? In the next heading to the last.
482. And do these come right to the surface? Yes.
483. Was there no water? Not in the least.
484. How much rock had you where these falls took place? There was no rock there.
485. I understood you to say there was rock there? No. I said the bores showed there was rock in the direction in which we are going now.
486. *Mr. Davies.*] Have you never heard of there being danger here? No. I have asked several of them, but never heard a word about danger.
487. Why did you ask anyone about the possibility of there being danger? Because when the disaster occurred at Ferndale several of the men left, and I asked them why they had left, when they said they were frightened something like the Ferndale accident might happen; but they came to be of a different opinion, and returned to the colliery.
488. Did they say they had come back because they could not get work elsewhere? No.
489. *Mr. Curley.*] You have said that in one of these places where the falls took place a good deal of water and stuff came down for 20 or 30 yards back? Yes, the first one.
490. Supposing a big body of water to have been on the surface, would there not be a probability of it coming down if the fall went to the surface? No; not in the least.
491. *Mr. Usher.*] Do you know anything about the state of the shaft at Maryville—is it quite safe, in your opinion? Yes.
492. And you think there is no danger whatever? No; there is no danger so far as that goes.
- The witness withdrew.

J. Wassell sworn and examined:—

Mr.
J. Wassell.
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493. *President.*] What are you by occupation? I am a miner.
494. Have you worked in Maryville Colliery? Yes.
495. How long have you been working in this district? I have been working in this district between nine and ten years.
496. At what collieries? At Maryville, Tighe's Hill, and Greta, and also at New Lambton. I have had two places of my own at Tighe's Hill.
497. That is some time ago, I suppose? Yes; that is before I went to work at Greta.
498. And previous to that ten years, where had you been working—in the Old Country at any time? Yes. I was in Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire, Staffordshire, and Derbyshire.
499. Where did you work at Nottinghamshire? At "Shireoaks."
500. What depth was that? About 1,540 feet.
501. Were there any surface deposits at "Shireoaks"? It was rock from top to bottom.
502. What was the system of working there? It was longwall—no pillars at all.
503. And what was it in Derbyshire? The same: longwall. I worked at a colliery close to Segemoor also.
504. Was that bord and pillar? Yes.
505. What depth was it? 365 feet.
506. What size pillars did you leave? In some cases 7 yards, and in others 6 yards. They were not all of the same thickness.
507. Was it a large colliery? Yes, it was a big colliery.
508. Was there a heavy pitch in the seam? No.
509. What was the width of the bords? 7 and 8 yards.
510. Were there any heavy surface deposits there? No. I never saw a fall there.
511. It was a good roof? Yes.
512. Does the same remark apply to Yorkshire, where you were working? No. I have seen falls in Yorkshire, although they never came to the surface.
513. You were working on the Barnsley system there? Yes.
514. They have a particular system of working that seam? Yes. They work up to certain lines, and then come back and take the pillars, working the same as the pannel system.
515. *President.*] You have had no experience of working under the sea or very heavy surface deposits? No; with the exception of Tighe's Hill, I have not.

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J. Wassell.
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516. In what part of Tighe's Hill was your colliery? At Brickfields. It belonged to old Mr. Bevan, who died recently.
517. Have you worked at Broughall's Colliery, Tighe's Hill? No.
518. At Maryville, did you know the thickness of the surface deposits? Only from what I have heard them say.
519. There are 133 feet, of which 100 feet is clay, and the rest sand and shells—have you heard that? There is no sand where I have been. I have been 8 feet through the coal there, and got blue post, and the further you go the harder it is.
520. Is that where the fall is? Yes; and it is quite dry there.
521. How long have you been working in Maryville? Eight months.
522. How long had it been commenced then? I do not know how long the pit has been working. I was at Greta before going there.
523. What width are the bords at Maryville? 6 and 8 yards, and 4 yards.
524. What width are the regular working-bords? 6 yards.
525. And what pillars are left between? 4 yards—some over and some under.
526. What did you leave on for a roof in the portions of Maryville where you worked? Very nearly 8 feet of coal.
527. Have you ever worked in the west section of Maryville Colliery—towards Waratah way? Yes; I drove a prospecting heading there.
528. Was that in clay? It was in clay and coal, and a mixture of stuff.
529. Was it white soft stuff? It was not very soft. It would take me an hour to cut a foot of it.
530. It was not clay? No; not where we finished it.
531. What did you get before you cut the blue post? A mixture of clay and gravel.
532. What distance did you drive in that? Something about 25 or 26 yards, and then we cut the blue post towards the Maitland Road.
533. In working towards the Maitland Road, did you cut into the coal? Yes.
534. And opened up bords towards that heading? We only drove one there.
535. Did that bord prove the washout towards the west? No; it was simply driven to stow our dirt in.
536. Are these roads stopped at present? Yes.
537. Then, after passing through this 25 or 26 yards of surface deposits, in going into the coal, you left on the top coal, as usual? Yes.
538. Was the roof good? Yes; decidedly good. We took the timber with us, as usual, but we did not know what coal was above us.
539. You did not bore to ascertain? No.
540. And you did not know the distance of these headings from the line of the washout? No.
541. Have you been in the heading that came to the washout—at the back of the office? No; I was not working there.
542. There is a fall that took place going in that direction, do you know of that? I started the first heading to that fall, and drove it for 60 yards. That fall took place before I began to work. A stopping was put up there.
543. Do you know how far that fall ran along the road? About 5 or 6 yards. It came in during the night.
544. Do you consider that the system of working adopted at Maryville is perfectly safe? Yes. I could keep myself safe there.
545. Have you any suggestion to make as to a means of increasing the safety in working? No; I do not know that I have.
546. Do you consider there is danger at all in working under these heavy surface deposits? Well, as to that, I can only say that I could keep myself safe; I would not speak for anybody else.
547. Do you think it perfectly safe to work the coal under that thick surface by following the present mode of working? I do, as far as I am concerned, but I would not care to speak for others.
548. Have you ever heard anyone express a different opinion? No. I never interfere with anybody else's business.
549. That is quite right; but I am asking you if you have heard anyone express a doubt as to the safety of the mine? Not in my presence.
550. Well, have you heard anyone say so behind your back? No.
551. Have you worked in Bullock Island or in Stockton? No.
552. Do you know the depth of the surface overlying those collieries? No; I do not.
553. Can you give us any opinion as to how these collieries should be worked to ensure safety for the men? No. I have never been down those collieries.
554. Then you have no opinion to offer as to how a colliery under such circumstances should be worked in order to secure safety? No. I am only a hardworking miner—I am not a manager.
555. Then you have no opinion to offer? No.
556. *Mr. Turnbull.* Can you not make any suggestion as to what width of bords should be driven, or the size of pillars that should be left; can you make no suggestion as to how mines in these circumstances should be worked for the safety of the men? Well, I would just as willingly work these places with 1-yard pillars as with 10-yard pillars, because when the body of weight comes on the pillar it will cut up; but where there is a good body of rock I would choose big pillars, because the pillar in that case does take the weight.
557. Can you not make any suggestion as to the width of bords and size of the pillars that should be maintained in working the coal under these soft surface deposits? I do not know that I can; I have worked them all sizes—4 yards, 8 yards, and 10 yards.
558. *President.* Where did you see a 10-yard pillar? At Brickfields; there was a 10-yard pillar close to the shaft on the bottom.
559. *Mr. Turnbull.* As to the mode of working, then, you have no opinion to offer? No; I have no opinion to offer upon that.
560. *Mr. Usher.* Do you mean to say that if you were attending a meeting of miners to-night you would have no opinion to offer as to the mode of working any of these collieries round the harbour? We have nothing to do with that at our meetings.

Mr. J. Wassell. 561. Supposing you were working at Stockton or Bullock Island? I would have nothing at all to say on that point.

The witness withdrew.

9 Aug., 1886.

R. J. Errington sworn and examined :—

Mr. R. J. Errington. 562. *President.*] Are you a miner? Yes.
 563. Are you employed at Stockton? Yes.
 564. How long have you been employed at Stockton? About fourteen months.
 565. How long is it since the shaft reached the coal there? Well, it had reached the coal before I went there; I went in April last.
 566. And have you been working continuously at Stockton since? I was three months away during that time.
 567. In what part of the colliery are you working at present? At A heading, on the bottom seam.
 568. What is the system of working in Stockton? The bords are 8 yards wide and the pillars 6 yards, where I am working.
 569. Have you driven the bords wider than that? The bord I was in last was a little over 8 yards.
 570. Are the pillars all 6 yards wide? They are mostly 6 yards—from 6 to 5.
 571. Where were you working before? Down in a narrow place at D heading.
 572. Have you ever been working on the upper seam? No.
 573. Have you been through the upper-seam workings, going towards the harbour? I have been partly through them.
 574. There are a number of bords going towards the W. or S.W., and approaching the harbour in that direction in the upper seam, can you tell us the width of those bords? I cannot say; I did not measure them.
 575. Did you notice the thickness of the pillars there? When the bords were first turned away in that direction the pillars were 8 yards thick, but what they are now I cannot say.
 576. Have you any opinion to offer as to the best mode of working the coal under the harbour or under the Pacific Ocean? My opinion has been always that the coal should not be worked under the river or under the sea.
 577. For what reason? Because I have seen inundations resulting from it at Home.
 578. Where at Home? At Percymain.
 579. What depth was that colliery? It was 140 fathoms.
 580. What caused the inundation to take place there? The pillars were taken out under the river.
 581. That was some time ago, was it not? Yes; about forty years ago.
 582. *Mr. Neilson.*] Then it is merely a matter of history for you? Yes.
 583. *President.*] That accident was supposed to have occurred through taking out the pillars. But supposing the pillars had been left in, what then—would not that have prevented the inundation? My opinion is that it would be well to have 8-yard pillars and 4-yard bords under such circumstances. In my opinion the pillars ought to be left wide where there is a soft surface.
 584. Have you given any attention to the study of pressure? Not a great deal.
 585. You know, of course, that rock has a certain weight, and the deeper you go down the greater the weight on the same area, say a square foot? Yes, I should say so.
 586. Does that teach you any lesson as to the size of pillars and width of bords that should be determined upon—that is, the fact that as you increase the depth you increase the pressure, or, in other words, the weight? My opinion is that the deeper you go the stronger the pillars should be.
 587. Have you been employed at Tynce side at all? I was employed 3 miles from the Tynce—at Ravensworth.
 588. Have you ever noticed there the mode of graduating the width of bords and size of the pillars to the depth of the mine? We worked the pillars according to the position of the seam.
 589. Did you not vary the size of the pillars according to your depth from the surface? No; we looked to what was above us—the nature of the roof.
 590. And what conclusion did you arrive at? We had 10-yard pillars on one seam, and then increased the size from 10 to 12, and 4-yard bords. On the top seam, when I came away, we had a 40-yard pillar, square, with a 4-yard bord.
 591. Is it within your experience that the size of pillars should be graduated to the depth from the surface? Yes; that is my opinion.
 592. What is the deepest mine you have worked in? Springwell. I cannot tell you how many fathoms deep it was.
 593. What was the width of bords there? 4 yards.
 594. And the size of pillars? From 10 to 12 yards.
 595. Is it within your experience that a thick seam requires a larger sized pillar than a thin seam? Yes. Where I worked before I came to this country one side of the district required larger pillars than the other, on account of the softness of the coal on one side of a fault.
 596. Have you had any experience of cutting bluestone or basalt faults under water? I have been where there have been clay, sand, and gravel, but not stone.
 597. You know that some quality of basalt is very hard and full of joints? Yes.
 598. Then from that, would you be disposed to be very cautious how you approached these faults under water? Yes.
 599. That is in case you might cut a joint or fissure? Yes.
 600. Have you ever known any colliery to be flooded out through cutting into a basalt fault? I knew a place at Home where, through fissures in the roof, we were flooded out for two years, until the engine-power was increased.
 601. Then you see good reason for caution in approaching these faults? Yes.
 602. Have you seen any basalt faults in Stockton? Yes; I have seen that one which runs across the shaft, and another in the top drive.
 603. In approaching these same faults under water, would you be inclined to exercise caution? Yes, I would.
 604. Of course where that pit is sunk there are many feet of sand and clay—28 feet of clay—on top of the
 the

the rock; would that puddle-clay afford any protection against the surface waters from coming down? It would depend upon the fissures you came in contact with.

Mr. R. J.
Errington.

605. On this side of the harbour there is no covering of clay on top of the rocks; you can see the rocks projecting, and the inference is that at one side of the harbour the surface deposits wash off and take on at the other side, so that the basalt rocks that cross the harbour have not the protection of this clay covering for a portion of the distance. Would that induce you to observe extra caution in approaching these where they have no covering of clay? Certainly.

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606. In your opinion the way to ensure the greatest amount of safety in working these collieries is to drive the bords narrow and leave pillars of sufficient size—larger than those left at present? Yes; and also driving by lines, so as to ensure that the pillars would be left at an equal thickness. I would also have boreholes in advance.

607. Well, seeing that you advocate a larger size of pillars than it is the custom to leave in the district, and that they should be left of equal width all through, would you suggest any means of providing against the pillars being robbed? Supposing, for example, that the men go off the straight line sometimes, would you approve of a fine being imposed for doing so? I would approve of it in this way: that if a man, after being cautioned about working his bord too wide, still continued to do so, he should be fined for disobedience. I should expect nothing less myself.

608. With regard to working under the sea, where we know nothing about the deposits, as to whether anything covers the rock or not, would you consider that any special precautions should be taken? I do not know of any other precautions you could take unless by ceasing to work.

609. You know of no other precautions than those you have mentioned? Not that I am aware of, except you were to keep additional pumping-power ready to deal with more than ordinary quantities of water.

610. You are doubtful as to the safety of working these comparatively shallow collieries under the Pacific? Yes.

611. *Mr. Neilson.*] Which pit did you work in at Ravensworth? I worked in the "Betty" pit.

612. Do you remember anything about the washout there on the Betty pit side? Yes. I was in there for four years.

613. I believe there was a complete washout for a considerable distance there? Yes.

614. What was the nature of it? It was sand with pebble stones, and outpours of water. We were 144 hours working at it, and it beat us by 35 yards at the finish.

615. Had you to put on any extra engine-power? Yes, to take the water out.

616. *President.*] What depth was that? 360 feet.

617. *Mr. Neilson.*] In that place the tide used to rise and fall, did it not? Yes.

618. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Supposing you owned the Stockton mine, in which case, of course, you would be largely interested in getting the coal out, how would you propose to work it in order to preserve your property and secure the safety of the men? I would do exactly as I have said, and drive 4-yard bords and leave 8-yard pillars.

619. *Mr. Usher.*] How far did that washout extend at Ravensworth? The washout goes through all the seam right down to the Hetton seam.

620. *Mr. Davies.*] Do you think the plan of working at Stockton is a safe one? My opinion is that a 4-yard bord with an 8-yard pillar is the proper system.

621. I am asking do you think the system worked there is a safe one? No.

622. *President.*] Mr. Davies is referring to a sheath of bords going towards the harbour, measuring 8 yards, 10 yards, 9½ yards, 8½ yards, and 9 yards, and which are divided by pillars measuring 3 yards and 4 yards, and in one part 2 yards. You see the proportion of bord to pillar there is about one to three and a half, that is taking three and a half times the coal that is left to support the roof. Is that safe? No; not in my opinion. I would not work it that way if it was my place.

623. *Mr. Usher.*] What was the width of the Tyne about that part where you say the pillars were taken out? I cannot say.

624. *Mr. Curley.*] How long have you resided at Stockton? About thirteen months.

625. Have you done any well-sinking there? I have had one sunk. I did not do it myself.

626. Have you ever observed the water in the well rise and fall with the tide? Yes.

627. Have you any idea to what extent? It rises in my well about 9 inches.

628. *President.*] What is the depth? It is about 17 feet to the water, on the hill there. It is a little below the water-level.

629. Is it salt? The water is a little brackish.

630. *Mr. Curley.*] Is there much timber used in the bords at Stockton? There is in some bords; in others it is scarce.

631. *Mr. Thomas.*] I suppose there is no lack of timber there? No. I always get sufficient.

632. *President.*] Would you be disposed to place much reliance upon the security offered by wooden chocks? Not much.

633. I am supposing the system was adopted of working with the bords of the width we have been talking about, would these wooden chocks be an efficient support for the roof? No. The wood would decay.

634. And do you see any way of renewing these chocks in extensive workings? No; not very well.

The witness withdrew.

Benjamin Nicholson sworn and examined:—

635. *President.*] Are you a miner? Yes.

636. And where are you employed? I am working at Stockton.

637. How long have you been working in Stockton? About eleven months.

638. And before that, where were you employed? In the Old Country and in New Zealand.

639. Before you were in New Zealand, where did you work? In Northumberland, England.

640. In what parts? I was at several collieries—Choppington, Bedside, Lowscaton, and Ashington.

641. What depth was Bedside? I cannot say.

642. It was a considerable depth, was it not? Yes, I think it was.

643. What system of working was followed there? The bord and pillar system.

644. What size pillars? 12-yard pillars and 5-yard bords.

645. That is to say, two and a half times more coal was left in the pillars than was taken out. Were any of these collieries worked under tidal rivers or under the sea? No; none that I worked in.

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646.

- Mr. B. Nicholson. 646. Have you had any experience yourself of working coal under the sea or under rivers? No.
 9 Aug., 1886. 647. Where have you been working in the Stockton mine? I have worked in the back heading towards the east.
 648. Have you been in any of the working bords? Yes; I have been in some.
 649. What width are the bords driven in the lower coal-seam? 8 yards.
 650. And in the upper coal? 8 yards.
 651. Have you ever seen any of the bords wider than that? I never measured them.
 652. What width are the pillars? They are supposed to be 6-yard pillars, but they are not all of that size.
 653. Can you say anything about the size of the pillars? Well, I have seen a good many 4-yard pillars, and some less than that.
 654. Have you ever seen them less than 2 yards wide? Yes; I have seen them 2 yards between two bords.
 655. In what part of the colliery was this? In the lower seam.
 656. Considering the depth of the shaft, do you consider 2-yard pillars sufficient? No, I do not.
 657. Whose fault was it that pillars so thin as 2 yards wide were left? I cannot say.
 658. Are the places driven by line or plumb? I have seen them driven by line.
 659. Then it has been through some carelessness on the part of the lineman or overman that the pillars have been left so thin? I suppose so.
 660. Have you any suggestions to offer as to how these collieries should be worked in workings extending under the harbour or under the sea? Well, I think the bords should not be 8 yards wide.
 661. What would you consider a fair width to secure the safety of the men? I think 6 yards is big enough.
 662. And what about pillars? The pillars should be 8 yards wide.
 663. Do you know anything about Bullock Island Colliery? No, sir.
 664. Have you never worked there? No.
 665. Have you worked in any other collieries in Newcastle? I have never worked in any other colliery but Stockton since I came here.
 666. Then would you consider it a good principle to graduate the size of the pillars and width of the bords to the depth of the seam from the surface. Have you given any attention to that question? No; I cannot say that I have.
 667. Mr. Neilson.] Have you paid any attention to the size of the shaft pillars at Stockton pit? No; I did not take any notice.
 668. I suppose you have seen what is known as a crush in a mine? Oh, yes; I have known it go over eight or twelve pillars in New Zealand.
 669. In speaking about pillars, Mr. Nicholson, I suppose you are only referring to the ordinary pillars between the bords? Yes.
 670. And you know nothing about the shaft pillars? No.
 671. Have you no suggestion to make as to the working of the mine? No.
 672. Have you ever heard any of the men express an opinion as to the safety or otherwise of the mine? No.
 673. At what colliery in New Zealand was it where the crush-out you refer to occurred? At the Bay of Islands.
 674. Mr. Jones.] Where the pillars were only 2 yards in Stockton, the bords must have been considerably over 8 yards wide? Yes; the bords must have been considerably over 8 yards to get that size pillars. These bords that I have referred to were abandoned bords a good way back from the face.
 The witness withdrew.

Thomas Fox sworn and examined:—

- Mr. T. Fox. 675. President.] What are you, Mr. Fox? I am a coal-miner.
 9 Aug., 1886. 676. How long have you followed that occupation? I have been a miner for twenty-nine years.
 677. In what parts of the world have you been employed in coal-mining? In a good part of England—in Durham, and Nottingham, and Cumberland.
 678. At what collieries did you work in Durham? I worked at Spinnifore, Badbank, and Page Bank.
 679. How deep was Badbank? I cannot say.
 680. What system of working was followed? 8-yard bords and 4-yard pillars—that was the top seam.
 681. In other collieries you were employed in, what was the size of the pillars and width of the bords? Where I worked in Northumberland we drove 6-yard bords, leaving 4-yard pillars.
 682. In Cumberland, what colliery did you work at? The Robin Hood.
 683. What was the depth of the shaft? Something like 70 fathoms was the depth of the shaft.
 684. And the width of the bords? They drove 8-yard bords there; I cannot say the size of the pillars, but I think they were about 4 yards.
 685. Was that under the sea? No; that was 2 miles from the sea.
 686. Did you ever work at collieries under the sea? No.
 687. Where have you been working in this district? I have worked at the Borehole and Bullock Island.
 688. In what part of that colliery were you working? I have been working in the front heading—"Dunn's" heading.
 689. What is the width of that heading? From 5 or 6 to 8 feet wide.
 690. Have you travelled much through Bullock Island? No. I have only been in the one heading.
 691. Therefore you are not prepared to give an opinion as to whether it is a safe or an unsafe colliery? No. I have only been in the one place.
 692. What do you think should be the width of bords and size of pillars in working under the back channel there, going out into the open water? I cannot say.
 693. Have you formed any opinion as to how the coal should be worked under the harbour? No.
 694. Mr. Turnbull.] At Page Bank, that you have mentioned, can you remember what was the size of the pillars at the bottom of the shaft? No; I cannot say that.
 695. Can you not recollect how deep it was to the deep seam of coal? It was a shallow seam.
 696. What was the nature of the bottom below the coal? It was a hard rock.
 697. Are you sure there were 4-yard pillars and 8-yard bords in that seam? I would not be sure; I am not positive; I think it was that, but it is a good bit ago since I was working there.

698. *Mr. Usher.*] Was it not the other way—that is, 8-yard pillars and 4-yard bords? I do not think so. *Mr. T. Fox.*
 699. *Mr. Curley.*] Have you worked at the Wickham small pit at any time? Yes; I worked there for a time. *9 Aug., 1886.*
 700. Were you at the sinking of it? Yes.
 701. Were you there during the whole of the time the shaft was being sunk? Yes. I was there from the start to the finish.
 702. What was the nature of the ground? First of all there was sand and water, then a soapy clay—I could not say how much—and there was a small quantity of rock in two places, and about 18 feet of wash-dirt, pebbles, and sand mixed together on the top of the coal.
 703. Was the sand you went through wet? Yes, very wet.
 704. Have you noticed a bend in the shaft towards the bottom? Yes.
 705. What was the reason it did not go down plumb? It was the running sand at the bottom that caused it.
 706. Was there any rock at the bottom of the shaft? No, none at all. There are two pieces from 4 to 6 inches thick, but that is all there is from top to bottom.
 707. What is the nature of the deposit towards? 18 feet of wash-dirt lies on top of the coal.
 708. Did you do any coal-working after the shaft was put down at that colliery? Yes.
 709. Was it wet or dry work? It was pretty wet.
 710. Where did the water come from? It seemed to come direct from the roof.
 711. Did the men work with oilskins there? Sometimes the men would put on their oilskins.
 712. Did you notice the cylinders that were put in there? Yes; I noticed the top lot.
 713. Did you notice any flaws in any of them? Yes. I think the top one shows faces or cracks.
 714. What was the width of the bords you drove there? I think they were 6-yard bords and 4-yard pillars. The pillar off the main gannou bord was 7 or 8 yards.
 715. Considering the surface deposits you went through in that shaft, and the width of bord you were driving, do you consider that the bords should be no larger than that with a view to the safety of the men? Yes.
 716. Did you see any yellow clay in sinking that shaft? No; it was a soapy blue clay.
 717. How much clay was there? I cannot say how much clay there was.
 718. How many feet of drift do you say was on top of the coal? 18 of wash-dirt.
 719. Did the men find their own oilskins, or did the owners provide them? The owners provided them.
 720. Did you ever hear any of the men express any apprehension of danger? No, sir; I never did.
 The witness withdrew.

TUESDAY, 10 AUGUST, 1886.

Present:—

J. R. M. ROBERTSON, Esq., PRESIDENT.

MR. USHER,
MR. NELSON,
MR. TURNBULL,
MR. JONES,

MR. DURIE,
MR. SWINBURN,
MR. DAVIES,
MR. CURLEY,

MR. THOMAS.

George Hinchcliffe sworn and examined:—

721. *President.*] You are a miner? Yes.
 722. Where are you at present engaged? In the Burwood Colliery.
 723. How long have you been working at Burwood Colliery? About fourteen months.
 724. Have you been there since the beginning of the colliery? Not exactly since the beginning.
 725. Before working there, were you at any of the other collieries in the Newcastle District? No. I have only been in the Colony six years, and I was about four years on the gold-fields.
 726. Then you have only had experience in the Burwood Colliery, so far as this district is concerned? Yes, that is all.
 727. Were you brought up to coal-mining in your youth? Yes.
 728. Where? In the Old Country—in Yorkshire.
 729. In what part? In a little village not far from Huddersfield. I have worked in Newcastle, Durham, and Shields. I worked at Spittleton in Newcastle.
 730. Have you had experience of working under the sea? Yes. I worked under the sea at Seaham Harbour.
 731. What depth was the Seaham Harbour Colliery? It was 500 yards and over, I think. I cannot tell you the exact depth.
 732. Did the workings extend far under the sea when you were there? I think they were something like 2 miles under the sea when I was there.
 733. What was the system of working followed at that colliery? The bord and pillar system. They used to drive the bords 4 yards wide, and leave 12-yard pillars, and sometimes they would leave 60-yard pillars.
 734. That would be with the object of taking that portion out afterwards? Yes; I expect so.
 735. In the workings farthest under the sea from the pit bottom, was there any alteration in the workings? There was not while I was there.
 736. You say they maintained 4-yard bores, with 12-yard pillars between? Yes.
 737. Were there larger pillars left in positions where the workings were farthest under the sea? I expect they were, but I could not swear.
 738. Then you only had a general impression as to where you were working? Yes.
 739. Seaham Harbour is a large colliery, is it not? Yes, it is a large colliery.
 740. Then in Burwood Colliery, Mr. Hinchcliffe, what is the system pursued? Our present is 8-yard bords and 6-yard pillars, I suppose. But I don't know the exact size of the pillars they reckon to leave.
 741. Are the pillars left of a regular thickness in Burwood? Yes, so far as I know, but I only mind my own branch.

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742. Well, are your pillars left 6 yards thick? Well, they are supposed to be, so far as I know.
743. It is no use saying they are supposed to be—that is not an answer to the question. Are they so left? I cannot answer you that question whether they are or are not.
744. Have you ever seen any pillars less than 6 yards there? Well, I have never been through any of the cut-throughs.
745. Have you never cut through any? No. I do not know the exact width the pillars ought to be left. I have only been in the shift since about three months back.
746. That is the upper seam? Yes.
747. Have you any knowledge as to whether the Burwood Company intend to work out under the sea when they reach the east coast? No, I have not.
748. If they did attempt that, do you think it would be very risky? Yes.
749. Then, as to the present workings in the solid, have you any suggestions to make as to a more secure mode of working than they have adopted at that colliery? No.
750. You think it is quite safe and secure? Well, I could not suggest a better mode of working, so far as the interests of capital and labour are concerned, with reference to safety.
751. You have had no experience in working the coal in any of the harbour collieries? No, sir.
752. Have you formed any opinion of your own as to the mode that should be adopted in working these collieries? I think that is a matter for the manager of a mine. If I were managing a mine I think I should have some idea of the best method of working the coal for safety.
753. That is scarcely an answer, Mr. Hinchcliffe? Well, I can give you another one: I should drive 4-yard bords with 12-yard pillars, and in coming back I should cut them 6 yards and 4 yards.
754. You would split the pillars coming back? Yes.
755. Would you drive 4-yard bords, and leave large pillars as a precautionary measure? Yes.
756. It involves no extra expense to leave large pillars? No.
757. The miners would just as readily leave large pillars as small ones? Yes.
758. As a general answer to a general question, then, the opinion you have formed is that the safest course of procedure in working the coal in these harbour collieries would be to drive the bords 4 yards in width, and leave a large size of pillars in the first working, with the object of recovering a portion of the pillar in coming back? Yes, that is my opinion.
759. Why would you suggest that the bords should be driven 4 yards wide? Because the strata might vary under water, and it is difficult to know what you might meet with. At the same time it is difficult for a man to determine which is the best mode of working.
760. Still you consider that, all things being equal, a 4-yard bord is safer than an 8-yard bord? Yes. I would suggest that. But you cannot say for certain.
761. I can understand what you are driving at—that is, the difficulty for a man to estimate the quality of the strata in advance of him. Is that not what you mean? Yes; that is why I say it is impossible to say definitely what is the best mode of working.
762. Have you looked into the economies of the question. The driving of 4-yard bords would entail considerable extra expense on the colliery; would there, in consequence, be any temptation for the management to drive them wider, and run a little risk in order to save money? Well, they could cut them large or small, as they thought proper.
763. Would you advocate driving exploring drifts in advance? That is one of the best means to follow, undoubtedly.
764. You would have these exploring drifts in different directions? Yes, and as far as 200 yards in advance.
765. And what about cutting faults under water—have you had any experience of that? Well, yes.
766. What course should be pursued under those circumstances? It is a question that one cannot answer definitely, because it is impossible to tell unless you see the faults.
767. And you mean that the way to see them is by means of exploring drifts, I suppose? Yes.
768. You would urge great caution in approaching faults under water? Yes; you cannot be too cautious.
769. Have you ever seen any of those washouts on the Tyne, in the Old Country? Yes, but I was young at the time.
770. But you know about them? Yes.
771. You know that some of those old watercourses came down and cut through the coal-seams to a considerable depth—that is several hundred feet? Yes.
772. And practically drowned out the collieries in which they occurred for a time? Yes. In my experience of driving in shallow collieries in the Old Country, I have known us have to stop working one side of a shaft in the winter time until the dry season set in. But the strata there seemed to be poor.
773. Have you ever seen any deep fissures in the rocks overlying the coal in the Newcastle District? No. I have only seen one worth noticing; that is on the Burwood line here.
774. Do you think, in working the coal under the sea where the surface of the rocks is exposed to the wash of the surging water, there would be a chance of meeting with similar fissures under the sea to those which are exposed on the shores? Yes; certainly you would be as likely to meet them there as anywhere else.
775. And the occurrence of these fissures is one of the difficulties and dangers that may be encountered in working the coal under the sea? Yes.
776. Have you any other suggestion to make as to the best mode of working or winning the coal under the tidal waters; that is, under the harbour or the sea? Well, I think not. You see I have only worked in Burwood Colliery.
777. And your replies are general replies? Yes.
778. *Mr. Neilson.*] You have already said that you consider 8-yard bords sufficiently safe, so far as your actual experience goes in the district, but you would suggest 4-yard bords under the sea—is that it? Yes.
779. *Mr. Turnbull.*] You say you worked at Seaham Harbour Colliery, at Home? Yes. I worked at two collieries there. But it is thirty-five years ago, and my memory is not over clear about it.
780. And you have said that you worked 4-yard bords with 12-yard pillars? Well, I did not measure them. I was speaking generally.
781. Who was the owner of the colliery you refer to? I do not know.
782. *Mr. Usher.*] Did you live at Seaham Harbour? No.

783. *Mr. Turnbull.*] You know you have said a very serious thing, because I have a plan here which will show that no such system was followed? Well, I have said that I did not measure them, and I was young at the time.

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784. But you should be very certain before you give evidence of that kind before the Commission. I believe the least of the pillars were 2 chains square, and some of them 3 chains. If you could tell us which pit it was I could prove it? I cannot tell you for certain.

785. *Mr. Usher.*] Where did you lodge at Seaham Harbour? I cannot remember.

786. Did you work at Newfield? Yes.

787. Did you ever see drifts put in under the river-way there? No.

788. What pit did you work at in Newfield? I forgot the name of the pit; it is over thirty-five years ago now since I worked there. But I think the pit I was at was called "Newfield."

789. *Mr. Jones.*] Having in view the safety of the property and the lives of the workmen, you think that the bords should not exceed 4 yards in width, and there should be large pillars left, irrespective of the cost? Yes.

790. *Mr. Swinburn.*] You say you worked at "Spittleton," in the Old Country? Yes.

791. What depth was that shaft, do you know? I do not.

792. What width of bords did they work there? I cannot answer that.

793. Can you tell us what pillars they left? I cannot answer that either. I was, as I have said, young at the time.

794. *Mr. Davies.*] You have said you would recommend the adoption of a 4-yard bord system in approaching the sea—would that add anything to the getting price of the coal? Well, I expect it would.

795. Can you get as much coal in a 4-yard bord as in an 8-yard bord? No.

796. Then you would want extra payment for working a 4-yard bord? Yes.

797. *Mr. Ourley.*] I believe the price is not agreed upon at Burwood just now? Yes.

798. Are you paid any price at all at present? They are paid some rate, but I do not know what.

799. They are paid something? Yes.

800. *Mr. Thomas.*] You have seen rocks overlying the seam at Burwood in different parts? Yes.

801. Do you see any difference between them, as to quality and solidity, compared with what you have seen at Home? Yes.

802. What difference have you noticed? They seem to be more broken up here.

803. Then, from that, would there be more danger in working under the sea here than at Home? Yes; I think so.

804. *Mr. Turnbull.*] What part of the rocks did you examine on the Seaham coast at Home? I was so young I did not notice the strata. A man takes more notice of these things as he gets older.

805. How do you know the strata are more broken up here than at Home? Because I have gone along the cliffs at Home, although I did not notice particularly what kind of rock it was.

The witness withdrew.

Thomas Hogarth sworn and examined:—

806. *President.*] You are a miner, and at present employed at Burwood, I believe? Yes.

807. How long have you been a miner, Mr. Hogarth? About thirty-five years.

808. Where have you been following your occupation? In the Old Country, in Victoria, and New South Wales.

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809. In what part of the Old Country? Hexham.

810. Have you, in the Old Country, ever worked under the sea? I have not worked under the sea, but I have worked under tidal water.

811. Was the colliery a deep one in which you worked under tidal water? No; it was a shallow colliery—Fourstone.

812. What depth was it? About 100 feet under the Tyne.

813. Was the system adopted the bord and pillar system? Yes.

814. What was the width of the bords? 4-yard bords.

815. That was the district width? Yes.

816. And what pillars did you leave? 6-yard.

817. Did you work in any other mine in the north of England? No.

818. Only in Fourstone? Yes.

819. What collieries have you been working in in this Colony? I have worked in the Glebe, and I have worked a few shifts in Maryville.

820. Do you know the quality of the surface that overlies the coal in Maryville? No; I was only working there about five shifts.

821. Why did you leave? Well, I thought it was not safe to stop.

822. Why did you think it was unsafe? I thought there was not a sufficiently good roof above us.

823. Before you came to the conclusion that it was unsafe, did you not consider within yourself why the mine was not safe—that is to say, what rendered it unsafe? Well, I thought it was unsafe, because there was no rock above.

824. I asked you first if you knew the thickness of the surface? No; I was not asked that question.

825. Do you know the thickness? No.

826. But you know there was no rock above the coal? Yes.

827. And I suppose you had a general knowledge as to what depth it was? No.

828. Suppose I told you that it was 135 feet to the coal, and that that represented the thickness of the surface deposits, would that alter your opinion as to the safety of the mine? No.

829. Would it confirm your opinion that it was unsafe? Yes; I think it would be unsafe from my way of thinking.

830. Supposing I told you there was 100 feet of clay above the coal, would that alter your opinion? No.

831. What effect would clay have in the event of a fall in the roof? Well, there are different sorts of clay. Some would run.

832. That is mud—it is not clay at all. Where were you working in Maryville? In No. 5 heading.

833. Where is that situated? On the north side of the shaft.

834. What character had the roof in that part? They were leaving the top coal up; that is all the roof we had there. They took the bottoms out, and left the top coal in.

835. Do you know what overlies the top coal? No; I do not.

836.

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836. Was it a good roof? It was a middling roof.
837. What width of bords were you driving? 6-yard bords.
838. Did that give you a measure of safety over 8-yard bords? Yes, over 8-yard bords.
839. Did it afford a sufficient measure of safety, in your opinion? No; not to my mind.
840. What would you consider a safe width to drive the bords in Maryville? I should say 4-yard bords and 12-yard pillars myself. It could do no harm, and they could split the pillars coming back.
841. You had a feeling of insecurity at Maryville? Yes; all the time I was working there.
842. Did you express that feeling to any of your fellows? No; I did not.
843. You just bottled it up within yourself, and looked out for another place? Yes.
844. Did you work in any other parts save the one you have mentioned? No; only that one.
845. Did anyone give you an opinion as to the character of the roof at Maryville? Yes; the man who worked in the next bord to me.
846. Did you know his name? No.
847. Did he leave the place also? Yes; at the same time that I did.
848. And you do not know his name? No.
849. How long did he work there? I do not know, but I think about the same time as I did.
850. What is the width of bords in Burwood? 8-yard bords.
851. And you leave what thickness of pillars? The pillars are of different thickness. Where I am working now there is an 11-yard pillar.
852. What is the reason of that? I do not know. I have not been in the habit of travelling about the pit.
853. What is the average size of the pillars? 6 yards.
854. Does that mean less than 6 yards in reality? There are some less than that and some more.
855. When you say the bords are driven 8 yards wide, does that mean more than 8 yards in reality? No; not where I am working.
856. If you work the bords wider than 8 yards, is a fine imposed? Not that I have heard as yet. We are marked off if we exceed the measure.
857. Then, generally speaking, the bords are 8 yards, and the pillars 6 yards? Yes.
858. Do you know the depth of the colliery? No.
859. Supposing it were determined to work under the sea, would you consider 8-yard bords and 6-yard pillars a safe system of working? No; not to work under the sea.
860. What would you suggest? I would suggest 4-yard bords and 12-yard pillars.
861. And you would suggest that to attain what? The safety of the men.
862. Have you come to any conclusion as to the cost of working a colliery with 4-yard bords and 12-yard pillars? That I am not prepared to go into; that is the manager's lookout.
863. Do not you think that the men should also look at that point; if they make a suggestion, is it not reasonable that they should count the cost too? I do not see that the men have anything to do with it, except to look after their own safety.
864. Have you been working in Stockton or Bullock Island? No.
865. Have you had any conversation with any of your fellows as to either of these collieries? No.
866. Have you come prepared to make any other suggestion as to the safest mode of working the Newcastle coal-seams under the sea or harbour? The only conclusion I can come to is that the best way would be to leave it alone.
867. Have you noticed any of the rocks along the beach showing fissures? Yes, I have noticed them.
868. And would there be the same chance of meeting those fissures in the rock under the sea? Yes; of course.
869. Do you know the cause of fissures? A pressure of water would cause fissures in soft rock.
870. Then, looking to the uncertainty that exists, and the difficulties that may be met with in working the coal under the sea, you would suggest a system of narrow bords and large pillars? Yes.
871. Do you consider that narrow bords, generally speaking—of course there are exceptions to every rule, but speaking in a general way,—do you consider that a greater measure of safety can be attained by driving narrow bords than by driving wide bords? I should think a narrow bord could be better timbered, and would give more security.
872. Do you consider that greater safety and stability can be attained by leaving large pillars? Oh, yes; there is no doubt about that at all.
873. Practically then your suggestions are that to ensure safety extra precaution should be taken in the direction of maintaining narrow bords and leaving large pillars? Yes.
874. And what about exploring drifts in advance of the working-bords? Do you mean under the sea?
875. Yes; or under any place where more than ordinary danger exists? I should suggest a bore 30 or 40 yards ahead all the way.
876. Have you ever seen a bore 40 yards ahead of a bord? No; but I would put one 20 yards ahead at least.
877. That is, in approaching any known quantity of water? Yes.
878. But where approaching the unknown, is it necessary? Yes; I should think it necessary to keep a bore ahead to look out for fissures.
879. You do not want to establish an arbitrary rule? No.
880. *Mr. Neilson.* How far is the Fourstone Colliery from Hexham? About 4 miles west.
881. What is the width of the Tyne at that particular spot, opposite the colliery? It is about 200 yards wide opposite the colliery. The water was not above 2 feet or 3 feet deep except at flood-time.
882. Did they drive under the Tyne? Yes.
883. How wide did they go? About 10 feet.
884. Was there more than one drive? No; only one drive.
885. Did they work any bords under the Tyne? Yes; they worked a good deal under the Tyne.
886. And you say they left only 6-yard pillars? Yes, 6-yard pillars.
887. Was there any fall-in extending to the surface there? No; not in my time.
888. Was it well timbered, or was brick used? There were two headings of brick under the Tyne.
889. *President.* They were arched with brick? Yes.
890. *Mr. Davies.* You have worked at the Glebe, have you not? Yes.
891. You know that extensive falls have taken place there? Yes.
892. Do you know the cause of these falls? Well, I think it was through cutting away the pillars too much; that is my idea of it.

Mr.
T. Hogarth.
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893. How many falls were there? About four or five, or six.
 894. And were they all the result of robbing the pillars? Yes.
 895. Was not the Glebe supposed to be worked on the same principle as Burwood? Yes—8-yard bords and 4-yard pillars.
 896. *President.*] In Burwood they have 6-yard pillars? Yes—where we are now.
 897. *Mr. Davies.*] At the Glebe, was there anything like strict supervision kept over the men, with a view to keeping the pillars of stated width? Well, no. I have seen four or five bords there where you could talk to one another between the bords, from one to the other.
 898. Might not the same thing occur at Bullock Island. Is a strict supervision kept there, or do they measure your bords at regular intervals? I think they are generally measured about two or three times a week; but I do not make a practice of running about the pit, as I do not know anybody there.
 899. Then you say you would like to see 4-yard bords, with 12-yard pillars, in workings under the sea? Yes.
 900. Would that entail any more labour on the miner? Yes; it would entail more labour on the miner, no doubt.
 901. And he would want a higher price then? I expect so.
 902. *Mr. Curley.*] How long did you work in the Newcastle Coal-mining Company's pit? On and off, I worked there eight or nine years. It is about eleven years since I went to it first, but I have been away from the district since then.
 903. Did you ever make any close observations underground when these falls took place? The only observations I made were of the first one, when it was examined to see if it had shifted at all.
 904. What did you notice? We thought it had gone in altogether one night, and we went up to see what was the matter, or if anything was wrong.
 905. Did any stone come down? No; I did not notice any stones.
 906. Did you notice that the sides were crushed in any way? No.
 907. What size were the pillars at the shaft bottom? When they started away the bords they were supposed to be 4-yard pillars, but some were 2 yards, and even 1 yard.
 908. How were your main roads protected? There were 7- or 8-yard pillars between the bords.
 909. *President.*] Did the falls come over that? The first fall came over a big pillar.
 910. *Mr. Curley.*] Was it a 7-yard pillar? Yes.
 911. What did the other falls come over? They came over 4-yard pillars.
 912. *President.*] Or what were supposed to be 4-yard pillars? Yes, they were supposed to be.
 913. *Mr. Thomas.*] Do you think, under the circumstances, that a colliery proprietor could make it pay to work with 12-yard pillars and 4-yard bords? Well, I cannot say that.
 914. Have you considered that all? I am not here for the masters—I am here for the men.
 915. *President.*] I beg your pardon. You do not come here for that purpose. You come here to give us your opinion.
 916. *Mr. Jones.*] You have admitted that the carrying out of your suggestion would incur a higher rate of hewing? No; I did not admit that. I said to Mr. Davies, "I expected it would."
 917. Would that be a sufficient justification for not carrying out your suggestion? I cannot say whether it would or not.
 918. Should not the safety of the men be the paramount, the first consideration? Yes.
 919. *Mr. Usher.*] Wherein would the extra cost be? The yardage.
 920. Wherein would the safety be as regards the 12-yard pillars? Well, you would have the strong pillars to fall back upon.
 921. What danger would you anticipate from working under the sea? The danger of the water coming in.
 922. Would it not be as likely to break in while splitting the pillars coming back as in driving 4-yard bords and leaving a smaller and similar size of pillars? There would be danger of the water breaking in that way no doubt.
 923. *Mr. Davies.*] I would like to be a little more clear on the question of cost. I understood you to say that if the mode of working was reduced you would require a higher price—that you would get as much money in a 4-yard bord, simply having the tonnage, as you would get in an 8-yard board? No, you would not.
 924. You would save yardage or increased tonnage? Yes.
 925. *President.*] Do you get any yardage in the North of England for 4-yard bords? I never worked on the coal there; I was wheeling.
 926. Do you know whether yardage was paid for 4-yard bords? No, I do not.
 927. *Mr. Curley.*] Do you know if there is any way in which this difficulty could be met—that is, the additional payment for yard work, and so on? Not just now.
 The witness withdrew.

Wm. Fenwick sworn and examined:—

Mr.
W. Fenwick.
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928. *President.*] You are a miner? Yes.
 929. Where employed at present? At Maryville.
 930. How long have you been working at Maryville? I have been working there since the 20th of January last.
 931. And before that, where were you working? On the Bondi sewerage works.
 932. Before that, where were you employed? I worked over this district and Greta.
 933. Then you have been a miner from your youth? Yes, from my birth almost.
 934. How long have you been in the Colony? Since 1872.
 935. And before that? At Cleveland, Yorkshire; and I worked at Durham, in "Coxhæ," and "Kelhæ."
 936. Have you ever worked under the sea or any important rivers? Yes, but not at coal-mining.
 937. At what were you working? On railway contracts.
 938. What was the system adopted where you worked at Durham? Much the same as here: bord and pillar.
 939. Was there any difference in the thickness of the pillars there? Yes, a little. I have seen in a place called "Jenkin's" a pillar worked up so close that it fell.
 940. That was in a shallow colliery? Yes.

- Mr. W. Fenwick. 941. Have you ever worked in any deeper collieries at Home? Yes; about the same as these here.
942. What size pillars were left? From 6 yards to 8 yards.
- 10 Aug., 1886. 943. Did you ever work in any very deep collieries at Home? Not very deep ones.
944. Are you aware whether in the deeper collieries of England the pillars are proportioned to the depth? Yes; I think I know what you mean—that is, the deeper the colliery is the less weight there is on the roof.
945. I do not mean that. I mean that the deeper the colliery is the greater the weight on the pillars? I do not believe in that.
946. Do you not. Well, your belief in this case is not of much consequence, because what I put to you is a matter of fact. You say you have been working in Maryville since January? Yes.
947. You work 6-yard bords and leave 4-yard pillars there, do you not? Yes.
948. Are the pillars in any cases less than 4 yards? They may be in some cases, but they are not supposed to be.
949. That is the rule of working? Yes.
950. Are you satisfied with the width of bords and size of pillars left in Maryville? Well, I do not think the pillars have much to do with it. In soft coal especially the bords always snip off by the pillar. I never saw a bord break down in the centre. I do not think the pillars have an atom to do with it under the new mode of working.
951. Then, you would advocate narrower bords? No; I do not think so.
952. Would you approve of wider bords then? Well, it is hard to say.
953. In the regular workings, in the bottoms, where the top-coal is left in for a roof, what would you advocate as to width of bords and size of pillars? I should say 8-yard bords instead of 6 yards.
954. For what reason? Because you would get more coal out, for one thing. I think the top-coal, if properly timbered, is sufficient to carry all above it.
955. Will timber last for ever? No, of course not.
956. How would you renew it. How would you propose to renew the timber in a colliery covering a number of square miles in extent? By putting new timber in it as the old decays.
957. Is that possible? It is, sir.
958. But the timber, as it decayed, would let the unsupported roof come down. I am talking about the old bords. How would you propose to renew the timber there? Well, you could let the top ground come in, the same as I have seen.
959. Do you know what you are talking about—are you speaking of collieries with solid strata above the workings, or with mud and sand and clay overhead? I am taking the case of Maryville.
960. Would you propose to let in the whole of the surface? Certainly, as she has already come in in many places.
961. In how many? I cannot say how many.
962. Could you say a dozen? No; I cannot say a dozen.
963. Or half a dozen? I will not say even half a dozen. But I believe if I said a dozen, or over that, I should not be telling an untruth.
964. Tell us one place? There are three or four places in E heading.
965. Is it east or west of the shaft? It is south of the shaft.
966. It cannot be south of the shaft—the washout comes in south of the shaft. There are no headings there? I do not know the exact bearings.
967. Is it going towards Thorsby's Creek? It is going towards the Chinamen's gardens.
968. One side of the shaft is east and the other west? On one side there is no work going on, and on the other side to that you go in and turn to the left, and then to the right again, and that is about as near as I can tell you the position.
969. That is going towards Thorsby's Creek. Are there falls in there? Yes.
970. And the surface comes down? Yes.
971. Were they large falls? The bords where the top had come down caved in.
972. Mr. Thomas.] Had the work to be abandoned? They were worked out before they fell.
973. President.] What came down? A kind of clay—sand first, and then the clay. I have never seen any rock. As the bords were worked out the tops were taken, and they came down one by one. They all break down by the rib or pillar side. I never saw one break down in the centre.
974. The reason is very obvious, there being no solid strata above to retain the surface. Then you would advocate that the pillars and tops should all be taken out, and the surface let down? No; I do not.
975. Then what do you advocate? I cannot offer any opinion with regard to the tops, because the new system has not sufficiently far advanced. The old mode of working the bottoms I considered perfectly safe. Not so the new mode. I believe my bord is the first under the new method of working the coal.
976. What is the new mode? Working the tops first.
977. Why do you consider it unsafe? Simply for this reason: There is what they call a band in the borehole that goes up to the rock. This band has got to be split in Maryville to give us 5 feet of coal to work for 4s. 2d. a ton—that is, split up to what they call the “chitter.” I have gone up to within 4 inches of it; and that 4 inches is not sufficient to hold it up, no matter how you timber. When the weight comes on the coal will break and let the “chitter” down.
978. Generally speaking, you think the way to obviate that is to work the bottoms first, and then come back and work a portion of the tops? Yes; that is the only safe plan.
979. Do you prefer 8-yard bords to 6-yard bords, as a matter of safety? Either 8- or 6-yard bords would do, but I consider 8-yard bords would be quite safe.
980. Would they be safer at 6 yards? I do not think they would be a little bit safer.
981. You would work the bottoms first? Yes; and draw the tops coming back; and the men would then always have a safe let-out underneath the tops. Working the other way, if a fall took place, they would be entombed.
982. That is, you consider the present mode unsafe? Yes.
983. Do they propose to work the bottoms afterwards? I do not believe they will ever get to the bottoms again.
984. As to the size of the pillars, Mr. Fenwick, what would you propose with regard to that? I do not think the size of the pillars has a great deal to do with it.
985. But where there is a good roof? The roof is not good there, and when you get through the chitter it is clay and shingle bed.

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W. Fenwick.
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986. Would you timber it? It can be timbered; I could secure it for myself, but I would not be answerable for anyone else.
987. What proposition would you like to put before the Commission as to the most safe and secure method of working Maryville Colliery? I would work the bottoms first, sir, and draw the tops back.
988. It is not a bad old custom that. And what about pillars? 4-yard pillars I believe to be sufficient.
989. Have you worked in any of the bords in Maryville approaching the washout? I have driven the headings there in the washout.
990. Was it difficult to drive across the wash? Not in the least. It was fair ground.
991. Just the clay? Yes; it is good ground, provided you work it in the right way.
992. You should not trust too much to it? You ought not to trust to it at all, but keep your timber ahead of you all the time.
993. The clay you meet there is ordinary puddle clay, I suppose? Yes—a good standing clay.
994. In the coal beyond that wash, is the roof the same as in other parts of the colliery? The top coal is rather soft.
995. How do you account for that? The only way I can account for it is by reason of the fault, because I know the party that followed us, after our caving was up, lost the top coal altogether. I cannot say how it stands now.
996. With regard to Stockton and Bullock Island, have you formed any opinion as to the mode of working those collieries? No; I have not thought of that at all.
997. Have you thought of the best mode of working the coal under the sea or harbour? No.
998. *Mr. Thomas.*] How many bords are working the tops? There are two bords there going into the tops proper; but there are other bords working the tops where the bottoms have been worked first.
999. *President.*] And as the tops are worked the roof falls? It has done in some of the bords, but not all.
1000. But will eventually? Yes.
1001. *Mr. Curley.*] How many places are engaged working the tops first? From No. 10 bord up to No. 18 bord will be doing so.
1002. But how many at present? Only two bords in the one heading.
1003. Do you consider that mode of working unsafe? Yes.
1004. Did you ever ask the Inspector of Collieries to make an inspection of those workings? We have done so, and he refused.
1005. *President.*] In what way? I think Mr. Curley received a communication on that point. We wrote to the Inspector of Collieries when this new mode of working was introduced, asking him to inspect this colliery; and the reply received was that he had written to the Examiner of Coal-fields (Mr. Mackenzie), who also wrote, saying that they could not act in the matter, as they would be placing a responsibility on the Government.
1006. You were asking for more than inspection, I am afraid? I do not think so, sir, but Mr. Curley will be able to satisfy you on that point.
1007. We cannot accept it from Mr. Curley, who is one of the Commission—it must come from you? Well, that is as near as I can explain it.
1008. Have you ever seen Mr. Mackenzie at Maryville since you have worked there? No.
1009. Have you seen the Inspector of Collieries there? Yes. He was down there last Saturday.
1010. *Mr. Davies.*] The Inspector you refer to is Mr. Dixon? Yes—Mr. John Dixon.
1011. You wrote to him in the first instance? Yes; and he wrote to Mr. Mackenzie.
1012. Can you produce the correspondence? Yes; it can be produced. Mr. Robb has it, and he can give you all information on that point.
1013. Is this going to be a general system—working the tops and leaving the bottoms behind? Yes.
1014. And you do not think it is safe? No. I could make myself safe in a practical way of working, but there are dozens of men who could not make themselves safe. You know the slovenly way in which miners often timber; they do not take precautions for their own safety so long as they can get a skip of coal.
1015. Does not the overseer caution them? I have heard the overseer in several cases caution the men, and they laugh at it.
1016. Does he do his duty in this respect? He does his duty as far as that goes, but does not caution them in all cases. He has a good deal to do.
1017. Are the bords of the same width under the new system as they were under the old system? So far as I can say of my own knowledge it is; but I believe the intention is to work them wider.
1018. Do I understand that after giving a great deal of consideration to this matter you believe the new mode of working the tops to be unsafe? Yes.
1019. But you can keep yourself safe you say, and if the other men used the same precautions I suppose they could keep themselves safe? No; I do not say that.
1020. Then you are not safe? The reason is that the miners are so slovenly in timbering.
1021. Are they not under the supervision of the deputies? Yes; but the deputy is not always there.
1022. Would it add to the safety of working if the deputies set the timbers instead of the miners? Well, I cannot say that, because sometimes the deputies are rather behind hand in coming forward, and a man might be killed through delay.
1023. Have you known of any accidents of that kind? No.
1024. *Mr. Swinburn.*] You think that in working these places it would be much better for the miner to timber his own place for his own safety? Yes.
1025. And if the deputy had reason to find fault with a man for not timbering his bord he could demand that it should be done according to the rules, I suppose? Yes.
1026. Is a deputy or the overseer not justified in sending a man out of the pit for carelessness in this respect? Yes.
1027. *Mr. Jones.*] You have stated that you consider the new system of working is unsafe? Yes.
1028. And to secure safety you suggest that the bottoms should be worked first and the tops taken out afterwards? Yes.
1029. But would not the tops fall in just the same by working the bottoms first, as you say it is impossible to keep the roof up? Well, you see there is a matter of 3 feet of Morgan there, and jerry, &c., and 4 feet of

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of tops, which form a good stay for the roof, and if that is timbered in working the bottoms, I do not think it would come in at all.

1030. *President.*] In what manner would that add to the general safety? You have already admitted that the timber is not everlasting, and you have known many falls to take place there—would not that bring down the whole in the course of time? I have never known more than one bord to fall at one time, or even to go over a pillar. After being worked the bord would break away by the pillar, and fall and crumble for a time, and eventually come down. But I have not known more than one at a time to come down.

1031. Then wherein is the mine unsafe? I say the present mode is unsafe. In driving a bord 6 yards wide, under the present system of working the tops, you do not know the moment the ground is going to fall behind you, and block you in.

1032. You mean it is unsafe to the particular worker? Yes.

1033. Did you observe any water come in with any of these falls you have spoken of? No.

1034. Then the falls to be expected would not imperil the lives of the workmen generally? No; not on the present system.

1035. Well, then, I am to argue from that there is no danger apprehended generally through the unsafety of the mine? No; not in that way.

1036. It is only individual danger you refer to? Yes; that is all.

1037. *Mr. Neilson.*] Do you think the top and bottom coal can be worked with safety as you propose—you consider it would be a waste of valuable property to leave the bottom coal? I do.

1038. *Mr. Usher.*] How long ago is it since you worked at Coxhoe and Kelhoe? I worked there in 1854.

1039. What seam did you work in? I worked in the main seam.

1040. What depth was the shaft there? I cannot say now.

1041. How thick was the seam? About 4 feet.

1042. What size bords and pillars was the rule there? I did not work in a bord there.

1043. At Kelhoe, what seam did you work? I worked in what they call the main coal.

1044. In which of the Kelhoe pits did you work? Near Deafhill.

1045. What size of pillars were there? I do not remember.

1046. At Kelhoe and Coxhoe they used to draw the bords as quickly as they could wall through, did they not? Yes; there was no background left there.

1047. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Have you been in Maryville lately? Yes; I was there on Saturday last.

1048. Have you noticed any timber standing there? Yes; there is timber standing in No. 7 bord, "F" heading.

1049. Did you notice any signs of pressure there? No; some of the props had canted a little, that is all.

1050. Have you noticed a bord half worked in the old pit with the props 3 or 4 feet apart all the way down? Yes; I have noticed that.

1051. How much would it take to repair all that? Not much.

1052. If you had to retimber that yourself, it would not cost very much? No, not a great deal. There are places I have retimbered when I was working shift work at Maryville. I cannot see much danger attached to it.

The witness withdrew.

John Robb sworn and examined:—

Mr.
J. Robb.
10 Aug., 1886.

1053. *President.*] You are a miner, Mr. Robb? Yes.

1054. Are you working at Maryville? I am not working at Maryville at present. I was about five months there.

1055. What part of the mine were you working in? I cannot exactly say, but I think it was to the west.

1056. Were you working towards the wash-out? Yes.

1057. You worked in the headings that pierced the wash-out? Yes.

1058. Was the roof good? It was not very good as it went towards the wash-out. It got worse.

1059. You leave the top coal on? There is no top coal where I have been working; that is, there is a little; but as sand lies on the top of it, it is impossible to take it out.

1060. You timbered it very close? Yes, in this heading.

1061. What width of bords did you drive in Maryville? The only width I wrought was 6 yards.

1062. Would you advocate wider bords than that? I cannot say I would advocate wider bords.

1063. Have you more faith in wide bords than in narrow bords—which would you prefer in Maryville? Well, Maryville is a curious sort of a pit to work; but to work it for the safety of the men, without any danger whatever, I would work with a narrow bord.

1064. The bords worked in Maryville are 6 yards wide, and the pillars are left 4 yards wide. Have you ever seen any pillars less than 4 yards wide? I have seen pillars there 2 yards wide.

1065. Do you consider a 2-yard pillar safe or unsafe? Well, in the case of a colliery like Maryville, a 4-yard pillar would be much safer than a 2-yard pillar.

1066. Then you have more faith to place in wide pillars than in thin pillars? Well, as to that, in Maryville the size of the pillars does not count much, owing to the soft roof; it comes away by the pillar. If it was a hard roof—rock—then a large pillar would of course hold it better. But in Maryville there is nothing but the soft stuff above it.

1067. Then, dealing with Maryville as it stands—it is, as you say, a peculiar colliery—would you place more confidence in a narrow bord than in a wide bord? I am not going to say it is unsafe to work in the bords that are going now—that is 6-yard bords—but a place 6 feet or 8 feet would not be so dangerous as a place 6 yards or 8 yards wide, because in the former case there would be no weight on it, and it could not come away.

1068. Considering the thickness of the clay above the coal, how would you suggest that colliery should be worked? Well, I consider that 6-yard bords are not very wide, but they are quite wide enough.

1069. I should like a more direct answer than that—state the width you would suggest? I mean it is not very wide for the men.

1070. Never mind that. It is the security and safety of the mine we are considering at present? Well, if you are going into the question of safety, I do not think bords of any width at all are very safe at Maryville.

1071. Did you have a feeling of insecurity at Maryville? Yes.

1072. For what reason? I feared this place at the wash-out. There is nothing over that to hold it. There is not sufficient support for the roof.

1073. Have you ever seen any falls of the roof at Maryville? Yes.

1074.

Mr.
J. Robb.
10 Aug., 1886.

1074. What came down? Sand.

1075. Was it dry sand? Yes.

1076. Did it run far? No, it did not run far. The only assurance I received in Maryville was the fact of the sand being dry. If I had seen water I would not have worked in it for a day.

1077. There are two systems of working in Maryville: one is to work the bottom coal first, and take back the tops; and the other is to work out the tops first. What is your opinion as to these modes of working? My opinion is that there is more danger in leaving the bottom coal.

1078. Do you think it would be to the safety of the men, and more profitable to the masters, if they were to adopt the system of taking the bottom coal first, and taking what they want of the tops? As far as I can learn the bottoms do not pay to work, and that is why they are going for the tops.

1079. Have you called the attention of the Inspector of Collieries to this new mode of working? Yes; we wrote to him.

1080. What did you write to him? I wrote to him asking him to come and see to the safety of the miners, and confer with the manager as to this new mode of working; and I got a reply from Mr. Dixon that I was to rest assured that the matter would be looked into.

1081. And what next happened? A few days after that I got a letter from the Examiner of Coal-fields, stating that it would be imposing too much responsibility on the Government to interfere in the matter; that it rested with the owners of the property alone.

1082. Will you hand in to the Commission a copy of the letter that you wrote to Mr. Dixon, with the replies that you received both from Mr. Dixon and Mr. Mackenzie? Yes.

1083. Then, have you formed any general opinion as to the mode you would suggest for working these collieries in order to ensure the maximum of safety—take the case of Maryville first? Well, I have not taken that much into consideration, as I did not think of coming before this Commission.

1084. Do you think you could alter the opinions you have expressed already with regard to Maryville? I do not think so.

1085. Have you formed any opinion as to the working of any of the other collieries adjacent to the harbour? I have not been in any of the others, and I only started in Wickham and Bullock Island on Saturday.

1086. How is it worked? I have only been in my own place. The pillar I have seen I do not believe is 6 yards.

1087. Can you say it is not 6 yards? Judging from my eye, I am certain it is not 6 yards, but I have not measured it.

1088. What size would you say it is? About 4 yards.

1089. Is the roof satisfactory in Bullock Island? So far as I have seen, it is.

1090. You have only worked there one day? A part of two days.

1091. Then you can make no suggestions as to Bullock Island? No; I cannot as to Bullock Island.

1092. You agree that the best mode of working Maryville for the safety of the men would be to break the tops coming back? Certainly; it is a great deal safer, because, instead of going in with the danger, you are leaving the danger behind you.

1093. *Mr. Jones.*] During the time you have worked at Maryville, have you heard any of the men express a fear of danger in working that colliery? I cannot name them, but I have heard some of the men say it was dangerous, and I have heard men outside say they would not work in the pit. I heard a bad report of it before I went there. I was told that when the sand fell the water would rush in and close up five or six bords. But in the first fall I saw the bord was quite dry.

1094. Then you did not leave Maryville in consequence of any feeling of insecurity? No; it was not for that. I left because I could not get work. I think a practical man ought to be able to make his own place safe.

1095. *Mr. Davies.*] Is the carelessness of others not a source of danger to you? No, not from what I have seen. Because, even if others were careless, I could make myself safe, as far as I have seen of Maryville.

1096. Supposing there was a large quantity of water there? In that case I would not stop there two days.

1097. *President.*] So far as you have seen, there is no water? I saw no water. If there was water on the top it would come in, and it will come in if they work under water.

1098. *Mr. Davies.*] Was there any discussion amongst the men as to the safety of the mine? There was when it was decided to work the top coal.

1099. And it was left to the Inspectors? Yes.

1100. And nothing was done? Yes; nothing was done.

1101. Has anything been said about it since? Yes; a meeting was held, and it was thought to publish it in the paper, and Mr. Curley was written to, to see what he could do in the matter, and there the matter ended.

1102. Do you consider the mine is a safe one to work in? That is a peculiar question.

1103. *President.*] It is a very simple question? Well, a man has to consider himself.

1104. *Mr. Davies.*] I ask you if you consider Maryville a safe colliery to work in? That depends upon coming to the sand.

1105. *President.*] How do you know it must come to the sand? You must weigh all the circumstances at one time, and give a general answer, without modification or qualification.

1106. Do you think there is danger in working at Maryville? That depends upon what is above.

1107. *President.*] There is about 100 feet of clay, and the rest is sand? I may hear that, but I do not know it for a certainty.

1108. *Mr. Davies.*] Did you not apprehend danger when you wrote to the Inspector? Well, that was the general termination of a discussion at the meeting that was held.

1109. What was your individual opinion? My individual opinion was that when the sand came down some one would be buried in it. But I can only speak for myself as to the danger.

1110. Then you thought it was safe to work in, so far as you were concerned? I could make myself safe—yes.

1111. I would like to get an answer, yes or no. Was it a feeling of insecurity that prompted the meeting to ask you to write to the Inspector? Yes; it was from a feeling of insecurity. It was in consideration of the working of this top coal and leaving the bottoms, because it was felt that the top coal was bound to run out; we had had experience of this before, and it was the fear of the men of this top coal running out that caused the men to take action.

1112.

- Mr. J. Robb. 1112. *President.*] The men had a doubt as to the safety of the proceeding? Yes.
 1113. *Mr. Davies.*] But you argue that if careful miners were employed there the place would be safe?
 10 Aug., 1886. No; I would not say that. I say I could make it safe for myself.
 1114. *Mr. Curley.*] Have you worked in any of these places where they are working the tops first? No.
 1115. Then you cannot say whether it is safe or unsafe, so far as your own experience goes? I know nothing about that, only where these places have been started on top of the bottoms. These places have all to go through the same ground, and as they approach the top it will, in my opinion, be dangerous. But the mischief would be confined to one place at a time in the absence of water; but if water was on top there would be danger as to the whole of the colliery.

The witness withdrew.

Cornelius Peters sworn and examined:—

- Mr. C. Peters. 1116. *President.*] You were examined before, in the Ferndale inquiry, Mr. Peters? Yes.
 1117. Where are you now employed? At Maryville Colliery.
 10 Aug., 1886. 1118. How long have you been engaged at that colliery? About four months.
 1119. You are an experienced miner, I believe? Well, yes; I have been at it all my life.
 1120. Where are you working in Maryville? I am working in what they call the "F" heading.
 1121. That is towards Throsby's Creek? Yes.
 1122. Is your place towards the top of the heading? It is No. 10 bord, I think.
 1123. Are you working in the upper or lower coal? The lower coal.
 1124. Have you any fault to find with the roof? We are working underneath the top coal. I know nothing about the roof.
 1125. What width of bords are you driving? 6-yard bords, with 4-yard pillars; that is, we have been working 6 yards, but orders have been given to open out to 7 yards.
 1126. Have the men in the next bords received the same orders? The next one to us has, but the one below is working in the tops.
 1127. What size pillars will they leave? About 9 or 10 feet, I suppose.
 1128. Have you ever been in any of the bords where the top coal is worked? I have been in with a man who was working them.
 1129. What did you think of that system? I think it is safe enough as long as it stands up, but I have not seen much of the tops in Maryville.
 1130. Do they work the tops going in? There have been no tops worked going in; they are all worked out backwards.
 1131. Do you consider that a safe enough system? Yes.
 1132. Is it within your knowledge that the system is altered, and that the top coal is to be worked going in? It has just been commenced.
 1133. What do you think of that system? I do not think very much of it.
 1134. Is that because you think the men have no chance of escape in case of a fall? Yes.
 1135. You would prefer working the bottom coal first, and the tops coming back? Yes.
 1136. Have you seen any of the soft roof come in at Maryville? Yes; there was one place a fall occurred in "E" heading. The men had finished the tops in the afternoon, and when I was coming in on the front shift the bord came away. You could not see it. It did not rush out into the heading, but jammed itself against the coal.
 1137. Did a large quantity of stuff come away? Yes; both sand and clay. By the noise it made I first concluded it was water, but it was the sand.
 1138. No water came? No.
 1139. And so long as there is no water on the surface you consider Maryville safe? Yes, by working the tops coming back.
 1140. Have you any suggestion to make as to a more secure mode of working Maryville Colliery? I do not know that I have.
 1141. Are you satisfied with the width of bords? Oh, yes; I do not think there is any particular danger attached to the work there in any way.
 1142. Then you have no complaint to make or suggestion to offer? No.
 1143. Have you any opinion to offer as to the working of Stockton or Bullock Island Collieries? No. I have not been down either of those collieries.
 1144. And on that account you would not like to offer an opinion? I should not like to offer an opinion upon a thing I have not seen or known anything about.
 1145. *Mr. Neilson.*] Does the tidal water rise over the place where the fall-in took place that you have referred to? Not that I am aware of. There is no tidal influence over any part of the surface of Maryville.
 1146. *Mr. Davies.*] Do you apprehend any danger, or do you consider Maryville a safe mine for men to work in? Well, I do not apprehend any danger under present circumstances, but I do not think the mine would be perfectly safe unless the men had another means of escape if necessary.
 1147. *President.*] How long is it since Maryville was coaled, do you know? I cannot say.
 1148. Taking the men as you see them, and the mine as it is, Mr. Davies would like to know whether you consider the mine safe—a broad general question, to which we want a general answer? Well, I consider it would be safe, under the present system of working, if the men had another means of escape in the event of anything happening.
 1149. Do you apprehend anything occurring? I cannot say that I have, unless anything should go wrong with the present shaft. I can give you one instance when I think the men were not altogether satisfied with the safety of the mine. It was when a bad boiler that was there started to leak, and orders came in for the men to get out as quickly as possible. I was frightened, because I had been at Ferndale, and it naturally occurred to me at the moment that we were going to have a similar experience at Maryville, but one of the deputies told me that the boiler was leaking. When I came on to the main heading I saw the men rushing like madmen. The men at Ferndale had coolness enough to fetch their tools, but these had left their tools behind in their hurry.
 1150. But in a general way, you consider the workings safe? Yes; that is, working the present system of fetching the coal underneath the tops.

1151.

1151. And what about the new system of working the coal going in? My opinion is that it would not be safe.

1152. *Mr. Usher.*] Have you reason to think that the Maryville shaft is not in a safe condition? No, I have not. Mr.
C. Peters.
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1153. Do you know whether the second shaft has been begun or not? Yes; it has been begun, I think. I was there about a month or six weeks ago, when it was down about 2 feet, I think, and it stands at that now.

1154. From your experience at Ferndale, have you no opinion to offer as to the working of Stockton or Bullock Island collieries, which are similarly situated? I do not know that I have.

1155. You are a man of large experience, and have passed through some danger, and you ought to be competent to offer some kind of opinion? Well, it is a question I do not know much about. I consider that the mine is safe enough under present circumstances; but, as I have said, you want a means of escape in case of emergency, because you never know what is going to happen in a place like Maryville.

1156. *Mr. Thomas.*] That is, you consider the old system safe, but condemn the new one? Yes.

1157. *Mr. Jones.*] Is that the reason the Inspector of Collieries was communicated with? I believe it was, so far that he should consult in connection with the management as to whether it would be safe or not.

1158. *Mr. Curley.*] Do you think it would be safe to work in that colliery under tidal waters? No, I do not. I for one would not work in it under tidal water.

1159. For what reason would you not work there? Because I should be afraid. In the case of the place I saw come in at Maryville, had it been under tidal water I should have been lost, because there was no way of escape.

1160. What advantage would a second shaft be in such an emergency? Well, if there was a second shaft in such a case, a man would at least stand a better chance. My opinion is that if the Ferndale shaft had been at the lower part of the workings very few of the men would have come out of that pit alive.

The witness then withdrew.

Thomas Williams sworn and examined:—

1161. *President.*] What is your occupation? I am a miner.

1162. Where are you working at present? At Maryville.

1163. Were you at the sinking of any of these collieries? I was at the sinking of Maryville.

1164. What do the surface deposits consist of? Sand and shells on the top.

1165. How many feet? 32 feet.

1166. And what next to that? A strong blue clay.

1167. Had you any difficulty in sinking? No.

1168. You met with no rock? No; all strong clay to the coal.

1169. Have you worked in Maryville ever since? Yes, ever since.

1170. In what part of the workings? I am working down the cross-cut now.

1171. Is that towards the creek? It is going towards the Chinaman's.

1172. In Maryville, they work 6-yard bords, I believe? Yes.

1173. Is your bord 6 yards? I have been doing shift work lately, but I have worked in 6-yard bords there.

1174. Do you consider 6-yard bords sufficiently secure for the men? Yes; if they timber it properly it is.

1175. And if they do not? If they do not timber it, of course it will come in.

1176. Would it be more secure with 4-yard bords? No; I do not think so. I believe I could work it as safe with a 6-yard bord as a 4-yard bord.

1177. You think so—are you sure? I am quite certain that I could work it safely.

1178. Can other persons work it as safe in a 6-yard bord as a 4-yard bord? Yes; they ought to be able to do so.

1179. In the case of a colliery with solid strata over the coal, is that reasonable? Well, there are some places where there is strata above—as, for instance, where I am working.

1180. Does that improve the character of the roof where the strata comes in? No; it stood just as well before.

1181. Have you been in any of the bords where the top coal is worked? Yes. I have not worked there, but I have been in them.

1182. Do you mean where they are working the top coal going forward? No, coming back.

1183. Which do you consider the safer mode? I would sooner work the top coal going forward. There is still the coal roof left behind some 18 inches; there is 3 feet of it altogether.

1184. What is the thickness of the top coal altogether? I should say about 8 feet.

1185. What division of the top coal is worked? There are two bands, and then the top band has a parting in it.

1186. Where is it worked up to? It is worked up to the second band.

1187. That is 2 ft. 5 in. of coal, is that all? I think there is more than that.

1188. The two bottom bands measure 3 ft. 3½ in., then there is a foot of coal and parting, and 18 in. or so of coal. Do you consider the 18 in. of coal sufficient to keep the roof in a 6-yard bord? Yes.

1189. Suppose a fall took place in working the tops anywhere, how would you escape? It could not if it was well timbered.

1190. But an eventuality might occur which no man could foresee? Well, there is a cut-through over the pillars.

1191. Suppose a fall took place between the men and the cut-through. What I want to know from you is whether, in your opinion, it is safer to work the tops by breaking them coming back, or make a separate working of them, and work them going forward? I think it is safer to work them going forward.

1192. Have you been long a coalminer? Yes; I worked for fourteen years in the A.A. Company.

1193. And before that? I worked in the Burwood Colliery.

1194. Your experience has been gained in this district? Yes.

- Mr. T. Williams. 1195. *Mr. Turnbull.*] In working the top coal before you in that way, are the bords generally holed into another heading? Yes.
1196. And if the bord came down behind you, you could go into the other heading. Would it be safe to work the tops in front if you had no way to get out? Well, yes; I think if they timbered them up well it would be impossible for them to come down.
- The President impressed upon the witness that this was a new system of working, without cut-throughs or anything of that kind.
1197. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Suppose you leave the bottom coal and take away the tops, do you consider it safe to work that way with no road out? Yes; I can work them safe.
1198. *President.*] That is, your opinion is that you could work them safe? Yes. I am now working one which has been started about three weeks.
1199. *Mr. Thomas.*] How many bords have been opened on this new system? About twelve or fourteen, I think.
1200. *President.*] Are you quite sure? I cannot say how many bords there are.
1201. *Mr. Thomas.*] Are you quite sure there are more than two? Oh, yes; I think there are about twelve of them just starting.
1202. *President.*] But have they started? Yes, just started off the heading.
1203. Is that the main heading? It is in No. 2 heading; what they call the "G" heading and "S" heading.
1204. Is it an ordinary heading or a winning heading? It is over the main heading furthest to the north.
1205. *Mr. Jones.*] If the tops were not split as you have spoken of, would that tend to keep up the roof? I did not say so. There is about 18 inches of it there; they had a mind to split it but did not do so.
1206. Then if it has been stated here that it was split, that was wrong, I suppose? Yes.
1207. You are a brother-in-law of Mr. Harper, are you not? Yes.
1208. *Mr. Curley.*] In working the tops, have you to shoot the coal, or do you get it down without? Yes; we do not use any powder; only one party is using powder, in the cross-cut.
1209. What effect has that upon the top band above? I do not think it has any. None of them are using powder in the bords.
1210. Do you think that top band will have to be split to give them 5 feet height of seam? Not in that part of the seam.
1211. What effect would it have, if you were to split the band, upon the portion that was left? It would weaken it certainly; it would be safer not to split.
1212. Would you like to work in a bord that was about 30 or 40 yards up there with a band split—would you prefer to work in that or work in the bottoms, and take the tops coming back? I would not like to work it with the band split, but I do not think there is any danger where the band is left up.
1213. But if the band breaks up, what is the position then? Well, there is a formation of rock down in that portion of the pit. I have bored two or three holes going there.
1214. Did you bore through the rock? No; I bored 6 feet into it.
1215. Have you ever noticed any falls there? I have seen a fall or two in some of the bords where the top coal has been worked.
1216. Have you noticed any water coming from these falls? No; nothing particular.
- The witness withdrew.

David Hynd sworn and examined:—

- Mr. D. Hynd. 1217. What are you, Mr. Hynd? I am a miner.
1218. Where are you working at present? At Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery.
- 10 Aug., 1886. 1219. How long have you been working there? Eighteen months.
1220. Were you engaged in sinking the shaft? No.
1221. You have been engaged getting coal there since then? Yes.
1222. Then you have been employed at Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery since its initiation getting coal? Yes; pretty well from the beginning.
1223. We understand that the system of working the coal at Wickham and Bullock Island is by 8-yard pillars and 6-yard bords, as a general rule? Yes, that is the rule generally observed.
1224. Is it according to the manager's instructions or orders? Yes.
1225. Practically, we know that the pillars may be a little thinner, and the bords a little wider, but it is the general system, and as a rule it is adhered to. I believe it is the lower part of the coal you work? Yes.
1226. You do not touch the top coal then? No.
1227. Is the roof sound? It is pretty good so far.
1228. Have you seen any falls in that colliery? Just trifling ones.
1229. That is of the top coal? Yes.
1230. Did any rock come down? No.
1231. Taking the colliery as a whole, would you consider, so far as you have seen, that it is conducted in a manner calculated to ensure safety? To the best of my knowledge it is.
1232. Have you any suggestion to make as to any alteration in the system? No; I cannot say that I have.
1233. Then you are satisfied with the system that has been inaugurated? Yes; at the present time I am satisfied.
1234. That is, if the present conditions rule, and the coal continues, you do not think there is any necessity to alter the system of working? No.
1235. I understood you to say that no serious falls have taken place? None of any consequence.
1236. Or any indications of a soft or tender roof? No.
1237. Have you ever worked in Stockton shaft? No.
1238. Do you know the character of the surface above the rock that overlies the coal in Bullock Island? Only from hearsay.
1239. What have you heard? That it is generally sand and clay.
1240. Would you look upon clay as a protection against the water? Well, personally I am not much in favour of it.
- 1241.

Mr. D. Hynd.

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1241. Is clay impervious to water? As a miner, I would not have much faith in it.
1242. Is it better than sand? I should say so.
1243. Then, in so far as it is better than sand, it offers so much more protection? Yes.
1244. You have no experience as to surface deposits? No.
1245. Was I right in understanding you to say that you had no suggestions to make as to safety in the mode of working? There is only one suggestion I should like to make; that is, with regard to the workings being under water.
1246. Under Throsby's Creek? Yes. That is, that the top coal should not be cut out there until the pit is otherwise worked out.
1247. I understood you to say that the top coal had been taken down? No; but I have heard that the manager is going to open up under the creek.
1248. Then, so far as it has gone, the top coal has not been taken down? There was only a little bit of coal taken down to prove it.
1249. With that exception, have you any other suggestions to make? No.
1250. And your suggestion is that the top coal should be left on going under Throsby's Creek until the finish of the workings? Yes; and I may state that that is the prevailing opinion among the men.
1251. Are you the mouthpiece or exponent of the men in this respect? I cannot say that exactly.
1252. Have you formed any opinion as to the safest and best mode of working the coal under the harbour or under the sea? No; I have not taken that into consideration.
1253. *Mr. Curley.*] Have you ever made any inspection of this pit, Mr. Hynd? Yes. In March last there was an inspection regarding the present working pit, and the original pit, known as the Wickham Little Pit.
1254. Can you furnish the Commission with a copy of the report of the inspection. Have you got one, or can you inform us where a copy can be obtained? I believe the Check Inspectors could supply you with a copy of it.
1255. Was it entered in a book at the colliery office? I do not know. On the occasion of the inspection the manager had not a book for that purpose; but I believe a record of the inspection was sent in to him. If I recollect aright the inspection was made on the 30th of March.
1256. *Mr. Usher.*] Who were the Check Inspectors? Joseph Holland and Minekham.
The witness withdrew.

George Minekham sworn and examined:—

Mr.
G. Minekham.

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1257. *President.*] Have you been working at Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery? Yes; I am working there at the present time.
1258. How long have you been employed there? I have been employed there since they started the shaft.
1259. Were you employed in sinking the shaft? Yes.
1260. Just tell us about the sinking. Had you any difficulty in sinking through the upper stratum of sand? Yes, we had some difficulty.
1261. Was it quicksand? It was nothing but oyster-shells and sand—it was quicksand.
1262. And after going through, did you pass into a thick stratum of clay? Yes; we got into a solid body of clay after that.
1263. How thick was this clay? After the first drift about 15 feet of clay.
1264. And after that? After that we got a small coarse drift.
1265. Did it give off water? Not a great deal of water.
1266. Then practically you would have about 100 feet or thereabouts of clay mixed with sand and gravel after you went through the sand on the top; that is, there is about 163 feet of surface altogether, and then you are in the rock—45 feet of rock, and then the coal? I went through the whole of the strata you mention, but there was not 45 feet of rock.
1267. How much is there? Only 25 feet.
1268. Are you perfectly certain? Yes; I can take my oath on it. I went through 15 feet of shale overhanging the coal. It is not a top for coal; but after that we got 10 feet of good blue shale—a good top. Altogether, I consider there is 25 feet of rock. I put the first shot in the rock, and went right through it.
1269. And then you got the coal; what thickness was the coal? 10 feet of coal.
1270. What depth is the shaft from top to bottom? I believe we struck the coal at 220 feet. But I only go by the measurement that others have given me.
1271. Do you go by the same as to the rock? No; not exactly.
1272. Wherein is the difference? Because I took particular notice of the rock.
1273. With what object? With no particular object. I wanted to know the cover of the coal for my own safety.
1274. You have worked in the pit since? Yes.
1275. Do you consider it safe? No; I do not consider the shaft safe.
1276. Why do you not consider the shaft safe? Because the tubing is broken. I have the record of my inspections.
1277. Who caused you to inspect? It is the check inspection. I inspected the winning shaft and the little shaft on the Wickham side.
1278. Have you had any experience in these tubbed shafts before? I have no experience further than this shaft.
1279. How can you estimate as to whether it is safe or unsafe if you have had no experience. I suppose it is only your opinion? I can give that opinion. When I am down the shaft and hear them going like cannons over my head I cannot consider it safe.
1280. In that case, why did you work there after that? It was understood that it would be repaired.
1281. Was it repaired? It was repaired in a sort of way.
1282. In what way was it repaired? There was a canvas screen put over it. I said at the time I would not go there again.
1283. Then why did you go when you said you would not? Because I have to support myself by my work.
1284. Surely you could support yourself if Bullock Island were not in existence. You could support yourself

Mr. G. Minokham yourself at your trade anywhere, could you not? Not always, sir. I have to risk my life to keep my life in.

10 Aug., 1886. 1285. Did you consider you were risking your life, and did you tell anyone as much? Yes; I have told my own lodge, not only that, but that all the others were risking their lives.

1286. You should be very careful what you say. This is a very serious statement. You have admitted that you are a man of no experience. Be very cautious how you express an opinion. Where were the cylinders cracked? About five lengths of tubing below the ring which was put in to prevent the influx of water.

1287. What distance down is the ring? I think about 70 or 80 feet down the shaft.

1288. How are they cracked? They are cracked very badly.

1289. Tell us how they are cracked? They are cracked for about five lengths of tubing, diagonally.

1290. Have any pieces come out of the flange? They are cracked right through the flanges, but nothing has come out.

1291. In what respect does that weaken the cylinders? I believe that was about the heaviest ground they went through where the cylinders are cracked.

1292. What was the nature of the ground there? It was drift and clay.

1293. How did you sink there? The cylinders were forced down by pressure from the top; and before I go any further I might as well state that the shaft is a little out of plumb, and I believe that has caused the cylinders to break.

1294. Did any water come through? Yes; plenty. I have spent many a shift blocking it. But since my last inspection there seems to have been no notice taken of it.

1295. Did you complain to the manager about it? Yes.

1296. What did he say? He said it would be all right—that everything would be secure.

1297. Did you complain to the Inspector about it? Well, I reckon it was the Inspector's duty to come and find it out for himself.

1298. Oh, no; it is your duty to inform the Inspector, and you know that? The Inspector well knew it.

1299. How do you know that he knew it? Because we had a similar experience before.

1300. What was that? A deficiency of air.

1301. And what had that to do with the cracking of the cylinders? Well, a great deal, I should think. I was coming round to that, as it were, and if he did not do his duty in one way he might not in another.

1302. I do not understand you, it is a little involved. What connection is there between a deficiency of air and the cracking of these cylinders? Nothing. But if a man is manager of a mine, and a report is made about deficiency of air, and the Check Inspectors recommend certain things to be done, and he does not do them—

1303. But we are talking about cylinders, and you have made a charge against the Inspector? No; I make no charge against him.

The shorthand-writer read from his notes the answer to questions 1297-1301.

1304. Is not that tantamount to a charge against the Inspector? I do not make a charge.

1305. You first of all stated that it was the Inspector's duty to ascertain the condition of the shaft, and then you stated that the Inspector well knew it,—is not that a charge? He ought to have known it from my inspection, which should have been public.

1306. Then suppose he had known of it and examined it, his opinion would be as good as yours? About as good as my own, but not a bit better.

1307. However, it is simply a cracked cylinder? It is not simply one cracked cylinder; there are several.

1308. Are they joined? Yes; and they are bound together by bolts and segments.

1309. Is it open at the cracks? Yes; about $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.; you could see it open like that (spreading out his fingers).

1310. And suppose it would let through the sand in that case? It would have done had it not been blocked.

1311. Did the cracks extend over five lengths? Yes; over five lengths of tubing below the ring. If you had been down the shaft and heard them banging you would have thought them dangerous. The cracking was caused by the top pressure, the shaft not being plumb.

1312. Was there much weight upon the cylinders at that time? There was no weight on at the time I was down the shaft, only the tubing. But the weight of the tubing, if the shaft is out of plumb, will break the cylinders.

1313. Then do you say the shaft is out of the plumb? I will read my report, if you wish.

The witness hands in a copy of the report referred to.

1314. And has Mr. Gardner a copy of this? I believe so.

1315. Have you worked in Bullock Island since that time? Yes.

1316. And yet you do not consider the mine safe, is that so? Well, I drew attention to the state of the shaft, and as no action was taken to repair the shaft, I still consider it unsafe or insecure.

1317. That is quite understandable, but why does the report say you do not apprehend danger? I said I apprehended no immediate danger.

1318. Then as to the workings—what have you to say about the workings in that colliery; did you consider you risked your life there? No; I did not.

1319. Have you anything to say as to the way in which the mine is conducted? Well, I think the bords are sufficiently narrow to secure safety as long as sufficient timber is used.

1320. And do you think the pillars are sufficiently large? Yes.

1321. Then your objection can be reduced into a few words—you wish to call attention to that particular spot in the shaft? Yes.

1322. And that being secured, you would consider the colliery a safe colliery? No; I do not say that.

1323. Then in what way do you not consider it safe. Well, a subsidence might take place, and there is not sufficient means of exit. I recommended that a vertical ladder should be erected, in the report; but nothing whatever has been done since.

1324. Is there not an engine there? There is a sort of a thing; but it would take two or three hours to get up steam. If the shaft was to go wrong, the mine would be swamped; it would be nothing less than a repetition of Ferndale. Of course some people might consider me foolish in saying this. 1325.

1325. I do consider you so. If I were you I would not make these statements. The fact of your having worked at the sinking of that shaft, and having worked in it since, is a declaration to everyone that you consider it safe. At least, that is the way in which ordinary people would look at it? I did not consider it safe. Mr.
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1326. That is to say, you had a doubt about it? I have to risk my life to keep my life in, and for the sake of my family.

1327. If you consider you are risking your life in any particular colliery, it is your clear and bounden duty not to work in that colliery? Who is to give me work in that case?

1328. There are always hundreds of openings for one that can be filled, and there must be something wrong in your case;—it is for you to explain what it is? I repeat that I risked my life in going down that shaft; I drew attention to it, and I do not believe it has been repaired.

1329. You told us that you heard the cylinders crack, which is not an uncommon occurrence in such cases, by the way, and you made a solemn vow that you would not go down next shift? I do not recollect saying that. I told Mr. Fairley, who was sinking the shaft for Mr. Walker, and he did repair it in a sort of a way; but if I had said another word I should have had to go.

1330. I know Mr. Fairley, and I think you are doing him a very great injustice. I do not like to hear those motives imputed. Have you formed any opinion as to the mode of work that ought to be adopted to secure the greatest amount of safety to the men;—in other words, have you any suggestion to make as to alterations in the present mode of working? No; I am perfectly satisfied as it is at present.

1331. I believe you have not worked in Stockton? No; but I should think at Stockton they could work almost any way they liked, having such a good cover. They could take all the coal with that cover of 190 feet of rock.

1332. What do you mean by "taking all the coal"? Why, they can take right up to the band, and they then have 190 feet of rock cover over that.

1333. Then would you work "longwall" there? That is for the manager to say. They could work it all "longwall," or they could work back and take out the pillars.

1334. Do you think that would be safe at Stockton? Not without leaving pillars; that is to say, they should leave a pillar in occasionally, here and there.

1335. *Mr. Jones.*] I understood you to say that if a ladder were placed in Wickham shaft to enable the men to have an immediate outlet you would consider the Bullock Island pit to be in a perfect state of safety. You reason so? Well, so far as that goes, if a subsidence was to take place, or the shaft or cylinders were to break, that would be the only way they would have of escaping. It would be a great assistance, no doubt.

1336. That being done, which you have recommended, you consider the mine would be safe? I believe it would secure the workmen.

1337. And that is the only thing you have to complain of? Well, I do not think my recommendations have been carried out at all.

1338. Do you think that everything you recommend should be carried out? Why not?

1339. *President.*] You are here to answer questions, not to ask them.

1340. *Mr. Davies.*] You have said that the cylinder was repaired in "some sort of a way";—were you satisfied with the repairs? No, I was not.

1341. You say they were repaired successfully in your report? That was only for the present.

1342. You think if an accident were to take place it would be from the cylinders giving way, and the pit would cave in? Yes.

1343. *President.*] What thickness is the metal of the cylinders? I suppose it is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

1344. *Mr. Davies.*] Do you apprehend any danger from working under Throsby's Creek? Not unless the top coal is worked.

1345. And should the top coal be worked, what would happen? There would be danger then, because there is sand, with clay, on top of the coal. I explain that in my report.

1346. Did you enter the report in the office-book at the colliery? They had no book.

1347. Did you ask for it? Yes. They said they had no book.

1348. Have you never from that time to this made application to enter that report in the office-book? No, I have not.

1349. Then the Inspector would have no chance of seeing that report, unless Mr. Gardiner showed it to him? Well, if Mr. Gardiner did not show it to him I could have done so.

1350. But how was he to know that there was a report in existence? He could take my word as well as Mr. Gardiner's.

1351. Did you send the Inspector notice of the report? No.

1352. Then how was he to know of it? I did not say he did know of it.

1353. Did you ever send a copy of the report to the Miners' General Secretary? I did not.

1354. *Mr. Stainburn.*] Do you know the general duties of Check Inspectors? Yes, I think so.

1355. Did you carry out those duties? Yes, so far as I was able under the circumstances.

1356. I suppose you took it for granted that if the Inspector went to the colliery he would see the Check Inspectors' reports? Yes.

1357. How far do the cylinders go down in this pit? They go down near to the coal.

1358. Can the whole of the rock be seen between the coal-head and the cylinders? Yes; I can point out the rock to anybody.

1359. Do you consider it would be safe to work the top coal under Throsby's Creek with that cover? No.
The witness withdrew.

Alexander K. Morson sworn and examined:—

1360. *President.*] You are a physician? Yes, practising in West Maitland.

1361. You are interested in several mining properties in the Colonies? Yes; I have a large interest in Mr.
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1362. And among others you have an interest in the Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery? Yes; I have a considerable interest there.

1363. Are you a large shareholder? I have 4,500 shares.

1364. Were they contributing or original shares? All contributing shares.

1365. That is, you purchased them in the open market? Yes, in 1883 and 1884.

1366.

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1366. May I ask why you selected this colliery in which to invest such a large sum of money? Well, for two reasons. My brother-in-law, Dr. Mackenzie, who was chairman of directors, had a considerable interest in the Company; and also I heard Mr. John Mackenzie (the Examiner of Coal-fields) speak very highly of this colliery.
1367. Did you specially inquire of Mr. Mackenzie as to the nature of the investment before purchasing? Well, he said he had been down the pit, that they had a splendid seam of bright brittle coal, and he spoke in general very highly of the colliery. It was principally on that account I bought into it.
1368. In consequence of the good report of the Examiner? Yes, and there was another reason. When I was in Sydney, Dr. Mackenzie showed me a letter from a Mr. Dixon, which spoke in most glowing terms of the colliery.
1369. Was Bullock Island shaft commenced when you purchased in 1883? I cannot tell you.
1370. You said that Mr. Mackenzie (the Examiner) had examined the coal—was that Wickham pit, do you know? He said he had been down the pit; I do not know which shaft.
1371. Was it subsequent to your investing that Bullock Island shaft was commenced? Oh, yes; I went one day myself there, and I remember it distinctly, because they had commenced the shaft at the wrong place, and they had to start in another place. I held shares at that time. I did not buy the whole of the 4,500 in 1883. I bought 2,000 in 1883, 2,000 in 1884, and 500 afterwards.
1372. Then the examination that Mr. Mackenzie referred to must have been the examination of Wickham shaft? I suppose so.
1373. Was the Examiner of Coal-fields himself interested in the mine? I think he was.
1374. Was he an original shareholder or a contributing shareholder? I believe he was an original shareholder, but I cannot be certain.
1375. Then he would be one of the vendors to the public? I cannot say; I did not buy my shares from him.
1376. Do you know when the Examiner became interested in the colliery—was it before or after you purchased? Oh, he held shares before I did, because that was one of the reasons why I purchased into the colliery.
1377. Do you know Mr. Winchester, your brother-in-law's assistant? Yes.
1378. Had you any conversation or communication with Mr. Winchester about this colliery? Yes. Mr. John Mackenzie told me that Mr. Winchester would sell me a lot of shares, and that gentleman offered me a considerable number; but as I got the shares at a very much cheaper rate from other persons in Newcastle, I did not purchase my shares from him, although I was in treaty at the time to purchase a lot of his shares.
1379. What report did Mr. Winchester give you with respect to the colliery? He gave me a very favourable report at the time; but the most favourable report I had was contained in a letter which Dr. Mackenzie showed me from Mr. Dixon to this Mr. Winchester, in which the colliery was described as being one of the foremost in the Colony, as, he said, they had the famous A.A. Company's seam.
1380. The report was couched in plain language, and spoke favourably of the colliery? Yes.
1381. Have you preserved any of those documents? Well, I wrote to Dr. Mackenzie some time ago, and asked him whether he remembered showing me a letter from a practical man some years ago before, and in replying to my letter he sent a copy of this letter to me.
1382. Can you exhibit it? Yes. (*Letter produced and read.*)
1383. The reports you have read have come from persons who are personally interested in the colliery? I do not know that Mr. Dixon is personally interested.
1384. With the exception of Mr. Dixon? Mr. Winchester spoke highly of the colliery; also Mr. John Mackenzie, who, I believe, was a shareholder at the time.
1385. After you purchased into the Company, the Bullock Island shaft was commenced—were you furnished with reports from time to time as to the progress that was being made? I saw the usual half-yearly reports which were sent to me as a shareholder.
1386. Did your brother-in-law give you any information concerning the progress of the mine? Yes. I went to his house when I went to Sydney, and we always spoke about that and the other mining ventures we were interested in.
1387. Did the Examiner of Coal-fields give you any information as to the progress made? No; I cannot say that he ever did; I never asked him much about the colliery after I purchased.
1388. When the shaft was sunk to the coal-seam at Bullock Island, what reports reached you? They were of a very favourable character for some time.
1389. Did the Examiner of Coal-fields report to you favourably? Yes; I think so.
1390. Does the Examiner still continue to report favourably? Not latterly.
1391. And have you heard from Mr. Winchester? I have not spoken to him since about it.
1392. When did the favourable reports cease? I should say about six or eight months ago. I gathered from Mr. Mackenzie's conversation that he held a different opinion of the colliery from that which he had hitherto expressed.
1393. Did he give any reason for his change of opinion? I think it was after the Ferndale Colliery accident; he said there might be a risk of the colliery being flooded.
1394. Had he sold out his interest before that? Yes.
1395. Did he inform you before he sold out? I do not think so.
1396. Did his favourable reports cease after he had ceased to be a shareholder? Yes.
1397. And, as far as you know, while he continued to be a shareholder his reports were favourable? Yes; I think so.
1398. When did you become aware that Mr. Mackenzie had sold out his interest in Wickham and Bullock Island? I think he told me he had sold out and invested his money in some of those silver mines.
1399. Did he give you any reason for his altered views? No, he did not; but I surmised.
1400. What did you surmise? Well, he and his brother were at law at the time.
1401. Family differences? Yes.
1402. Did you suspect any malice? Well, we all know that when brothers are fighting there is generally a good deal of warm feeling exhibited. However, it was only a surmise on my part that he sold out on account of his brother being Chairman of the Company, and as they were at law with each other.
1403. Did he observe a certain amount of feeling against the Company afterwards? I cannot say that. He advised me to sell my shares.

1404. Did he give any reason? Simply that there was a danger of the colliery being stopped.

1405. Did this change of front disconcert you? I thought it strange, after he had spoken so highly of the colliery, that he should so suddenly change his views, and I asked Mr. Tulip, who is interested in a mine at Morpeth, and who is a man of large practical experience, to visit Bullock Island, and report upon it for me. He did so, and gave me an excellent report on the subject.

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Report produced and read.

1406. Did that report re-assure you? Yes, it did. I still hold the 4,500 shares.

1407. Do you know if any of these damaging reports that you have mentioned emanated from the Coal-fields office? No; I cannot say that. Mr. Mackenzie simply told me that he had sold out his shares, and advised me to sell out mine.

1408. He gave you no cogent reasons for it? Simply that the mine might be stopped.

1409. Did you ask Mr. Mackenzie whether anything had occurred in the circumstances of the colliery with which he had been unacquainted with previously? No. I told him that I thought it very strange he should have spoken so highly of the colliery, and then suddenly altered his opinion.

1410. Are you, Dr. Morson, aware of any altered circumstances in the colliery? No.

1411. You have stated that Mr. Mackenzie held a high opinion of the colliery after the coal was reached? Yes.

1412. And, having sold out, he suddenly changed it, and advised you to sell. Are you aware whether the circumstances of the colliery changed during the interval? I do not think so, in the slightest.

1413. Did Mr. Mackenzie make any remark to you as to whether the nature of the roof had changed, or give any reason of a specific character as to danger in the working? No; he spoke in general terms. He said there was a danger of it being stopped—that there was always that risk. I combatted that view, by telling him that I got this gentleman (Mr. Tulip), who was engaged in large collieries in Newcastle-upon-Tyne at one time, to go and inspect the mine, and that he was of opinion that it was one of the safest collieries possible, and also that I had seen Dixon's letter, in which he spoke very highly of the pit.

1414. Did Mr. Mackenzie ever say to you that the colliery would be placed under such restrictions that they must necessarily cease working, or words to that effect? On one occasion he told me he thought the colliery would be stopped.

1415. For that reason? That the management had made a mistake, and had crossed the boundary.

1416. Into Government land? Yes.

1417. Then the colliery is leased from the Government? Yes; we pay a royalty for every ton raised.

1418. Do you think that was a sufficient reason to give? I do not know; but I wrote to Dr. Mackenzie, asking him if the colliery was to be stopped, and he said no, it was not.

1419. In consequence of these reports from the Examiner, have you sold any of your shares? No; I have not. After I received Mr. Tulip's report I had complete confidence, and accordingly held on.

1420. Did it occur to you while Mr. Mackenzie was conversing with you as to the probable stoppage of the colliery that he would be pleased if these restrictions were imposed? No; he said nothing to that effect.

1421. Did he impress you with the belief that he would rejoice under those circumstances? I cannot say that. I knew that there was a bad feeling existing between the two brothers.

1422. Did the Examiner of Coal-fields ever suggest to you any scheme by which the anticipated restrictions could be avoided? No.

1423. Then he simply said he considered certain restrictions would be placed upon the colliery, if it was not stopped? He said he expected the Minister for Mines would stop the colliery on account of Mr. Gardiner having gone over his boundary, or something to that effect.

1424. Are you aware whether, when the colliery was sunk, the scheme of intended operations was placed before the Examiner of Coal-fields? I was told so by Dr. Mackenzie, but I had no conversation with Mr. John Mackenzie on the subject.

1425. Then you have not lost confidence in the colliery? No; I have not since receiving this report from a first-rate practical man, who was brought up to the coal business from the time he was ten years of age, and who was in many of the largest collieries in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

1426. Do you get the Newcastle papers? Sometimes.

1427. Shortly after the Ferndale accident, was your attention directed to some correspondence that appeared in those papers relative to the unsafe position of certain collieries in Newcastle? I remember reading some letters by Mr. Croudace in reference to the Delta collieries.

1428. Did they alarm you? Well, they did rather.

1429. What course did you pursue on reading those letters? I went to Mr. Tulip and asked him to go and report upon the Bullock Island Colliery.

1430. Then it was after reading Mr. Croudace's letters in the papers that you asked Mr. Tulip to make this special report? Yes.

1431. Do you know whether Mr. Croudace was ever down your colliery before he wrote those letters? I cannot say.

1432. What impression did you form of those letters? Well, they quite unsettled me. I thought there was a chance of the colliery meeting with the same fate as Ferndale. His letters distinctly stated that there was an amount of danger in these Delta collieries. He pointed out that they required to be carefully worked, otherwise something like Ferndale might happen.

1433. Then Mr. Tulip's report was to have the twofold purpose of satisfying you as to the management, and also to satisfy you in a general way as to the safety of the mine? Yes.

1434. Did Mr. Tulip's report have the effect of satisfying your mind? Yes; if he had reported unfavourably of the mine I should most probably have sold my shares.

1435. Do you know what effect, if any, the letters had upon the stocks of the company? It had the effect of depressing the stocks from 24s. or 25s. per share to 17s., and then to 15s., at which they now stand.

1436. They have never recovered then? No.

1437. Do you know whether a number of the shareholders still look upon their investment with some little anxiety on account of those letters? Several of the shareholders have spoken to me about it, and I have shown them this letter or report of Mr. Tulip's, and that has also re-assured them to some extent.

1438. You are not practically acquainted with coal-mining? No; I have only had to do with it as an investor. Mining has always been a hobby of mine—not only coal, but gold, tin, and other kinds.

1439. Mr. Neilson.] I understand you have not seen Mr. Inspector Dixon in connection with this matter? No; I do not know him, even by sight. His letter was shown to me when I was at Dr. Mackenzie's.

1440.

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1440. Are you aware whether the Examiner of Coal-fields is prohibited under the Act from holding any interest in coal or other mines? I believe so, and I think that was one of the reasons why he sold out.
1441. *Mr. Jones.*] I understand that up to the time of the Ferndale accident you had always received favourable reports of the Bullock Island Colliery? So far as my memory serves me, I believe we did.
1442. You have stated that the letters of Mr. Croudace, which appeared in the local papers, had a serious effect upon the value of the Bullock Island shares? I think so. The accident at Ferndale Colliery probably also had some effect.
1443. Did it occur to you that there might be any animus on the part of the writer? No. Not knowing Mr. Croudace, I did not form any impression of that kind. I thought the writer of the letters was simply actuated by a desire to lay information before the public. I thought, of course, that what occurred at Ferndale might happen at Bullock Island, therefore I asked Mr. Tulip to come down and report, and if the colliery was dangerous and unsatisfactory, to say so; but if it was not, to report accordingly.
1444. You fully believe that the letters influenced the public mind? Yes; in conjunction with the flooding of Ferndale, no doubt.
1445. And afterwards you had reason to believe it was an overdrawn picture? Yes.
1446. *Mr. Swinburn.*] You placed complete faith and reliance on Mr. Tulip's report? Yes.
1447. *Mr. Jones.*] You accepted Mr. Tulip as an authority in preference to Mr. Croudace? Yes; I did not know Mr. Croudace, and I had known Mr. Tulip for over fifteen years.
- The witness withdrew.

Jacob Miller sworn and examined:—

Mr. J. Miller.
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1448. *President.*] Where are you employed? At Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery.
1449. As a miner? Yes.
1450. How long have you been employed there? About four months.
1451. Have you been employed working the coal? Yes.
1452. Were you one of the Check Inspectors? No.
1453. Are you satisfied with the mode of working at Bullock Island as to width of bords, &c.? Yes.
1454. What part do you work in? Going towards the smelting works.
1455. That is going towards the north? Yes.
1456. Is the roof tender in that direction? No; it is a sound roof.
1457. Have you been in the advance headings? No.
1458. How far away from the shaft are you working? Not far from the shaft.
1459. But your operations have not been confined to the shaft? No.
1460. And you have found the roof to be sound in the part you have been working? Yes.
1461. You are aware that a portion of the coal has been left on? Yes.
1462. And you believe that forms an excellent protection? Yes.
1463. Do you anticipate any danger at Bullock Island? No.
1464. Have you heard any of the men express a fear of any danger at Bullock Island? No.
1465. Have you examined the shaft? No.
1466. Have you heard any fear expressed as to the safety of the shaft? No.
1467. Have you any suggestion to make as to a better mode of working the colliery? No; I have not.
1468. You are quite satisfied? Yes; I am quite satisfied.
1469. Have you been employed in any of the adjoining collieries—Maryville or Stockton, for example? No.
1470. Have you had any experience of working under any important rivers or the sea? No.
1471. Where else have you been engaged in coal-mining? In Northumberland, England.
1472. And you consider Bullock Island Colliery worked in a judicious manner? Yes; I am quite satisfied.
1473. *Mr. Davies.*] Do you think the pillars are of sufficient thickness to prevent "creeping"? Suppose the top coal should be worked? Well, I would not like to take that off.
1474. *President.*] You do not know the facts, I suppose, and you simply give your evidence so far as your observation has gone? Yes.
1475. *Mr. Jones.*] Have you never heard of a report of a Check Inspector being presented to the manager? No.
1476. *Mr. Usher.*] How far was Seaborne from the sea? 4 miles.
1477. And how deep was it? 92 fathoms, I think.
1478. What was the size of the bords and pillars? 8-yard bord and 14-yard pillars.
1479. How thick was the seam? From 5 to 6 feet.
1480. Have you not made a mistake about the width of the bords? I am not positive about it; perhaps they were 6 yards. We used to put three shots across the bord, I know.
1481. *Mr. Davies.*] Do you have a monthly inspection by Check Inspectors? Well, I cannot say; I have been off sick for some time.
1482. Do you remember the inspections made by Minikan and Homes? I never saw them till the last meeting.

The witness withdrew.

James Henderson sworn and examined:—

Mr.
J. Henderson.
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1483. *President.*] You are a miner? Yes, a coal-miner.
1484. How long have you been engaged in coal-mining? Thirty years.
1485. Where have you followed your occupation principally? In Scotland.
1486. How long have you been in the Colonies? Over three years now.
1487. Have you been down any of the harbour collieries? I have been down Stockton.
1488. How long ago? About nine months ago.
1489. Did you form any impression as to the character of the seam at Stockton? Yes.
1490. Do you know the amount of surface that overlies the rock there? I am not certain.
1491. Do you know that there is a certain thickness of surface? Yes; I know there is a considerable thickness.
1492. Have you formed any impressions as to the safest mode of directing the workings under the harbour or under the sea at Stockton? I have not thought much of it, but I have seen some in the Old Country—the Firth of Forth.
- 1493.

Mr.
J. Henderson.
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1493. What depth was the seam? It was 42 yards from the surface.
1494. Did you work the coal under the sea? Yes.
1495. How far did you go? We went 150 yards, when we stopped, as the rise of the seam brought us near to the water.
1496. What width did you work the coal there? 4-yard bords, and pillars 12 yards.
1497. What was the district custom as to the width of bords? It was dependent upon the height of the coal. If they were going to take out the pillars they would leave big pillars going in, but 4 yards was the general width of bords.
1498. Were you at the collieries at Prestonpans, or in the valley of the Clyde, that worked under the deep river beds? Yes.
1499. At what colliery? At Ross's Colliery.
1500. What system of working did you pursue there? The same—4 yards wide.
1501. What thickness was the coal? The soft coal was 6 feet.
1502. Did the same width of bords prevail throughout the whole of the district? Yes.
1503. Do you know anything about the Home Farm Colliery? Yes; I was there when it broke in; they were taking out the pillars coming back when the water broke in.
1504. What was it broke in? The Clyde.
1505. Was it an old channel that was unknown before? It was in the valley, where in old times there had evidently been a channel, which became filled up with river silt and mud. It was not known that the colliery had worked up to this old channel, and in taking out the pillars coming back down came 40 or 50 acres.
1506. Has that colliery been opened up since? Yes; about four years and a half ago.
1507. Was there much loss of life when the fall-in took place that you have described? No; only two men perished, but all the horses were lost.
1508. Have you formed any opinion as to the proper and safe mode of working in a colliery such as Stockton? Yes; I have been thinking over it. I think the proper way to work the coal there under the water is to have straight places, or headings well in advance, and to keep bores well in advance, so that if you came upon anything unsound you can be ready to make provision for it.
1509. That is to ensure safety? Yes.
1510. What are your ideas as to width of bords and size of pillars in that direction? I believe you should have from 10 ft. to 12 ft. of working bords.
1511. Yes, and what size of pillars? About 8 or 10 yards.
1512. That is, you would leave in two and a half or three times the amount of coal in pillars to what you would take out? Yes, according to the height of the coal.
1513. Would you vary the size of the pillars according to the nature of the coal—whether it is hard or soft? Yes.
1514. Would you expect soft coal to demand a larger pillar than a hard coal? Yes.
1515. Then, arguing from that knowledge, you would need a larger pillar to support the same weight in the case of soft coal? Yes; you must keep that in mind, and the possibility of coming across faults under water. I have seen great crevices in the metals at Home.
1516. Have you examined the rocks that overlie the Borehole seam in this neighbourhood, and if so, have you noticed any disposition to form open joints or fissures? Well, those are things you cannot see. You can see them better in the shafts.
1517. Then what is your experience in meeting with faults under the sea? If you know that faults exist in these situations, should you approach them with great caution? Yes. You ought, as I have said, to approach with bores under water. The bore will tell you what you are to expect.
1518. Do you think that is the only advantage of bores? That is the only advantage I can see.
1519. In case you came to a water channel such as you have described on the Clyde, would bores not be a great advantage? Certainly.
1520. Do you consider that extra precautions should be taken in places, such as Stockton, that propose to work the coal under the ocean? Yes.
1521. Have you examined the coast-line along Signal Hill and the Nobby's? Yes, all along there.
1522. What kind of faults are they? They appear to be soft there on the surface.
1523. Are they basalt faults? Yes.
1524. Would you approach these faults underground with a considerable amount of caution? Yes; I would exercise as much caution as possible, under water especially.
1525. Did you notice the coal that crops out just above the sea at Nobby's? Yes.
1526. What coal is that? Well, I cannot say.
1527. Is it the Yard seam? I suppose it runs out to the A. A. Company ground, although I never worked there. I think it is the same seam as Minni, where I have worked.
1528. Have you seen it at other places than Nobby's? I have seen it over here near Shepherd's Hill.
1529. Have you seen it where it has been worked out in the A. A. Company's pit? Yes.
1530. Supposing you were told that that seam overlies the Borehole seam 130 feet, and that the seam is met with at a depth of 200 feet down the Stockton shaft, on the other side of the harbour, what inference would you draw from that? I scarcely know what to say.
1531. It is found down the Stockton shaft, on the other side of the harbour, a distance of 200 feet from the surface, and dips towards Newcastle? I do not understand you.
1532. Would you say any faults lie between—for example, why should it be 200 feet down at Stockton if it is above the sea on the other side; that is, this side? There must be a fault somewhere.
1533. *Mr. Usher.* Then, from what you say, I apprehend that you are of opinion that supposing drives were started away from Stockton shaft towards the harbour or the sea they should have bores in advance? Yes, certainly.
1534. Have you been down Maryville or Bullock Island? No.
1535. However, would the same remarks apply to these collieries, as to the precautionary measures of driving narrow bords and leaving large pillars? Yes; I think 8 yards is far too wide to work under the water.
1536. You would place a larger amount of faith in narrow bords than in 8-yard bords where danger exists above you? Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
S. Baber.
10 Aug., 1886.

S. Baber sworn and examined :—

1537. *President.*] What are you, Mr. Baber, and where employed? I am a miner, and am employed at Maryville Colliery.

1538. How long have you worked at Maryville? Twenty months.

1539. Have you worked pretty well all over the colliery? I have.

1540. We have been told that the bords are worked 6 yards wide, and that it is intended to leave pillars 4 yards wide;—is that so? I am given to understand the bords are 6 yards; I cannot say what size of pillars.

1541. You know about the width, I suppose? About 4 to 5 yards.

1542. The top coal is left on as a roof, is it not? Yes.

1543. And above the top coal the surface deposits come down and lie on top of the coal;—is that not the case? Yes, in several places.

1544. The exceptions being some places to the north-east where harder rock has been discovered? Yes; to the north-east it is harder.

1545. Up to the present time the practice in Maryville has been to work the lower coal, and in some cases to break the tops coming back? Yes, leaving a portion of the top up.

1546. But a new system has been introduced of leaving on the bottom coal, and working the tops going forward. Do you approve of the new or the old system? My opinion is that you would get two crops out of the one ground by taking the bottoms out first.

1547. Yes. But as a matter of pure security for the men, which system do you prefer. The old system was to work the bottom coal, and drop the tops coming back; the new system is to work the tops going forward—whichever method do you think the best? I do not see the difference.

1548. The difference is manifest. By the old system you worked the bottoms first, leaving the top up as a roof, but broke the tops coming back, so that you always kept open a road to escape. By the new system, on the other hand, you work in the top coal going in, so that in case of an accident taking place you are blocked in, and have no mode of egress? In that case the old mode would be the best.

1549. Supposing that you were working in the bottom coal, and the surface deposits were suddenly to come down on the top of this thin layer of coal that is left in the top, do you think any amount of timber would keep that secure? I have timbered all over that place, and I have not seen any of it give way. The timber goes right through it.

1550. That is exactly what I mean. The timber would not keep it up. Would you consider that mode of working safe under the creek? It is some distance from the boundary of the creek, I think.

1551. You know there is some 40 feet or 50 feet of quicksand lying on the top at the boundary of the creek, and being quicksand, do you think the water would be likely to mingle with this sand? I should say so.

1552. Then in approaching the creek, do you consider that mode of working would imperil to any extent the safety of the operations in the mine? Well, there is a certain amount of rock going towards the creek on that side; I think it is harder there.

1553. But supposing the rock suddenly checked out, would there not be some danger? All I can say is that I believe in the old system of working with a second means of escape.

1554. Have you any suggestion to offer as to a better mode of working the coal at Maryville. Do you consider that in working in Maryville you run any extraordinary risks? No, or I should not work there.

1555. Have you ever heard anyone express themselves to that effect? No.

1556. Do you know whether any of the men consider they run a risk by working at Maryville, or do you yourself consider there is any risk in working at Maryville without a second shaft? I do. I think they ought to have two means of escape.

1557. Then to that extent you consider you run a risk in Maryville. Have you worked in any of the adjoining collieries? No.

1558. Where were you working before? At Cape Colony.

1559. And before that? I was in England.

1560. In what part of England? In Bristol.

1561. Have you formed any opinion as to the safest mode of working these comparatively shallow collieries under the sea? Well, I have not had much experience under the sea.

1562. Generally speaking, I mean? Well, I should think the safest plan of working would be to take the bottom coal first and the tops afterwards.

1563. Then what about pillars? That would depend upon the tops.

1564. Should not the depth from the surface be a guide in that matter? Well, I have seen 400 or 500 yards of pillars crushed out.

1565. What size were the pillars? 20 yards square.

1566. *Mr. Davies.*] Have any steps been taken to have a second shaft sunk? I do not think so at present, although I believe the material is all ready on the ground.

1567. You think the colliery perfectly safe to work in? Yes.

1568. You have heard no other person express any fear? No, not in my presence.

1569. *Mr. Usher.*] Have you heard of anyone having expressed a fear as to the safety of the mine? I have not.

1570. *Mr. Jones.*] Do you know of the little tops being split in working the top coal over here? They are in one place, for a yard or two at the outside.

1571. In the new mode of working we have been told that they split the top band? In one place it is split a yard or two.

1572. Then do you understand that it is not to be followed as a system? I think not. I think that band is to be left up.

1573. *Mr. Davies.*] Do you think the new system is safe? I see no danger.

1574. Supposing the roof were to come in, how are you to get away? There is no way, but it ought to be well timbered.

1575. *Mr. Jones.*] Have you observed any falls in that colliery? I have seen them after the coal was taken out.

1576. Have you seen any water coming in? No.

1577. Any sand? It is principally all dry clay.

The witness withdrew.

WEDNESDAY,

WEDNESDAY, 11 AUGUST, 1886.

Present:—

J. R. M. ROBERTSON, Esq., PRESIDENT.

MR. J. USHER,
MR. J. Y. NEILSON,
MR. W. TURNBULL,
MR. J. JONES,

MR. A. DURIE,
MR. J. SWINBURN,
MR. W. DAVIES,
MR. J. CURLEY,

MR. J. THOMAS.

J. Evans sworn and examined:—

1578. *President.*] You are the manager of Stockton Colliery, Mr. Evans? Yes.
1579. What experience in mining have you had? I had considerable experience in mining at Home.
1580. How long have you been connected with mining operations? I have been connected with mining at Home from the year 1875, when I was apprenticed to a mining engineer for three years.
1581. Then you have been connected with mining for eleven years and upwards—in what part? In South Wales.
1582. After serving your apprenticeship, what experience have you had? After serving my apprenticeship I spent two years at the Bristol School of Arts.
1583. And after that? I was appointed assistant manager for Harris's Navigation Company.
1584. That is an extensive colliery? Yes.
1585. What is the output of coal per day? 1,200 tons per day.
1586. Your profession is that of a mining engineer? Yes.
1587. How long have you been in the Colony? Since the 16th June, 1885.
1588. Have you had experience of different systems of mining? Yes, both in the longwall, and bord, and pillar systems, but chiefly longwall.
1589. As an engineer, what circumstances do you think ought to determine the system to be followed in winning coal-seams? The general features of the surface.
1590. Or the character of the coal-seam? Yes; the nature of the coal, the nature of the roof, and the nature of the floor.
1591. Might a slight variation of these circumstances or conditions be sufficient reason for modifying the system of working? Certainly.
1592. You would not consider a hard-and-fast or unalterable system of mining an intelligent system? No; a man should make the system applicable to the circumstances of the mine.
1593. Is it your opinion that the system of working pursued in this district is the best that could be adopted for winning the Borehole seam? In some circumstances I should say it is.
1594. Does the Borehole seam possess the same character in the different collieries? No; I do not think it does.
1595. Does the seam alter in character and thickness, and the nature of the roof? Yes, evidently.
1596. Have you observed that? Well, I have not seen the Borehole seam myself, but from what I can learn it is of a different character from ours at Stockton.
1597. I mean the Newcastle coal-seam? It is evidently the same seam.
1598. Have you been in any of the adjoining collieries? I have been in the Co-operative.
1599. Does that seam of coal and roof differ from yours at Stockton? Yes.
1600. Have you any experience of the Newcastle coal district other than what you have gained at Stockton? None, except at the Co-operative, where I worked for three months.
1601. Did it occur to you, judging from your experience, that there was a disposition in this district to vary the character of the working to suit the conditions of the collieries? No; I have observed that there seems to be a desire for a uniform system of working; and, under any circumstances, each colliery is supposed to turn out so much coal per acre by following the same system.
1602. Is that, in your opinion, wise? I do not think it is.
1603. Do you find there is any aversion to change the system? I believe I do on the part of the workmen.
1604. That is, you find them disposed to run in the same groove? Yes.
1605. In what way do you find there is an aversion to change the system on the part of the workmen? Well, from my experience of mining in this country, and the little I have had to do with the men, I find that the laws of the men are so arbitrary that it does not matter what advantages the seam of coal offers; there is a minimum here, not a maximum.
1606. Then you are restrained from adopting a better system of mining by empirical customs? Yes; and also the question of increased cost for getting the coal.
1607. In your opinion, is a manager at Home fettered to the same extent by district customs? No.
1608. He is allowed more latitude? Yes.
1609. Should a manager be allowed some latitude in choosing a proper system of working? Yes; the manager is the person who should have such power within his own mine, as he is held responsible for the safe and efficient working of it.
1610. I suppose, in your opinion, it would be to the advantage of all concerned in mining to encourage any improved method of winning or working the coal-seams? I think it should be; as regards the Delta collieries, certainly.
1611. I am not referring to the Delta collieries; I am referring to the whole Colony—the whole world if you like. Would it be to the advantage of a district if an improved system of mining were introduced? Evidently it would.
1612. Would an improved system of mining include increased care for the safety of the men, as well as increased facilities for getting the mineral? Yes, in some cases.
1613. But in all cases would it be an improvement if you obtained these conditions? I suppose it would.
1614. What depth were the shafts at Harris's Navigation Company? 765 yards to the 4-foot seam.
1615. Was your experience confined to that colliery? No.
1616. In what other parts were you engaged at Home? Morthyn, Aberdare, Rhondda Valley, and Mynyddyslwyn.
1617. Was the same system of working pursued in all those collieries? No; at Aberdare, the 9-foot seam there was worked on the principle of 8-yard bords and 10-yard pillars.

Mr. J. Evans.

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- Mr. J. Evans. 1618. What depth was that? That was a depth, at the shaft, of 100 yards; but it went in under a mountain hundreds of feet in depth.
- 11 Aug., 1886. 1619. How did the system work? We had a soft bottom and a strong roof there, and had to contend with very much "creeping."
1620. What is "creeping" induced by? I believe it is induced by the floor being so much softer than the roof.
1621. Where was this? At Aberdare, Rhondda Valley.
1622. In a well engineered or managed colliery—I want a general answer—are the pillars proportioned to the depth of the seam? No, not in my experience. I find that in determining the size of the pillars you must take into consideration the nature of the strata and the extent of the coal as well.
1623. Does not pressure increase with depth? No; I do not think it does in the light you look for pressure now. In the colliery of which I was assistant manager, where we worked a seam at 765 yards deep, the pressure was so great that we had to drive narrow places, while in a seam 60 yards below that there was not nearly so much pressure.
1624. This question only admits of a categorical answer, Mr. Evans, and the question is, does pressure increase with depth? Putting it in that light, no doubt it does.
1625. Putting it any light, the pressure must increase with depth? But the nature of the strata is sometimes such that the pressure is not observable.
1626. How would you, as an engineer, determine the width of bords and size of pillars—what circumstances would guide you or would you take into consideration? I would take into consideration the nature of the strata from the surface to the coal.
1627. That is the depth and the nature of the strata? Yes; also the nature of the coal and character of the floor. I do not think I could find a hard-and-fast theoretical rule by which I could ascertain the size of pillars; that could only be found by keen observation of the strata and circumstances.
1628. But as pressure increases with depth, it follows that the greater the depth the greater must be the pressure upon the coal? Certainly.
1629. From an intimate knowledge of the coal, do you know the average weight which such a coal as that of Newcastle, *in situ*, should bear? I cannot say exactly what it should bear.
1630. Some of the very hard splint coals at Home contain a crushing pressure of 2,600 lbs. to the square inch. That being so, and the Newcastle coal not being splint coal, it would crush at a lower weight. You see the force of the question now, that as the pressure increases with the depth, necessity arises in increasing the size of the pillars in proportion to the depth of the seam? Yes.
1631. Notwithstanding these laws, however, there are certain exceptional circumstances, such as heavy surface deposits or working under the ocean, which would cause you to increase the area of the pillar and decrease the bord, irrespective of depth? Yes.
1632. In your experience as a mine manager, is it considered good practice to leave pillars with a large margin to the good for resistance, to prevent pressure or "creeps"? Well, so much of that depends upon the nature of the roof, as I have already said.
1633. I am asking whether in a well managed colliery it is the practice to leave pillars of ample size to sustain the pressure—to retain the integrity of the roof? It depends entirely upon the nature of the roof, according to my experience, for I have seen greater risk with large pillars even than with small pillars.
1634. In what collieries did you see that? In the Aberdare, Rhondda Collieries.
1635. What was the depth? About 100 yards deep, and working under the slope of a hill. In that place we worked a 6-foot seam below the 9-foot seam, and it invariably happened, if the pillars were left too large, the roof would cut up in the 6-foot seam.
1636. To what extent did the upper seam influence the lower—I have often seen pillars forced down from the upper seam into the lower? In this case, if the pillars in the bottom seam were left too large, they would cut up into the upper seam.
1637. Well, these are exceptional circumstances, only applying to particular cases, and the remedy suggests itself at the time. It is of very easy solution. But in the case of a colliery working one seam, is it not considered good engineering to leave pillars of ample size to retain the integrity of the roof? In one sense it does. But when pillars are left so much exposed to "winding" the coal deteriorates very much on the outside.
1638. Is there a larger area exposed to "winding" in large or in small pillars? In small pillars.
1639. I think you would do well to recall your last explanation. If small pillars expose the larger area to "winding," then the argument is in favour of large pillars? Yes, there it is; but you must bear in mind you have to keep open your roadways.
1640. You have fewer roadways with large pillars than small pillars? In the bords, but not in the headings.
1641. Taking the whole field, you must have a greater number of roadways with small pillars than with large? As a rule the bord and pillar system is adopted in big seams, and the workings are laid out in such a manner that the pillars may be drawn back.
1642. Could the pillars be drawn back if you left them too small? No; but where it is necessary to leave pillars in for ever they should be laid out with the least possible dimensions consistent with strength.
1643. Mr. Thomas.] And sacrifice them altogether? Yes.
1644. President.] You mean consistent with strength and the conditions of the colliery? Yes.
1645. That does not alter the force of the question. Is it or is it not considered good engineering to leave pillars with a large margin for safety? It is good engineering, no doubt.
1646. What size of pillars do you leave at Stockton? They are supposed to be 6 yards.
1647. In all cases are they 6 yards? No, they are not.
1648. What size pillars are you leaving in the portions of the workings laid out now? 6-yard pillars, with 4-yard bords.
1649. Do you know the prevailing custom as to pillars in the Newcastle District? It has been the custom here in many cases to draw the pillars out altogether, so that I do not think they can be said to have a hard-and-fast system here.
1650. Have you any system for controlling the size of the pillars. Do you drive the bords by line, or fine the men for working wide? No.
1651. Do you consider it an advantage to drive bords of a uniform size? It would be a better system, undoubtedly.
- 1652.

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1652. Why not adopt some system whereby you could control the width of bords and size of pillars? In order to carry out that a large amount of additional labour and cost would be involved.
1653. In what way would it increase the cost? It would necessitate a man being employed to look after the pillars, and make surveys, and do nothing else.
1654. If the bords were driven away by plumbs, could not the overman, in going through the workings, control the thickness of the pillars, or, in other words, the width of the bords? Well, yes, but it would involve a considerable amount of labour.
1655. Suppose it took three or four hours in the fortnight to hang the plumbs, do not you think it would be a great advantage to secure a uniform thickness of pillars? It would, evidently.
1656. What thickness is your coal-seam in Stockton? The bottom seam of coal is 8 feet 9 inches, and the top seam 9 feet to 9 feet 6 inches.
1657. What thickness of strata divides them? From 6 feet to 8 feet.
1658. Do you work the one coal-seam above the other? In one place I have.
1659. Have you prospected the field so as to prove whether the two coal-seams overlie each other similar to the way in which they appear in the shaft? No, not on that side. At one point they evidently do overlap one another, but I have not explored sufficiently to answer that question.
1660. Supposing the two seams do overlie in that way, do you see any necessity for leaving pillars of ample size, the seams being separated by a thin divisional strata? Do you mean with the intention of working the two seams?
- 1660½. Yes, simultaneously? I do not think it would be practicable.
- 1660¾. Why? I do not think it would be safe, because we should be displacing too much strata, as I am afraid the strata dividing the two seams would not be strong enough in all cases.
1661. That is, unless you cast the one pillar above the other? Yes.
1662. Suppose you adopted that plan of casting one pillar on top of the other, do you see any reason now why they should be of ample size and stability? In that case they should be, undoubtedly.
1663. Of what nature is the principal coal-seam—is it of a friable nature or otherwise? Well, it is comparatively soft.
1664. Is it not what you would denominate a soft coal? No; I would not denominate it a soft coal.
1665. Compared with other Newcastle coals, is it not a soft coal? It is not so hard as some in the district.
1666. Are there any softer coals in the district? That I cannot say, owing to lack of experience.
1667. There are several basalt faults shown on the plan—have these very much interfered with the workings? They have.
1668. And added considerably to the trouble and expense of opening up the mine? They have.
1669. In the district to the west or south-west of the winning shaft, marked on the plan A within a circle, what is the width of the bords? They vary from 8 yards to 9 yards.
1670. Are there any bords in that district above 9 yards in width? Yes; I can show you a bord that has been abandoned eight months which is 11 yards wide.
1671. Can you give any reason for the bords being wider than 8 yards? The bord I have referred to was not worked in my time.
1672. Are any of these bords proceeding to the west or south-west 10 yards wide? They are in certain places.
1673. And these bords are divided by pillars of what thickness? From 4 to 6 yards.
1674. Do they go down as low as 2 yards in one place and 3 in another? I believe they are as low as 3 in one place.
1675. Then why not say the pillars run from 2 to 6 yards in width? Because if I were to say so I should be stating an untruth.
1676. At any rate they were between that and 6 yards. Who broke off those bords? They were broken off in the time of the late manager, Mr. Hardy.
1677. And you continued them? Yes. The part of the pit you refer to will be abandoned, as we are close to the boundary; and I am certain that the roof is excellent, the proof being that the bords have stood without showing signs of falling. I need not tell you (for reasons I know myself) that the colliery is labouring under disadvantages.
1678. Would it add to the expenses of the colliery to reduce the width of the bords? Yes.
1679. You say there are no signs of "crushing" towards the south? No more than I can anticipate from atmospheric agencies.
1680. Then you have rather exceeded the margin of safety in respect to these pillars—in other words, the pillars can scarcely bear the weight that is imposed upon them? That is an open question; I would not like to say that.
1681. Then how do you propose to work the remainder of the field; do you propose to leave pillars of a uniform thickness of 6 yards? Yes.
1682. Why is there not a uniform system laid down and adhered to in collieries situated as Stockton is? Well, I have not had very much experience in the district; but, judging from the experience of the past, I think I am perfectly justified, under the circumstances surrounding Stockton, in doing what I have done.
1683. But would it add to the expense to see that the men followed your instructions. You say you have laid down a rule, which is not always adhered to—would it add to the expense to introduce a hard-and-fast rule or method? If the colliery was free from disturbed ground it would not perhaps, but it would now.
1684. I do not quite see it, but we have taken your answer. Then, at the point marked F within a circle, going towards the south, and approaching the waters of the harbour, you have opened out your coal; do you propose to work your upper coal in that situation in the same manner? Yes.
1685. Is it your intention to allow the men to come and go as to width of pillars, or do you intend to enforce obedience to instructions? To enforce obedience, certainly.
1686. Then do you consider it a good provision to impose fines in case of any departures from the rule laid down as to width of pillars? Well, I think such a system would be desirable, although I do not know whether the fines could be imposed.
1687. Do you, generally speaking, know of any reason why these fines should not be imposed? No.
1688. If you were told that it is the custom in the adjoining collieries to impose a fine in case of disobedience to orders, would you be disposed to adopt that method to enforce obedience to your orders as to the mode of working? I would.
1689. Is the boundary of your estate at high-water mark? No, low-water mark.
1690. Your estate does not extend under the harbour? No.

1691.

Mr. J. Evans. 1691. Towards the Pacific, have you secured any leasehold? Yes.

1692. What extent? 1,500 acres altogether.

11 Aug., 1886. 1693. To the north-east? Yes.

1694. What thickness of strata have you at present at the air-shaft? Almost identical with the strata at the winding shaft.

1695. About 89 feet? Something like that.

1696. Do you know from the result of borings whether the surface deposits increase or decrease towards the north and north-east? They increase.

1697. Do you know the nature of the surface deposits in this 1,500 acres of leasehold? I do not.

1698. Do you think it would be advisable to have a knowledge of the superincumbent strata there? Yes; I think it would be valuable information.

1699. How do you propose to work the coal under this ocean leasehold? That I have not decided upon.

1700. Do you think it would be advisable to increase the size of the coal pillars under the ocean? If the strata is not of the same thickness, certainly I should.

1701. But as you have no data to go upon, and as it may be difficult to obtain, do you think it would be advisable to take precautionary measures? Oh, yes.

1702. And what precautionary measures would suggest themselves to you? I would adopt a different system of working.

1703. What difference would you propose? I would increase the size of the pillars, and lessen the width of the bords.

1704. Would it be advisable to carry exploring drifts well in advance of the bords? Yes; and keep bores in advance of them again.

1705. Have you been notified by the Inspector and Examiner of Coal-fields to keep boreholes in advance of your drift workings? Yes.

1706. At what drifts? At drifts towards the north-east, within a circle, and going towards the east, and also going towards the west.

1707. How far do you keep your bores in advance? 10 feet.

1708. The necessity of keeping bores in advance of the drifts will be much greater as you proceed under the ocean, I suppose? Yes. I do not think it is necessary with our present strata.

1709. Have you examined the cliffs at Signal Hill and Nobby's, on this side of the harbour? I have.

1710. Have you observed any indications of faults there? Yes.

1711. At what part? Both at Signal Hill and Nobby's, and the dyke.

1712. Have you travelled along the cliffs to the south of Signal Hill? Yes.

1713. Have you seen any faults in the cliffs immediately to the south of Signal Hill? I have; there are two or three there.

1714. Do you think the faults there are the same as you have been encountering at Stockton? No.

1715. Look at the plan, Mr. Evans, at Signal Hill, marked B on the plan there are two faults going about north 10° east, and a little to the south is another fault going north 10° west. The line of that goes right through Stockton shaft. Do you think there is any connection between it and those basalt faults at Stockton? Probably there may be.

1716. Further south than the last-named position of a fault there is a very large fault, that throws down the strata to the north, also running about north 10° west, which would take it to the west of Stockton pit. Do you think there may be some connection between those faults and the troubles you have met with at Stockton? Well, in the main drive, going east, the ground is more or less disturbed, and there are strong indications of a large fault there.

1717. Are you acquainted with the position of the coal-seam overlying the Borehole seam in the Newcastle District? No.

1718. Have you heard of the Yard seam? I have.

1719. It occurs in Stockton pit, about 158 feet down your shaft? Yes.

1720. The coal-seam at Stockton has a slight dip towards the harbour or towards the south. If you were told that that coal-seam was seen in the cliffs at Signal Hill, and also at Nobby's, a few feet above the level of high-water mark, what inference would you draw with regard to the stratification between these points and Stockton? I would infer that there was a fault somewhere between.

1721. Running, in all probability, in what direction? It would run in a north-easterly and easterly direction.

1722. Do you think that fault may have had some influence on the peculiar conformation of the harbour at that point? It might.

1723. Has a fault some influence in determining the aspect of scenery? Yes.

1724. Then, Mr. Evans, as the surface deposits increase in an uncertain way towards the northern boundary of your ground, and as you know nothing about them under the ocean, you consider it would be prudent and wise to keep narrow exploring drifts in advance of the bords going in these directions? Yes, I do.

1725. Considering the uncertainty that exists as to the thickness of the surface deposits in these directions, have you any suggestions to make as to the most safe and certain method of winning the coal in those directions. In other words, have you any alterations to propose of the present system? Well, I should not adopt the 8-yard bord and 6-yard pillar system in those directions. I would arrange it the other way about—that is, I would be more inclined to adopt 6-yard bords and 8-yard pillars.

1726. Have you travelled along the beach to the north-east on the Stockton peninsula? Yes.

1727. Did you observe any rocks coming to the surface there within the first half-mile or so? No.

1728. If you were informed that north of the site of the Lambton-sinking the surface almost approached the top of the coal, and that further up thick beds of quicksand had approached the top of the coal opposite your ocean leasehold, would it cause you to be extra cautious in approaching that position? Yes, it would, certainly.

1729. The knowledge of these circumstances would impress you with a belief as to the necessity of prospecting the cover of the coal in this 1,500 acres of ocean leasehold? I think it is desirable.

1730. And so far as the Stockton present workings are concerned, do you consider they are in all respects safe and suitable? Yes.

1731. That there is no necessity for additional provisions as to safety? Not with our present strata.

1732. But you consider that the stability of your colliery would be increased by obeying a hard-and-fast and

and undeviative system as to thickness of pillars? As we get away from the shaft I think it would be desirable. I perfectly understand what you mean, Mr. President. But with the strata we are certain we possess in the vicinity of the shaft, I do not think there is the slightest fear of anything occurring.

Mr. J. Evans.
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1733. That is scarcely the point. Without expressing any doubt as to the stability of the colliery, I have asked whether the stability would be increased by enforcing obedience to instructions to keep the pillars of a uniform thickness? Of course it would be increased—that is a self-evident fact.

1734. If you inquired at the adjoining collieries, and discovered that a system of fines had been introduced in order to enforce obedience to these healthy provisions as to uniformity, would you be disposed to introduce the same rule at Stockton? Yes, I should, unless I thought I could vary from them to suit my own circumstances.

1735. Is it an evidence of good management to allow any variation from a good system? I consider it was good management on my part to do what I have done at Stockton.

1736. Is your second shaft—the air-shaft—sunk to the coal? No.

1737. You have not a second opening? No.

1738. How many men have you employed? 120.

1739. Does the Act provide for any limitation of time as to a mine with a second opening? Yes, eighteen months.

1740. How long will it be before your second opening is completed? It will be completed in the latter end of September. I think the shaft ought to be completed by the second week in October. It is let by contract.

1741. What thickness of metal are the cylinders? I think they are $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

1742. That provides for an ample margin of security? Yes.

1743. Mr. Jones.] Are you quite sure as to the thickness? It is either $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch or $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

1744. President.] Have any of the cylinders been cracked? No; they are quite sound.

1745. How much water do you pump from Stockton? I cannot tell you how much the shaft makes at present. I can tell you what the pump does. We are winding water in a 400-gallon tank, but I could not tell you the quantity unless I counted the number of windings.

1746. About what quantity? I do not think we make more than about 150 gallons a minute.

1747. That is about 9,000 gallons an hour? Yes.

1748. Is the water salt? No; the water in the mine is fresh; but the water coming out of the shaft is more or less brackish.

1749. Where does the water come from in the shaft? From underneath the brickwork.

1750. What do the cylinders rest on? The rock.

1751. How do you account for the water coming from underneath the brickwork? There must be a fissure behind.

1752. Are the cylinders in the Stockton winding shaft resting on a wedging curb? Yes, I think so.

1753. Mr. Neilson.] In this western portion, marked "B," the two seams have come together in a disturbance that has taken place there? The top seam appears to go out altogether—in point of fact we have only one seam here. (The witness further explains, and says that the ground in this direction is subject to rolls, and he is in doubt as to whether two seams exist.)

1754. Then it is definitely arranged that you are to keep ahead your exploring places? Yes.

1755. Mr. Usher.] What expense would it involve to drive your places by plumb or line; I understood you to say that it would involve a great amount of labour and expense. Will you explain? I did not say a great amount of labour. My opinion is that if a system of that kind was to be thoroughly adhered to it would involve the necessity for a surveyor looking after nothing else.

1756. What amount would that cost per annum? Well, it would depend upon the wages you paid. During the past, in Stockton, we have had such difficulties to contend with that it has not been so much a question of labour as expense, and we have been glad to get the coal any way.

1757. But what would be the cost of keeping these surveys? At present I could do it myself, and I would have done it had I thought it desirable.

1758. President.] At the point marked "C" within a circle it could quite easily be done; it is simply a question of pulling a tape along that heading.

1759. Mr. Usher.] Is it your intention to put in chocks of wood in the south-western portion of the colliery? Yes; we are doing so.

1760. Why do you do that—do you consider it unsafe? No; I have been asked to do so.

1761. By whom have you been asked? By the Examiner of Coal-fields.

1762. Mr. Jones.] What reason was alleged? Because he thought the bords were exceptionally wide.

1763. President.] Would it not be more economical to throw on a yard or two of coal, and save the chocks? I do not know that it would.

1764. Mr. Usher.] Are you allowed to exercise your own discretion as to the width of bords and thickness of pillars? Yes.

1765. Could you adopt any width or thickness at your own will and pleasure? Well, I would not say that I could adopt 6-yard bords without consulting my directors, because it would mean increased cost.

1766. Have your directors complained to you at any time that you have left too much coal in the mine? No, I cannot say that; but they have pressed me to get as great an output as possible.

1767. I mean, have they seen fit to point out to you that you were leaving too much coal in the pillars? That is a question I do not feel inclined to answer.

1768. Have you seen an account of borings made to the north of the present pit on the company's estate? No, I have not. The only boring I have seen is a boring within 50 yards of our shaft.

1769. What does that boring show? What are the surface deposits there? Almost similar to the shaft.

1770. Have you a copy of that boring? Yes.

1771. You are not acquainted with any other borings? No.

1772. Or with some borings showing quicksand in official records? I am not aware of it.

1773. Do you not think it is desirable that you should be made aware of it? I think it is desirable that one should get as much information as possible about such strata.

1774. Do you think that if the borings to the north of the present shaft show beds of quicksand that it would be desirable to exercise great precaution in connection with your exploring drifts? It would be desirable to put headings and bores in advance—that is, in the main exploring headings.

1775. Do you know whether any mining engineer, other than yourself, has been consulted with reference to

Mr. J. Evans. to working this colliery? I do not know of it. Mr. Neilson may have been consulted on behalf of the management.

11 Aug., 1886. 1776. Then Mr. Neilson is check viewer? Yes.

1777. Does he approve of the system carried on? Yes, except as to exploring places.

1778. Have you any consulting viewer at your colliery? No.

1779. *Mr. Thomas.*] Has not Mr. Croudace been appointed to that position? Not to my knowledge.

1780. Has he not been down your shaft? Not since I have been there.

1781. How long have you been there? Since October last.

1782. Then at the time Mr. Croudace wrote certain letters to the local papers he had not been down your colliery? No.

1783. *Mr. Jones.*] Has he been down, then, lately? No.

1784. *Mr. Usher.*] You recollect reading Mr. Croudace's letters because you answered them at the time—did he not throw out some hints as to the Stockton Colliery? Not directly against Stockton, but indirectly he did.

1785. At all events, you saw fit to answer those letters? Yes; I thought his letters were calculated to damage the reputation of those mines, more or less, as well as the management, and in the interests of my own Company I thought it was desirable on my part to answer them.

1786. And I suppose you still adhere to what you wrote at that time? Yes.

1787. *Mr. Jones.*] You have stated that there is a disposition on the part of the management in this district to pursue a uniform system, such as generally prevails now? Yes.

1788. Did you ever suggest to your directors the propriety of adopting any other system at Stockton? No; because, from a pounds shillings and pence point of view, I could not see my way to do it, owing to the minimum getting-price of coal in the district. If I could have 6-yard bords free of yardage I would adopt the 6-yard bord system to-morrow.

1789. You say that the workmen hamper the proprietors in regard to the adoption of new systems of working; would you give an instance when the workmen at any colliery have prevented the adoption of any other mode of working the mine? Well, they do not do it directly, but indirectly they do.

1790. You mean they claim extra pay? Yes, without taking into consideration advantages on their side, such as width of seam and clean coal.

1791. *President.*] Would the taking out of pillars impair the safety of a mine—I mean the thinning of pillars. If the system of 8-yard bords with 6-yard pillars is adopted, would the thinning of the pillars, or in other words, a departure from the system, impair the safety of the mine? Yes, if you can prove that 6 yards is the limit, but I do not say 6 yards is the limit.

1792. Have you seen any visible signs of pressure on the pillars? I have seen what may be expected from exposure to atmospheric influence.

1793. Is such pressure visible when pillars have been left the full 6 yards? Yes.

1794. Will you point out this on the plan? In these cut-throughs (pointing to the plan) they are invariably 6 and 7 yards.

1795. Then the only reason you can give for having these thin pillars is pressure of circumstances? That is one of the reasons.

1796. Are there some others which you have not given? There are.

1797. Would you be kind enough to give them? Well, I may say that it is generally the rule and custom to measure a manager's ability by the cost of his output. More experienced men than myself have worked 8-yard bords and 10- and 11-yard bords and taken the pillars out under watery strata in this district; and I, having taken all things into consideration, believe that I have run no risk in doing what I have done as to keeping the pillars down and occasionally putting in a chock. I can show you bords that were driven 11 yards when Hardy was there, and which do not show the slightest signs of crushing.

1798. Supposing all the bords were 11 or 12 yards wide, and the pillars 2 or 3 yards wide? But they are not all so.

1799. Having adopted the 8-yard bord and 6-yard pillar system as a measure of safety, why depart from it? Well, you could put that question with equal force to the workmen themselves. You know it is impossible to prevent it altogether unless the deputy or overman is present all the time.

1800. How often do you measure your places;—supposing you measure two or three times a week, would not that be sufficient to control the width of the bords? Yes.

1801. *Mr. Usher.*] Have you deputies in your colliery? Yes.

1802. And an overman? Yes. I may say there is a diversity of opinion about this. The last overman I had was an experienced man, about 50 years of age, and his notion was to drive 10-yard bords and 4-yard pillars in the place.

1803. *President.*] Did you appoint that man? No; I did not.

1804. Who appointed him? He was recommended to the Company.

1805. Then, was he appointed over your head? He was appointed by the Company.

1806. Was he appointed against your will? I do not say that, but I had to dismiss a man in order to give him an opening.

1807. In point of fact you are leading the Commission to believe that he was the manager, and not you? No; I am just telling you the facts as to his appointment, and what opinions he held.

1808. *Mr. Usher.*] Your instructions to the miners were, I understand, to drive the bords 8 yards wide? Yes.

1809. And did he, in spite of those instructions, have the bords driven 10 yards wide? It is not necessary for me to tell you that. My views and his clashed. You can draw your own inference.

1810. And has he been dismissed in consequence of going contrary to your orders? He has been dismissed.

1811. *Mr. Davies.*] Do you think that the expense of an overman or deputy measuring the bords once or twice a week should be allowed to stand in the way of the bords being driven by line or plumb? Certainly not.

1812. If you think it necessary that the bords should be driven straight, you do not consider that the cost of a person being appointed to see it done for the safety of the men should stand in the way? No; and it will not stand in the way.

1813. Yet you say it is a matter of cost? I say that in a large colliery it would be necessary to appoint a man to look after the surveys, and have nothing else to do.

1814. But, as a measure of safety, you think it ought to be done, notwithstanding the cost? Yes; and Mr. J. Evans. if I had anticipated danger, I should have caused it to be done.

1815. I understand the bords are turned away 8 yards wide with 6-yard pillars? The bords are turned away at 4 yards and widened out to 8. 11 Aug., 1886.

1816. Then, in that case, in the middle of the bords all of the pillars would be worked out, or nearly so, if the bords are widened out to 11 yards? Yes, if they are 11 yards, of course.

1817. Supposing the bords on the other side were widened out again? I do not want to suppose that. We might as well come to "longwall" at once. I admit that the bords have been widened, but I do not think that there is any danger in consequence of that.

1818. The present system of working at Stockton, you think, would not be a safe one under the ocean? It would not; or perhaps I should say I would not be inclined to adopt the 8-yard system under the sea.

1819. Mr. Swinburn.] Do you, as a mining engineer, think it is possible for a manager to lay down a definite system of working a coal-field throughout; in other words, would you, as a colliery manager, be guided by circumstances as to the choice of a system of working? Yes; I should vary my system according to the overlying strata, and all surrounding circumstances.

The witness withdrew.

B. Kennedy sworn and examined:—

1820. President.] You are a miner? Yes.

1821. Where are you working at present? At Stockton.

1822. Have you had large experience as a miner? Yes; I have done nothing else since I was eight years of age. Mr. B. Kennedy. 11 Aug., 1886.

1823. In what parts of the world have you followed your occupation? I have been five years in this district, five or six years in New Zealand, and before that in Northumberland; about fifteen years altogether.

1824. Is the coal at Stockton of a softer or harder nature than that in other parts of Newcastle? It is much about the same.

1825. What sized pillars do they leave in Stockton; what do the miners understand as the rule there? The rule is 14 yards from the centre of one bord to the centre of another.

1826. That would be 6-yard pillars? Yes.

1827. Is that rule adhered to? I think it is.

1828. Have you seen smaller pillars there? Yes, I have.

1829. Are the overmen particular as to the width of the pillars? They were not until lately, but they are very particular.

1830. Have you any opinion to offer to the Commission as to any alteration in the mode of working that coal under the sea? No; I do not think so. I have wrought coal under the sea in the Old Country on the "longwall" system.

1831. In what part of the Old Country? At North Seaton.

1832. What depth were you working then? The coal was 100 fathoms deep.

1833. Do you consider it would be safe to work Stockton on the present system under the sea? I think it would.

1834. You do not think any alteration would be necessary? Well, they might work the pillars thicker, and be a little more particular, perhaps.

1835. Then you believe it would be necessary to leave larger pillars? Yes, under the sea.

1836. What about the width of bords—would a narrower width of bords give you more security? So far as I have seen in this district the wide bords work best; the narrow ones cut up.

1837. Supposing an alteration took place in the overlying strata, would that alter your opinion? Yes; but I do not think there is any great danger. When there is stone it will always choke itself.

1838. But supposing there is no stone? That is a different matter.

1839. You have not given this matter much consideration? No; except that I value my own life as well as another.

1840. Then you have formulated no opinion as to the best mode of working the coal under the sea—whether a variation from, or adherence to, the present system would be advisable? I have already said that I think the pillars should be thicker, and particular care taken when driving the bords 8 yards wide.

1841. Have you seen bords in Scotland 10 yards wide? Yes.

1842. Do you think the men should be fined for a departure from the system laid down? Yes; I think so.

1843. There would be nothing heinously wrong in compelling adherence to the rule? No; it is to the men's advantage. Sometimes a man will become careless.

1844. We understand that Stockton has been somewhat troubled with faults that have interrupted the regularity of the workings to a certain extent? Yes.

1845. Mr. Thomas.] Have you noticed the strata on the opposite side of the pit—at Nobby's, for example? Yes.

1846. Do you think that the rocks are as hard there as those that overlay the coal where you were working "longwall" at Home? Yes.

1847. And quite as safe? Yes; I consider that Stockton is the soundest shaft in the country.

1848. Mr. Davies.] Were you at the sinking of Stockton shaft? Yes.

1849. Then you are able to judge from personal knowledge as to the character of the strata? Yes; the metals are very sound.

1850. Do you know anything about the strata overlying the coal at Seaton in the Old Country? It is much about the same, I think. There were about 15 fathoms of grey post next the coal there.

1851. You worked "longwall" there you say? Yes.

1852. Do you think it would be safe to work "longwall" in Stockton? No.

1853. Why would it not be safe, if the strata is as sound? Because we have only one-half the thickness at Stockton.

1854. Then you do not think it safe to work "longwall" at Stockton? No; I would not like to work it.

1855. Mr. Jones.] Do you think it would be advisable to have borings in advance of your headings in approaching faults? I do not see that it would be of any advantage.

- Mr. B. Kennedy. 1856. Would it do any harm? No.
 1857. Would it not indicate a source of danger if such were approached? It would in going towards old workings.
 11 Aug., 1886. 1858. Have you never, in the course of your experience, come across what are known as fissures in the rock? Yes; I have seen them in New Zealand.
 1859. Is it not a common occurrence for water to come in from those fissures? Yes.
 1860. Would not serious results follow from an inrush of water in Stockton, and would not a system of borings be the means of warning you? Yes.
 1861. Then it would not be a useless system to introduce? No; I would approve of anything for the safety of the men.
 1862. Do you think it would be advisable? Yes.
 1863. *Mr. Usher.*] Are you quite sure about the depth of the North Seaton Colliery? No. I only know from hearing the workmen there say it was 100 fathoms deep. The Cairns Colliery, just across the water, was 110 fathoms deep.
 1864. Did you know of any borings made at Cairns Colliery? No.
 1865. Do you know of any borings made there? Yes; they kept 15 feet in front.
 1866. Did you work near the 90-fathom dyke in Northumberland? Yes.
 1867. Was "longwall" carried on there to any great extent? No.
 1868. It was only a trial? Yes.
 1869. What part of New Zealand did you work in? I worked at Green Island and on the West Coast. I only heard the men talk about fissures there; I did not see any myself.

The witness withdrew.

John Kennedy sworn and examined:—

- Mr. J. Kennedy. 1870. *President.*] Are you a brother of the last witness? Yes.
 11 Aug., 1886. 1871. What has been your experience as a miner? Very much the same as my brother; I have worked in the same collieries.
 1872. Were you at the sinking of Stockton shaft? Yes, and I am working there at present.
 1873. Are the cylinders in good order and of ample strength? Yes.
 1874. Where does the water come from that falls down the shaft? Part of it comes out of the cylinders, but wooden chocks were put in, and not so much comes out now.
 1875. Does any water come from the bottom of the cylinders? A little comes out of the brickwork on which the cylinders rest.
 1876. Why was not a wedging curb put in? Well, my opinion is, that there is no necessity for it—there is no pressure there.
 1877. Do you consider the system of coal-getting that has been followed in Stockton the best that could have been followed? Yes. They work on the same system as I have been accustomed to before.
 1878. Where did you work at Home? In Cairns.
 1879. What depth was it? 100 fathoms.
 1880. What width of pillars? 3 yards.
 1881. Are you sure you saw 3-yard pillars in workings 100 fathoms deep? Yes.
 1882. You are quite certain? Yes; 8-yard bords and 6-yard bords, and 3-yard pillars in between them.
 1883. Have you any suggestions to make as to the way Stockton Colliery should be worked under the sea? No; I cannot suggest any alteration.
 1884. Do you think the pillars at present left are sufficient for the support of the roof? Yes, if they are kept of proper thickness, and are not allowed to be cut into.
 1885. There has been some irregularity as to the pillars up to the present, then? It was so; but it has been remedied now.
 1886. In what way? By driving the bords straighter.
 1887. Is it the rule of the colliery to leave 6-yard pillars? Yes.
 1888. And 8-yard bords? Yes.
 1889. And do you consider that if the workings of Stockton Colliery were extended under the sea that the same system would ensure ample safety for the men, or can you suggest any alteration? I would not suggest any alteration, because, to my idea, if it stands as it is it would stand under the sea.
 1890. Would there not be more danger under the sea? I do not think so.
 1891. Can you be sure of the thickness of the surface deposits that are before you under the sea? Of course we do not know that.
 1892. Suppose you were informed that the surface deposits increased very much in thickness under the sea, would it cause you to alter your system of working there? Yes, in that case.
 1893. In what way? By having narrower bords and bigger pillars.
 1894. You know the rise is to the north-east; it naturally follows from that there is less cover on the top of the coal in that place? I do not know that.
 1895. Suppose you were told it was the case. At any rate you consider that in working under the sea it would be wise to increase the thickness of the pillars and decrease the width of the bords? Yes.
 1896. And would you advocate the carrying of exploring drifts in advance of the bords? I think that would be a very good plan.
 1897. Would you approve of putting in bores in front and in flank of these drifts? It would be all the safer.
 1898. Have you ever seen any open joints or fissures encountered in comparatively deep coal-mines at Home? Yes.
 1899. Do you think you would be running any risk from the same fissures here? I have not seen any signs of them.
 1900. But, supposing such to exist, would it not be wise to know of such before working the bords going up to them? Yes, undoubtedly.
 1901. Have you given this subject consideration? Well, I have in my own way. It would be better if we sounded towards the sea, in order to see if the surface was of the same thickness.
 1902. *Mr. Usher.*] In the workings from Stockton, going towards the north-east and under the sea, suppose

suppose you came to a fissure, would that cause you to think that some alteration in the system would be necessary? Yes; if it was that much further off, certainly.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
J. Kennedy.
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James Harrison sworn and examined:—

1903. *President.*] Have you been employed at the Lambton Company's mine? Yes; I have been there for sixteen years.

Mr.
J. Harrison.
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1904. Have you had some experience of sinking through surface deposits on the Stockton peninsula? Yes; I went down with Mr. Short sixteen years ago.

1905. How far did you sink? Down to the water-mark.

1906. Can you point out on the plan the approximate position of the shaft? Yes (position pointed out on the plan); I have bored since then, and have a record of the strata in my pocket.

1907. Where was this put down? I should think it was about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile away.

1908. Did you bore down to the coal? No; there is 102 feet 6 inches of sand, 2 feet 6 inches of clay, and 20 odd feet of sand again, then 7 feet 6 inches of clay, and 12 feet of clay again.

1909. At the position where you commenced the sinking of that shaft, what thickness of surface deposits had you to pass through? About 90 feet on to the clay.

1910. And what followed the sand? The cylinders did not go any further.

1911. What length of cylinders went down? 90 feet of cylinders; they go down to the clay; we had to stop as soon as we got to the level of the sea; we had to press the cylinders down with weight.

1912. Can you explain to the Commission why such a small diameter of shaft was chosen—you had no room to pump the water? No.

1913. Then you did not succeed in putting that shaft down—you were defeated in your efforts? Yes; it was put down eventually by pressure from above, and taking the sand out.

1914. What caused them to stop operations there? I was not there at the finish; I left as soon as we could not work inside; there were six or eight of us, and some of them died.

1915. Are the cylinders off the plumb? Yes; they are supposed to be.

1916. Have you any other experience of sinking through the surface near to Stockton? No.

1917. Have you any experience as a miner in working coal under the sea? No.

1918. Have you any opinion to offer as to the best mode of working the Borehole seam under the sea—the same seam as you have at Lambton? Well, no; I would not say so; but I have always thought they could not get the coal safely worked there.

1919. Supposing you had come to the coal where you were attempting to sink, and found the surface as bad as you have anticipated, would you have no mode to suggest of working the coal so as to ensure safety? No.

1920. What do you think about 8-yard bords? I should not like to work in a 1-yard bord.

1921. Do you think 8-yards rather wide? I do—the bords would break in.

1922. You think great caution would require to be exercised? Yes; you could not set timber enough.

1923. You think the dead pressure of the surface would be so great? Yes.

1924. It would depend upon the strata intervening between the sand and the coal? Yes; look at Ferndale.

1925. Then you have no opinion to offer as to the safest mode of working the coal on the Stockton side of the harbour? No.

1926. *Mr. Neilson.*] When you were sinking that shaft over there you had not to go far down before you came to the water? No, and as soon as we got to the level of the water were done.

1927. Did the water rise and fall with the tide? —

1928. Then the water remained at its own level till the shaft was abandoned? Yes, and the water is standing at the same level now.

1929. How did you get the sand out? With some sort of patent that Short made—a sand pump.

1930. Then, in point of fact, nobody has been at the bottom? No.

1931. *Mr. Curley.*] Were not some divers down? Yes, but I left there after the third length of cylinders was in.

1932. *Mr. Usher.*] Was it a dry sand or a wet sand that you passed through in the boring, the journal of which you have handed in? It is a wet sand from top to bottom.

1933. What you would call quicksand? Yes.

1934. Were the bottom beds of sand more watery than the top beds? It was all about the same from top to bottom.

1935. *Mr. Davies.*] In your experience, you do not believe it is safe to win coal in the direction of Stockton? I do not think it safe, and would not work there.

1936. *Mr. Jones.*] You have no knowledge of the total depth from the surface to the top of the coal in that direction? —

1937. If you knew the quantity and quality of the strata lying above the coal would it not possibly alter your opinion? No, because I would not put a white man there to work the coal after the Ferndale disaster.

The witness withdrew

Jas. Thomas sworn and examined:—

1938. *President.*] You are the manager of the New Lambton Colliery? Yes.

1939. Have you been long a manager in this district, Mr. Thomas? Yes, a good while.

1940. Do you know Bullock Island, Stockton, and the collieries adjoining the harbour? Yes.

1941. Do you know the general conditions under which they have worked the coal? I do not know much about the formation there.

Mr.
J. Thomas.
11 Aug., 1886.

1942. You know they have gone through some thick surface deposits? Yes, but not from personal observation.

1943. Have you formed an opinion as to the best mode of working the coal, with safety to the men, from under the harbour or the sea;—do you think any alteration in the district mode of working would be desirable? I do not think they should work the bords as wide as we are working them.

1944.

Mr.
J. Thomas.
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1944. Supposing the case of a colliery with 160 feet of surface deposits, sand and clay, and 45 feet of rock intervening between the rock and the clay, do you think any special form of working would be necessary? Yes.
1945. I am asking you to suppose a colliery working under tidal waters;—what modification of the existing system would you propose? I should say narrower bords—say about 4-yard bords and 4-yard pillars.
1946. Would it be advisable to increase the size of the pillars? Well, you might go into 6 yards.
1947. That is 5- to 6-yard bords and probably 6-yard pillars; but that would involve some alteration in the rates of hewing? It should not. I do not think there is so much difference between a 6-yard and an 8-yard bord.
1948. You think a 6-yard bord ought to be worked at the same rate as an 8-yard bord? Yes.
1949. What is your experience with regard to the getting price of coal? It is too hard and fast.
1950. You think some latitude should be given to managers to alter or modify the system to some extent, according to the varying features of the roof or floor or superincumbent strata? I am coming to that now to a great extent. If I know I have a bad roof I try to get a narrow working.
1951. Do the men acquiesce? They have no voice in the matter so long as I find the price.
1952. Then you find the price? Yes.
1953. Do I understand you to mean that, supposing an Act of Parliament were passed to enforce a narrower system of working, the men should work that narrower system of bords for the same money? Not quite.
1954. You think there should be some alteration? Yes.
1955. Do you find any objection to modifications of the district custom of Newcastle;—do the men object to driving 6-yard bords? No; it is just a matter of expense.
1956. Then you recommend that in those collieries where it is probably necessary to drive narrow bords a little extra should be paid for working the narrow bords? Yes, as the system now is, because a little more labour is involved.
1957. *Mr. Davies.*] Do you think the price now paid for 4-yard and 6-yard bords is excessive? Yes.
1958. Then, do you think that these collieries could be rendered comparatively safe by adopting that general system of increasing the size of the pillars and decreasing the width of the bords? It would go far in that direction.
1959. What is your opinion of carrying narrow places or exploring drifts well in advance of the bords? I consider that would be a measure of safety.
1960. How far would you carry them in advance—I suppose the further the better? Yes; for then you would know what ground you had to contend with.
1961. What is your opinion as to the advisability of carrying bores in advance of these narrow prospecting places? I do not know that that is advisable.
1962. But it would be advisable, I suppose, if you were coming to a wash or fissure, as a means of additional precaution, would it not? Yes.
1963. Can you always tell when you are coming to a fissure? Of course not.
1964. *President.*] Have you any experience as to basalt faults letting down water? Yes, I know that.
1965. Then with sea-water in front of you, it would be necessary to be very careful? Yes, very careful.
1966. Then in that case you would advocate keeping bores in advance? Yes.
1967. In the case of a colliery about 250 feet deep, with about 200 feet of quicksand above and 40 feet of strata between that and the coal, do you consider it would be prudent to prospect the surface deposits over the area intended to be worked under the ocean? It would be a wise precaution, because, as I have said, you would by such means prove the ground you have to contend with.
1968. Do you think you are as likely to meet with fissures under the ocean as elsewhere? Yes, and more so, probably.
1969. Would you be inclined to even modify the views you have expressed as to the best mode of working for safety? No; I would not modify the system to a greater extent than I have suggested as to 6-yard bords.
1970. Under present circumstances, when you drive the bords under a certain width they become unworkable to profit? Yes.
1971. *Mr. Davies.*] You are aware that the water came through in Ferndale in a 6-yard bord? So far as as I can gather it was in a heading of broken ground.
1972. Are not fissures met with in all parts? But not of that description—running up straight as was the case there.
1973. But you cannot tell when you may meet them? No doubt, but if you prospect in front of the workings you must find them.
1974. Can you get as much in a 4-yard bord as you can in a 6-yard bord? No; but I consider one man in a 4-yard bord is as good as two in an 8-yard bord.
1975. You know that when the price was fixed years ago it was on the condition that the bords were to be worked 8 yards? Yes.
1976. *Mr. Jones.*] The safety of the property and protection for the lives of the workmen should be considered in common? Yes.
1977. *Mr. Usher.*] Have you examined the strata round Nobby's and the coast here? No.
1978. What acquaintance have you with the strata overlying the Borehole seam? I have been at Minmi, Lambton, and New Lambton.
1979. Have you been to Nobby's? Well, I have not studied that much.
1980. Have you ever been to Shepherd's Hill, where the Yard seam comes out on the beach there? Yes.
1981. Did you ever examine the hill overlying that? Yes.
1982. Do you consider it would be safe to work under the sea there with 6-yard bords? No.
- The witness withdrew.

Henry Harper sworn and examined:—

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1983. *President.*] You are manager of Maryville Colliery, Mr. Harper? Yes.
1984. You have been long connected with the coal trade in Newcastle? Yes.
1985. For how long? About twenty-eight years.
1986. What collieries have you been connected with? The A.A. Company, in the first place.

1987. In connection with what coal-seam? Both the Yard seam and the Borehole seam—but not as manager there. I was a miner in the first place.

1988. In what shaft do you work the Yard seam? In the F pit.

1989. Did the workings extend from this colliery to the west of Shepherd's Hill under the harbour? Not in my time. I have heard so, but I know nothing about it.

1990. What system of working was adopted in the Yard seam? Bord and pillar principally.

1991. With the same width of bords and thickness of pillars as obtains now? Nearly so—the pillars were scarcely so thick.

1992. What thickness was the Yard seam? It varied from 2 feet to 3 feet 3 inches.

1993. The system of working 8-yard bords with 4-yard pillars has become the custom in this district? Yes.

1994. Do you approve of that system of working under all conditions? It would not suit all places.

1995. It would be wise to vary it according to circumstances? Yes.

1996. You have had some experience, I believe, in prospecting the coal-field adjoining the harbour, in the way of putting down bores, have you not? Yes.

1997. In what situations have you put down bores? I have put down several bores not far from Maryville.

1998. And on the Maryville ground? I put down one on Maryville.

1999. Would you indicate the positions as near as possible? Yes (witness refers to the plan, and indicates positions of two bores).

2000. Did you get the coal-seam in both these places? Yes.

~~2000.~~ Note:—In the bore to the N.W. of the present working shaft, Mr. Harper states that he got 50 feet of rock overlying the coal.

2001. And how much sand or surface deposits overlying the rock? 60 feet.

2002. In the bore almost due W. from the present working shaft, what did you get? We got 22 feet of sand, and all the rest was strong stiff clay.

2003. Much the same as the deposits overlying at the present shaft? Yes.

2004. And a short distance due W. from your present shaft, you come to a termination of your coal-seam? Yes.

2005. Then the bore you have marked on the plan is a few chains further west than the irregular line of the wash-out? Yes.

2006. How do you account for the coal being found there? We never lost our coal anywhere; the wash come down in the seam. Our seam, as a rule, is about 16 or 17 feet thick, and all at once when we were driving our heading, and about 5 or 6 feet from the floor, the men struck the wash.

2007. Then you had afterwards a few feet of coal? We had 5 feet of coal all the time.

2008. Coming to the N.W. you also lost the coal entirely there? Yes; it went away entirely there.

2009. In the bords off this heading you defined the line of the wash? Yes.

2010. Did you lose the coal in these bords? No; we expected to, though, and I thought it the better policy to stop them.

2011. How many feet of coal did you get in the bore marked No. 2? It was smut and coal; nearly 6 feet.

2012. In these A and B headings shown on the plan appears a wash-out—did you succeed in finding the coal? No. Here (pointing to plan) it ran clean out, and there was no sign of coal; but we had coal more or less all the way through here.

2013. The coal ran through A and B headings more or less? Yes.

2014. What extent was it? About 3 feet 6 inches.

2015. With the wash on the roof? The wash is not far away.

2016. How many feet of clay had you? In the shaft we had 100 feet of clay.

2017. Do you look upon that clay as a valuable protection against the inroads of sand and water? I do.

2018. What is the width of the bords and the thickness of the pillars in the present workings? 6-yard bords and 4-yard pillars. We did work some 8 yards at first.

2019. What reason have you to assign for making an alteration? The only reason I can assign is that I found it took a great number of props, which would break with the weight upon them, and I found considerable relief through reducing the width.

2020. The clear section of your coal-seam measures 16 feet? Yes.

2021. Does that thickness of coal prevail all through your colliery? I wish it did.

2022. With the exception of the wash I mean—in the working places? Yes, in most places we have tried.

2023. How much of the 16 feet have you hitherto worked? We have been hitherto working 5 feet 6 in.

2024. The bottoms or tops, is that? The bottoms.

2025. What thickness is the bottoms? Well, the whole of the props we are using are 5 feet 2 inches to 5 feet 4 or 6 inches.

2026. Have you left the thick top coal on as a roof hitherto? We have worked it in some places, and towards the north-east we have taken out the tops.

2027. In what way did you take out the tops? After we worked out the coal going forward we brought them back.

2028. How do you propose to recover the coal in the future? We purpose abandoning the bottom coal now, and working the top coal.

2029. In what part of the colliery is this? In the E, F, G, and H headings, and I heading.

2030. In these headings you propose to work on the top of the bottom coal, and leave it for ever? No; not so far as I am concerned.

2031. Do you consider this mode of working the tops is as safe as that which you described, of drawing the tops coming back? I should say much safer.

2032. In what way? Well, in bringing back the tops you have no foundation for the timber; you have to put it on a made foundation. In this instance, on the other hand, we shall have the solid bottom coal or "morgan" to put the props on. And for another thing, I consider the area that will be taken out will be nothing like so much; and if it does collapse it will be likely to choke itself.

2033. But in the event of a fall taking place, it could only take place behind the men? Yes.

2034. Would not that expose them to considerable peril? I do not see it.

2035. In the former mode of working you took the tops coming back, and the men had a free right-of-way? Yes.

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2036. In the proposed mode of working the men will only have one means of escape, and in the event of a fall it would cut off that means of exit? Yes.
2037. Then in what way could the proposed mode be safer than the old system of working? Because I do not think there is any probability of it coming in. We do not take the whole of the tops out.
2038. How much do you leave in? There is 3 feet or 4 feet of coal there in that top band.
2039. In the ordinary places, how much coal do you leave in? There is about 1 ft. 7 in. of good marketable coal there which we have timbered up to.
2040. Is that a natural parting, that one 1 ft. 7 in. of coal? Yes; there is a stratum of shale above that again.
2041. Have you proved the roof of the mine where you propose to work the tops? Yes; by bores going upwards.
2042. What is the character of the roof? Strong clay—a bluish clay.
2043. The roof improves as you go north and east? Yes.
2044. The washout to the west has cut off a large portion of your coal-field? Yes; it has to a certain extent. The coal is too thin to work.
2045. Fortune has not smiled on you going towards the west? No; so far it has not.
2046. Taken as a whole, do you consider Maryville Colliery is in a safe condition? Perfectly safe.
2047. Giving full consideration to the surface deposits? Yes, I do.
2048. In your opinion, is that system of working that you are going to pursue open to any further objection than I have indicated? I cannot say that it is.
2049. Have the Check Inspectors urged any objections against the mode of working pursued? No; not that I am aware of.
2050. Has the Government Inspector spoken of it? No; I think he approves of it. He was down there last Saturday.
2051. When did Maryville Colliery reach the coal-seam? About two years ago.
2052. Have you a second outlet? Not at present.
2053. Have you commenced one? Yes.
2054. In what position is it? It is marked on the plan, to the north-west.
2055. It is stopped I see—have you fixed on another position? No; I do not know why it is stopped.
2056. Has Mr. Croudace visited your colliery? Yes.
2057. With what object, do you know? I have not heard with what object, except to report upon the colliery.
2058. Has he sent in a report? Yes.
2059. Have you seen it? No.
2060. Do you know from any source the tenor of it? No; not as I ought to have heard it. I have heard something of it which might have emanated from him. I believe he made several complaints—everything was all wrong.
2061. Were you prepared for this? I had to be prepared for it.
2062. But it did not much surprise you? Not at all. He complained that I paid too high wages and drove too many headings. But if I had driven headings where he marked them I should have had no coal out at all; we should have gone into the wash.
2063. The line of this wash is very marked? Yes, it is.
2064. Have I delineated it accurately upon the plan? Yes.
2065. Have you proved it in the headings to the north-east? There is no sign of it that way at all.
2066. Do you read the Newcastle daily papers? Sometimes.
2067. Did you observe Mr. Croudace's letters in one of these papers in March last? I did; that is, I remember his letters about the Delta collieries.
2068. Did those letters disturb your peace of mind? Not at all.
2069. Did they have any effect upon the minds of your directors? I cannot say that.
2070. Do you know whether they alarmed the public mind? I think it did not do them any good to read such letters. I think the public were inclined to think the case worse than what it was.
2071. Do you know Bullock Island and Stockton Collieries? Yes.
2072. Have you formed any opinion as to the best mode of working the coal-seam under the ocean or harbour? No; it does not concern me.
2073. As it concerns everyone else in the Colony, I should think it would concern you? If I was going to work it I would make it my concern.
2074. What alteration in the present system, if any, would you be prepared to recommend for working the coal towards the sea? Well, I would work it somewhat smaller than we are doing here, and leave in large blocks of coal.
2075. Would there be any harm in leaving larger pillars? The only harm would be the loss to the proprietors.
2076. Is not the safety of the men the first object to be considered? Yes.
2077. Then, as a purely precautionary measure, and in order to leave a margin on the side of safety, would there be any harm in leaving larger pillars? I was thinking if you leave a barrier, say of several chains, it would not be a very large area of workings, and 4-yard pillars might be sufficient for a long time with such large barriers.
2078. There is very little margin in 4-yard pillars? Of course.
2079. Then you would have no objection to larger pillars, providing they would ensure greater safety? No; I should have no objection to them at all; but if I were the owner of the property, I should probably advise that there should be 4-yard pillars.
2080. Still you would take all the surrounding circumstances into consideration before coming to a determination? Certainly I should study the lives of those in my employ before anything else.
2081. *Mr. Thomas.* With reference to this portion here, towards the west, which you know has no roof, do you depend entirely upon the top coal? Yes.
2082. Are you not afraid that there may be a subsidence there long before you get to the boundary? Although there is a heading driven there, none of that is worked, or can be worked, because a 3-foot seam, or even 3 feet 6 inches, would not pay us to touch it at all. That will remain intact.
2083. Have you no fear yourself of this portion of the workings? No; there is a barrier of coal there between each of the headings, besides the pillars.

2084. In the way you propose now to open up on the top coal you admit that you go ahead of the danger, and whatever danger there may be is consequently behind you, in which case there is not outlet for the men, is there? No.
2085. Suppose you were to come suddenly upon one of these treacherous drifts, and it was to come in suddenly, perhaps in the centre of a bord, what then? Well, of course we might experience such a thing, but I do not think it is probable that it would occur where we have tried it so often. We have had no water come in to speak of.
2086. But sand might cover any number of men inside of a cave-in with no outlet? Whatever of sand we have is confined to the surface. Nothing but clay has ever come in so far.
2087. But it will run sufficient to choke the place up for the time being? What we have found is gravel with water in it, but not of any consequence, and that drops to the clay. We have bored up to this heading to see what we have got over the top.
2088. *Mr. Ourley.*] How long is it since you commenced working the coal in Maryville? I am speaking from memory, but I suppose it is about fifteen months ago.
2089. How many shafts have you at Maryville at the present time? One.
2090. Then, in the event of anything taking place in connection with that shaft, there would be no other road out? No.
2091. Has anything been done with reference to the sinking of a second shaft? Only so far as I have stated. I can get it down in two months when I start; I have everything prepared for a start.
2092. Have you not been ready for some considerable time? Yes; for two months about.
2093. Then what has delayed your operations? This report of Mr. Croudace, I suppose. They told me to stop all operations in connection with the sinking of the shaft.
2094. Is that since Mr. Croudace visited your colliery? Yes, since that.
2095. Has any intimation been made to you with regard to the report from Mr. Croudace? No; only what I have said. Suggestions have been made as if they emanated from the directors, and not from Mr. Croudace at all; but I know very well they could only have come from Mr. Croudace.
2096. Have you had any intimation from the directors as to stopping work at the shaft? Only what I have told you; that is, I got a telegram to stop all expense in connection with the shaft.
2097. Perhaps you can supply the Commission with a copy of that? Yes; I can, if it is desired.
2098. Has Mr. Croudace been down Maryville Colliery recently? Only once, about six weeks ago; he was down there about an hour and a half.
2099. Has Mr. Croudace sent in a report? Yes; they say so; I have not seen a copy of it. I saw a plan or tracing that he sent down, showing how the colliery should be worked.
2100. *President.*] Have you got a copy of that? No.
2101. *Mr. Ourley.*] Do you consider it desirable to have a second opening at Maryville? Most decidedly; I would have had it down before now if I had had my own way.
2102. Has the Inspector of Collieries visited Maryville lately? Yes.
2103. Has he ever made any complaints? Yes, several; we were fined once for not having a proper amount of ventilation.
2104. Has anything been said by the Inspector with regard to putting down a second shaft? Yes; he has continually urged it. I promised him seven or eight weeks ago that I would have it down at the end of July, and so I would.
2105. Have you had an official communication from the Inspector on the subject? Yes.
2106. *Mr. Davies.*] Did not you put down a bore this side of Little Redhead? Yes; on the beach near the old smelting works; I went down 172 ft. 6 in. to the Borehole seam.
2107. Did you get any sand drift on the top? No; all solid rock from the start to the finish.
2108. How far is it from the sea? It is right on the beach; we have had to run away from the tide there when we were working at the bore.
2109. And you had hard rock from top to bottom? Yes.
2110. Would that be part of the estate leased from Maryville by the Burwood Company? No.
2111. You put a bore down on Mosquito Island, did you not? Yes.
2112. What sort of ground did you pass through there? Wash, and sand, and gravel—about 40 feet; then we got clay, and then we got down to the coal. We bored through two seams 30 feet apart.
2113. What depth was the bore? It was 60 or 70 feet down to the coal.
2114. *Mr. Thomas.*] It was of no commercial value, was it? No.
2115. *Mr. Davies.*] Did you put a bore down on the north shore? Yes (position indicated on the plan).
2116. *Mr. Jones.*] Do you intend to split any of the top band in the new mode of working at Maryville? What I want to accomplish is this: We have a good parting of about 4 ft. 6 in. from the floor, and a good parting of 1 ft. 7 in. above that. My object is cheap working, and to keep within the district rules you must have 5 feet of coal before you can get the coal cut for 4s. 2d. a ton. I only want the men to take what coal will amount to the 5 feet.
2117. You want to go a little above the 5 ft.? Yes. I want to leave as much coal up for a roof as I can.
2118. You say Mr. Croudace made a general all-round complaint. Has any very great saving been effected through Mr. Croudace's recommendations? No. I have done all I could to save. I had carpenters and blacksmiths employed for this new shaft, and I have knocked them off.
2119. There has been no great saving? No. I may say that I have a large interest in the colliery. I went there at a small salary to make the thing a success, and I expected to make something out of it.
2120. You have a desire to work the mine in a safe and practical way? Most decidedly. It is to my own interest to do so.
2121. *Mr. Usher.*] What is the thickness of the bottom coal you are leaving? 3 ft. 2 in. of clean coal.
2122. Below the "Jerry"? Yes.
2123. Would it not be very expensive to properly timber that, after removing the top coal? No; not so expensive as in working the bottom.
2124. Can you supply the Commission with a copy of the plan submitted by Mr. Croudace to your directors? I think I can.
2125. And also a copy of his report? I have not got that. You might get it from the directors.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.

Archibald Gardiner sworn and examined:—

- Mr. A. Gardiner.
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2126. *President.* By profession you are a mining engineer, Mr. Gardiner, I believe, and you are now manager of the Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery? Yes.
2127. Have you had extensive experience in the management of collieries? Yes; I have been thirty years connected with mining altogether; since 1873 I have been connected with the management of collieries, and before that I was assistant manager.
2128. Where did you gain your experience? In Scotland. I was a practical miner in the ironstone works, Ayrshire. I have also followed my profession in South Staffordshire, and in Ireland and India.
2129. And you have a practical acquaintance with all the different systems or modes of mining? Yes.
2130. Is it in accordance with your experience that the mode of winning and working of coal-seams should vary with the character of the coal and the surrounding circumstances? Certainly.
2131. And a slight variation of the circumstances or conditions might be sufficient to warrant a modification of the system of coal-getting? Yes.
2132. Does the Borehole coal-seam possess the same character in the different collieries throughout the district? No; it varies, so far as my experience of the collieries goes.
2133. What collieries have you seen here? I have been down East Waratah and Burwood.
2134. What collieries in Scotland were you employed at? I was engineer for ten years over all Colonel Buchanan's estates in Lanarkshire, and in Stirlingshire and Renfrewshire.
2135. Was the depth of the shaft considerable in any of the collieries that you superintended? I was in one of the deepest in Scotland—the Kirkwood.
2136. What was the system of working? Longwall, and pillar and stall.
2137. Is it in accordance with your experience of mining that the size of pillars should be proportioned to depth and pressure? Yes.
2138. Does the pressure on coal pillars increase with the depth? Yes.
2139. In the collieries you have mentioned, was the size of pillars varied in accordance with varying circumstances? Yes.
2140. And the greater the depth the larger the pillar and narrower the bord? Yes.
2141. Is it wise in practice to leave pillars with a large margin of resistance to the good? Yes, certainly.
2142. Was it in view of some such consideration as the foregoing that determined you to lay out Bullock Island pit on the present system? Yes.
2143. What size pillars do you leave? 8 yards.
2144. And what width of bords? 6 yards.
2145. And do you maintain this rule strictly? Yes, rigidly.
2146. In case of there being a departure from that system, have you a system of fines to maintain the rule? Yes; the penalty is half-a-crown per foot.
2147. You consider it so important to maintain regularity? Yes.
2148. And you fixed upon the system of working after considering all the circumstances of the mine? Yes; I considered carefully before I would go even 6 yards.
2149. What is the thickness of your coal-seam? About 18 ft. 9 in. From a boring I have made I find there is not more than 3 inches variation.
2150. What proportion of the coal do you work? From 5 to 6 feet. I take out about 25 per cent. of the whole coal.
2151. Do you propose in future to recover the thick top coal, or any portion of it? That is under consideration just now.
2152. Then it is not determined? No, not determined.
2153. What was your reason for leaving such a large portion of your top coal unworked. What does the roof of your coal-seam consist of? It is all rock—sandstone rock.
2154. Is this rock sound and hard? Yes, so far as I have seen.
2155. Has any fall of importance occurred in Bullock Island Colliery? No. Part of the "morgan" has once or twice fallen, but nothing else.
2156. Above this rock, what overlies the coal—what stratification have you got? It is all rock up to about 50 feet, and then we get to a section which I cannot see owing to the cylinders. There is 45 feet of rock above the coal-seam.
2157. What is the nature of the surface deposits overlying the rock? It is clay.
2158. For how many feet? There are 70 or 80 feet of clays.
2159. Do you look upon this clay as forming a protection from the surface deposits? I do.
2160. What quantity of water have you in Bullock Island? I do not think there is 65 gallons per minute in my pit at the present time; I tested it the other day.
2161. Do you know the area over which this thick layer of clay extends? No; I have no idea.
2162. Would it be an advantage to you to possess such knowledge? Yes; no doubt there would be an advantage in such knowledge, but there might be a disadvantage in probing it too much.
2163. With bores? Yes, with bores.
2164. Why should there be a disadvantage in that? Because we might probe it through.
2165. Would it not squeeze together or close up again? It might.
2166. You have sunk through the surface in your shaft by means of cylinders 10 feet in diameter? Yes.
2167. Are these cylinders perfectly watertight? They are not exactly tight. The corroding nature of the water has an influence on the bolts.
2168. Was not a wooden joint left in between the segments? Yes.
2169. Could you not tighten these by wedging them? Yes, that might be done.
2170. Are you certain about the thickness of the rock above the coal, Mr. Gardiner? I have no doubt about it.
2171. Would you be surprised to learn that you have only 25 feet of rock? Yes; I should be very much surprised, indeed—for we measured 28 feet clear, with two members of the Commission present.
2172. How far have the cylinders entered into the rock? I have been told by Mr. Fairley that they enter into the rock about 20 or 30 feet. The plan I have got gives the distance, and I have good reason to believe that the cylinders are a considerable distance into the rock.
2173. Is the tubbing of ample strength? Yes.
2174. Is it secure? Perfectly.
2175. Are any of the plates cracked? No; I do not think so; not to any extent.

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2176. Is there any opening 2 inches wide? No. I do not think the cracks are half an inch.
 2177. Do they weaken the tubbing? No; they are horizontal cracks.
 2178. Have you received any report on the condition of these plates from the Check Inspectors? I did receive a report on one occasion. I can lodge it with the Commission.
 2179. Have you done anything to remedy the defect in the cylinders? No.
 2180. Why have you not done so? I did not consider it was necessary to do anything.
 2181. In your opinion, is your shaft perfectly safe? Yes.
 2182. Do you know Mr. Minekham, one of your sinkers? Yes.
 2183. Do you consider him an authority? No; I do not consider him an authority upon anything.
 2184. Has he complained to you with regard to those cracks in the cylinders? No.
 2185. If he had told you that they endangered the lives of the workmen, what would you have done? I should have looked to see; but he never said anything to me.
 2186. If he had told you that there was only 25 feet of rock above the coal, and 15 feet of no value, what would you have said? Well, I think I should have told him he was a fool.
 2187. When did you last see Mr. Minekham? I saw him to-day.
 2188. Did he make any complaint to you? No.
 2189. Could these cylinders be tightened, if necessary? Yes.
 2190. Does any water come from behind the cylinders? None comes from behind the cylinders. Any water that comes is from the bottom—where they commenced to put them on from the bottom. We have renewed the washers repeatedly.
 2191. Has the Examiner of Coal-fields or the Inspector examined your shaft? Not to my knowledge.
 2192. Have they made any complaint or remark about it? No complaint has been made. The Examiner of Coal-fields, on looking down the shaft, made the remark that it was a very dry shaft.
 2193. Before commencing to work the coal at this colliery, did you lay out a scheme of operations before the Examiner of Coal-fields? I was not manager at the beginning; but I think Mr. Fletcher drew out a plan for the Examiner, who approved of it.
 2194. We have been told, Mr. Gardiner, that some trouble arose a few months ago in consequence of your working beyond the boundary;—is that so? It was a little piece of ground that was said not to be within our lease. I had written instructions when I took charge, but they were in it before I was appointed manager, and I continued the heading. I was appointed in May, 1885, and the heading was then into the coal; and in June, 1886, I was told we had no right to it.
 2195. Did you hear any reports going about as to the serious nature of the position? I was told that I was no better than the Tighe's Hill robbers.
 2196. Who told you so? The Inspector.
 2197. *Mr. Jones.*] Did the Examiner of Coal-fields make any remarks about it? No. He came to the office, and asked me by what authority I was working there, and I told him I had a Board of Directors who gave me instructions.
 2198. *President.*] Was the Examiner aware that the corner of land referred to was outside the lease when the scheme of operations came before him? He ought to have known, because on that plan the heading was drawn through the very place in question.
 2199. Then, that was laid before him, and he approved of it? Yes.
 2200. And afterwards, when it was about worked out, he took exception to it? Yes; I was nearly through it altogether.
 2201. Then it was a kind of storm in a tea-kettle? Quite so.
 2202. Do you propose to keep exploring drifts well in advance of your working bords? Yes.
 2203. And boreholes in advance of them again? I do not see much need for that.
 2204. Have you been notified by the Inspector as to that? Yes; the notification I received drew my attention to a certain clause and sub-section of the Act.
 2205. How many acres does your leasehold extend over? About 800 or 900 acres.
 2206. Is it leased from the Government? Bullock Island is leased from the Government.
 2207. The property is practically covered by sea-water at high tides, is it not? About two-thirds of it is.
 2208. Your leasehold includes what is called the dock? Yes.
 2209. Which is permanently covered by water? Yes, part of it.
 2210. Does your lease contain any stipulation as to the method you are to follow in working the coal? I am not aware that it does.
 2211. Do you not leave barriers between your property and the other collieries? I propose to do so; but I am not aware that it is mentioned in the lease.
 2212. In what situations do you propose to leave barriers? (Position indicated on plan.) I hear Maryville is encroaching.
 2213. Do you apprehend danger from Maryville? I propose to leave a barrier of 50 yards.
 2214. How often have the Examiner of Coal-fields and the Inspector of Collieries inspected your colliery workings? Inspections are made periodically—every two months, I understand. But the Examiner has only been once down the pit since I became manager.
 2215. Have any complaints been made to you as to your mode of working? None.
 2216. The Wickham shaft is your escape shaft? Yes.
 2217. Have you been requested by the Check Inspectors to put ladders in that shaft? No.
 2218. Are you perfectly sure? I am very certain. They came to me about an outlet, and I said I could raise steam in two hours. They then said, "What if such an accident as that at Ferndale should happen?" and I said if that was going to disturb them I would put iron ladders down the shaft the same as in a ship's hold.
 2219. If you had been requested by the Check Inspectors to put ladders there, would you have done so? No.
 2220. Why? I do not think it necessary. The Examiner thought fit to interfere, and I was brought before the Court; but I defied them.
 2221. Did the Inspector summons the Company for the want of these ladders? No, for want of communication.
 2222. Had communication been established at that time? The communication was not quite complete. Wickham was originally a separate colliery.

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2223. Then, are they equally particular with regard to other collieries? No. It was in consequence of the Examiner's enmity towards us; it was well known over the whole district.
2224. The surface deposits at Wickham are 160 feet thick or thereabout, are they not? About 163 feet, I think.
2225. And they come down to the top of the coal? I think so.
2226. How have they been sunk through? Well, a mixed system was adopted—partly with timber and partly with iron.
2227. Is it perfectly secure? Yes; now that the water is gone, I think it is perfectly secure.
2228. How much clay have you in the Wickham shaft? I cannot say. I never saw a section of the Wickham shaft.
2229. Have any falls taken place in the Wickham workings? One or two.
2230. And what came down? The wash of sand on top of the coal.
2231. Did any clay come? No, and the sand was quite dry.
2232. From that, would you judge that there is a stratum of clay above the sand? Yes.
2233. Have you any reason to fear that this clay will be denuded over a certain area? Probably it will, and particularly towards Wickham, for this reason: that I believe the bed of the Hunter River followed that direction at one time.
2234. The heading to the north of Wickham shaft has been stopped, I understand, and a wooden stopping put in? Yes. The Check Inspectors, in passing through this place, where they saw the sand lying on top of the coal, thought that, in view of the Ferndale experience, it might be well to do something to choke it, and I put a choke in.
2235. You have a fault to the N.E.;—do you consider that the occurrence of this fault has affected the roof over the heading? Yes. (Position indicated on the plan.)
2236. To the west of Wickham pit you have some 8-yard bords;—do you consider these consistent with safety? They are not 8 yards. The extreme width measured by the Commission was 21 feet. They are meant for 6-yard bords. I propose to carry my bords 6 yards wide if possible.
2237. How many acres have the Company leased on that side of Throsby's Creek? About 40 acres in all.
2238. Have you given the subject of winning the coal under the harbour or under the Pacific Ocean some consideration? Yes.
2239. Have you arrived at any conclusion in your own mind as to the safest mode or system of winning the coal in these situations? Yes.
2240. What has been the result of your study of this question? Well, I would take out 40 per cent. in the first working under the sea.
2241. Would it be necessary, in your opinion, that some information should be forthcoming as to the extent of the surface deposits over the ocean leaseholds? Yes; I am of that opinion.
2242. You know the Stockton leasehold? Yes.
2243. Have you inquired into the borings that have taken place on Stockton Peninsula? No; but I have heard something of them. If it is a fact that the surface deposits thicken towards the north there, I would not work the bords more than 4 yards wide.
2244. And do you think that, under any circumstances, care should be taken to proportion the pillars and bords to depth and circumstances? Yes.
2245. In the absence of any thick stratum of plastic clay above the rock, do you think it would be advisable to permit the working of coal seams under the ocean bed with less than a given thickness of solid strata above the coal? I think they should be prohibited from working coal from within a given distance.
2246. Have you any general scheme that you can lay before the Commission to ensure the maximum of safety;—it is a comprehensive question, and I ask you as a man who has had a great deal of experience? Well, I have not set myself to think about the matter, but answering the question directly, I think there should be a minimum fixed as to the rock to be left above the coal.
2247. And do you think that in other respects very great and particular care should be taken to diminish the width of bords and increase the size of pillars? Yes; I believe in substantial pillars for safety.
2248. *Mr. Neilson.* You are acquainted with Peter Fleming's (Wickham) pit, and that during sinking operations the men had to work with oilskins? Yes.
2249. What is the state of that pit at the present time? As dry as possible.
2250. Where has that water gone to? Well, it has drained off.
2251. You work with 6-yard bords, Mr. Gardiner;—do you get these bords worked at the ordinary prices? I think the price is 3s. per yard beyond the district price.
2252. You work according to district customs? Yes.
2253. *Mr. Swinburn.* In your opinion, as a mining engineer, do you not think it would be advisable to have soundings under the tidal waters from the surface to the rock head? It would be a good thing to have a knowledge of the geology of the surface, but I do not think it would be advisable to put boreholes where the water covers the surface.
2254. *Mr. Davies.* You say that a report by the Check Inspectors was sent to you some months ago? Yes; but I have not got it with me to-day.
2255. Did they call your attention to the cylinders being split? Yes; but did not point out any danger.
2256. Have you a Check Inspectors' book at your office? No; they have not asked for one.
2257. Do you think that your second outlet offers sufficient means of escape? Yes.
2258. In case of danger, how long would it take to get up steam and get the men out? It takes two minutes to get up steam; I think it takes me about fifteen to twenty minutes to draw them up the big shaft of Bullock Island—that is, about forty minutes the whole of the men.
2259. That is, if they were all going to Wickham? Yes.
2260. How long is it since anyone came up there? About two or three months since.
2261. And you say it is quite in order? Yes. I keep a pump there, and will make it as secure as possible. I am making the shaft a down-cast; I have had two qualified sinkers to examine it very minutely.
2262. Is there a man kept in charge of Wickham pit? No.
2263. Supposing an accident occurred at Bullock Island in that case? I have a man at Wickham, my clerk, who keeps the steam up all day; there is also a caretaker, and between them they keep the fire up.
2264. Supposing I were to tell you that it has been stated there was no fire there for two or three days? It would be a lie.
2265. *Mr. Curley.* When the Inspector of Collieries makes his periodical inspections, Mr. Gardiner, do you accompany him through your colliery? I have never accompanied him yet.

2266.

2266. Do you know whether he inspects this little shaft or not? I do not know.
2267. Do you know whether he goes up and down the Wickham shaft? I am sure he does not.
2268. Do you know whether he has inspected the main shaft—that is, the hauling shaft? I am not aware that he ever did.
2269. Has he ever drawn your attention to a defect in the cylinders? No.
2270. How often do you inspect the cylinders yourself? I have not inspected them for some time. My overman does it every other pay Saturday.
2271. Are you quite sure, Mr. Gardiner, that Mr. Minekham and his colleague Holmes did not make a special report of the two shafts and furnish you with a copy of the report? They inspected both shafts.
2272. Did they not complain to you of certain defects? They only spoke to me of two things—one was in relation to the chock in the north heading of the Wickham shaft; and the other as to a crack in the Bullock Island shaft. But he did not complain in connection with these things—he simply mentioned them.
2273. We have evidence that he did? Well, I have taxed my memory on the subject, and think I am right. However, I prefer to put the letter in which was addressed to me by these men.
2274. You have stated that Mr. Mackenzie has only visited your colliery once during the time you have been in charge? He was only once down the pit; but he has been six or seven times at the pit head.
2275. Did he ever speak to you with regard to the financial success of the Company or otherwise? I do not recollect.
2276. Has any other person visited the mine with the view of reporting upon it since you have been there? No.
2277. *Mr. Usher.*] Do you know whether Mr. Mackenzie, the Examiner, had an interest in Bullock Island Colliery? He had a heavy interest in it at one time.
2278. And was Mr. Winchester interested too? Yes; he and Mr. Winchester were heavily interested in the Company at one time.
2279. Did they hold the shares jointly? I think not.
2280. Have you bored above the top coal in Wallace heading? Yes; I will give you a detailed section of that.
2281. Seeing that you cannot bore very well from the top where the tidal waters come, do you not think it would be advisable to bore in other places? It would give one a certain amount of additional confidence, doubtless, and would be very interesting; but I think I am justified in placing confidence in the roof above the coal.

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Mr. Gardiner lodges the following:—

Section of coal from top of big tops to rock on top of coal seam in Wallace's heading:—

	ft. in.
Coal	3 6
Clay band	0 0½
Coal	0 6
Clay band	0 1
Coal	1 0
Clay band	0 2
Coarse coal	0 9
Total	6 0½

The witness withdrew.

THURSDAY, 12 AUGUST, 1886.

Present:—

J. R. M. ROBERTSON, Esq., PRESIDENT.

MR. USHER.	MR. SWINBURN.
MR. THOMAS.	MR. CURLEY.
MR. NEILSON.	MR. JONES.
MR. TURNBULL.	MR. DAVIES.
MR. DURIE.	

Alexander Ross sworn and examined:—

2282. *President.*] You are manager for the Newcastle Coal Company? Yes.
2283. You work the Borehole coal seam in your collieries? Yes; it is known as the Borehole seam.
2284. At what depth has the seam been found at the B pit? It is 190 feet to the bottom of the seam.
2285. Of which how many feet are occupied by surface deposits? About 70 feet.
2286. Does any portion of your royalty underlie the marshes that extend up from the A.A. Company's ground towards the sea-coast, opposite the junction? I do not think so.
2287. Does your royalty extend towards or is it bounded by the sea-coast? Yes, it is bounded by the sea-coast.
2288. Is it your intention to work the coal under the ocean on arriving at the sea-coast? I cannot say that.
2289. Do you pursue in the course of your workings the ordinary district system of 8-yard bords and 4-yard pillars? We work 8-yard bords, and generally leave 8-yard pillars.
2290. Is it your intention to work the B pit with 8-yard bords? So far as I see at present, I shall.
2291. What thickness is the coal? Twelve feet.
2292. And should it be determined to work the coal under the ocean, would you be disposed to in any way alter the system of working under the ocean-bed? Yes.
2293. On a level with the B pit the coal would underlie the ocean, how much? I think about 180 feet, as far as my knowledge extends, from bores put down.
2294. Going towards the sea-coast from that low-lying valley, do any rocks appear on the coast, or is it a sandy beach? I do not know whether there is much rock there; a great portion of it is covered with sand.

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- Mr. A. Ross. 2295. Would it accord with your judgment to prospect the surface deposits in that direction before undermining them with coal workings? I think it would be the safer plan to ascertain the nature of the ground in places where there was any doubt.
- 12 Aug., 1886. 2296. Would it accord with your judgment in undermining the ocean-bed to prove the strata above the coal, and before commencing operations to take soundings of the ocean? I should advise soundings, and I should advise bores being put down in front of the beach.
2297. What precautionary measures suggest themselves to you as being advisable in approaching the bed of the ocean by underground workings—would narrow drifts in advance of the workings be a wise precaution? It would tell you what there was in front, where doubt existed on that point.
2298. As the sea-coast, both to the north and south, is to some extent intersected with basalt faults, would it be advisable to keep bores in advance of these narrow drifts? Yes, if you thought that there really were these faults to contend with.
2299. I say, as the evidence of the coast goes to show that, would it be an advisable measure of precaution to take to keep these bores in advance of the face? No; I should scarcely think so.
2300. Suppose you suddenly came upon a fissure in one of these advance drifts, and it became inundated, would the advantage of keeping bores in advance suggest itself to you in that case? That is if the pit was inundated.
2301. To obviate that, I mean, would not the advantage of such a course suggest itself? But suppose there was no fear of that?
2302. But is there not always a danger of that? Well, I would not attach such importance to it as that.
2303. We know that the surface deposits in the neighbourhood of the harbour suddenly thicken, and as there is always the danger of this occurring suddenly and subjecting the underground workings to the risk of inundation, I ask would such a precautionary measure as I have suggested be wise, to provide against all risks? It might be where the ground in the neighbourhood is known to be rotten and of uncertain character.
2304. We are also told by some of the older managers in the district that the rocks are suddenly intersected by fissures that extend upwards for considerable distances; in that case I suppose there is as much liability to cut such fissures under the sea as under the dry land? Yes.
2305. To protect yourself against such dangers as these, would it be an advisable measure of precaution to keep a bore a few feet in advance of your drifts? No, I think not, unless you have cause to anticipate rottenness of the surface.
2306. But as you cannot anticipate that, or foretell it, and as the coal is found at a comparatively shallow depth, would it not be an advantage, as affording you a measure of safety, to keep bores in advance of the drift. To put it in another way, would there be any disadvantage in keeping bores a few feet in advance of these narrow drifts? There is the extra cost.
2307. You would prefer to run the risk than incur the cost? No; that is one disadvantage, but I do not give that as my reason.
2308. You know that the coal seam in these harbour collieries is overlaid by surface deposits of sand and clay of considerable thickness, and that some of these collieries propose to work the whole of their coal under the harbour or under the sea;—have you formulated any scheme in your own mind as to certain conditions of safety for working these coal seams under sea? Well, I think the bords should not be more than 6 yards wide.
2309. And what would you say as to size of pillars? I should leave pillars of the same size; and I think in that case there would be no great risk.
2310. So far as the collieries have been opened up at present, the greatest depth is about 340 feet;—would you consider that 6-yard bords would answer the purpose at that depth? Yes.
2311. Suggestions have been made to the Commission that, in addition to driving the bords of a width somewhat smaller than you have suggested, it would be also advisable to support the roof by means of timber chocks,—have you any observations to make on that suggestion? Only that, in my opinion, it would be unnecessary.
2312. Would you consider that if a 6-yard pillar and a 6-yard bord was unable to sustain the weight for all time that any additional security would be required in the direction of wooden chocks? No; I think 6-yard pillars should be the limit for all time.
2313. What I want to draw your attention to is—in your experience as a mine-manager, do you find that timber under a certain age decays quicker in a mine than on the surface? Yes.
2314. And whatever strength and security might be given by wooden chocks for two or three years would gradually disappear? It would disappear.
2315. Do you see any easy way of renewing these chocks in after years to maintain the same measure of protection? It would be a difficult matter in the old workings.
2316. You think it is simply impracticable? I do.
2317. And that any scheme of precautionary measures proposed should be practicable measures that could be easily carried out? Yes.
2318. Have you examined the Stockton Peninsula? Not closely; I have seen it.
2319. Have you been along the beach? Yes.
2320. And at Lambton Company's sinking? Yes.
2321. Have you inquired as to the thickness of the strata in that portion of Stockton? Not at Lambton sinking. I have not.
2322. Do you know that the surface is considerably deeper there than at Stockton pit? Yes.
2323. You know that the unconsolidated deposits laid down by the water at some period thicken towards the north from Stockton pit? Yes; I have heard that.
2324. Is it within your knowledge whether a great thickness of quicksand exists on Stockton peninsula? No; I have not heard that.
2325. Is it within your knowledge that no rocks appear on the other side of the peninsula? No; it is not.
2326. Would you consider it absolutely necessary, for the safety of the workers in the peninsula, that accurate records should be obtained of the thickness of these deposits along the sea-coast? Yes; I think it is necessary.
2327. In the case of a colliery working coal under those great thicknesses of alluvial or surface deposits, do you consider that it would be only wise to work the coal under the sea with a minimum thickness of rock cover overhead? Yes; I think that would be a wise precaution.
- 2328.

2328. In the case of a colliery with 40 or 50 feet of solid rock overlying the coal covered by 110 feet of plastic clay, would you consider that a sufficient protection from the 30 or 40 feet of quicksand, provided that the coal seam itself was worked in the manner you have suggested? Yes; if the clay is of a plastic nature. Mr. A. Ross.
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2329. The coal seam is worked thus—about 8 or 9 feet of the top coal is left on; the bords are driven a maximum width of 6 yards, and pillars are left 8 yards thick; would you consider that these conditions ensure safety? Yes; I think those provisions should be ample.

2330. From your knowledge of the rocks overlying the Borehole seam, do you think it would be safe at any of the places here to undermine the sea? Yes; if sufficient pillars were left to resist any crush or impending danger in any way.

2331. *President.*] In other words, if sufficient precautions were taken? Yes.

2332. *Mr. Thomas.*] You advocate headings being driven in advance of the bords? Yes.

2333. And a bore also put in advance horizontally? I have said I would advise soundings and bores would be a precaution; but I do not think it would be necessary unless there was some apprehension of danger.

2334. Soundings would only give you the depth of the water? Yes.

2335. *President.*] Do you think there would be any harm in putting bores in advance? No; certainly not.

2336. *Mr. Curley.*] You know about the Ferndale accident that took place some months ago? Yes.

2337. You know the rock that was there? No; only from what I have heard.

2338. Do you not think, in view of that experience, and considering the comparatively shallow depth of the strata down to the coal-head here, that it is absolutely necessary to put in bores in working the coal under the ocean? No; because I hold a very strong opinion that the strata here is very different altogether. In my opinion the Ferndale ground is of a rotten nature, and very uncertain; but I have not that opinion of the sea-bound rocks on the coast. In fact, my opinion is quite the reverse as to the nature of the rock there.

2339. In working towards the sea, and under the ocean, would you not, to a certain extent, be exploring what is termed the unknown? Yes, to a certain extent it would.

2340. And in that case would it not be advisable or necessary to keep bores in advance? If you have any doubt as to the rock it might.

2341. Can you always foretell what you are to meet with? No; but you have a certain amount of judgment.

2342. Would there be any other disadvantage, except that you have mentioned, in keeping bores in advance? Well, it would throw a certain amount of distrust on the property, and it would throw on the employees a certain amount of distrust as to where they were working, in my opinion.

2343. *President.*] It is a common practice at Home, where such precautions are often taken, although there is no compulsion to do it; and I do not think the men or owners regard it in the light of distrust.

2344. *Mr. Davies.*] Then you think there would be no other disadvantage than that of causing alarm to the shareholders? That and the fear of alarming the workmen.

2345. Would it not be an advantage in the direction of securing the property to the shareholders? Well, I do not think it would tend greatly to secure the property.

2346. Do you think the paltry cost of putting in a bore or two in advance should weigh against the safety of the workmen? If there was the least doubt on that head I should say by all means have them.

2347. But is there not always a chance of danger? Well, if it comes to that we never know what may happen.

2348. Have you any knowledge that the rock underlying your estate is different from that at Ferndale, which you say is unsound? I do not know that it is unsound; I said in my judgment the two places do not bear any comparison.

2349. You are aware that the water broke in in Ferndale in a 6-yard bord? Yes.

2350. And that the fall assumed a bell shape? Yes.

2351. Have you not had two or three "crushes" in your collieries with 8-yard pillars? With 4-yard pillars—that is 4-yard pillars nominally, reduced to 3 yards.

2352. *Mr. Jones.*] You seem to have some doubt about the propriety of putting in horizontal bores in advance of the narrow exploring drifts when approaching the sea; would it not be better to err on the side of safety in the matter? Well, I have said if there was the least doubt as to the safety that should be done.

2353. But would not that tend absolutely to ensure safety so far as the human mind can go? Yes; if any of these large fissures are there which might inundate the mine.

2354. Would it not give greater confidence to the shareholders, as there would then be no uncertainty, and hence the property and lives of the workmen would be secure so far as human effort could secure them? If the system was continued for years it might come to be regarded that way; but I am afraid if it were adopted now it would create a scare at the start.

2355. *President.*] Why, it is being done now in some of these collieries.

2356. *Mr. Jones.*] I understand you to say you have no faith in wooden chocks as a means of preserving the roof? Not in the least.

2357. You have had some experience in wooden chocks? Yes; I have during several years.

2358. What was the cause of putting wooden chocks in the colliery you are now manager of? It was to prevent further crushing.

2359. What was the crushing caused by? By the weight on the pillars or weak pillars.

2360. Were they 4-yard pillars there? Nominally 4 yards, but really 3 yards.

2361. The Commission has been informed of five or six bords with such thin divisions that the men in one bord could talk to those in another—would that be correct? Not since I have been there. I deny it *in toto*, if it is said to have been in my time, and I know nothing of such a case.

2362. I do not wish to hold you responsible in any way whatever. You have stated that in approaching the sea you would advise 6-yard bords with 6-yard pillars? Yes.

2363. Would you think it advisable to adopt coercive measures to enforce the rule, and impose fines for a departure from it? Yes; if I saw a departure from the rule laid down, and if it appeared that the men were determined to work in quite a different manner, I would adopt a system of fines for a departure from instructions.

Mr. A. Ross. 2364. Do you think it would be prudent to have the bords driven by plumb or line, to secure absolute measurement of the pillars? Certainly; I would adopt that regulation if I were working under the sea or harbour. I think it would be necessary.

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2365. *Mr. Usher.*] Do you know that water bearing sand covers some hundreds of acres of the A. A. Company's Estate? No, not to that extent.

2366. Did you ever see any reports in the press of an estimate made by one or more civil engineers? No.

2367. Is it not probable that faults may exist under the sand-beds in the N.E. corner of your property, seeing that so many faults exist between Nobby's and Shepherd's Hill, up to that opening there? It is possible.

2368. Are there not faults observable between your northern and southern boundaries, particularly along the coast? There are some.

2369. How many? Well, I know one.

2370. Of what extent? Twelve feet.

2371. In what direction? It dips to the south.

2372. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Supposing you were working those harbour collieries approaching the sea or harbour, what would you start away with? I would start away with leading places or headings.

2373. Would you bore? Not horizontal bores. I would put down bores along the sea-coast to see what I had overhead, and the same along the shores of the harbour.

2374. *Mr. Neilson.*] In driving these places by lines, do you ever find a variation in the facings in your headings? I do.

2375. For a considerable time, Mr. Ross, you used to do the surveying at Wallsend and other places. What is your general experience as to the variation of the facings—near to the crop, and down to the dip, and so on? I did not find the facings vary more at Wallsend than where I am now situated in the Newcastle Company's property. But I drive them all by plumb-line now to keep them straight, and these facings have to be broken—that is, in the main heading.

2376. We presume most headings must be kept perfectly straight. Coming to the ordinary workings, in cutting the walls or cut-throughs, do you not take them on the facings at certain distances? Generally speaking, yes.

2377. *Mr. Davies.*] Have you any interest in any existing colliery workings under tidal waters, or in any colliery that is likely to work under tidal waters? Is that a fair question, Mr. President?

2378. *President.*] I think it is a fair question; we do not ask which colliery? Well, I have such interest.

2379. Is it your opinion that no matter what thickness of strata may overlie the coal-seam the pressure is the same in every case? No; it varies.

2380. *Mr. Jones.*] In varying circumstances under the sea, would you vary the size of the pillars? Under varying conditions I would vary the system of working, certainly.

2381. *Mr. Usher.*] Do you think, after a careful study of the rocks on the coast, with special reference to the fissures that occur in those rocks, that you might see fit to alter your opinion as to the size of bords and pillars, and the necessity of boring ahead of your exploring places, in working under the sea? No; that would not be likely to alter my opinion, proved already on what I have seen.

2382. Then you have given the matter mature consideration? Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Henry J. Corden sworn and examined:—

Mr. 2383. *President.*] You are manager of the Australian Joint Stock Company, Newcastle? Yes.

H. J. Corden. 2384. Were you one of the original owners of the Wickham Colliery? Yes.

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2386. And in consequence of your aid the shaft was successfully sunk to the coal seam? Yes.

2387. Are you practically acquainted with coal-mining, Mr. Corden? No; I know nothing of it except the experience I have gained by paying for it.

2388. Were the reports furnished to you with regard to the sinking of a favourable or unfavourable character? They were decidedly favourable, both as to the proper working of it and the future of the colliery.

2389. Did you intend to work the coal from the Wickham shaft—that was the first shaft? Yes.

2390. Can you tell the Commission why such a small diameter was chosen for that shaft? It is necessary to go back to the state of things as then existing. The only shaft attempted to be sunk was that at Stockton, which was not a success, and my suggestion was that our shaft—at any rate the first shaft—should be entirely of iron, and it was decided to sink a shaft 5 feet 6 inches in the clear space.

2391. Did you intend to sink a second shaft? Yes.

2392. Of what dimensions? That was not settled.

2393. From whom did the favourable reports emanate as to the quality of the coal seam? I cannot say as to names and dates; but I believe the Examiner of Coal-fields spoke favourably of it.

2394. Did he descend the shaft and inspect the coal seam? Afterwards he did.

2395. That is, after the coal seam was reached? Yes.

2396. And his report was of a favourable character? Yes; I always understood so; and of course Mr. Walker and Mr. Wilde, who were also proprietors, and who actually sunk the shaft, spoke favourably of it, as also did Mr. Wood. I speak of Mr. Wood because he knows more about coal than I do. The impression generally was that it was a splendid seam of coal, which could be worked properly.

2397. Did the Inspector of Collieries accompany the Examiner when he inspected the coal seam? I cannot say with certainty.

2398. In what way was the amalgamation with Bullock Island estate carried out? Well, I am speaking from memory, and it is three years ago; but I think the first mention I heard of it was from Mr. Walker.

2399. What was the purport of the communication? I understood that Mr. Winchester had mentioned it to him.

2400. Mr. Winchester is Mr. Mackenzie's assistant? Yes.

2401. And did Mr. Walker say that Mr. Winchester had suggested it to him? Yes, I think so; and stated what an addition that area of land would be.

2402. Then negotiations proceeded, and were carried to a successful conclusion? Yes.
2403. And after the amalgamation took place, the combined estates were offered to the public, and a public Company was formed? They never were offered to the public, but were registered as a Company under the Limited Liability Act.
2404. Were you aware before the joint estates were formed into a Company that the Examiner for Coal-fields and Mr. Winchester were proprietors in Bullock Island? No.
2405. When did you become aware that they were interested in the property? It was not until after the amalgamation.
2406. Did you then become aware that they were interested before the amalgamation? I believe so, but I won't be sure.
2407. How did these gentlemen hold an interest in Wickham and Bullock Island? I believe they bought in—both of them.
2408. Did they buy from the public, or in what manner, do you know? You must bear in mind that I am speaking of what occurred three years ago. To the best of my belief, Mr. Mackenzie bought some shares belonging to what may be called an original proprietor, who, for some reasons of his own, did not care to retain them. He bought some early in the day, before it was a public Company.
2409. Then he was interested before it became a public Company? Yes.
2410. And, in your opinion, after the Wickham shaft was sunk? Oh, yes; I think so. My own impression is that he bought the shares from some gentleman who was an original proprietor; I would not be certain of the name—I think it was North.
2411. After the amalgamation and formation of the Company you proceeded to sink a larger shaft in Bullock Island for the purpose of drawing coal from that portion of the combined estates? Yes.
2412. And in process of time that shaft reached the coal-seam? Yes.
2413. Were the reports that came to you from time to time of a favourable character? Yes, very favourable.
2414. Were you aware what opinions Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Winchester held at that time? I knew they were favourable.
2415. Are you aware whether they continued to hold these favourable opinions for some time? I think so.
2416. Do they circulate favourable reports about the Company now? I cannot say, because I could only speak from hearing remarks passed.
2417. Have you heard rumours? Yes.
2418. Have you heard any tangible reasons assigned for their change of opinion? I have said that I only heard rumours or remarks.
2419. What did rumour say? Well, it is only recently since both of them sold out, so far as I know.
2420. Did you hear any unfavourable reports purporting to emanate from them? I have heard rumours to that effect; not, however, as to Mr. Winchester.
2421. After Mr. Mackenzie sold out, did you hear any remarks as to a change of opinion on his part? I would rather not say anything about remarks—I do not think it is evidence. I have heard something of course, but —
2422. You have heard what, Mr. Corden? Well, I have heard that Mr. Mackenzie had an unfavourable impression of the mine when he sold out.
2423. Have you heard any tangible reason assigned for these unfavourable reports? I have no hesitation in saying—because it is publicly known—the assertion is that Mr. Mackenzie had had a difference of opinion with the doctor, his brother.
2424. Family reasons only? Yes.
2425. Have you heard anything as to danger being apprehended in the colliery? I know that something of the kind has been circulated, but I do not connect them with the Examiner; I only know that he changed his opinion suddenly.
2426. Are you a proprietor of the present Company? Yes.
2427. Have you paid particular attention, as a proprietor, to ascertain whether the circumstances or conditions of the colliery have altered since the date when Mr. Mackenzie reported favourably of the colliery? I cannot say I have.
2428. As a matter of fact, so far as the condition of the colliery is concerned, does it remain the same now as when the favourable reports emanated from the Examiner? Yes; to the best of my belief the water is not so strong now as it was.
2429. Then in laying out your colliery you have had an eye to security? Yes; I, as a director, and the others also, I know, have instructed Mr. Gardiner, the manager, that every consideration must be given to the safety of the pit.
2430. You gave general orders to be particular in the direction of securing safety? Yes; and I know enough of mining to understand that the mine is worked with 6-yard bords and 8-yard pillars, and that substantial support is left at the bottom of the shaft.
2431. And in communication with your manager you have received no information that would tend to disturb your belief in the value of your property? No.
2432. Do you recollect the accident to Ferndale Colliery? Yes, well.
2433. Do you recollect, a few days after that, when the public mind was naturally much excited, certain letters appearing in some of the Newcastle papers? Yes; I recollect some written by Mr. Croudace, and one from Mr. Evans in reply.
2434. Did these letters emanating from Mr. Croudace—a gentleman so well known in the district—create a profound sensation in and about Newcastle in connection with the collieries he referred to? Oh, yes, decidedly.
2435. Did they cause you to feel alarmed as to the condition of these collieries? I cannot say that I felt alarmed for the Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery.
2436. In connection with any of the collieries I mean—Stockton, Maryville, Wickham and Bullock Island—that were mentioned? Well, yes, it had an effect upon me, and everybody else who had anything to do with them.
2437. Did these letters throw out any obscure hints as to bad management? Yes, decidedly they did, as to bad management or unworkable seams. I do not mean to say that Mr. Croudace absolutely said all the collieries were badly managed.
2438. You mean, I suppose, that he hinted at a system which, if followed, was an evidence of injudicious management? Yes.

- Mr. H. J. Corden.
12 Aug., 1886.
2439. Are you aware whether Mr. Croudace had been down Bullock Island pit when he wrote those letters? I do not think he has been down Bullock Island pit at any time.
2440. He hazarded a statement? Yes.
2441. And thought proper to disturb the public mind on insufficient data? I do not know that he wrote with that purpose.
2442. But what he did write had that effect, I understand? Yes.
2443. And had an influence on your stocks? Yes, rather.
2444. To what extent did it depreciate your stocks? Well, that is one of those things which a man cannot swear to.
2445. What was the value of the shares before the letters appeared? They had been sold at 27s. 6d. a share.
- 2445½. And they dropped to what amount? The lowest I have known them go was 16s. 6d. per share.
2446. How much in the total value of your property did the shares depreciate in value? About £38,000, calculating from the extent to which they fell at about that time. I do not think myself that the extreme difference can be put down to these letters. The market will vary. My impression is, however, that the letters affected the stock to the extent of £30,000.
2447. Did you, after the appearance of these letters, take steps to ascertain whether any change had taken place in the working of your coal seam? Do you mean in the size of bords and pillars?
2448. Yes, any alteration in the system of working? No further than inquiry of the manager.
2449. And were you assured by him that the system you had commenced was being continued? We did not alter it in any way. To the best of my knowledge the system has not been altered since Mr. Gardiner took the management.
2450. Have you increased the area of your leasehold since the Wickham shaft was sunk—has the Bullock Island area been increased? Yes, but not very much.
2451. At the date of the amalgamation, roughly speaking, how many acres had you? I think it was 500 acres. That is the lease on the island.
2452. And how many now? About 600 acres.
2453. We have been told it was 800? Our lease was a small one at first. I am not sure what area was ultimately granted. Then there was some applied for in the southern portion of the island.
2454. Then, so far as the value of the holding is concerned, it is a more valuable property now than it was at the date of the amalgamation? Yes, very much.
2455. Mr. Usher.] Are you aware of the fact that Mr. Hugh Walker made a present of a large number of shares to Mr. Winchester? I know it from hearsay. Mr. Walker has told me so.
2456. Do you know the cause of Mr. Walker's liberality? Well, I think it was for services rendered in Walker's interests (that would be our interests of course) in the junction of the two companies.
2457. For services rendered by Mr. Winchester? Mr. Winchester was promised by Mr. Walker so many shares for introducing and bringing the two parties together, and thereby affecting an amalgamation which was mutually beneficial.
2458. Do you know whether the Examiner of Coal-fields had any interest in these shares? No.
2459. Can you give the name of any person who told you the cause of Mr. Mackenzie's change of opinion as to the value of the property? I do not think I can. It would be merely those persons in connection with the Company, and immediate friends of the directors, who would speak to me about it.
2460. It was a matter of general conversation, is that what you convey? Yes.
2461. Perhaps you recollect that in Mr. Croudace's letter of the 25th of March he recommends what he calls the Delta colliery proprietors to have competent and efficient management, and to engage consulting managers? Yes.
2462. Did you act on that advice? No.
2463. Why did you not do so, seeing that Mr. Croudace is such an authority? Well, we considered (I am speaking for the directors of the Company) that in process of time it would be shown that the Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery was well and efficiently worked.
2464. You thought it efficiently worked, at all events? Yes.
2465. And that you had an efficient management? Yes.
2466. And that you did not require the services of a consulting viewer? Yes.
2467. And you are of the same opinion still? Yes, quite of the same opinion.
- The witness withdrew.

Joseph Wood sworn and examined:—

- Mr. J. Wood.
12 Aug., 1886.
2468. President.] You are a merchant, carrying on business in Newcastle, I believe? Yes.
2469. And, in conjunction with Mr. Corden, you supplied Messrs. Walker and Wilde with the necessary funds to sink Wickham shaft? Yes.
2470. After the shaft reached the coal, did you hear the general report of the district experts on the quality of the coal seam? Yes; they were of a satisfactory character.
2471. From whom did these reports emanate? Well, there was the Examiner of Coal-fields; he spoke favourably of it; in fact, he said it was one of the best collieries here. I do not remember anyone else in particular. We looked upon him as a good authority.
2472. The reports were of a satisfactory and refreshing character? Yes.
2473. And immediately afterwards negotiations were entered into and concluded for an amalgamation of Bullock Island with Wickham? Yes.
2474. We understand the negotiations were initiated by Mr. Winchester? Yes.
2475. And after the amalgamation was effected the present Company was formed? Yes.
2476. And the Bullock Island shaft was sunk? Yes.
2477. Before that time, was it within your knowledge that the Examiner of Coal-fields was interested in the concern? Yes.
2478. Do you know to what extent—was he interested alone, or did he purchase in conjunction with others? In conjunction with others, I believe.
2479. With whom? Mr. Creer was one, I think.
2480. Any others? I do not know. Mr. Winchester was one also.
2481. Then he was practically one of the original proprietors, in so far as he was a proprietor before the Company was made a public Company? He was—yes.
- 2482.

2482. Do you know whether before reaching the coal in Bullock Island shaft Mr. Mackenzie continued Mr. J. Wood. to hold a good opinion of the coal? Yes, no doubt.
2483. You are a personal friend of Mr. Mackenzie? Yes.
2484. Have these favourable reports ceased, Mr. Wood? Yes.
2485. Have you heard any reason assigned for their cessation? No.
2486. Is it within your knowledge that the Examiner and Mr. Winchester have sold out of the concern? Yes, I know that.
2487. And did these favourable reports continue while these two gentlemen remained in the concern? Yes.
2488. And ceased when they ceased to have any connection with it? Yes; at about the same time.
2489. Then, taking one thing in connection with another, have you any reason to assign for the difference in the opinions which these gentlemen have expressed—their change of opinion? Well, I think it sprung from a feeling that the Examiner had against his brother, who was Chairman of Directors.
2490. What I want to know is, was any tangible reason assigned for the somewhat sudden change of opinion that Mr. Mackenzie was known to have held? No; not that I ever heard of.
2491. Would you expect to have some good and substantial reason for such a sudden change of opinion? Yes, I should.
2492. Have you heard any such reason assigned at any time? No, I have not.
2493. And I suppose that would tend to strengthen your opinion that family differences may have been the cause? That is my opinion.
2494. You are one of the Directors of this company? Yes.
2495. Have you given any particular or specific directions to the manager as to the conducting of underground operations in your colliery? The directors have given Mr. Gardiner instructions to be very careful, and to err, if at all, on the side of safety.
2496. That safety was to be his chief concern? Yes.
2497. And acting upon the instructions, has he laid out his colliery in a manner that assures you that safety has been sought for? Yes.
2498. Are you practically acquainted with mining operations? I have some knowledge of it.
2499. In what way has Bullock Island Colliery been laid out? It is worked with 6-yard bords, leaving 8-yard pillars.
2500. Has any coal been left on in the roof? Yes; we never touch any of the roof coal at all.
2501. Do you know the thickness of the solid strata that overlies the coal? I think it is 51 feet.
2502. Are you sure of that? Yes; that is according to the report to the directors.
2503. Is there a stratum of clay overlying the rock? Yes; 100 feet.
2504. Do you look upon the presence of that clay as a valuable adjunct for the security of the men? Yes, I do.
2505. Have any faults been reported to you as having been met with in Bullock Island? No.
2506. Do you recollect some letters appearing in the local papers in March last, a few days after the Ferndale catastrophe? Yes.
2507. They were written by Mr. Croudace and others? Yes.
2508. In these letters Mr. Croudace specified certain collieries contiguous to the harbour that he considered to be in a state of danger? Yes. I was very much surprised at a statement of that kind being made.
2509. Were you alarmed at those statements? I was not alarmed for the safety of the mine, but I was alarmed at such statements being made.
2510. Did you think Mr. Croudace was justified in making such statements? I did not.
2511. Had he inspected your property at the time? He never had.
2512. Do you think he was justified in that case in making statements calculated to damage your mine, and to call public attention to alleged insecurity? I do not think he was justified at all. I think he did very wrong.
2513. Did these reports affect the public mind, Mr. Wood? Yes; it seriously affected the value of the stock to the extent of 30 per cent., I think.
2514. Mr. Corden says the stock was depreciated to the extent of £30,000 by these letters? Yes, about that.
2515. Do you look upon that as a serious affair, inasmuch as the company is a small one? Yes; very serious for a small company struggling to get on to its feet.
2516. Do you know who originally approached the Examiner of Coal-fields in any way to induce him to become interested in the Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery? I do not know how he came to be a proprietor. I think his attention was particularly called to it by Mr. Winchester.
2517. Are you aware who approached Mr. Winchester? No.
2518. Do you know who Mr. Mackenzie purchased from? He purchased from a person named Murphy, a promoter.
2519. Was it after Mr. Mackenzie had sold out that he wrote you a letter as to the safety of the workings? Yes.
2520. Was Mr. Mackenzie a shareholder when the company was formed? I think so.
2521. Who formed the Board of Directors at that time? There was Dr. Mackenzie, Mr. Sawell, Mr. Corden, and myself, and Mr. Garrett, I think.
2522. Do you think it desirable for the Examiner of Coal-fields to be interested in any colliery within his province? I have not thought of that.
2523. Do you know whether it is a direct violation of the Coal-fields Regulation Act? No.
The clause of the Act referred to was read.
2524. Still I suppose his presence there inspired you with some degree of confidence? It was re-assuring to have a man in his position a shareholder in the company, no doubt.
2525. Mr. Curley.] Between the time of the Ferndale accident and the appearance of these letters in the public Press, Mr. Wood, did your stock decline at all? No; they were on the rise at that time.
2526. Did the Ferndale accident not affect the market at all, or did the stock rise in the face of the Ferndale disaster? I cannot say I noticed any difference between the dates you have mentioned.
2527. Mr. Davies.] Have you Mr. Murphy's address? I have not.
2528. Is he a resident of this district? I think he resides in Sydney.

Mr. J. Wood. 2529. I suppose there would be very little attention paid to Mr. Mackenzie or Mr. Winchester apart from the official positions they hold. I suppose it was these official positions that gave weight to their opinions as to the value of the property? Yes; and mostly so in the case of Mr. Mackenzie. They had no control whatever except as ordinary shareholders.

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2530. *Mr. Jones.*] Did you ever hear of a report emanating from Mr. Mackenzie as to the probability of the colliery being closed by the Government? Yes.

2531. What reason was assigned for the report? Well, the alleged unsafety of the mine.

2532. *President.*] Were you served with a notice to that effect, or was it merely a rumour? It was told me on undoubted authority.

2533. I must ask your authority, Mr. Wood? Well, it came through Dr. Morson, of Maitland.

2534. *Mr. Usher.*] Dr. Morson is a large shareholder in the colliery, is he not? Yes.

2535. Do you think the fact of Mr. Mackenzie being a shareholder in the company was calculated to advance its commercial value? No doubt it would create more confidence with the outside public.

2536. And I suppose when he sold out it would have a correspondingly depressing effect upon the value of the stock? Well, I do not think there was any noticeable depression at the time.

2537. *Mr. Jones.*] Did you ever call in any other person to inspect and report upon your mine since the Ferndale accident? No.

2538. And you have no intention of doing so—that is to say, you believe that your mine is efficiently managed? Yes.

2539. And have you any intention of carrying out Mr. Croudace's suggestion as to duplication of the management by calling in consultation anyone from outside? I am perfectly satisfied at the present time.

2540. And you are not aware that it is the intention of the directors to supplement the management by the employment of Mr. Croudace or any other person? No.

The witness withdrew.

Timothy O'Sullivan sworn and examined:—

Mr. T. O'Sullivan. 2541. *President.*] You are interested in the Stockton Colliery, Captain O'Sullivan? Yes; I am a director of the Company.

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2542. And you have been interested in that colliery from its initiation? Yes.

2543. You have, I suppose, watched the progress of the pit from the commencement? Well, yes; I have been down there a good deal.

2544. You have sunk through the surface deposits by means of cylinders;—what condition are those cylinders in? In good condition.

2545. Are they of ample strength? Yes, so far as I am able to judge.

2546. Have you any particular knowledge of coal-mining? I have not.

2547. You are an observant man, though, and are willing to learn? Yes, I am willing to learn all I can.

2548. In laying out Stockton Colliery, had you many obstacles to surmount? Well, I do not know that we had very many. We had to go through sand and clay, and rock and water.

2549. However, it was not altogether plain sailing? No; not altogether.

2550. In laying out the mine, have you given your manager any special instructions as to conditions of safety? He received instructions to lay out the mine with safety.

2551. In addition to the land you hold on the apex of the peninsula of Stockton you also hold some ocean leasehold, do you not? I think so.

2552. Have your company in any way prospected the surface deposits overlying the coal under the ocean leasehold? They have not.

2553. Have you any intention of so prospecting the surface deposits in that direction? I am not aware.

2554. Do you think it necessary? I do not think it would be necessary to do so.

2555. You confess you are not a coal-mining expert? I am not, certainly.

2556. Have you given the management any general directions as to the width of bords or size of pillars? I do not know that we have. I do not attend all the meetings. We suppose the manager to be competent to do all that.

2557. Do you recollect the Ferndale disaster? I do.

2558. Do you recollect a series of letters that appeared in the Newcastle papers a few days after that accident? I know some letters appeared, but I have not much recollection of their contents.

2559. Do you recollect a letter signed by Mr. Croudace in which your colliery was specified? Yes.

2560. Do you think those letters appearing at such a time, and couched in the language adopted by the writer, were calculated to create public alarm as to the condition of those collieries? I think it would cause alarm to people who do not thoroughly understand the nature of the strata in those collieries.

2561. But the general public would not understand? No. Ninety-nine out of every hundred would not.

2562. Do you know as a matter of fact that public alarm was caused? Yes, I think so. I know our shares went down. I wrote up the day after to buy some, but could not get any. But I know that alarm was caused.

[The witness here entered into a statement as to the extent of the fall in price of the stock.]

2563. Were you annoyed at these letters? I was, because I did not believe the statements they contained.

2564. Had Mr. Croudace examined your colliery before that? No; nor has he since.

2565. Then he had no justification for hinting at deficiency in management or insecurity in the system of working the colliery? None whatever.

2566. In what way were you annoyed at those letters? I did not think they stated the position fairly; and I do not think the word "delta" is applicable to our colliery.

2567. Did you ever take particular notice of the width of the bords at your colliery, Captain O'Sullivan? I do not think so—no further than when I was down with the Commission. I saw you measuring some of the bords.

2568. Do you think the directors have had a greater desire to get coal out than care for the safety of the workers? I do not think so. I do not believe the directors would wish to work the mine otherwise than for safety.

2569. Do you know that the manager has been urged—that pressure has been brought to bear upon him to get the largest output possible? Of course any Board of Directors would ask a manager to get out as much coal as he could.

2570. Has there been any consultation at all as to the safe working of the mine? I know the instructions have always been to work the mine with safety. I know that I, with others, am responsible to the Bank for the safe conduct of the mine. My pocket would suffer if there was an accident.

2571. You have, I suppose, some idea about the pressure of strata upon the coal? I do not know that I am an authority, but so far as my own sense goes, I would not be afraid to cut a stroot through from one side of Stockton to the other, even if there were no pillars at all.

2572. Seeing that you are surrounded by sea-water, do you not think it desirable to carry on your workings with some degree of caution? I think it is necessary, certainly, and I hope we are doing so.

2573. Have you any idea how the workings are carried on at Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery? I have not any idea how they are carried on.

2574. You have no idea as to whether they correspond with the workings of Stockton or not? No.

2575. Has the Examiner of Coal-fields ever forwarded to the company any communication on this subject? I think not. He has been down there two or three times, or perhaps four or five times, and Mr. Dixon as well.

2576. *Mr. Davies.*] Have you brought any undue pressure to bear upon your colliery so as to get a large output irrespective of the safety of those below? Certainly not. A man would be fit for the lunatic asylum who would do such a thing.

2577. *Mr. Swinburn.*] As a director and shareholder, have you thought whether it would be advisable to have some information of the strata overlying the coal seam, to see if there are any fissures present under the foreshore previous to working? I think we are right on the foreshore with our shaft.

2578. Well, in working under the tidal waters, do you think it is advisable to seek for this information previous to working? I do not think so. I do not think we could have a much safer pit than we have got, seeing that the distance that we are underground at present, and the amount of rock cover we have. I do not see that anything would be gained by prospecting a few feet or yards closer to the water.

2579. In working under the sea, would it not be desirable to have some information as to the overlying strata? If you could get it down there by the Oyster-bank no doubt it would be.

2580. Do you think it would be safe to work under these foreshores without having such information? I think so, with the depth we have reached.

2581. In expressing your opinion, have you any idea of the character of the rock above the coal? I have no idea except as to what we have gone through.

2582. *Mr. Jones.*] You have stated that the publication of Mr. Croudace's letters caused some alarm in the public mind, and that the shares went down in consequence—is that so? Yes, they went down (that is Stockton shares) to the extent of 4s. or 5s.

2583. *President.*] To what extent would that affect the whole capital? To about £7,000 or £8,000.

2584. *Mr. Jones.*] You have already stated that Mr. Croudace has not visited the Stockton Colliery? Yes.

2585. Has he been invited? I do not think so.

2586. Could he have been invited without your knowledge? He was not invited by our Board that I am aware of, and I think they would let me know if he had been asked to go down.

2587. Did you ever complain that the pillars were too thick in your colliery? No, certainly not.

2588. Have you a consulting viewer at the present time—your company has not engaged one? No.

2589. Do you know how many borings have been made on the Stockton Estate? I do not; Mr. Dixon has told me about some borings he made with his father there.

2590. Do you know of some borings that have been made to the north of your present shaft? I believe there have been some.

2591. You do not know how many? No.

2592. Have you any account of the boring there? No.

2593. Are there any rocks on the Oyster-bank? Yes, I believe so; but not exposed.

2594. *Mr. Turnbull.*] You are one of the directors of Stockton Company? Yes.

2595. How often do you sit? Once a fortnight.

2596. Has the manager ever laid a plan of the colliery before the directors? Yes.

2597. Does the plan show the size of pillars and width of bords? He shows a plan of the workings of the mine, and I suppose it gives the size of pillars and width of bords.

2598. *Mr. Neilson.*] Would it not be advisable to put down bores on the foreshore before you advance your exploring places under the sea? I do not think there would be any need of it, as I have stated, because we are only a few yards from the foreshore as it is.

2599. *Mr. Davies.*] Has the manager of your colliery full control over the pit? Yes.

2600. Has he the appointment of his overman or deputy? The last overman was appointed by the Board of Directors. We sent him down to ask Mr. Evans if he would take him on, supposing he suited. He was a certificated mining engineer, I believe.

2601. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Did the directors press this man on the manager? No.

2602. *Mr. Swinburn.*] Do you think it is judicious on the part of the directors to appoint any subordinate? I do not see any harm in it if the manager approves of the man. It is the same with a steamship company, the directors or manager of which might appoint an officer; but if he did not suit, the captain would communicate the fact, and the officer would go. The manager in charge is responsible for the working of the pit, and it is not likely that the Board of Directors would ask the manager or direct him to keep on a man who was incompetent or unsuitable. In the present case the explanation is this: A man applied for a situation at Burwood Colliery, and the directors (being the same as in Stockton) asked Mr. Evans to give him a trial as overman; but they did not pull together, and the man left.

2603. *Mr. Usher.*] Are you aware that your late overman advocated working with 10-yard bords, Captain O'Sullivan? No; I never heard of it.

2604. *Mr. Curley.*] Did he bring any charges against your manager? No; there was some complaint about water-baling, or something of that kind, but no charge was made.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
T. O'Sullivan.
12 Aug., 1886.

Mr.

Mr. Thomas Broughall sworn and examined:—

- Mr. T. Broughall.
12 Aug., 1886.
2605. *President.* You are proprietor of one of the collieries at Tighe's Hill? Yes.
 2606. And you hold a lease from the A.A. Company? Yes.
 2607. How long has the colliery been in operation? I cannot say exactly.
 2608. How long have you been connected with the colliery? About eight months, I think.
 2609. And you work the Borehole coal seam? Yes.
 2610. Is this (*produced*) the plan of your workings? Yes.
 2611. What are the workings coloured yellow? Green worked them.
 2612. Green was your predecessor? Yes. (*The witness here indicated those workings which had been conducted by him.*)
 2613. One of your bords off the north heading has undermined Tighe's Creek? Yes.
 2614. And was approaching some workings from Ferndale? Yes, somewhere there.
 2615. Have you been served with any notice from the Examiner of Coal-fields as to stopping these workings? Yes; I received a notice to cease working in the pit.
 2616. What did you do? Well, I had stopped on the side you refer to before that, but I took no further notice.
 2617. When the Commission visited your colliery you pointed out a position where you intended to put in a dam? Yes.
 2618. Who recommended you to do that? It was recommended by Mr. Turnbull first.
 2619. The dam has been put in in that advance bord, has it? Yes.
 2620. And is it now perfectly secure? Yes.
 2621. Then about the notice you received from the Examiner of Coal-fields or the Inspector, that notice was a demand to cease work? Yes, in all directions.
 2622. Did that cause you any alarm? No.
 2623. Did you expect it? No, I did not.
 2624. Then why did it not cause you alarm? Well, it did, at first, in a way.
 2625. Did you employ your lawyer? Yes; I employed Mr. Gorrick.
 2626. Has any further action been taken? No; I have heard nothing of it since.
 2627. What height is the coal seam in that colliery? It is 14 feet.
 2628. Of which you work 7 feet? Yes.
 2629. Leaving the remaining 7 feet as a roof? Yes.
 2630. Do you propose to work out this 7 feet? No, not the whole of it.
 2631. How much do you propose to take out? About 2 feet 8 inches.
 2632. What overlies the coal seam? Clay, with sand on the top.
 2633. For how many feet? I think it is 41 feet.
 2634. That is to the bottom? Yes.
 2635. I believe the level of your shaft is only 2 feet above tidal-mark? About that, or 15 inches above high-water-mark.
 2636. Has that narrow elbow of flat land been subject to floods? Yes; but that was before the water could get away as well as it does now. It is four years since I saw a flood there.
 2637. What width of bords do you drive? 4 yards on the south side, and 5 yards towards the north.
 2638. Have the workings ceased towards the north? Yes; we have worked out to the crop.

NOTE:—The crop-out is marked by bold dotted pencil lines on the sketch-plan.

2639. The workings to the north of the shaft are stopped? Yes; there are no workings there at all.
 2640. Have you any top coal to remove? Yes. It is proposed to work the top coal to the north of the pit after the other portions of the mine have been exhausted.
 2641. To the south of your colliery your heading has proceeded under a branch of Tighe's Creek; and is to be defined by a line over the bridge that carries the Maitland Road across the creek.
 2642. Where is the boundary of your ground? About half a chain to the north of the Maitland Road.
 2643. In the advance places off the south heading approaching the washout, how far have these places to go? Well, we cannot tell. I suppose as far as we can find coal.
 2644. From the southern heading you propose to work the coal in the usual way? Yes.
 2645. What size pillars do you propose to leave under the creek? 4-yard pillars.
 2646. And in that portion south of the creek, what pillars will you leave? 4-yard pillars there also.
 2647. Do you propose to extract the pillars under the creek, or in the land to the south of the creek? No.
 2648. Are you acquainted with the coal-field to the east of the Maitland Road? I have worked at Ferndale.
 2649. Is it your intention to work a portion of the coal under the Maitland Road from Tighe's Hill? No.
 2650. Do you consider the system you are pursuing ensures safety? I do.
 2651. Has the Inspector of Collieries explained to you otherwise? No.
 2652. Has he explained in any way the notice that was sent you to cease working? The only thing was this bord being under the creek. That was what he said when I saw him afterwards.
 2653. Did he point out danger in any of the other workings? No.
 2654. Have you any knowledge of the collieries adjoining the harbour? No; I have not been down any of them.
 2655. Have you formed any opinion as to the most safe and effective mode of working the coal under the sea in these collieries? Well, I have not troubled about any except my own.
 2656. Would you consider it safe to follow the district custom in working a colliery 300 feet deep, or less, under the ocean bed? No; I would not work 8-yard bords under the sea.
 2657. What width of bords would you have? 6-yard bords.
 2658. And how about the size of pillars? I would leave 6-yard pillars.
 2659. Is it in accordance with your experience that the width of bords and size of pillars should be varied in accordance with circumstances? Yes.
 2660. You would vary the custom to suit the altered conditions under the sea? Yes.
 2661. What is your opinion of the measures that should be taken to ensure uniformity of system on the part of the miners. Would you favour the imposition of fines in the event of a departure from the rule—supposing a miner was eating into his pillar, for example? I think a man ought to be fined for cutting into his pillars. If there was not some restriction in that direction they would drive their bords just as they liked.

2662. Then you think that in working under the sea in these comparatively shallow collieries conditions of safety should be rigidly adhered to? Yes; I think so, certainly.

2663. *Mr. Curley.* You say you noticed a flood over the surface of your colliery four years ago? Yes; that was over the flat, owing to heavy rain; but we have had nothing like it since.

2664. Has a large fall taken place in close proximity to the shaft? Not a great way from it. There were three or four falls there.

2665. How is the shaft supported? By timber.

2666. Have you ever examined the shaft very closely to see if it is decaying? Yes; it has only been in twelve months. There is no fear of it decaying.

2667. *Mr. Swinburn.* In working from the foreshore, would it not be desirable to take measures to ascertain the nature of the overlying strata? Yes.

2668. *Mr. Usher.* Would you have 6-yard bords and 6-yard pillars, irrespective of the depth of the overlying strata? I should vary the pillars and bords according to the circumstances surrounding me.

2669. *Mr. Neilson.* As to the subsidence of the surface, where the pillars are taken out, does it go below the tidal waters? It will be, but I intend to put up an embankment to keep the flood water out. I shall put up a 4-feet embankment.

2670. How long do you suppose the extraction of the pillars will occupy? I dare say it will take three months.

2671. *Mr. Davies.* Are you careful in having uniform pillars? Yes; I have endeavoured to keep them of a uniform size.

2672. Do you ever find bords wider than you have stated? Yes; I have found them wider, but I soon stop them.

2673. *President.* With respect to working under the sea, Mr. Broughall, you have said you would vary the width of bords and size of pillars according to varying circumstances;—would you consider it a wise measure of precaution to have narrow prospecting drifts well in advance of your bords? It would be a good thing to do, undoubtedly.

2674. It would be a wise precaution? Yes.

2675. And considering that the Borehole seam is overlaid by rock that is subject to grey backs or fissures, would you advocate putting in bores in advance of these leading places or drifts? Yes; that would be a wise plan. It would be better to meet the water that might be in an open facing that way than in the drift. I would approve of such a course if I found that the water was pressing.

2676. *Mr. Jones.* But you cannot always tell? No; but if you find the water coming you can prepare for the fault. I think precautions should be taken; but I do not consider it necessary to keep boring where it is dry.

2677. Supposing you are going under the ocean-bed with 100 feet of rock cover, you have not a great margin of safety with simply a prospecting heading? Not a great margin, certainly; still it would show when you would come upon water as well as a bore.

2678. As a purely precautionary measure, have you anything to urge against it? No.

The witness withdrew.

Robert Baker sworn and examined:—

2679. *President.* You are a miner? Yes. I have been mining all my life.

2680. How long have you been resident in Newcastle? About twelve years.

2681. Have you a general knowledge of the district? I have been about a good deal; but I do not know much about the internal workings.

2682. Do you know of any borings at Stockton? I know nothing about Stockton.

2683. Do you know whether the coal seam in the neighbourhood of the harbour is covered with quicksand? No. I know little or nothing about Stockton.

2684. If you were told that the Newcastle coal seam was covered by thick surface deposits—sand, clay, and so forth, of between two and three hundred feet thick, with a very moderate covering of rock between these surface deposits and the coal—would you consider the district custom of working with 8-yard bords and ordinary narrow pillars could be followed with safety? I do not think so.

2685. If you were informed that there was a proposition to pursue the Newcastle coal seam under the ocean-bed under these conditions, would that strengthen you in the opinion you have expressed that extra precautions should be taken? Yes, I think so.

2686. Then, from your experience as a miner, what line should the precautions take in regard to the safety of the working? As to width of bords and size of pillars, and so on, I should think the bord ought not to be over 6 yards wide, and the pillars of the same thickness.

2687. Would you vary the width of bord and size of pillars in accordance with the varying conditions of the roof and surface covering? Yes.

2688. Supposing there was only a thin stratum of rock above the coal, would that be an additional reason for precaution? Yes, I think so; I would in that case make the width of bords narrower still, say 5 yards.

2689. You would vary the system to the particular conditions of the mine and surroundings? Yes.

2690. Then what is your opinion of driving in advance of the bords narrow drifts or headings, as a precautionary measure? I think that would be a wise precaution to take.

2691. And in addition to narrow drifts, have you any opinion to offer as to the advisability of putting boreholes in advance of these drifts? I think that ought to be done also.

2692. You think it would be a wise precautionary measure, seeing that you would be working in ground that could not be properly prospected from the surface, it being covered by the ocean? Yes.

2693. *Mr. Usher.* And do you think it necessary to take soundings of the water above? Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Thomas Stevens sworn and examined:—

2694. *President.* You are a miner, Mr. Stevens, and at present one of a Company working a colliery on Tighe's Hill? Yes.

2695. Have you been working at or in the neighbourhood of Tighe's Hill for some considerable time? For eight years last May.

Mr.
T. Broughall.
12 Aug., 1886.

Mr. R. Baker.
12 Aug., 1886.

Mr.
T. Stevens.
2696. 12 Aug., 1886.

- Mr. T. Stevens. 12 Aug., 1886. 2696. Were you working in Ferndale? Yes; we left there to start a little pit on Tighe's Hill.
2697. You are now opening another little colliery towards the Maitland Road, and almost opposite the bridge? Yes.
2698. Is it your intention to work the coal seam underneath the road? No. We got permission to work under Tighe's Terrace-street—to drive a 6-foot heading. Our workings are on lease from Ferndale.
2699. Does your leasehold extend under Tighe's Creek? Yes.
2700. Beyond Tighe's Creek, have you any ground? No. This lease is to the left of Tighe's Creek.
2701. Does not your ground extend to the south of Tighe's Creek? Yes.
2702. Then it goes through Tighe's Creek? No; the creek runs round our ground; the creek is our boundary.
2703. The Ferndale Company have land further to the south of Tighe's Terrace-street;—do you hold all that ground? Yes; 13 acres.
2704. There is an old pit on it? Yes, to the south of ours—on the hill.
2705. What depth is it? 78 feet.
2706. And what depth is your pit? 54 feet.
2707. What thickness of coal have you? 7 ft. 6 ins., and the jerry 7 ft. 6 ins., and then there is the bottom coal.
2708. The bottom and the top coals are divided by a band of 7 feet? Yes; we are just on a "disturbance."
2709. Is it an up-throw to the north? It is a down-throw where we are working.
2710. That is to the south? Yes.
2711. What thickness do you propose to work to the south? About 4 feet we have started; we are working 4 feet of top coal.
2712. What thickness is the under coal? About 2 ft 6 in. The unworkable coal gets thicker towards the south. The Ferndale Company put a bore down there, and an old shaft was sunk years ago.
2713. Your shaft is about here (*position indicated on the plan*)? Yes; it is sunk in a disturbance.
2714. Is it not your intention to work the coal under the Maitland Road? No. We only asked permission to drive a narrow place under Tighe's Terrace-street; we have just started, and have only proceeded 2 or 3 yards.
2715. How do you propose to work the coal? We intend to work 4-yard bords with 4-yard pillars.
2716. Do you know the exact extent of the cover above the coal on the banks of the creek? No; I have no idea; there have been no bores put down that I know of.
2717. Do you not consider it necessary to know that? Before we work under the creek we shall try the surface by putting down bores. There may not be any coal under the creek; this disturbance may cut it off.
2718. What experience as a miner have you had? Well, I have been at it ever since I was able to go into a pit.
2719. In this district? Yes, and at Home, in Nottinghamshire.
2720. Do you know anything about the collieries in the neighbourhood of Newcastle Harbour? No; I have never worked anywhere but at Ferndale since I have been in the country.
2721. You have no knowledge of the surface deposits above the coal, near the harbour? No.
2722. Do you think 4-yard bords safer than bords of a greater width? Yes; I think bords of 4 yards will never come in. I worked a place for Mr. Pepper on the Hill with 4-yard bords and 2-yard pillars; that is years ago, and it is standing now as good as when I left it.
2723. In the other colliery that you worked to the south of this road, what system did you follow? We had only just started, but Bevan had worked it a long while; it had been twelve months standing before we went.
2724. What thickness was the coal? About 3 feet.
2725. Did you find that workable to profit? Well, we were all working men, you see. We did not engage men.
2726. Then you do not purpose working the coal under the Maitland Road? No.
2727. Are you aware of the precise nature of the Ferndale workings under the Maitland Road? Yes; we are about 60 yards off according to the plan.
2728. Mr. Curley.] Has the Inspector ever been at your pit since you started operations? Yes; Mr. Dixon has been there two or three times; but he has not been down, because when he came we had not started work.
2729. Has the situation of Ferndale workings been pointed out to you by the Inspector? We have seen it by the Ferndale plan, but not through the Inspector. There is no water coming through in our shaft.
2730. Mr. Usher.] Do you rely upon the accuracy of the Ferndale plan? Well, that is what we are going by.
2731. Does the seam dip to Tighe's Creek? Yes.
2732. To what extent? In 15 yards it has dipped 3 feet.
2733. Mr. Jones.] Do you intend to work the whole of your coal in the present shaft? Yes.
2734. Mr. Neilson.] Have you no plan of your own? We are getting one made. We have only just started the work.

The witness withdrew.

FRIDAY, 13 AUGUST, 1886.

Present:—

J. R. M. ROBERTSON, Esq., PRESIDENT.

MR. USHER,
MR. NEILSON,
MR. TURNBULL,
MR. JONES,

MR. DURIE,
MR. SWINBURN,
MR. DAVIES,
MR. CURLEY,

MR. THOMAS.

A. Fairley sworn and examined:—

- Mr. A. Fairley. 13 Aug., 1886. 2735. President.] You are an engineer, Mr. Fairley? Yes; a colliery engineer.
2736. For some time past I believe you have been engaged in sinking cylinders for the new winnings near the harbour? Yes.
2737. At what collieries have you sunk cylinders? Bullock Island, and Stockton, and Hetton; and I put down those cylinders at Stockton sixteen years ago for Mr. Croudace.

2738.

Mr.
A. Fairley.
13 Aug., 1886.

2738. What thickness is the metal of those cylinders? 1 inch and a $\frac{1}{4}$, and 1 inch and $\frac{1}{8}$.
 2739. Is that an ample thickness? Yes; it leaves ample margin on the side of safety.
 2740. Have these collieries been sunk successfully? Yes.
 2741. In the case of Stockton and Hetton, so far as you have proceeded, are the shafts perfectly plumb? Yes.
 2742. At Bullock Island, to what depth have the cylinders been sunk? 170 feet.
 2743. What is the thickness of the rock that overlies the coal? 43 feet.
 2744. How far have the cylinders entered into the rock? About 9 feet; that is, three cylinders.
 2745. How far is the bottom of the cylinders above the coal? That I cannot tell you to a foot or two. But I have the distance of the cylinders sunk through in the rock.
 2746. From the surface, what is passed through? 3 feet of rotten clay, 44 feet of sand, 9 feet of hard blue clay, 2 feet of oyster-bed, 2 feet of soft gray sandstone, 30 feet of brown clay (very good), and 27 feet of black clay (very good), mixed with shells.
 2747. Is it something like the brick clay at Home? Yes; a good puddle clay. Then there are sand and gravel, 15 feet; white clay, 19 feet; yellow clay (very good), 9 feet; boulders and clay on top of the rock, 6 feet; and rock, 43 feet.
 2748. What does the rock consist of? Hard sandstone post, and coal 18 feet.
 2749. That is 166 feet of surface? Yes.
 2750. We have been informed that the space between the top of the coal and the bottom of the cylinders is 28 feet? I never measured that.
 2751. You see there is a discrepancy of 6 feet between your statement and the measurement. Could you measure the cylinders and ascertain? Mr. Gardiner would be the one to ascertain that.
 2752. Is it not possible that there may be more than three cylinders in the rock? I think not.
 2753. Are these cylinders of ample marginal strength? Yes.
 2754. Of what thickness are the Bullock Island segments? $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.
 2755. Are they plumb? Well, there may be a few inches out in the distance.
 2756. Have any of the segment rings cracked—have they sustained any injury? I believe there is a crack about 117 feet down, in the clay.
 2757. Does that in any way impair the stability or strength of the cylinders? No.
 2758. Not in any respect? No.
 2759. Do you consider that the cylinders in Bullock Island shaft are perfectly safe and secure? Yes, I do.
 2760. In Hetton shaft, as far as you have gone, are the cylinders perfectly safe and secure? Yes, perfectly.
 2761. And in Stockton shaft? The same.
 2762. Have you any record of bores put down near Hetton shaft to guide you in the sinking? There were two put down, but I cannot say how.
 2763. How are the present cylinders standing? They are 23 feet in the clay.
 2764. Have you any water in it? No.
 2765. Is this great thickness of clay you have mentioned in Bullock Island impervious to water? It is quite dry till you get to the gravel bed.
 2766. That is in the centre? Yes.
 2767. And there is a thick bed of clay below that again? Yes; it is quite dry.
 2768. Is there much water coming off the 15 feet of gravel bed? 15 gallons an hour.
 2769. Is that saltwater? No; it is brackish.
 2770. Then what we want, Mr. Fairley, is positive information as to the thickness of the rock. We have been supplied with a section of the shaft that is nearly identical with the record you have given us, except in this one particular, that the rock is stated to be 45 feet, and you state it to be 43. Can you go over to Bullock Island pit and measure the distance between the coal and the bottom of the cylinders? I could not go to-day, it being pay Saturday.
 2771. Mr. Jones.] I understood you to say that the cylinders are $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick in Stockton shaft? Yes.
 2772. Do you consider them of ample strength? Yes.
 2773. Would not the water have a corrosive action on the metal? Yes; it would eat into it.
 2774. If it eats into the iron it would weaken the cylinders. Is it not then only a question of time when they would become unsafe? Yes; but it would take a long time.
 2775. Can you say how long? No.
 2776. Have you given the matter any consideration? No.
 2777. Mr. Usher.] Do you think ample margin is allowed for some degree of corrosion? Yes; I think they are sufficiently strong.
 2778. President.] I suppose they are open for inspection at all times? Yes.
 2779. Do you know the record of the surface at the spot where the Lambton cylinders were sunk to the north? The sand was 83 feet, with blue clay below. We only went to the clay.
 2780. Are the cylinders all plumb? I cannot say exactly. The water was never out.
 2781. What thickness is the metal? $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch.
 2782. Mr. Usher.] Did you experience much difficulty in sinking the Lambton shaft? At first we did. We first put in wooden tubes to keep the cylinders plumb, and we got down to the water when Mr. Croudace sent some sinkers in, who took away the sand, and of course it came through, and we had to commence the work over again.
 2783. President.] Are you perfectly certain you had 43 feet of rock above the coal at Bullock Island? Yes.
 2784. Did you get paid for 43 feet of rock? I had nothing to do with the payment.
 2785. Did you get a certificate for 43 feet of rock? No.
 2786. Who got it? I do not know.

The witness withdrew.

W. B. Pendleton sworn and examined:—

2787. President.] You are manager of Burwood Colliery, Mr. Pendleton? Yes.
 2788. How long have you occupied that position? About three or four months.
 2789. And before that, where were you engaged in this district? With the Waratah Coal Company.
 2790. As manager? No; as engineer.

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- Mr. W. B. Pendleton. 13 Aug., 1886.
2791. Have you had much experience in managing collieries in this Colony? No.
2792. Have you had such experience at Home? Yes; I had about five or six years of it, in the Midland Coal-field, near Claydon.
2793. Have you had any experience of mining under the sea? No.
2794. What system do you adopt in working the Burwood Colliery as to width of bords and size of pillars? In some cases I leave 4-yard pillars, in others 6-yard pillars, and 8-yard bords as a rule.
2795. That is 8-yard bords, and pillars varying from 6 to 4 yards? Yes.
2796. To the south, what is the size of the pillars? Some are more than 6 yards there, but as a rule I believe they were laid out to 6 yards.
2797. Have you departed from the rule? I have run them down to 4 yards in places.
2798. What system do you intend to pursue in future? That will depend upon circumstances.
2799. As a general rule, would you be in favour of altering the width of bords and size of pillars to circumstances? Yes.
2800. You think the surrounding circumstances should, in a large measure, determine the mode of working a colliery? Most certainly.
2801. Have the Burwood Coal Company applied for any lease of the coal under the sea adjoining this land? I think not.
2802. And approaching the tidal waters, is it high or low water-mark that is your boundary? I should say that it is high water-mark.
2803. Arriving at your boundary along the sea-coast, do you know whether it is the intention of your company to apply for an ocean area? I have not heard so.
2804. If they were determined to work the coal under the sea, what system would you propose to ensure safety? Well, the narrow bord is the only thing I could recommend. But I have seen a place 5 or 6 feet wide come in.
2805. Judging from the few months experience you have had of Burwood, would you be disposed to recommend narrow bords in working under the sea? Yes.
2806. And what thickness of pillars would you recommend? Say 4 yards. That would be leaving in about 50 per cent. for the support of the roof.
2807. Do you think 4-yard pillars under the sea would ensure safety? I do, provided the roof was in an ordinary state.
2808. Is it within your experience that 4-yard pillars leave little margin for safety, considering the liability to "thin" the pillars? But they must not be thinned; otherwise they must be left thicker.
2809. Would it not be advisable to start by leaving them thicker? It is possible.
2810. Would you have any objection to 6-yard pillars? Not in the least.
2811. Burwood shaft, I believe, is about 270 feet deep? I understood it was 270 feet.
2812. What is the thickness of the surface deposits above the rock? I am open to correction, but I believe about 70 feet.
2813. Are you quite sure as to the depth of the shaft? I am going by our ropes.
2814. Have you any reason to believe that the surface thins towards the coast? No. I fancy it runs about the same, judging from the contour of the rocks on each side.
2815. Are there any rocks visible on the sea-beach about opposite the lagoon, or about the same distance to the north? Yes, especially on the north side.
2816. How far to the south of the lagoon do you travel before the rocks appear on the surface? About 4 or 5 chains, or perhaps a little more.
2817. Before working under the sea, would you consider it wise to have some accurate data as to the character of the surface rocks overlying the coal seam before determining upon a system of work? Yes; and also as to the depth of the water, and the nature of the bottom down to the rock.
2818. Do you know anything about Stockton or Bullock Island? No.
2819. Would the same remarks you have made as to Burwood apply to these collieries? It is just possible they would not apply to those collieries.
2820. You think the particular circumstances of a colliery ought to determine the mode of working? I think so; that is what you must go by.
2821. I would ask you to give a general answer to this general question: In all cases where collieries of a moderate depth purpose working coal under the ocean-bed, do you think extra precautions are necessary, and extra care in the laying out a proper system of working? No doubt there ought to be extra care taken both in laying out and working, especially where the depth is shallow, as it is in the locality where I am.
2822. Then you would advocate extra care in maintaining the width of bords and size of pillars, whatever system might be determined upon? Yes; but I do not think danger arises so much from insufficient precautions in that direction as from cracks or fissures that may be in the roof, especially at these shallow depths, and dipping so rapidly as the shore does.
2823. Then you consider extra caution necessary in driving narrow places in advance of the bords—exploring drifts? Yes; of course you would have to forewin the coal. I have seen exploring drifts break in.
2824. Would you have any objection to bores being put in advance of these exploring drifts? We should be compelled to in approaching the water.
2825. You think it is a *sine qua non*? I think it ought to; I would have a good and sufficient area worked out inland to provide for any influx of water, and give it time to go away.
2826. In cases where a considerable depth of surface deposits came down to the rock-head, would you be disposed to advocate a minimum thickness of solid strata? What I mean is, that no coal should be worked under the ocean-bed unless with a known and minimum thickness of solid strata intervening? Certainly. I think it would be well if that were satisfactorily settled; it is most necessary.
2827. You think there is as much likelihood of finding irregularity in the rock under the sea as in dry land? Yes; there are mountains and valleys.
2828. You quite understand we are talking of collieries working coal at a comparatively shallow depth under the ocean-bed? Yes, I understand.
2829. Mr. Thomas.] The lagoon is close to your pit? Yes.
2830. Have you driven under it? Yes.
2831. What precautions have you taken in driving under the lagoon? We have driven in 8 yards wide.
2832. Do you consider that safe? I do.
- 2833.

Mr. W. B.
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2833. With 70 ft. of wash-ground overhead? Yes.

2834. And only 250 ft. to the bottom of the coal? Yes; but you must remember that wash-ground is not all composed of sand, but clay and other matter.

2835. Can you give us a note of the surface deposits? I could in a few days.

2836. You have an upper seam cropping out within 20 yards of the pit, have you not? There is, close to, I believe.

2837. That is the winning shaft? Yes; about 40 ft. above the winning shaft, we have sunk the upcast shaft, and we have come on to the rock at about 30 ft.

2838. But you have carried out your workings in this ground with 8-yard bords? Yes; they were carried out previous to my taking charge.

2839. *Mr. Curley.*] How many places have been driven 8 yards wide under the lagoon? Perhaps half a dozen.

NOTE.—The workings referred to are shown on the colliery plan. (*See Appendix.*)

2840. *Mr. Davies.*] What is the depth of water in the lagoon over the workings referred to? Not above knee-deep.

2841. Does not the sea-water break into the lagoon? No; sometimes the lagoon breaks out into the sea.

2842. Do not the breakers go over there? No.

2843. Is there not a possibility of the sea breaking in there;—is there any barrier? I do not think it would break in that portion of the lagoon near the pit.

2844. Does not a good deal of surface drainage come down to the lagoon and swell it above knee-deep? I have never seen it more than knee-deep. I can wade through it almost any time.

2845. What is the extent of the lagoon? A few acres.

2846. Were a fall to take place where you have undermined the lagoon, would not a large quantity of water come in from the lagoon? I have not much fear of that occurring even if there should be a fall.

2847. Why? Because the clay would protect us.

2848. Then you depend upon the clay to protect you? Yes.

2849. Have you ascertained how far you are in? Yes. They are only just in. The pillars are standing with a good roof, and the bords are stepped.

2850. Why were these bords stepped? Because they are up to the dyke, and it dips rapidly beyond that.

2851. In working that portion of your mine, would you take soundings of the lagoon? Yes; I think I would.

2852. *Mr. Jones.*] Do you know of any bore being put down below your shaft towards the sea at any time? I think I have heard of it, but I have no knowledge, and there is no record of it.

2853. You say your Company has not applied for the right to mine under the sea? I am almost sure they have not.

2854. Do you know whether Mr. ———, the lessor, has? I cannot say; but I do not think it is likely.

2855. *Mr. Usher.*] Why is it not likely, Mr. Pendleton? Because if he had done so, the Company would be the only parties likely to get that coal, and I have heard nothing of it.

2856. *Mr. Jones.*] Have you heard whether the A. A. Company have made such application? Yes; I have heard that they are going under the sea.

2857. *Mr. Usher.*] Have you had much experience in mining for coal where there was much water? Yes. I remember one instance, during the sinking of a pit, where a house was let down over a mile away, and the engine-house was pulled to one side.

2858. What was the thickness of the overlying strata there? 300 feet.

2859. You were surveyor for the Waratah Company for some years? Yes.

2860. Then you had an opportunity of making yourself acquainted with the underground operations, and also those on the surface? Yes.

2861. Have you noticed any fissures in the rocks overlying the seam of coal at Burwood? No; I think not.

2862. Have you observed any fissures in the rocks exposed on the beach? Yes; but I took them to be weather cracks more than anything else.

2863. Have you anyone over you? Mr. Croudace is consulting engineer.

2864. In the ordinary working of the mine, does he decide the size of the pillars, &c.? No.

2865. Then he is not directing engineer? No; I think not.

The witness withdrew.

Andrew Tulip sworn and examined:—

2866. *President.*] You are a colliery proprietor, residing at Morpeth, I believe? Yes; I am called a Mr. A. Tulip, colliery proprietor or owner.

2867. And you have had long experience in the working of coal? Yes. It is now sixty-three years since I 13 Aug., 1886. first went to the pits.

2868. Was that in the north of England? Yes.

2869. In what collieries were you engaged there? I was brought up at the Percy Main Colliery.

2870. Any others? Yes; I was at Wallsend and Fordan, South Hetton.

2871. Had you any experience of working coal under the sea? No, not under the sea. The Percy Main Colliery was under the Tyne.

2872. At what depth was that? From 125 to 140 fathoms.

2873. That is about 290 yards? Yes.

2874. And what was the depth of Wallsend? It was about the same depth.

2875. Is it in accordance with your experience of mining for coal to proportion the size of the pillars and the width of the bords to the depth and surrounding circumstances, such as the character of the roof and floor, and the nature of the coal? Yes, all these conditions I should take into consideration.

2876. Is it in accordance with your experience? Yes; the size of the pillars and width of bords would be determined in proportion to the nature of the roof, generally speaking, and the depth and nature of the coal would also be taken into consideration.

Mr. A. Tulip. 2877. What experience have you had in the Newcastle (New South Wales) District? Well, I was engaged with the A. A. Company at Home, and after coming out was with them here for some years.

13 Aug., 1886. 2878. What seam did you work? The Yard seam.

2879. In what pits? In those pits just above the bank.

2880. Can you not mention their names? Well, no; I can scarcely remember their names. The first was close by Steele's house; then there was one on the top of the hill.

NOTE.—It was explained that the pits in question were named alphabetically, and those referred to by the witness were the A, B, and C pits, sunk to the Yard seam under what is now the city of Newcastle.

2881. What thickness was the Yard seam? It varied from 2 ft. 8 in. to 2 ft. 10 in., but they used to call it the Yard seam.

2882. Was the Yard seam worked under the harbour? Yes, but before I came. It was done by the prisoners. It is forty-five years ago next Christmas since I came.

2883. Do you know what width of bords were driven under the harbour? Well, they were driven of every size—every width. The work was all done by the prisoners. They would leave in a pillar perhaps 8 yards wide, but the bords would be widened out till they took everything away altogether.

2884. They did not pursue a regular system of pillar and stall? No; there was nothing like practical work.

2885. I believe you were asked by Dr. Morson some time since to examine Bullock Island Colliery, Mr. Tulip? Yes.

2886. And, in accordance with Dr. Morson's desire, you paid a visit to Wickham and Bullock Island and examined the shaft and colliery? I did not go down the shaft. It arose in this way: Shortly after the Ferndale accident some letters appeared in the local papers which alarmed the shareholders of Bullock Island Company, and the doctor asked me to go down and examine the place. I went accordingly, and the reason I had for not going down the shaft was that I could not by doing that see what strata they had gone through. In order to accomplish what I had to do in the way of reporting as to the safety of the colliery it was necessary that I should have a section of the strata above the coal.

2887. How did you know that you could not see that by going down the shaft? I knew that I could not from a knowledge of other shafts, because I should be obstructed by the metal casing; and besides that, when the cage is in we have it all partitioned off.

2888. Did you look down the shaft? Yes, and saw the cylinders. I saw the plan and a section of the pit, showing that it passed through stone, gravel, clay, and shells, and 45 feet of rock.

2889. Then you can say nothing more than is expressed in this report? No; not to give a reason for. The reason why I consider that one of the safest places I have been acquainted with is because I never in all my experience, either in the way of seeing, reading, or hearing, knew of a place so well adapted for keeping the water out. Nature has ordered things very wisely there. There is 45 feet of rock and a great body of clay overhead.

2890. You put a great dependence on the clay? Yes. I was a sinker at Home, as well as a miner.

2891. You think clay is the best and most effectual means of battling with the water? Yes.

2892. And protecting the rock from the influence of the water above? Yes.

2893. You did not go down the colliery, however? No.

2894. This report of yours is the result of an examination of the plan? Yes.

2895. Have you any opinion to offer the Commission as to the best mode of working the Newcastle coal-seam under the sea or under the harbour—as to the width of bords or size of pillars that should be adopted? If I were undertaking such operations I should leave pillars of from 12 to 15 yards, and turn away the bords from 2 to 3 yards wide, and then widen them out to 5 or 6 yards; but not more than that.

2896. Then, in working the Newcastle seam under the ocean, you would approve of the pillars being left of ample size as a measure of precaution? Yes, with barriers at different points.

2897. That is under a shallow surface? I would under any circumstances.

2898. I mean in the broad sense of working under the ocean,—you would approve of leaving the pillars of an ample size, and working the bords not more than 6 yards wide, and probably turning them off a little narrower? Yes.

2899. Have you any opinion to offer as to the utility of driving narrow exploring drifts in advance of the bords? I should not drive them more than two yards.

2900. I am speaking just now simply as to the advisability of driving them in advance of the bords? Yes. I would always be in advance as far as I could carry the air, and I would not drive the bords above 20 or 30 yards before I put a cut through again.

2901. Have you any opinion to offer as to the use or utility of boring in advance of the leading bords or exploring drifts in working the coal under the ocean? I cannot say as to that.

2902. Is there not a likelihood of fissures coming down through the rock? Yes.

2903. Would it not be better to cut these fissures in a borehole than meet them in a drift? I think it would in that view be advisable to keep bores ahead.

2904. Would you think it a wise measure of precaution to ascertain as nearly as possible the nature and thickness of the surface deposits overlying the rock under the ocean-bed? Yes; I would do everything that might conduce to safe working.

2905. Mr. Usher.] Do you know anything of the Yard seam being worked to the west of the old Custom House or Market Square? That was done before I came. There were some shafts worked there formerly.

2906. Did you ever see a roll in any part of the Yard seam approaching the harbour? No.

2907. Mr. Curley.] Did you explore any of the old workings towards the harbour in any of these pits? No; you cannot; they are all closed up.

The witness withdrew.

John Dixon (Inspector of Collieries) sworn and examined:—

Mr. J. Dixon. 2908. President.] We propose to put a few questions to you, Mr. Dixon, on the condition of collieries adjacent to Ferndale. First of all with reference to Broughall and Griffiths' colliery, you have before 13 Aug., 1886. given us information as to the thickness of the strata overlying the coal, and particulars of the thickness and mode of working the coal itself; and you intimated to us that you or the Examiner, or both, had notified

- notified the proprietors to withdraw the men and cease working, shortly after the Ferndale accident? Mr. J. Dixon. Yes; I notified them myself.
2909. What reason did you assign for notifying them? For going under the creek. I always understood ^{13 Aug., 1886.} they were not to go under the creeks.
2910. You brought under the notice of the Examiner—at all events you brought under our notice,—that the workings from that colliery had before the date of your notification to the owners gone under Tighe's Creek, and were rapidly approaching the advance bords from Ferndale? Yes.
2911. And you thought there was danger? Yes; I thought there was at the time.
2912. Did they stop the workings going towards Ferndale? Yes.
2913. Are you aware whether they have put a good and sufficient dam in the most advanced of these bords? I was there when they carried on the work and got to know the construction and shape of it. I have not been down since.
2914. Are you generally satisfied with the principle of it? Yes; I think it could not be better.
2915. So far as that part is concerned you think it secure? Yes; I think that was the most dangerous part originally.
2916. You are aware that the workings of that colliery have gone under Tighe's Creek or some of the branches of it? Yes.
2917. Does the surface—that is the overlying strata—in any way alter in that direction? Not that I know of. I should take it to be the same as at the winning shaft.
2918. They work the bords 4 yards wide there, I believe? Yes, and leave on a considerable thickness of top coal.
2919. And leave 4-yard pillars? Yes.
2920. Generally speaking, are the workings at that colliery systematically carried on? Yes.
2921. That is, they do not depart from the system originally laid down? I think the colliery is worked systematically. There is no more departure from rule there than in other collieries.
2922. Would you consider it advisable for the top coal to be dropped over the area worked under Tighe's Creek? Not by any means. I would not think it advisable to touch any of the tops. It is the only safeguard they have got.
2923. In working that portion of the ground between a branch of Tighe's Creek and the bridge and Maitland Road, would it, in your opinion, be advisable to work the tops back and take out the pillars? No, it would not.
2924. Would you consider it safe if round the margin of the creek an embankment 4 feet to 6 feet high was thrown up to prevent the creek overflowing during floods? No; I would not consider it safe to work the tops and take the pillars out if the embankment was 40 feet high.
2925. For what reasons? Because the ground would draw towards the creek if a fall took place where the pillars had been taken out, and the sand would come through the same as if no embankment were there.
2926. What is your experience in dealing with quicksand;—is it not within your experience that a depression in one part affects a comparatively distant part? It will draw a certain distance, no doubt. It may seem curious, but the weather has a great effect when falls take place in this connection; I mean the effect is largely controlled by the weather.
2927. Is it within your experience that clay, unlike mud and sand, does not draw? Yes.
2928. And, practically, there is no limit to the distance it will run; that is, the sand? Yes; according to the nature of the sand and the amount of water it contains.
2929. At Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery, seeing that they have stopped the bore going towards Ferndale, and have put in a good and sufficient dam, do you see any objection to the proprietors of that colliery being allowed to follow the system of working they are pursuing,—do you see any danger? Well, that is rather a difficult question, because, when you come to look at the place from the surface, you would think there was any amount of danger; then, if you go below and sound everything, there is no sign of danger. No man could say there is danger when he is below. For my own part, however, I would not let them work under the creek.
2930. That is, because you think there is an increase of danger there? Yes; because you cannot tell how far some of the clay may have been washed out.
2931. Stevenson's Colliery has been opened, I think, since you gave evidence before this Commission;—They hold an area of land under Tighe's Creek, do they not? That is what I am not sure of.
2932. One of the owners told us yesterday that in addition to the 13 acres leased from the Ferndale Company they hold a number of acres under Tighe's Creek. Does the remark as to Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery apply equally to others working under Tighe's Creek? By all means.
2933. Do you think it would be advisable to insist upon the proprietors having accurate data as to the thickness and character of the surface contiguous to these creeks? Yes, by all means; of course we know fairly well what the surface is about there, but not as to the bed of the creek.
2934. They are working a piece of ground on top of a belt of faulty ground, which alters the character of the coal? Yes.
2935. Coming to Maryville, did I understand you to say on a former occasion that you had notified the management to withdraw the men? Yes, I did, thinking there might be some trouble there, especially when I saw the manager turning the men into the bords and working the tops.
2936. About how long ago was that? About six or eight months ago.
2937. Then your attention was drawn to Maryville prior to the Ferndale accident? Yes; I never thought about Ferndale at the time.
2938. You are aware that at Maryville there is a thick surface of alluvial deposits, and that, at the surface, at all events, the surface deposits come directly on to the coal, and that towards the north-east the management have put up bores through the top coal, with the result that they have proved more than 6 feet of solid ground? So I am informed; but to be sure, I think I should like to be at the drill myself.
2939. With reference to the character of the overlying strata in that portion of the field, have you, in the course of inspecting Maryville, seen a fall that took place in one of the abandoned bords? I think I have seen several falls that took place in Maryville.
2940. Have you seen a quantity of dry, greenish, unconsolidated sand coming down? Yes.
2941. Would you consider that rock stratified rock? No—not ripened.

Mr. J. Dixon. 2942. Would you consider the description I have given of it—that is green, unconsolidated sand—a true description? I should call it “clod”—just the difference between stratified rock and the substance
 13 Aug., 1886. which forms that rock.

2943. There is no great stability to be expected from such a rock above the coal, I suppose? No; I would not trust to it at all, because it would not bear its own weight.

2944. In working Maryville Colliery towards the west, and north-west, and south, the workings are defined on the irregular line of the wash-out? Yes.

2945. And one of these headings towards the west has been driven through this wash-out in clay, and at the face of the heading, they have again gone into a few feet of soft dirty coal at the bottom? Yes.

2946. And are we right in drawing an inference from that that the passage of these headings through the clay defines the width of an ancient river or watercourse that has washed out the coal? That is my opinion.

2947. I believe the bulk of the workings in Maryville up to about a month ago was confined to working the bottom portion of the coal? Yes.

2948. And leaving on a considerable thickness of tops? Yes; but it is more than a month or two since they started to work the tops.

2949. At first, when they commenced to work the tops, they dropped them coming back, did they not? Yes.

2950. And lately, for reasons that form no part of the business of this inquiry, they have seen fit to alter that system, and abandon the bottom part of the coal, and work the tops going in? That is correct.

2951. If it is safe to work the top coal at all, Mr. Dixon, which of these two systems do you prefer? Given the same roof, I would prefer the old system.

2952. As affording a double means of exit for the men in case of accident? Yes. I would work the bottom first.

2953. Following the other system of working—considering the surroundings of Maryville, and the liability of the surface deposits to check out—would you consider that system attended by some little danger? Well, any system is attended by some little danger. I was going to say that I notified Mr. Harper, the manager of Maryville Colliery, that I considered it a dangerous practice to work the tops in Maryville, owing to the soft nature of the cover; but while the report was in transit these very places that I was complaining about fell in, and I think went to the surface. I went there a few days after, and what was my astonishment to find that there was no sign of sand or water where it fell in. This affords an example of how a man may be mistaken. I had made sure that a fall there would let in the water, and when I went there again the place was as dry as possible.

2954. The inference to be drawn from that is that the clay offers a considerable protection? Yes, as a dam. If the clay comes down in a body there is no fear; but the dread I have is that the gravel might come in at the bottom of the clay; this gravel was tapped going towards Islington, behind the shaft.

2955. Then every precaution should be taken to prospect the area over which the stratum of clay extends? Yes, or any other stratum. It is my opinion that winning headings ought to be started in all these places, even to the boundary.

2956. How long is it since Maryville reached the coal? About sixteen months.

2957. Do you think Maryville has been expensively managed? It is out of my province to express an opinion on that.

2958. I mean do you think too many heading roads have been driven? Well, if you get into a hole you will try to get out of it, and if you fail in one direction you will try another.

2959. You mean us to understand that it has not been all plain sailing in Maryville? No, indeed.

2960. It is rather a unique colliery? Yes; and I give the manager credit for caution.

2961. With respect to the Wickham shaft, do the same remarks apply;—the surface deposits came down to the top of the coal-seam there? Yes.

2962. The surface deposits have been sunk through by means of timber and iron cylinders? Yes.

2963. And the coal-seam was found under about the same thickness as at Maryville? About the same; scarcely as thick where the pit was sunk, I think.

2964. A few workings have been driven off this pit? Yes.

2965. Are these workings at present going? Not that I am aware of.

2966. Do these workings also determine, in your opinion, the proximity of a wash? Yes.

2967. The sand comes down to the roof? Yes. I have seen the sand on the coal-head there.

2968. Do you recollect when the Wickham shaft reached the coal? I cannot say exactly. It is over two years; it may be three years ago. I know I had not been long in office when they started to sink.

2969. When they reached the coal, we understand, considerable rejoicings were held, and it ultimately resulted in an amalgamation between Wickham and the adjoining leasehold of Bullock Island; and when the present company was formed the Bullock Island shaft was sunk in the position now occupied? I believe there was an amalgamation.

2970. Do you know the thickness of the solid rock that overlies the coal-seam at Bullock Island at the site of the present shaft? About 40 feet, I think; some of it is very hard.

2971. It is solid rock? Yes.

2972. Have you inspected the cylinders? I have not inspected them very minutely.

2973. You have made a general inspection? Yes.

2974. Do you consider them safe? Yes, so far as I know.

2975. Would you consider 1½-inch metal strong enough? Yes, for a pit of that size.

2976. Pressure increases according and in proportion to depth? Yes.

2977. We understand the Bullock Island workings have been laid out with 8-yard pillars and 6-yard places, and leaving on 8 or 9 feet of top coal? Yes.

2978. Does that top coal form a good and sound roof? It does.

2979. The solid strata you have mentioned at Bullock Island is also overlaid with a thick stratum of clay? Yes, some of the strongest clay I have ever seen in my life.

2980. And do you repose considerable confidence in that clay in resisting the percolation of surface-waters? Yes.

2981. It forms a valuable adjunct to the rock that overlies the coal? Yes.

2982. Do you consider, with regard to the width of bords and size of pillars, that this colliery has been laid out with an ample margin of security for the men? Given an 8-yard pillar with 6-yard bords, and the top coal being left up, I say it is safe.

2983. Have you seen any falls in Bullock Island pit? No.

2984.

2984. Have you seen any indications of tenderness in the roof or danger to be apprehended? No. The only indication of anything giving way was when they left that "morgan" up. I have examined the colliery carefully, and could see no indication of danger. Mr. J. Dixon.
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2985. Have you any reason to alter your opinion as to the advisability of proving the area and distribution of clay to the rise of Bullock Island Colliery? I think it ought to be proved.

2986. It would be a wise precaution? Yes.

2987. You entertained at one time a high opinion of the coal-seam at Wickham;—have you seen any reason to alter your opinion? No; the seam is right enough.

2988. Coming to Stockton, Mr. Dixon, the winding shaft is considerably deeper than that at Wickham and Bullock Island? Yes.

2989. And the surface deposits are somewhat different? Yes.

2990. The solid rock is overlaid there by about 80 feet of surface deposits? I think it is 60 feet.

2991. To the south of the harbour the rocks come to the surface? Yes.

2992. You know Signal Hill and Nobby's? Yes, I do.

2993. Just above high-water-mark there a coal-seam crops out, and about 40 or 45 feet above that another and thicker seam;—have you formed any impression as to what those coal-seams are? I have not. Geologists differ about these things, and I do not bother my head about them.

2994. To the north of Stockton you put down a number of bores with your late father? Yes.

2995. Generally speaking, does the thickness of the surface deposits increase towards the north? Yes.

2996. What is the depth of Stockton shaft? 363 ft. to the bottom of the seam.

2997. You are aware that the Yard seam has been worked in Newcastle, under the hill? Yes.

2998. And that the same seam crops out along the coast-line on a level with the workings? Yes.

2999. Do you know the depth at Stockton shaft at which the same seam has been found? There is a 2-foot seam of clean coal at 184 feet, and there is a dirty seam above that of 4 feet 9 inches; then there is the bottom seam, without anything between.

3000. Throughout Newcastle there is no named coal-seam between the Yard seam and the Borehole seam? No.

3001. Then, seeing that the same seam which crops out along the coast-line as stated, and that it is met with in Stockton at a depth of 184 feet from the surface, would the inference be, that between Stockton, on one side of the harbour, and Newcastle, on the other, a fault intervenes? That has been my opinion for twenty-four years, long before ever Stockton was thought about.

NOTE.—The witness was here examined as to certain bores which he put down on Stockton Peninsula in the year 1863, a record of which he had furnished to the Commission, and the positions of these bores he indicated on the plan.

3002. In Stockton shaft the Borehole seam appears to have been divided by a few feet of rock into two seams at the shaft? I do not think so; it appears to be one seam.

3003. So far as one can judge, there are two seams of coal there? I think it is overlapped; I never could accept the "two seams" theory.

3004. At the bottom of this shaft, a basalt dyke intersects the shaft? Yes.

3005. The seam is divided by a layer of the basalt dyke which seems to be injected into the joint of the coal? Yes.

3006. And proceeding 80 or 90 yards, the seam regains its natural appearance until the dyke becomes apparent by another layer as you approach the basalt, from another or opposite direction. The upper coal is intact, and is being worked. To the east the bottom is inconsiderably affected by the basalt. Then going inwards the pavement seems to rise and cut out the lower seam; a little space intervenes, and a thicker seam comes in, in appearance identical with the upper coal, to the west of the shaft—Is that in the present face? Yes; it is scarcely identical with the bottom seam.

3007. That seam to the west of the shaft—to all intents and purposes the thick or what is called the upper coal-seam—is of a soft nature? Yes.

3008. This shaft is very much troubled with basalt dykes? Yes.

3009. The workings are cut off in all directions by basalt faults? Yes.

3010. And this has increased the difficulties of mining operations materially? Yes.

3011. Do you know this "sheth" of bords (referring to the plan) towards the south and west, and towards the harbour? I do.

3012. What is the width driven—are they correctly delineated on the plan? No; I think they are wider than 8 yards.

3013. Am I approximately correct when I say they vary between 9 yards and 10½ yards in width? Yes.

3014. And the pillars? They were correspondingly thin where I measured.

3015. Am I right in stating that in some of the "cut-throughs" the pillars are between 2 and 4 yards thick? Yes.

3016. Taking the depth of the seam from the surface and the overlying strata, the character of the coal-seam, and the nature of the surroundings, do you consider that these bords and pillars are respectively too wide and too narrow to support the superincumbent weight? I do.

3017. Have you noticed in any portion of this sheth of bords incipient signs of "crush" on the pillars? No. In the top seam I noticed one pillar that was chipping, where one of the headings was going away, and I called attention to it, and notified the manager to have it secured, and to chock up all these abandoned places.

3018. Do you consider that in these collieries in proximity to the sea, or working in faulty ground, the necessity exists for a perfect and regular system of working? I do.

3019. Do you consider it would be good mining to work a 10-foot seam in Stockton in the manner we have been narrating to you, with the intention of supporting the roof by means of wooden chocks afterwards? No; it would be better to leave the coal in.

3020. Would it be better to make some alteration in the width of bords and thickness of pillars? Yes.

3021. Is it within your experience that wooden chocks are not everlasting? Yes; but I will back them against anything else as long as they will last.

3022. But it is better mining to vary the width of bords and size of pillars to surrounding circumstances? Yes; and I would go further—I would have every pillar zigzag, and every bord driven by line. I would not allow a man to exceed to the extent of one inch.

3023. You are an advocate of system and regularity? Yes; I am a methodist. I could show you one place there where one place was blown into another by the concussion of a shot the week before last. (Position marked on the plan 7 within circle to the N.E.)

3024. Do you think that pressure has been brought to bear upon the manager to increase his output prematurely? I do, more to the shame of those who did it. 3025.

Mr. J. Dixon. 3025. Is he not a free agent? Well, I do not blame the management, and I told Capt. O'Sullivan so. The owners are to blame for giving untimely birth to places like that, and ruining the place for ever, perhaps.
 13 Aug., 1886. 3026. Do you think an alteration in the existing Act is necessary to prevent an inordinate delay from taking place before the second shaft is sunk? I would make them put both their shafts down simultaneously.

3027. Do you consider that the provisions of the English Act would be preferable to the provisions of the existing Coal-fields Regulations Act? Yes.

3028. That is to say that there should not be more than twenty-five men at one time in the colliery kept working with the object of opening up a communication? Yes.

3029. You consider the provisions of the English Act superior to those of the Colonial Act? Yes; because in that case self-interest would soon compel the owners to put down a second shaft.

3030. That is to say that it would not pay an extensive colliery to only have twenty-five men working in that way? No.

3031. Do you know how many men work at one time in the Stockton Colliery? I believe about 100 all told—men, boys, and horses in one shift.

3032. You have had unusual opportunities of forming an opinion of the character of the surface deposits in this direction. Towards the north the surface deposits thicken, do they not? Yes.

3033. In the narrow neck of land opposite No. 5 bore, the surface deposits have been of an unusually treacherous character, I believe? Yes; it is the most wicked ground I have come across.

3034. You have no doubt walked along the eastern beach, Mr. Dixon? Yes.

3035. There are no rocks appearing on the surface there? No.

3036. Are you of opinion that this thick deposit of sand may extend some distance under the sea? Well, my opinion is that all round there, if you go a certain distance from Stockton, has been an old water-channel, and that the same alluvial deposits go under the sea.

3037. In other words, the Peninsula of Stockton has been thrown up by the aid of the sea and winds? Yes.

3038. You are aware that the Stockton Company have taken on lease about 1,100 or 1,200 acres under the ocean? No.

3039. Then would you kindly look at this plan (No. 1), Mr. Dixon. The area coloured yellow is that belonging to the Stockton Coal Company. The pit is sunk on the small area near the apex of the peninsula, and so far as the workings have gone they have proved that between the present shaft and the sea the ground is intersected by several basalt or other faults. This large yellow portion, marked "1,160 acres," presumably is an ocean leasehold, that has been applied for and granted to the Stockton Coal Company, and opposite the centre of that leasehold, the bores (which you have placed at our disposal) on the narrow neck of land have been put down. Would you consider, if surface deposits extend under the bed of the ocean, that it would be possible to work this coal seam there, under the conditions you have approved of? I do not think so.

3040. Before any coal workings are allowed to be prosecuted under high or low water-mark, would you consider it absolutely necessary that the strata overlying the coal should be prospected in this area? By all means.

3041. And without very accurate data, would it be unsafe to work the coal? Yes. I should consider that the same sort of cover would probably be met under the sea.

3042. You are aware that several basalt faults curve round and intersect the workings of Stockton. At the apex of Signal Hill certain basaltic faults appear, and also at Nobby's, running in the same direction, and there is evidence that the ground is faulty towards the east? Yes.

NOTE.—Mr. Dixon is referred to the plan, and remarks that to the north for some distance the peninsula of Stockton has been proved by bores showing faulty strata to exist.

3043. To put a general question without regard to any particular colliery, you are aware that the collieries of Newcastle, in the vicinity of the harbour or ocean, are all of comparatively shallow depth, and that some of them are covered with thick surface deposits which reduce the solid strata overlying the coal to a minimum? Yes.

3044. Now, generally speaking, have you formulated any opinion as to the mode you would suggest should be adopted in working coal under the sea—with respect to width of bords, size of pillars, and exploring drifts or boreholes in advance, or otherwise? Yes, I have. In the first place, I would have prospecting headings as far in advance as I could carry the air, which would leave the bords a good distance behind; and I would not confine them to one direction, but would carry them forward in every direction that I intended to work. Then about bores in advance of those headings, that would necessarily follow. I would keep a bore for, say, 4 yards ahead of the face the whole time. I would have the headings in the winnings 6 ft. wide, and if possible leave the top coal in; and, finally, I would have the bords driven by line and the pillars carefully kept of one thickness. There ought to be some strict regulations in regard to these matters. It is to the men's own advantage that this should be so. In going under the sea I consider that the 5-yard bord is wide enough, and I believe that a uniform 8-yard pillar is good enough for anything. We have to bear in mind that there are certain strata in this district that cut up very much. I have seen it go up 16 feet in the 2-yard place—that is, where you have a shaly roof. Looking at it in every way, and considering the pressure that would be on these pillars, my opinion is that if they were left of a uniform thickness of 8 yards it would be sufficient.

3045. It will depend very much on the nature of the roof and floor? Yes; and another thing, you can never gauge one place by another.

3046. Mr. Thomas.] In view of all the irregularities of the strata here, do you think it sufficient to go under the sea? Well, I would rather not see them go under the sea where the roof is bad.

3047. Do you think it would be safe to work the top coal under Throsby's Creek? I do not.

3048. Do you know that it is the intention of the management to commence the removal of the top coal there? No; I have not heard it mentioned.

3049. Mr. Usher.] I am now about to put a painful question, Mr. Dixon, but it is only fair to you that it should be put. Have you ever expressed your opinion of the value of Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery to Mr. Winchester? Yes, I have.

3050. Was that a private communication? Yes.

3051. Did you ever contemplate that any use would be made of it for the purposes of speculation? I never did, certainly. What I said to him was just like what one man would say to another in the same department. I may say that that was the first time I ever gave a private opinion concerning a mine, and it will be the last.

3052. Then, just one question with regard to Stockton. Do you know that the roof in the drifts being driven in the direction of the Nobby's towards the sea has recently become so broken up that an immense amount of timber has to be put in, and that it is with the greatest difficulty that the exploration can be continued? No; I was not aware of it. It is only a fortnight since I was in the place; it must have occurred quite recently. Mr. J. Dixon.
13 Aug., 1886.

3053. *Mr. Jones.*] In working the coal under the sea, Mr. Dixon, take Stockton, for example, do you think it necessary that there should be a minimum of strata over the coal before being worked? I am not a believer in rock cover going under the sea, unless it is a very thick one.

3054. Do you think a certain thickness should be stipulated? I am not certain about that, because you may get rotten stuff that could not be depended upon at all.

3055. *President.*] You have stated that you think a certain amount of pressure has been brought to bear upon the management in producing a large output from the Stockton Colliery. Did you ever see Captain O'Sullivan in the mine? No.

3056. Have you had a conversation with him about the output, &c.? Yes.

3057. Do you think he has any knowledge of mining work—as to the bords and pillars, for instance? I do not think he has any knowledge about the work of a mine.

3058. Do you think he would be required to know about a mine as a director? Well, he ought to know, being what they call a working director.

3059. We have been informed that, although a director of the company, he has no knowledge whatever of the working of a mine? He has a knowledge of it, but it is within the last fortnight, perhaps, because I told him myself that the bords were too wide and the pillars too thin; I told him that I did not blame the manager, but that I blamed those who hounded him on to produce a big output.

3060. *Mr. Davies.*] If anything should happen to the shaft at Bullock Island, is there sufficient means to get a man out quickly to ensure safety? Steam is kept up all the time at Wickham, and ropes are over the pulley-chain there, and I am told that they are going to put a cage in, which I think myself will be better.

3061. *President.*] Does the Act provide for that? No; it is simply by my talking to the manager quietly that I perhaps got it done.

3062. Do you think the law should be altered in any way in regard to this? In my opinion there should be one open way for the men to get out—that is, to go up the pit in the same way that they can come out of the Wallsend tunnel.

3063. But where you have a tunnel you say that is a safe way for the men to get out? Yes.

3064. *Mr. Curley.*] Have you ever inspected the cylinders at Bullock Island? I have not inspected them closely.

3065. Do you think it would be desirable to inspect them? It might; but I cannot do it without stopping the pit and keeping them idle; I have no real power to do that. I know the pit has been inspected by two practical men working in the mine, one of whom helped to sink the shaft.

3066. In attempting to remedy any of the defects you may have observed, have you had any consultation with the Examiner of Coal-fields? No. I can effect the remedy myself, if it be possible, without consultation with anyone. For example, perhaps I may inspect a place to-day, and, discovering some defect, I may write a notification on the same day before I make my report.

3067. Were these remedies are not carried out that you suggest, what steps are then taken? I send the report to the Examiner with a copy of my notification, and it is then out of my hands until I get further instructions.

3068. Do you know whether Mr. Mackenzie, the Examiner of Coal-fields, was a shareholder in the Bullock Island Coal Company? You will excuse me; I must decline to answer that question.

3069. I have a right to press the question, inasmuch as the Examiner of Coal-fields, I understand, stands between the Inspector for Collieries and the Minister for Mines? I have just answered a question from the President on that head.

President.] I understood Mr. Dixon to say this:—That when anything he suggested was not carried out the matter was referred to the Examiner of Coal-fields, and that he then waited until he received a reply either from the Examiner himself or from the Minister.

Witness.] If you look in the Act you will see that I am bound to send all my reports to the Examiner—he can do what he likes with them; but they usually come back with a minute, the Examiner being my superior officer.

3070. *Mr. Usher.*] In what way is he your superior officer, excepting that you have to send your report to him? It stands to reason that he is my superior officer; if it is not expressed in the Act, it is expressed in my communications with the Mines Department.

3071. Has the Examiner of Coal-fields ever told you that he was interested in the Bullock Island Colliery? I shall not say a word about his private business—you had better ask him.

3072. Do you know, as the Inspector of Collieries, whether Mr. Mackenzie has openly and publicly violated the Coal-fields Regulations Act? No. I do not know anything about his openly and publicly violating the Coal-fields Regulations. I know he is always anxious to have the Act carried out.

3073. Do you consider, if he was interested in any coal-mining company, that it would be a violation of the Act? I may answer that by asking another question:—Can you find anything in the Act that would preclude him from holding such interest?

This line of examination was not further pursued, and the witness withdrew.

Mr. Archibald Gardiner recalled:—

Mr Gardiner produces copy of Check Inspectors' report referred to in his evidence and that of George Minekham. (*See Appendix.*)

3074. *President.*] Do you know the measurement between the bottom of the cylinders and the top of the coal in your shaft at Bullock Island? It is 28 ft. 3 ins., or 27 ft. 9 ins., I forget which. The total sinking for the pit paid to Mr. Hugh Walker was 52 ft. 6 ins. (*including pump*). Mr.
A. Gardiner.
13 Aug., 1886.

3075. Can you give us documentary evidence to prove the whole of the thicknesses of the strata? No, I cannot: the work was done before my time.

3076. You say a certain length of cylinders entered into the rock, and Mr. Fairley says a different length? Well, Mr. Fairley should know better than I.

FRIDAY,

FRIDAY, 27 AUGUST, 1886

Present:—

J. R. M. ROBERTSON, Esq., PRESIDENT.

MR. USHER,
MR. NEILSON,
MR. TURNBULL,
MR. JONES,MR. DURIE,
MR. SWINBURN,
MR. DAVIES,
MR. CURLEY,

MR. THOMAS.

Hugh Walker recalled:—

- Mr. H. Walker. 3077. *President.*] In going over your evidence, Mr. Walker, I find that I did not question you as to the thickness of solid strata that you passed through in Bullock Island;—do you recollect what thickness it was under the clay? It is 44 ft. 9 ins. from the clay to the head of the coal.
- 27 Aug., 1886. 3078. Then are the cylinders entered any distance into the rock? About 13 feet.
3079. It has been stated here that the cylinders have entered into the rock about 6 feet, and again the distance has been stated at 9 feet? In the first instance the cylinders were about 12 feet into the rock—that is, four cylinders, but they dropped a foot or two.
3080. Were you there during the whole time the shaft was being sunk? Yes; from top to bottom.
3081. Then, according to your statement, the cylinders would be about 13 or 14 feet into the rock? Yes.
3082. You have no doubt on the subject of thickness of the rock;—you are quite sure it is over 40 feet? Yes; quite sure.
3083. When the cylinders dropped away, did they do any damage? Yes; one of them cracked.
3084. Did that in any way imperil the safety of the shaft? No; not in the least.
3085. In your examination-in-chief you were asked—it was quite an unimportant question, and I did not press it—whether you recollected the names of the guests at a banquet you told us of, and I think you stated that the Examiner of Coal-fields was not there? Yes; and neither he was.
3086. Do you recollect a letter of apology having been sent by the Examiner of Coal-fields to you—when I put the question to you before you did not recollect? Yes.
3087. And did you receive a letter? Yes.
3088. What was the purport of that letter? It was a letter of apology, expressing regret that he could not attend, and congratulating us upon our success. He said it would be one of the best collieries we had in the Newcastle District. It appeared in the Press, I think.
3089. Is any portion of the rock in the Bullock Island shaft of a soft or rotten nature? No; it is a sound and solid post right through.

The witness withdrew.

A. Fairley recalled:—

- Mr. A. Fairley. 3090. *President.*] You have been recalled on your former oath, Mr. Fairley, with respect to a small discrepancy in the statements made before the Commission as to the thickness of rock overlying the coal at Bullock Island shaft. You probably recollect how the discrepancy arose, and having had an opportunity of ascertaining which of the statements was correct, what do you now say is the thickness of the rock overlying the coal-seam? The same as I gave you before—43 feet.
- 27 Aug., 1886. 3091. What is the length of cylinders in the rock? From 9 to 10 feet.
3092. Still the discrepancy remains. The rock measures 28 feet above the coal, with 9 to 10 feet of cylinders in the rock, according to your statement;—how do you make 43 feet of that? Am I bound to tell?
3093. Yes? Well, when we had sunk through the gravel-bed there the cylinders dropped away some feet—4 to 5.
3094. Then the cylinders are really more than 9 to 10 feet in the rock, owing to the dropping away? Yes.
3095. At present they are about 13 feet or 14 feet in? Yes; it went from the surface right down.
3096. Who was in charge of the men during sinking operations? I was.
3097. Did any one else have charge—if so, who were they? There was Wm. Sharp and another named Wallace, a Lanarkshire man. There were only the two shifts.
3098. Do you know where these men reside? I know of one, that is Sharp; he lives at Tighe's Hill now. He was always on the day shift.

The witness withdrew.

John Mackenzie sworn and examined:—

- Mr. J. Mackenzie. 3099. *President.*] In your official capacity as Examiner of Coal-fields, Mr. Mackenzie, do you make yourself conversant with the borings and sinkings for the discovery of coal throughout your province? Whenever they are sent to me, but the Companies are not compelled by the Companies and the Coal-mines Regulations Act to supply me with records of borings. I may say, however, that a great many of these borings and sinkings are done through the Department by the Diamond Drill Branch.
- 27 Aug., 1886. 3100. Are you acquainted with the geology of the tidal swamps around Throsby's Creek and the harbour of Newcastle? Yes.
3101. Generally speaking, do you know the thickness and the nature of the surface deposits in these directions? Well, they vary in depth and character.
3102. Are you acquainted with Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery? Yes.
3103. Have you inspected the underground workings of that colliery? Yes.
3104. When, and how often, can you state? Well, I cannot recollect from memory, but it is not very long since. It is since they were proposing to put a dam in there I was shown where they proposed to construct it.
3105. That was in an advanced bowl? Yes.
3106. Then your inspection was subsequent to the Ferndale accident? Yes.
3107. Had you not been down there before? Yes; I believe I had been down before that occasion, but not in that particular part.
- 3108.

3108. This colliery is situated a few feet above the level of the creek, on a narrow neck of land which was submerged during large floods? Yes.

3109. The advance bord that you have referred to, and that was approaching the Ferndale old workings, has been stopped, I believe, at your instance? Yes.

Mr.
J. Mackenzie.
27 Aug., 1886.

3110. Having regard to the inconsiderable depth of this colliery, do you apprehend any danger of the water at Ferndale bursting into that bord? No. I believe the dam is a very substantial structure.

3111. But the dam would not prevent the water from bursting in. Do you apprehend any danger from the Ferndale water bursting through the barrier? No; not if there is no more working in that direction.

3112. Have you given much consideration to the conditions of this colliery with respect to the safety of the men? Yes. The Inspector has reported to me that he has instructed them to be very careful, and the management has been told that in our opinion the tops ought not to be worked there.

3113. You are aware that some modification was made in the district system of working in this colliery;—can you tell us what modification that is with respect to the width of bords, for example? I do not know that they have altered them from the original width; of course they are narrower than the district rule, but no alteration has been made lately that I am aware of. It has been worked just the same from the commencement. The pillars are thicker, and the bords are not so wide as those generally worked in the district.

3114. Do you conscientiously believe that the colliery is working under conditions that endanger the lives of the workmen? No. I have not seen anything to create that belief. There is danger of course in all mines, but I do not see that there is any danger to be apprehended at the present time—we do not know what there may be in the future.

3115. During the former investigation, Mr. Mackenzie, viz., that of Ferndale, you mentioned that you had served the owners with notices to cease operations and withdraw their men from this colliery;—is that so? I really do not recollect just at the present moment.

3116. It was explained in the course of your evidence on the Ferndale accident that you had notified the owners of this colliery to cease working and withdraw the men? If I said so then I must have done.

3117. You stated at that time the reason for taking this step, and I want it repeated on the present occasion, as the question really applies more to the present occasion than in connection with the Ferndale accident? In what connection was the question put to me, Mr. President?

3118. It was in connection with an idea of danger at Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery, suggested by the disaster at Ferndale, and it was explained that notice was sent from your Department that the men were to be withdrawn from Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery, and the work to be brought to a close? It would be Mr. Dixon who served them with that notice.

3119. But I suppose it was done with your approval? Yes, it was with my approval certainly, but he told me of it afterwards. You must understand there is no power under the Act for the Examiner of Coal-fields to take such steps; it is the duty of the Inspector of Collieries.

3120. I was just going to ask you whether the notice referred to was the result of personal inspection. After the Ferndale accident, did you examine Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery? I think it was after Mr. Dixon went down and examined it. I am not very sure whether I went down with Mr. Dixon or not.

3121. And respecting these notices, you explained that the owners consulted their lawyer, Mr. Gorrick, who, on his part, referred the point to the Minister, who referred it to the Law Officers of the Crown; and you received a reply from the latter to the effect that unless danger was not apparent you had no power to act, or something to that effect;—is that not so? Yes. I can furnish you with that. (*See Appendix.*)

[Witness also quoted a passage from the "Law of Collieries, by Fowler and Lewis, on section 46 of the English Act of 1876," having reference to the point in question. (*See Appendix.*)]

3122. Then Mr. Dixon served this notice himself on his own responsibility? Yes.

3123. Did you approve of the action taken by him? Yes. He did as he does in all cases of the kind: He simply reports to me.

3124. Do you recollect whether you discussed the matter with Mr. Dixon before he took up this position—that is, before he requested the owners to cease working, did you have any conversation with Mr. Dixon as to the serious position you were placing the owners in, previous to this notice being issued? No; I have no recollection of anything of the kind.

3125. Have you any recollection as to a discussion at all—as to any points you did discuss? I do not recollect at all. I have so many things to discuss.

3126. Then it is within your knowledge that some modification has been made in the working of this colliery, a departure from the district custom, to give additional security to the men employed? Yes.

3127. Is the modification in respect to narrow bords and leaving on the top coal, in your opinion, a sufficient protection? I think it is, if they do not work the top coal. I see no danger at the present time.

3128. Doubtless you are aware that some of the workings of this colliery are going under a network of creeks to the south? Yes.

3129. And so far as you or the owners are aware, no material difference in the surface deposits takes place between this and the other parts of the mine? No.

3130. So far as you know, the sand comes down to the coal? Yes.

3131. Owing to the winding character of the creek, a considerable area of the coal to the south must be under the waters of the creek? Yes.

3132. Would you consider it advisable to work the pillars out in coming back in that colliery? Certainly not.

3133. You fear that there might in that case be a subsidence? Yes.

3134. And the effect of a subsidence in that colliery would be what? It might endanger the lives of the men, owing to the absence of strata above the coal.

3135. A regular subsidence would endanger the lives of the men? Yes.

3136. Then you are perfectly clear on the point that under the creek no attempt should be made to work out the pillars and work the top coal in this colliery? Yes.

3137. In the land to the south of the creek, and also to the north, would you consider it wise to work out the pillars, and also take the top coal? No.

3138. Supposing an embankment several feet in height was thrown up along the banks of the creek, to prevent the water of the creek from overflowing, before an attempt was made to take out the pillars or the top coal, would that embankment be a sufficient protection, in your opinion? No. In my opinion it would be no protection at all. It would be a useless expenditure.

3138½. Do you recollect whether in examining the workings of this colliery you observed in the bords towards the west that a washout had been defined, and that the sand came down in front of the coal? So far

- Mr. J. Mackenzie. far as my memory serves me, I have not seen it. I have no recollection of it. I have seen so many wash-outs in one place and another.
3139. Respecting Stevenson's Colliery—a new colliery opened recently at the corner of Tighe's Terrace-street and the Maitland Road,—do you recollect the depth of this Colliery? I think it is about 60 feet.
3140. At all events, they have the same coal as Ferndale to the north, and Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery to the west? Yes.
3141. Do you know whether it is the intention of the owners to work the coal under the Maitland Road, opposite the shaft? No. They have made no application to mine under the street.
3142. And of course they cannot do so without applying? But they do; that is the difficulty, and I get the blame for it. I cannot tell the men are working there until I find out. And until some one is prosecuted for stealing, I do not think it will ever be put a stop to.
3143. But application has to be made according to law? Yes.
3144. And for disregarding that they bring themselves within the pains and penalties of the law? Yes; but it is not enforced. I do the best I can.
3145. You see where the termination of the Ferndale workings are,—do they correctly represent the position? I think they do.
3146. Then taking these workings to be correct, you can easily see the danger of working the coal under the Maitland Road in approaching these workings. It would be surrounded by particular and especial danger? Yes, there would be danger to the lives of the workmen, because they would be drowned out there, to say nothing of injury to the road.
3147. Then you have no intimation of an intention to mine under the Maitland Road? No.
3148. And you believe that the working of coal in that direction would be attended by particular danger? Yes; and not only that, there would be danger also to the public passing over the road. I should like to see something done to put a stop to it. I have done all I can.
3149. It is understood that the place which Stevensons intend to work is situated to the south of Tighe's, Terrace-street? Yes.
3150. The Commission are informed that these parties have obtained a lease of several acres of coal-land under the branches of Tighe's Creek? Yes.
3151. Do you consider that the working of coal under the saltwater creek there is attended by special danger? Not if the top coal and proper pillars are left. There is, of course, danger, speaking in a general way.
3152. But looking to the fact that in Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery the sand comes down to the top of the coal, and that the creek flows over the sand, with no solid strata intervening between the coal and the creek, do you consider that a special element of danger? I think there is danger in all places.
3153. But is there not much more danger in working the coal under the sand than under the rock, especially where water flows over the sand? Certainly.
3154. Do you know anything about the thickness or character of the surface deposits to the south of Tighe's Creek—have any bores been put down to ascertain the nature of the surface deposits in that direction? Yes. I cannot tell you from memory, but there have been bores put down, and I have given you the position on the plan.
3155. In your opinion, would it add to the safety in this direction to obtain information by as many bores as possible as to the exact thickness and character of the surface deposits? Yes; and I think if I were manager of the colliery I would try to have it done.
3156. And you think that some accurate and reliable information should be obtained respecting the surface deposits above these workings? Yes.
3157. Have you formed any opinion as to the best mode of working the Borehole seam under swamps and creeks? I think there should be 5-yard or 6-yard bords with 8-yard pillars.
3158. You consider a greater amount of safety would be attained by narrowing the bords and thickening the pillars? Yes.
3159. That this method would give more support and stability to the roof, whatever it might be? Yes. But I do not think it would be necessary to leave 8-yard pillars in this particular direction. I thought you were referring to navigable waters, in which case I would certainly advocate narrower bords and thicker pillars.
3160. Respecting Maryville, Mr. Mackenzie, that also has been sunk in the vicinity of flooded land adjoining Throsby's Creek, and a few chains to the north-west of Wickham shaft;—is that so? Yes; to the north-west.
3161. And it is owned by a limited Company, Mr. Hy. Harper being the manager? Yes.
3162. I believe the holding is of no great extent? No.
3163. Before the colliery was started, was the land proved by a series of bores? It was proved by bores; I do not know how many.
3164. Did you receive a copy of them? No. I got a section of the shaft.
3165. Do you know generally the particulars with respect to these bores, more especially with regard to the thickness of the surface deposits? No. I know what was found at the shaft, as I have said, and I know the general character of the roof.
3166. What thickness of surface deposits covers the coal there? A loamy sand and clay, and a large quantity of clay above the coal.
3167. Do these deposits rest on top of the coal, or does strata intervene? They rest on top of the coal.
3168. Did you visit the shaft during sinking operations? Yes.
3169. I believe the shaft is lined with brick from top to bottom? Yes.
3170. Did you inspect the shaft? I have gone down,
3171. And did you approve of its stability? Yes; I never saw anything wrong with it.
3172. Have you inspected the colliery workings at Maryville? Yes; several times. I was there this week.
3173. And how long before that? Some few months before.
3174. Have you traced the line of the washout to the south of the shaft, and again to the west workings? Yes; I have been all round it. I went to the far end across it this week.
3175. What is the character of the surface deposits overlying the coal seam? Sand and clay.
3176. That is sand mixed with clay? It is principally sand.
3177. Did you find it dry or wet? It was wet at first, but not anything like what we expected. It has drained

drained off. In fact, it has rather surprised us, because I gave Mr. Harper notice of the danger we anticipated, and I have his letter in reply. (Letter read. See Appendix.)

Mr.
J. Mackenzie.

[To this Mr. Dixon replied on October 29th, 1885; and I will also lodge a letter from Mr. Harper, dated 27 Aug., 1886.
23rd June, 1886.]

3178. With respect to this notice, I see that prominence has been given, and very properly so, to the advisability of having a second opening to the day;—has this notification been acted upon in the case of Maryville? Their time is not up yet. Their twelve months expired at the end of May, so that it will be November before the full term of eighteen months is up.

3179. Do you know if any action has been taken to give effect to or comply with the notification;—has a second shaft been commenced? Well, it has been commenced, but Mr. Harper says the colliery is not paying, and he cannot get the proprietors to do anything more, and that it is a question whether the colliery will not be stopped altogether this month, as, unless he can show a better result, they intend to close the mine.

3180. You have stated that a kind of loamy sand and clay overlies the coal seam—do you consider that this clay is as safe a covering as that afforded by the solid rock? No; I would prefer the solid rock, unless it was very jointed.

3181. Do you consider it would give sufficient support to the superincumbent sand? This sand sometimes comes on top of the coal with the clay above it, and Mr. Harper thinks that this clay has kept the water up.

3182. Well, Mr. Harper's opinion appears to be borne out by experience—that the clay has kept the water above; and the fact that the mine is being drained of water would bear out the record we have here that this clay does overlie the coal. You think this stratum of clay would prevent the passage through it of surface waters? Yes.

3183. Do you recollect what width the bords were driven when this colliery was first started—from your personal inspection, I mean? No. I can only tell by the tracing.

3184. Do you know what width the bords are now driven? I forget. (Referring to plan). Some of them have been worked 8 yards wide, but they are now working them 6 yards, and 4-yard pillars.

3185. Then when the colliery was started the bords were 8 yards wide, and at present the width has been reduced to 6 yards? Yes.

3186. Can you assign any reason for the change? It was to secure greater safety.

3187. You have inspected the line of the washout to the west? Yes.

3188. And you know of the occurrence of a very large fall that occurred in one of the advance headings to the west? Yes.

3189. The outcrop forms an irregular line, and suddenly sweeps round due east, and circles the shaft? Yes.

3190. Is this due to denudation? Yes.

3191. And where the sand was is now filled with sand and detritus? Yes.

3192. There is another such at Broughall and Griffiths' Colliery;—do you think that these two washouts are connected? I do not. They are some distance apart. (Plan referred to.)

3193. Is it within your knowledge that the top coal has been recovered at Maryville Colliery? Yes.

3194. Do you consider this a prudent course to pursue? No, I do not; but from inspection I find there is no water coming in. I will read you a letter I wrote the manager respecting it. (Letter read, together with Mr. Harper's reply. See Appendix.)

3195. Then so far Mr. Harper's expectations have been realised as to the draining off of the water? Yes.

3196. Can you explain to the Commission the mode of recovering the top coal at this colliery? They are working now about 5-yard bords, and leaving 2 ft. 6 in. coal on the top.

3197. Are you aware whether any change has been made lately in the mode of recovering the top coal? Only by working the bords narrower.

3198. Hitherto they have worked the lower seam, and drawn the top coal coming back;—was that a better system in your opinion than that of working the top coal alone? I think it is the safer plan.

3199. That is to work the coal going in? Yes.

3200. In recovering the top coal, the stony band on the top coal is reduced to a minimum of thickness;—in the event of a fall occurring in the process of working this top coal, would not the men be afforded greater security by the old method? I think they would be more secure with the new mode, because there is less depth of coal worked.

3201. But a fall can only occur behind the men in following the new mode, whereas in following the old mode of recovering the coal the bords from one heading to another kept up the tops, and in drawing them coming back you had two ways of escape;—is that not so? I do not know that it would make very much difference.

3202. The only difference is that you have a means of escape in the old way which is cut off by the new mode of working, in the event of a fall taking place? That would be a matter for the Commission to decide.

3203. I was desirous of knowing, Mr. Mackenzie, whether you had formed an opinion on this point? I should say that there would be more safety for the men in working the upper part of the seam.

3204. As a matter of safety to the men simply, have you given the matter much consideration? No. It is a matter that has never occurred until now.

3205. Do you consider this colliery safe as a whole? I do not anticipate any danger at present. I was down this week, as I have told you, and there was no danger apparent.

3206. And you cannot suggest to the Commission any mode of working this colliery which would be likely to diminish the danger that exists? Well, it appears that the danger you are anticipating has not occurred, and does not appear likely to occur.

3207. Generally speaking, you would place more confidence in narrow working-places, and probably some slight increase in the thickness of the pillars? They are working the bords narrow now.

3208. Would you repose any confidence in a system of supporting the roof in existing bords by means of wooden chocks? It would give better security.

3209. Do you repose much confidence in wood as a permanent support to a roof? Well, I would place more confidence in thick pillars being left, as wood in time must rot. At the same time, if good chocks were put in, the timber would perhaps last as long as it would take to work out the coal at Maryville.

3210. Do you remember the date when Maryville Colliery was sunk to the coal? No; I cannot say from memory.

- Mr. J. Mackenzie. memory. All I know is that it was at the end of May, 1885, that they commenced to work the coal, and they are allowed eighteen months from that time before being required to provide a second shaft.
- 27 Aug., 1886. 3211. And they have since been working with one shaft only? Yes.
3212. With respect to Wickham Colliery, Mr. Mackenzie, that colliery was, I understand, originally formed to work a small area of land on the Wickham side of Throsby's Creek, and at a later date was amalgamated with the Bullock Island leasehold to work about 400 or 500 acres under and on the Bullock Island side of Throsby's Creek, and the Wickham shaft was first sunk, I believe? Yes.
3213. Can you inform us when this shaft was sunk? Not from memory.
3214. Do you know the diameter of the shaft that was sunk here? 6 feet, I think.
3215. That is the internal diameter? Yes.
3216. Do you consider there is any danger attending the working of Wickham Colliery, looking at it in its broadest aspect? I see nothing different from Maryville or the others.
3217. I believe you have notified the management of this colliery as to the necessity of keeping boreholes in advance of the leading bords? Yes.
3218. And that was in anticipation of coming upon washouts similar to those at Maryville? Yes, or faults or dykes.
3219. Have they complied with your request in this respect? Yes.
3220. Before notifying the management of the Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery to keep bores in advance, did you or Mr. Inspector Dixon satisfy yourselves by personal inspection that there was a probability of danger? I looked upon it that there was some probability in Stockton, Wickham and Bullock Island, and Maryville. Of course we could not do more than judge from general appearances.
3221. What thickness of surface deposits did you find above the coal at Wickham? About 21 feet of conglomerate and sandstone, and above that clay surface deposits.
3222. Do you know what thickness of clay overlies the coal at Wickham—does it materially differ from the adjoining collieries of Bullock Island? Yes; it is about 54 feet.
3223. Do you consider this clay offers a considerable protection to the coal seam? Yes.
3224. It is similar in character to that at Maryville? Yes.
3225. The shaft was sunk by means of iron cylinders through the surface deposits? Yes.
3226. Do you know the reason why such a small shaft was sunk? I think it was because Walker and Wilde had not very much money, and they wanted to get the shaft down to prove the seam of coal.
3227. It was an exploring shaft, in fact? Yes; but it was for a working shaft also.
3228. Did you visit the shaft during sinking operations? Yes.
3229. Do you know whether the surface gave considerable trouble? Yes, it did.
3230. Is there any solid strata above the coal here? About 22 feet.
3231. What thickness is the coal seam? A little over 10 feet.
3232. And when the shaft was sunk, the coal was worked in the usual way, I suppose? Yes.
3233. Was very much underground working done? No.
3234. Do you know the reason why the work was not continued? I do not recollect exactly.
3235. Did you make a personal inspection of the underground workings of Wickham pit shortly after it was sunk? Yes.
3236. How often did you inspect the workings? I cannot say.
3237. And I suppose Mr. Dixon would inspect them in the course of his usual periodical visits? Yes.
3238. Did Mr. Dixon report to you the result of his inspections? Yes.
3239. Do you recollect the tenor of his reports—were they of a paralysing nature? Did he refer to the nature of the roof? Yes, and that they came to a washout, and a letter was written to the management.
3240. Before Wickham shaft was sunk, had any bores been put down on the land? I cannot say from memory.
3241. Was not a bore put down on Fleming's land? Yes; I think so.
3242. What impression did you form of Wickham Colliery when it was first opened up? I formed the opinion that they had a splendid seam of coal.
3243. And you made no secret of your opinion? No.
3244. Do you know what opinion Mr. Dixon and others formed of the colliery about the same time? I think Mr. Dixon was of the same opinion as I was.
3245. Did you think the colliery would be difficult or dangerous to work? No; I did not anticipate any danger.
3246. Your opinion was favourable with respect to the colliery? Yes.
3247. Then coming to Bullock Island, adjoining Wickham to the west, it has a holding of about 400 acres leased from the Government. Are you a shareholder of the Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery? No.
3248. Were you ever one? Yes.
3249. Can you state when you acquired an interest in that colliery? Really, Mr. President, I do not know what this has to do with the subject-matter of the inquiry. I really think it is going outside the limits of the inquiry.
3250. Mr. Usher.] But if the Commission think otherwise, and desire to have that information, perhaps you will give it? Well, I have nothing to hide in the matter, so far as I am concerned.
3251. President.] Was your interest held prior to the amalgamation between Bullock Island and Wickham proprietaries? No.
3252. It was after the acquirement of the leasehold? Yes.
3253. Was it an original interest or a contributory interest? I bought in. But really, Mr. President, I must object to this. It has nothing to do with the subject-matter of the inquiry. I have told you that I had an interest, and I have held coal shares, but not for the last year have I held an interest in any coal shares. I really must decline to answer any further questions on this head.
3254. Mr. Usher.] Have you received any information as to the character of the evidence given by any other witness or witnesses before this Commission? Nothing more than this: that in the course of conversation with Mr. Dixon once or twice I have heard something of the evidence given by him.
3255. Is Mr. Dixon the only one you have received any information from? Yes.
3256. President.] Statements have been made, and will be made to the Commission. We knew perfectly well as to Mr. Mackenzie being a proprietor in Bullock Island Colliery, but I wished to ascertain whether he held original shares, or whether he applied as one of the public for contributing shares. Because there

- there is a very great difference in the character of the holdings. That is the position, Mr. Mackenzie. The question simply is, were you an original or a contributing shareholder? I was a contributing shareholder. I bought through Mr. Creer, I believe, and paid, I think, £240; that was after the amalgamation. 3257. That is all I desired to know. The statement has been made that you purchased before the Company was formed, and that you were to all intents and purposes a promoter? I hope you now see I have nothing to hide in the matter. But really it has nothing to do with this inquiry.
3258. *Mr. Curley.*] That is your opinion? It is my opinion, and I think I am perfectly right.
3259. *President.*] Bullock Island was sunk and commenced in the usual way;—did you visit and inspect the shaft during the process of sinking? Yes.
3260. Did you approve of the mode in which the operations were conducted? Yes.
3261. Were you satisfied as to the stability of the shaft? Yes.
3262. And the character of the work? Yes.
3263. In other words, the shaft was properly sunk? Yes.
3264. And you have reason to be satisfied with the work? Yes.
3265. Is it within your knowledge that the area of land has been materially increased since the amalgamation of the two companies took place? Yes.
3266. Are you satisfied with the manner in which the underground workings are conducted? Yes, perfectly.
3267. That is, having in view that the operations should be cautiously conducted for the safety of the men? I think so, certainly.
3268. Have you frequently inspected the underground workings? Yes.
3269. And have you been generally satisfied with the mode in which the underground workings have been conducted, as a result of those inspections? Yes.
3270. Can you inform this Commission how the colliery is worked—as to whether any modification of the district system has been adopted? Yes. The bords are narrower than in the other collieries in the district.
3271. About what thickness is the coal seam? 16 feet.
3272. Are you aware whether any departure from the district custom has been made as to pillars? Yes; they are larger—8-yard pillars and 6-yard bords.
3273. Is the top coal left on? Yes.
3274. And do these precautionary measures—that is, reducing the width of bords, increasing the size of pillars, and leaving on the top coal—meet with your approbation? Yes.
3275. It was only as an additional precautionary measure, I suppose, that you advised the manager to keep boreholes in advance of your prospecting headings? Yes; the same as I have advised with regard to Stockton and other collieries.
3276. And you did this without anticipating any specific danger, and purely as a precautionary measure? Yes; so that they may know whether they are approaching any faults or dykes that might contain water.
3277. Have you had any experience of working collieries under the sea? No.
3278. Do you consider that any special restrictions should be placed or imposed upon this colliery in working the coal under the area of land held by them under tidal waters? I do not think that any other system can be adopted than the present one.
3279. You think the present system may safely be relied upon? Yes, I think so.
3280. You have no objection to the system pursued at this colliery? No.
3281. Do you know the conditions of the lease under which this company hold their land from the Crown. Do you know whether the lease or authority to mine contains any special provisions as to the mode of working the coal? I have not seen the lease.
3282. You do not know to the contrary, however? No. That would come to me through the Mining Department.
3283. Have you recommended any special conditions as to the working the coal under this lease—have you advised the Department to insert any special conditions? It has not come before me yet. I do not even know what the lease is yet.
3284. *Mr. Usher.*] You took no part in the preparation of the conditions of the lease? No.
3285. Do you know whether it is usual for the Government to insert any conditions or provisions or clauses compelling certain modes of working? Yes; there are regular mining leases.
3286. Was any exception made in this case, do you know? I do not know.
3287. As to the area of pillars, width of bords, or proportion of coal to be won—that is the meaning of my question? I do not recollect.
3288. *President.*] Stockton Colliery is situated on the apex of a peninsula of that name to the north of the harbour? Yes.
3289. On the Newcastle or other side of the harbour, the A.A. Company have, in old times, worked a coal seam situated above the Borehole seam;—do you know the name of that coal? The "Yard" coal.
3290. Have you any doubt as to the identity of that coal—whether it was the "Yard" coal or some other seam? Well, I think it is very questionable whether it was the "Yard" coal.
3291. What coal do you think it might have been? It might have the 4 ft. coal underneath. However, it looks like the Yard seam.
3292. It has generally been considered that the A.A. Company worked the Yard seam? Yes.
3293. *Mr. Davies.*] Do you reckon that the seam worked in the F pit was the Yard seam? Yes.
3294. *President.*] The same seam, at all events, crops out at Signal Hill and Nobbys? Yes.
3295. Do you know the thickness of the surface deposits at Stockton? About 66 feet.
3296. Is there any clay above the rock-head? Yes. That is sand, 60 feet; sand clay, 2 feet; and blue clay, 4 feet.
3297. This surface was sunk through by means of cast-iron cylinders? Yes—15 feet in diameter.
3298. When this colliery was sunk, did you frequently inspect it? Yes.
3299. Did many difficulties interpose in the way of sinking? Yes.
3300. Of what nature? There was difficulty in going through the sand and gravel.
3301. After the cylinders were rested upon the rock, and sinking operations were commenced through the solid strata, can you tell us what seams of coal were passed through in sinking this shaft? At 140 feet there is a seam 4 ft. 2 in.; at 191 feet there is 2 ft. of coal, and at 341 feet the "Borehole."
3302. With respect to the first one you have named, what, in your opinion, of the district name of that seam?

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- Mr. J. Mackenzie. seam? Well, it is a question whether that is the "dirty" seam. I fancy that the first one must be the "dirty" seam, and the second one the "yard" seam.
- 27 Aug, 1886. 3304. Considering that the Yard seam, or a seam of coal within a few feet of the position of the Yard seam, crops up above high-water-mark on the other side of the harbour, and that the supposed position of the same seam is found in Stockton Colliery at a depth below the surface of 190 feet or thereabouts, what inference do you draw? Why, that there is a roll, and also a fault between the two positions. I think myself that there is a fault running up the harbour between Stockton and Signal Hill and Nobbys. I think 80 feet of "down-throw" exists between Stockton Hill and Nobbys.
3305. Would it not be better to say that the Stockton continuity of strata between the north and south side of the harbour is broken by an 80-ft. fault? Yes; that would explain it.
3306. Have you any reason to be dissatisfied with Stockton shaft. As to all the cylinders, are they quite secure, in your opinion? I am not aware that they are insecure. They have been tested.
3307. Are they securely rested on a bed of rock? Yes.
3308. Where does the water come from that falls down the shaft? Some of it, I believe, comes from near the bottom of the cylinders.
3309. You have said that the sand rests upon the rock-head. If the water finds its way behind the cylinders, is it not possible that the water may carry sand with it? Yes.
3310. If it does to any extent, what would be the result? In time it would make a way for itself.
3311. And cause a space behind the cylinders? Yes.
3312. Have you conferred with the owners or the management on the subject? No; because I did not think there was any special danger in it.
3313. Do you recollect when this colliery was sunk to the coal? I cannot say from memory. It was bored through in 1879 or 1880.
3314. How many men are employed underground? About 100.
3315. There is no second opening, I believe? No.
3316. Do you think it is in accordance with the spirit of the age that such a large number of men should be employed underground without a second shaft? I think the number is too large.
3317. You think it would be advisable to harmonize the law here with the English Act? Yes.
3318. Have you inspected the underground workings at Stockton? Yes.
3319. How often have you inspected them? Several times.
3320. And, roughly speaking, the coal-seam is covered by 260 feet of strata, taking all the surface? Yes.
3321. And what system is pursued—8-yard bords and 8-yard pillars? The pillars are 4 yards in some places.
3322. The district custom is closely followed? Yes.
3323. Have you any objection to urge against this system as applied to Stockton Colliery? It might be well to modify it.
3324. There is a certain sheth of bords going towards the south-west;—do you know them? Yes.
3325. Have you examined them? Yes.
3326. Did you measure the width of the bords in these workings? Yes. I noticed one the width of two bords.
3327. Did you notice anything as to the thickness of pillars that divided these bords? They were very irregular.
3328. Do you recollect the height of the principal coal-seam? 9 ft. 6 in.
3329. Is it of a firm and tenacious character, or soft and pliable? I cannot call it soft.
3330. Could you roughly tell us the pressure on the coal that is exerted by the overlying strata? No; I have never gone into it.
3331. You have not calculated as to the margin of stability that these pillars possess? No.
3332. You are aware that pressure increases with depth? Yes.
3333. And are you of opinion that the pillars should be proportioned to meet the pressure, taking also into consideration the width of bords? Yes.
3334. And do you consider that it would be an advantage to increase the size of the pillars and decrease the width of the bords at Stockton? Well, I think if they left 8-yard pillars it would be sufficient.
3335. At all events, you think the pillars should form some relation to the character of the coal and the thickness of the overlying strata? Yes; and I think the size of the pillars should be shown as accurately as possible on the plan.
3336. Can you tell us the average crushing strain that Australian coals will sustain? I cannot tell you from memory.
3337. In these south-west bords, did you observe any signs of incipient crushing on the pillars? Yes.
3338. Did Mr. Dixon report this circumstance to you? Yes; and we have seen the manager with respect to it.
3339. You have advised the manager to alter his system of working? Yes; and he was preparing to do it.
3340. Do you place much confidence in these wooden chocks—will they be everlasting? No; certainly not.
3341. Then how are they to be renewed? Well, I do not suppose the colliery will last for ever.
3342. But supposing that it lasts for fifty or sixty years? I do not know of any other method. It would cost too much.
3343. You have written to the manager in respect to these wide bords? Yes; and I have written to him with respect to having them shown on the tracing. (Letter read, together with reply. See Appendix.)
3344. Then, in writing to the manager, you had in view the fact that some of these workings were skirting the shores of the estuary, and approaching a network of basalt dykes to the east? Yes.
3345. Have you any personal experience of cutting basalt faults under water or quicksand? Yes.
3346. Would you apprehend any danger from the water? Some of them are impervious to it, and others are not.
3347. Is basalt rock not peculiarly liable to contain fissures? I cannot say that the dykes met with here are of that nature.
3348. But basalt rocks do contain fissures—you are aware of that? Yes.
3349. Is it impossible to guard against the occurrence of these fissures? The only way is to put borings ahead of the workings.
3350. Between the present workings and the ocean leasehold of Stockton, do you know whether the surface deposits have been properly prospected? No.
- 3351.

3351. Do you know, from the result of borings put down by Mr. Dixon's father and others, that the sand and surface deposits increase as you go north? Yes, I know that.
3352. Do you anticipate that this part of the holding may be disturbed by basalt or other faults? It may be. But my opinion is with respect to this part that the river has changed its course, and the entrance has been on the other side.
3353. Have you observed any faults on Nobbys or Signal Hill that apparently run in the direction of this leasehold? Yes; you can see faults at Nobbys, running in different directions.
3354. Would you consider it desirable that the surface deposits above the coal-seam should be proved from Stockton towards this ocean leasehold? Yes; I think so, certainly.
3355. You consider that information on that point would be necessary and essential before proceeding to work the coal there? Yes, and in all places similarly situated.
3356. Without positive information on this point, would you consider it safe to work under this leasehold? I do not see how you could do under the ocean.
3357. It has been done often. However, are you satisfied with the mode of working the coal at Stockton at present? I think myself that the system adopted in Wickham and Bullock Island ought to be adopted at Stockton. Under the ocean I would drive the bords 4 or 5 yards wide rather than 6 yards.
3358. *Mr. Usher.*] And what pillars? S-yard pillars.
3359. *President.*] Then you are not altogether satisfied with the system that has been followed at Stockton in the past? Well, it is a difficult colliery to manage. What ought to have been done in all these places was to drive exploring headings in all directions. I do not say who is to blame. Both Stockton and Maryville are working under peculiar conditions, and they did not have sufficient money to start with. They ought to have commenced exploring headings in all directions in disturbed country like this.
3360. In working the coal-seam under an estuary or under the ocean, or any great thickness of quicksand, would you approve of making it compulsory to have a minimum thickness of solid strata above the coal? Yes.
3361. Also that pillars and bords should be proportioned to the depth of the coal-seam, leaving a large margin for safety? Yes.
3362. That levels should be taken to ascertain the points below ground, and bearings of the surface and soundings above these points? Yes.
3363. And that the topographical features of the holding should be shown upon the plan contiguous to the point of danger? Yes.
3364. That the methods of mining should be adapted to circumstances and the nature of the coal? Yes.
3365. And that these methods should take the place of any arbitrary or empirical rule or system that may be followed in a district where no danger is to be apprehended? Yes.
3366. Would you approve of suggestions such as these? Yes, certainly.
3367. Have you any other suggestions to offer;—would you, for example, approve of exploring drifts being carried in advance of your workings? Yes.
3368. And in addition to these, would you, in working under the ocean, consider it a wise precaution to keep bores in advance? Yes; I should certainly keep boreholes in advance.
3369. And in all cases, would you give a wide berth to surface deposits where they are of considerable thickness? Yes.
3370. In respect to Stockton Colliery, working towards the ocean and towards the north, where the thickness of surface deposits increases, would you consider that to follow the district custom that has obtained in the colliery would be fraught with considerable danger? Certainly.
3371. And for that reason, and considering the special circumstances, you would suggest a modification of that system? Yes.
3372. With respect to the other collieries adjoining the Harbour of Newcastle, at what depth would you expect to find the Borehole seam, say due east from the new winning of the A.A. Company;—is the coast in that position intersected with any faults? Yes; with faults and dykes.
3373. And so far as you know, are any precise particulars known of the sea-bottom along that portion of the coast? I cannot tell you where soundings have been taken.
3374. Has any ocean leasehold been taken up in this direction? The A.A. Company have, I think.
3375. Would some accurate knowledge of the sea-bottom be necessary before proceeding to work under the ocean here? Certainly.
3376. The flat land of the A.A. Company strikes a narrow valley to the south of Shepherd's Hill, and abuts upon the coast-line. This is covered by surface sand containing water, and is probably the site of an ancient channel that joins the harbour to the sea? Yes.
3377. Do you apprehend any danger from this water-logged sand, with pillars being extensively worked underneath? No; the A.A. Company have such powerful pumping machinery.
3378. Then you consider that sufficiently safe? Yes.
3379. In the north and north-east workings from No. 2 pit, approaching the brewery, and where the surface thickens, do you know what extent of pillars has been left in that portion of the estate? About two-thirds.
3380. And one-third has been taken out? Yes.
3381. Do you know the Glebe B pit? Yes.
3382. Is any portion of these marshes encroaching upon the land held by the Newcastle Mining Co.? I cannot say—I have not paid particular attention.
3383. You are aware that the surface deposits are of some thickness in that shaft? Yes.
3384. Do you think any special provisions are necessary to protect the workings from these marshes? I have not had time to consider that.
3385. Do you know whether they have modified the system in any way as to thickness of pillars? I think they are working them in accordance with the district custom.
3386. *Mr. Jones.*] Do you know if the Burwood Company have obtained an ocean leasehold? I am not sure; I believe it was applied for.
3387. *Mr. Neilson.*] A question has been asked about these leases—have you no knowledge of the tenor of them from the Government? I expect they will be sent to me, but, so far as I am concerned, it never has been the practice to send them to me. They have all been granted in the usual way, and no special provisions

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- Mr. J. Mackenzie. provisions have been insisted in respect to one colliery as distinguished from another, so far as I am aware. 3388. *President.*] So far as you are aware, but are they? I suppose they will be, because they are authorities to mine.
- 27 Aug., 1886. 3389. Never mind that. To all intents and purposes they are leaseholds from the Crown, are they not? Yes.
3390. Do you know whether there are any special provisions inserted in these authorities to mine, or ocean leaseholds, differing from the same authorities to mine or leases inland? I know of none myself.
3391. Then the question is, whether, in your opinion, special provision should not be made to meet the special case of these ocean leaseholds? Yes; I have already said so.
3392. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Should there not be some plan laid down for collieries working under the sea? I think in all these cases there should be an approved method of working.
3393. Supposing a manager lays out a plan for working his colliery under the sea or tidal waters, should you be empowered to veto his plan of working and substitute another or different plan? I do not think it would be advisable. The Government would in that case be taking a responsibility which, in my opinion, ought to rest upon the owners. It will be for the Commission to recommend whether we should have the power you refer to.
3394. *Mr. Usher.*] Supposing a manager submits a plan to you and you disapprove of that plan? I can give you a case in point, showing how I acted upon one occasion where a difference arose. (See correspondence *re* Maryville Colliery, Appendix.)
3395. Supposing the manager of a colliery submits a plan to you as the Mineral Agent for the Government—the check viewer—and you say, “I object to that plan,” who is to decide? Well, I do not think it should be done. It is not done in England. I do not think the Government should take the responsibility.
3396. Well, supposing you see a colliery being opened out, and you disapprove of the method, which, say, you think highly dangerous, who is to test that? The Act already gives that power, and is the same as the English Act, giving power to deal with such cases.
3397. Then you think, owing to the great dissimilarity in circumstances that may arise, it would be an absurd proposition to lay down any precise direction or rule of universal application? Yes.
3398. You think it would be monstrous to attempt such a thing? Yes.
3399. You believe it would prove inimical to the interests of coalowners and all concerned? Yes.
3400. You are aware, Mr. Mackenzie, that evidence has been given here about your interest in Bullock Island? I have already said all I have to say on that point.
3401. Do you know Dr. Morson of West Maitland? Yes.
3402. Did you ever advise him as to the value of Wickham and Bullock Island Collieries? I must decline to answer this question, Mr. President. You have got what Dr. Morson has said, and if not, I am ignorant.
3403. Are you aware that Mr. Inspector Dixon reported to Mr. Winchester as to Bullock Island Colliery? No; I know nothing about it.
3404. Is it a fact that you at one time, when interested, or about to be interested, in Bullock Island Colliery, reported very favourably of that colliery, and that in consequence of a dispute with your brother (Dr. Mackenzie) you afterwards reported otherwise? Certainly not.
3405. You have stated in this room that you have no fault to find with the colliery? None whatever. What took place between Dr. Morson and myself was not with respect to the value of the property at all. It was concerning something else that was happening.
3406. *President.*] I may say, Mr. Mackenzie, that reports were circulated, purporting to come from you, antagonistic to the interests of Bullock Island? I can show that after I sold out the shares went up. The fact was that my brother being Chairman of the Company, I did not think it advisable to hold shares in it, especially as they were going under the railway, and I could not stop Walker and Wilde, who said they would go in spite of me, and I felt that in my position I could not longer hold any shares. I sold out accordingly. I sold the last in June, 1885, and the shares went up as high as 27s. With regard to Dr. Morson, I refused to advise him one way or the other.
3407. *Mr. Usher.*] Is it not contrary to the Act for the Examiner of Coal-fields to hold shares in a coal-mine? I do not think there is anything to prevent it. I obtained legal advice upon the subject, which was to the effect that the Act might apply in the case of an officer of the department being an owner of a colliery, and thereby interested in its working, but not to a mere holder of shares.
3408. *Mr. Jones.*] You have already stated that you consider the working of the tops at Broughall & Griffiths' Colliery attended by danger? Yes.
3409. Are you aware that it is contemplated to work the tops there? No.
3410. *Mr. Davies.*] Have you no power to stop a colliery from working with one shaft if you perceive there is danger? No.
3411. *Mr. Curley.*] With regard to Stockton, Mr. Mackenzie, when did you receive intimation from the Inspector with regard to the width of bords that were being driven in some parts of the mine? On July 31st, 1886. Proceedings are being taken against the manager, and will come on next Thursday.
3412. You have referred already to the water coming down from the cylinders in Stockton shaft? Yes.
3413. Knowing as you do, the sand that was lying over the solid strata near the surface, do you think it advisable to make a close inspection there as to whether sand is coming down with the water or not? It may be as well. I will take an opportunity of going there with Mr. Dixon, and seeing for myself.

The witness withdrew.

Archibald Gardener recalled:—

- Mr. A. Gardener. 3414. *President.*] You have been recalled, Mr. Gardener, in order to give evidence with respect to certain discrepancies that have appeared in the evidence concerning the strata overlying the coal. Have you any additions to make to your former evidence? Nothing that I know of. I may, however, hand in these sections (produced), which formed the basis of the evidence that I gave before the Commission on the former occasion.
- 27 Aug., 1886. 3415. You have no reason to doubt their accuracy? No; no reason whatever. I have every reason to believe that the plan which I have now lodged is an accurate record of the strata passed through in the shaft.

3416.

3416. How many feet do you understand that the cylinders have entered into the rock? About 17 ft.
 3417. Then that would bring the rock up to 45 ft.? Yes.
 3418. It has been explained to us that, in addition to the distance that the cylinders entered into the rock, they slipped away for some distance;—is that the case? Not to my knowledge.
 3419. It was before your time? Yes.
 3420. In the meantime you lodge these sections? Yes; these are what I based my evidence upon.
 3421. Have you any reason to doubt their accuracy? None whatever. I have every reason to believe that the plan I have now lodged gives the correct information as to what was passed through.

The witness withdrew.

Thomas Croudace sworn and examined:—

3422. *President.*] How many years, Mr. Croudace, have you been connected with mining operations? About thirty-five, I think, altogether.
 3423. In what district of England had you experience? In the county of Durham, principally.
 3424. How many years have you been in the Colony? Twenty-four years, and more. It is about twenty-five years since I entered the service of the Lambton Company.
 3425. When connected with mining in England, what was the nature of your experience? I was educated as a mining engineer.
 3426. In a general way, has the working of the coal-seam in the harbour collieries here been conducted in any special manner? No; they are very simple in their working.
 3427. Then the conditions under which the Newcastle coal has been worked are peculiarly favourable and easy? Yes; particularly so, I should say.
 3428. Considered as a whole the Newcastle Collieries have been very free from gas? Yes; with one or two exceptions, almost entirely free.
 3429. In what collieries had you experience in the North of England? In the East Hetton Collieries.
 3430. Did any of the coal-seams of those collieries extend under the sea or under estuaries? No; none of these; but of course I have visited other collieries which have been under the sea, such as Monkwearmouth.
 3431. What depth were the East Hetton collieries? They would vary from 400 to 500 feet, and 700 to 800 feet.
 3432. What system of mining was pursued there? In some instances the longwall system was adopted; in others bord and pillar.
 3433. Have you ever visited any collieries at Seaton or Seaham, where the coal seams are worked a considerable distance under the German Ocean? Yes.
 3434. What system is adopted there? The simple system to which I have just referred.
 3435. The depth of the coal in those collieries is very considerable, I believe? Yes; from 1,200 to 1,800 feet.
 3436. Speaking generally, in the north of England, is it not the custom to regulate the width of the bord and the thickness of the pillars according to the depth and circumstances of the mine? Well, in some of the western collieries they found it necessary to alter the system.
 3437. What depth of bord had you in the East Hetton Collieries? About 4-yard bords.
 3438. Did you follow the principle of graduating the pillars to the depth or circumstances of the mine? Yes; they would be guided by circumstances.
 3439. The district system here is a somewhat free and easy one—with 8-yard bords and 4-yard pillars? Yes, very much so.
 3440. In which case very much is dependent upon the soundness of the roof at the comparatively shallow depths at which the coal has been won hitherto? Yes.
 3441. In the Newcastle District at present, and with one or two exceptions, would you consider that the same system is pursued, regardless of condition—that is, with respect to width of bords and thickness of pillars? I scarcely know what you mean.
 3442. Should the depth from the surface, and so forth, affect the size of the pillars? Oh, yes; for instance, if you are going near a creek or boundary, or anything of that kind, you would thicken the pillars and lessen the bords as a matter of prudence.
 3443. Would you not make any difference between the rise and dip workings as to the width of bords and size of pillars? No, not unless we were going near a creek.
 3444. Is it advisable that every colliery should have the same system, and that every coal seam should be won upon similar lines? No; at least I do not approve of it. Of course we know that the owners are bound to a system.
 3445. Then to confine a management to one groove of working is not, in your opinion, conducive to progress and safety? Certainly not.
 3446. You are doubtless acquainted with the collieries contiguous to Newcastle Harbour and adjacent to Ferndale? I have been down Ferndale and Maryville, and I know the other collieries as to position; but I have not been down them.
 3447. These harbour collieries—namely: Ferndale, Maryville, Bullock Island, Stockton, and Burwood,—are situated in or contiguous to the swamps or flooded lands that fringe Throsby's Creek or the shores of the Pacific? Yes; with the exception of Burwood.
 3448. And the workings of these collieries are covered by estuarine deposits of various thicknesses? Yes.
 3449. And these coal workings are covered more or less with the tide? Yes; I believe so.
 3450. Have you paid any particular attention to the character of the deposits in the neighbourhood of these several collieries? I know, by boring at Stockton, and by report at Bullock Island, and by observation at Maryville and Ferndale, the different deposits.
 3451. You have studied the various littoral deposits in these directions? Yes.
 3452. And before the collieries were sunk, did you form any opinion as to the conditions under which the coal could be safely mined in these parts? Having property at Stockton in connection with my own company, I have thought it would entail much care upon the part of the management to work it safely and correctly.
 3453. Did you form any opinion as to the effect which this littoral and detrital deposit would exert upon the

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the winning? I consider it would have a very uncertain effect, inasmuch as you would have to deal with an uncertain element.

3454. Had you any experience in the north of England with such surface deposits? No; I had no actual experience, but I knew collieries that were more or less affected in that way. I knew one on the estuary of the Dee, and some collieries on the Cumberland coast, but it was simply as a casual visitor.

3455. I believe your company own land to the north of Newcastle harbour, embracing a narrow neck of sandy land that separates the harbour from the Pacific Ocean? Yes, we own that; and application has also been made for the whole of this sea-board here immediately to the east of Newcastle. It was a very old tenure of ours, and was renewed some years ago.

NOTE:—The witness indicated on the plan the area of seaboard in regard to which negotiations with the Government were pending.

3456. *President.*] That is now known as the Hetton property? Yes. We have the old right to mine under the harbour and waters of Newcastle.

3457. Do you know at what date that was secured? I cannot tell you; it is an old privilege in connection with our company.

3458. The surface of your Stockton property is elevated only a few feet above the sea-level, I believe? Yes.

3459. And the Newcastle coal-seam extends across the peninsula? Yes, a portion of it.

3460. It extends up to the narrow neck of land, at any rate? Yes.

3461. And this coal is covered by a considerable quantity of quicksand and surface deposits, is it not? Yes, it is.

3462. Can you inform the Commission of the thickness of the surface deposits that overlie the coal on the narrow neck of land you have pointed out? We were busy putting down a bore a few months ago in that direction, but we could not get the pipes forced down beyond a certain distance; 1 or 2 feet we found had broken when they were down 140 or 150 feet. That is when we ceased operations, and when we drew the pipes we found that two of them were broken. We got nothing but sand, except a small bed of clay.

3463. Did you find, from your boring operations, that the sea-water seemed to run through the sand? The first few feet contained fresh water; then a few feet below we found the salt water, which rose and fell more or less with the tide.

3464. Have you any idea of the amount of rock or solid strata that overlies the coal in the narrow neck of land referred to? I have not as yet, but I believe it is not very much. The stratification thins towards the north, owing to the outcrop of the measures taking place there.

3465. Did you not commence to work this Stockton property some years ago? Yes.

3466. What was the size of the shaft? About 7 feet diameter inside.

3467. Was it your intention to work the coal with that shaft, or only to prospect? It was sunk with a view of being made valuable as a water-shaft. The object in sinking it in the first instance was to fulfil the conditions of the Act.

3468. The property is a leasehold? Yes.

3469. To what depth have you sunk the cylinders? About 81 or 82 feet.

3470. You did not penetrate to the rock-head? No; we struck clay though.

3471. What thickness of clay? The bearings gave between 40 and 50 feet of clay.

3472. In sinking the shaft, did you find that the water rose and fell with the tide? Yes, to a certain extent, it did.

3473. That would mean that the sand below the water-level was kept in a state of suspension by the sea-water? Quite so. I may tell you that I first tried to sink with men, but the sand rose up, and we had to adopt a different process.

3474. Do you consider that the winning of coal under conditions such as you have described attended with special and particular danger—in other words, would it be safe, in your opinion, to work under the sea with such a roof and such a thickness of cover? No.

3475. If the workings were extended under the harbour of Newcastle, would you consider that they were likewise attended with danger? Well, I think there would be less danger than might be expected from the narrow neck of land at Stockton, because you have a better covering as you go south—the deposits thicken.

3476. Going in a line with the narrow neck of land towards, say Hamilton, or towards the city of Newcastle, you say the surface deposits thicken;—I presume you mean that the clay thickens? The stone thickens, and also the clay to a certain extent, going south I mean; but towards Hamilton, or going westerly, they would tend to thin.

3477. Do you place any reliance upon the plasticity of the clay to obstruct the passage of the surface water. Yes.

3478. Then you think it is a valuable adjunct? Yes.

3479. Why did you discontinue the sinking of your Stockton shaft? At that time the coal trade was very depressed, and it was not considered desirable to open out a new colliery. Since then I have been anxious for our people to open it out, but troublesome times and one thing and another have prevented it.

3480. Then there was no fear of danger? No. Our only object then when sinking the shaft was to comply with the conditions of the Act, as I have already stated.

3481. What opinion have you formed with regard to the working of the coal at Bullock Island, Maryville, Stockton, and Burwood? Well, I do not compare Burwood with Wickham and Bullock Island. In one case it is all inland, with the exception of the small wash going out towards the sea; in the other case the workings are under the alluvial deposits.

3482. Do you think there is danger in connection with these other collieries. Yes, I do.

3483. What influence would a thick stratum of plastic clay have in the event of pillaring operations being conducted in these situations? Well, I would not trust to it. Of course it might stand the pressure, but it is very difficult to say. If there happened to be any face or break in the clay, or a sort of clay parting, the water would flow down that, and scour as it came, and I do not think you would be able to get to it in order to block it up.

3484. You are one of the proprietors of the Burwood Colliery, I understand? Yes. I have two or three shares in it.

3485. Have you held your interest for any considerable time? No. I visited the colliery lately, and was so struck with the seam that I bought two or three share in the Company.

3486.

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3486. You are consulting engineer for Burwood Colliery also? Yes.

3487. In March last, Mr. Croudace, you wrote several letters to the Newcastle daily papers calling attention to the danger attending the working of the Stockton and other collieries by following a certain system of mining? Yes, but I do not know that I alluded to any special system. I think my letters were directed more as a warning to be careful than with regard to any special system of working. I think it would be going beyond what I could fairly do to speak of a system.

3488. But you called public attention to danger connected with the working of these collieries? Yes.

3489. On the 25th of March one letter appeared in which you advocated the appointment of viewers? Yes.

3490. When these letters were penned, had you personally inspected the actual working of the collieries you refer to? I had known Ferndale some time previously; the others I have not visited up to the present day.

3491. Then you did not satisfy yourself by personal inspection as to the system pursued in these collieries? No. I have not been down any with the exception of Ferndale and Burwood, and Maryville I visited the other day.

3492. What system did you refer to in this letter of the date mentioned? I probably referred to the wide-bord system and the taking out of pillars.

3493. But if you were informed that in some of the collieries referred to in these letters the wide bords had been discarded and thick pillars substituted for narrow ones, would you have made an exception in favour of these collieries? Yes, provided they do not attempt to work in another direction again.

3494. And if you were informed that no attempt had been made to work out any of the pillars, would you have made an exception in that case? Yes, I would; but it does not always follow that you can prevent a break-in, even under these circumstances. You must be guided very much by the character of the superstrata.

3495. But if you had been satisfied that the manager in these collieries had been guided by circumstances, would you have made an exception in his case? Yes, certainly.

3496. What system would you propose as a substitute for the district custom of Newcastle? I think narrow work and the judicious use of "chocks," according to stratification, might be adopted. But even then it will be necessary to make a difference between one colliery and another. For example, between Stockton and say Maryville, on the south-east of Ferndale, where I know that a large wash comes very frequently on the coal-head.

3497. That is to say, particular circumstances must guide you in laying out the system to be pursued? Yes. I would not attempt to lay down a hard and fast system.

3498. Then, for all you know, some of the collieries, on the 25th of March, might have been worked on the system you now refer to? Yes, they might have been.

3499. I believe considerable alarm was created by these letters owing to your well-known character as a mining engineer. Do you think it was needful to create that alarm without making exceptions in favour of some of these collieries which might have been pursuing the very system that you have advocated? If I had been aware of it I probably should have done so, but my principal object was, knowing that, generally speaking, one system was pursued throughout the district, to show that it was desirable to exercise more caution in attempting to work collieries in these directions.

3500. Then you expressed your opinion on all these collieries without knowing that they were attended with equal risks and dangers? Quite so.

3501. And you believed that the same system could not be safely adopted for all these collieries? Yes, that is what I believe.

3502. In a general way, can you state how these collieries should be worked in order to avoid or minimise the danger? I would not lay down a general rule, because what might be a very good thing for one colliery might be a very harsh rule, I believe, for another. For example, I have not been down the Stockton Mine, but I think I have ample proof to justify me in saying that the stratification overlying the coal there is different from what I have seen in Maryville and Ferndale, and what I might adopt in one section of either one of these mines I would not attempt probably in another section.

3503. But in a general way, and to secure greater safety, would you advocate in the working of these collieries a system of narrower bords and very much thicker pillars. Would it also contribute, in your opinion, to the general safety to leave on the roof coal? Yes, if it were absolutely necessary. Of course I know that coal makes a very excellent roof where it is firm coal. But if there is a strong post roof above that I do not know that very much would be gained by leaving on the coal.

3504. But it can do no harm? No.

3505. In the circumstances in which these collieries are placed, would you consider that it would be wise to have a clear and definite knowledge of the superstructure—that is to say, the character of the strata, and especially of the surface deposits? Yes, I think that is essentially necessary, and I had that very much in view when I wrote the letters that you have referred to.

3506. In the case of clay overlying the coal-seams, I understood you to say that you considered the clay as a valuable adjunct which adds considerably to the safety of the colliery? Yes.

3507. Would you consider it desirable to ascertain the area of distribution of any clay that might overlie the strata or the coal-seam? Yes. I might state we are having that done on our own property at Stockton. Tubes are coming out from England especially for that purpose.

3508. Do you also consider it a desirable precaution to keep the headings as far as possible in advance of your working bords? Yes; I would follow that system without hesitation.

3509. Especially in proceedings under the ocean leaseholds, would you consider that sound engineering to have these headings much in advance of the working-places? I consider it would be most desirable, and would pursue that system myself.

3510. You consider that these roads should have leading bores in advance? Yes.

3511. Have you thought of the question that I put to you some weeks ago in respect to collieries working under these precarious surface deposits, with no clay deposited immediately on the rock-head, but with sand coming down to the rock-head—have you considered further the question I put to you as to whether it would be desirable for the Legislature to enforce some limit to the thickness of solid strata overlying the coal-seam? I did just at the time think about it, but cannot lay down any empirical law, as it were. You might shut out some valuable coal, if this were the rule, from being worked in localities covered by tidal waters.

3512.

- Mr. T. Croudace. 3512. Quite so : the question is necessarily surrounded by very great difficulties ? Yes.
3513. And affects what is probably the most important industry in the Colony at the present time ? Yes.
- 27 Aug., 1886. 3514. It is in that view that I have asked you whether you considered it would be desirable to have any legislative enactment to deal with the question ? Well, I do not think I could say so, because the difficulty is in establishing an approved system. You may, for example, entail a very extensive cost to the country, and at the same time you might be obstructing an important industry by debarring a valuable coal-field from being worked owing to doubts that it could not be worked in perfect safety.
3515. In the case of a colliery working the coal at a considerable depth—say 200 feet—and only a limited thickness of rock overlying the coal ; supposing such a colliery were working under the ocean, would you consider that certain limits should be placed on its operations ? If you were assured of the stratification, I should say so.
3516. Supposing you did not know the nature of the stratification ? In that case I would not like to run the risk of working it.
3517. The question I put to you was, whether you think a colliery working under such conditions should be placed under restrictions ? No, I think not.
3518. Now, Mr. Croudace, I should like to hear from you some explanation of the obscure hints in your letter of the 25th of March, as to the inefficient management of some of these collieries. Had you any information as to any of the collieries being inefficiently worked at that time ? What I meant to say was this : That for the safety of the owners, as well as the workmen, it was in every sense advisable that there should be, under the circumstances, two managing heads, one of whom might act as a check upon the other, or might be consulted in the event of any emergency arising. You know as well as I do that, after going through the regular routine each day, a man is likely to become, to some extent, indifferent to appearances of danger ; that is to say, he may probably come to take less notice of it.
3519. Do you not think it is a good plan to judge a manager by his works ; that is, to judge of him by the method in which he conducts his work ? Yes ; but I should also say that if a man is a success in his undertaking there must be something in him, and that, on the other hand, if he is not a success in his undertaking there is nothing in him.
3520. I am not putting it in that way. I am speaking as to the merits of certain systems. Do you think it is a good plan to judge of a manager by his works ? If a manager would proceed under the sea with very little cover, and a system of wide and open work, in the same way as he would inland, I should say that the result of his work would in all probability be very bad. A prudent manager would not do it.
3521. If you were informed that the managers of some collieries that you have named in the letter I have referred to left from 8 to 10 feet of coal on top, with bords from 4 to 6 yards wide, and left 8-yard pillars, and that they did not intend to work those pillars, would you be disposed to doubt the efficiency of that management ? No ; I think it would be excellent. But if on this 8 feet of coal there was nothing but sand, I should say it might require more caution than that.
3522. Then supposing there were 40 feet of rock, you think that the plan I have mentioned would be both excellent and prudent ? Yes.
3523. Would it have caused you to alter the terms of your letter if you had been acquainted with the circumstances of the colliery ? Well, no ; I do not think so. My idea was to prevent, if possible, a similar occurrence to that at Ferndale at any of the other collieries. Had that accident not happened many of the mine managers might have been led to follow out the old system (which has been to a certain extent forced upon us) without considering the danger overhead.
3524. You have stated as to Ferndale. Also, in your present evidence, you have stated that precautions as to safety should include not only the working of narrow bords, but securing the roof with wooden chocks. Do you look upon wooden chocks as an essential to your scheme of safe working ? Yes ; in some instances I would.
3525. Is timber everlasting in a mine ? Well, hardwood timber, fixed as chocks, would last more than one lifetime. I do not say that ordinary mining props would last, but I am speaking of solid chocks.
3526. Would it be possible to get solid chocks of hardwood sufficient for that purpose ? I think so. Of course it would be very expensive.
3527. In case of decay, how would it be possible to renew the number of chocks that would be necessary for this purpose ? I would put them in between—a few yards here and there.
3528. Would that be practicable ? Yes ; but of course it would be very expensive.
3529. Would not the prosecution of such a system entail a considerable increase in the cost of working ? Yes.
3530. In the working of these collieries, would it, in your opinion, be desirable to give any temptation to the manager to effect economies and take the risk of any accident likely to accrue therefrom ? No ; I do not think so at all.
3531. Then that is what it would amount to. The system you suggest would entail a very serious outlay, and of course collieries working with only a trifle of profit could not afford to bear the expense ? No doubt ; they would have to close up. We know of collieries that cannot pay.
3532. Do you know anything about the Stockton Colliery ? No.
3533. Do you know how many men are employed there ? No ; not personally. I have heard they employ somewhere about one hundred men.
3534. You say Borehole seam is subject to fissures that extend up to 400 or 500 ft. ? I think I say in my letter of 25th March (*See Appendix*) that breaks will be found through the Borehole seam to the surface from 100 ft. to 500 ft. at Waratah, Lambton, Wallsend, and such like.
3535. In one of your letters you say “there is very great danger of a similar calamity (to that of Ferndale) overtaking any of these collieries,” and that it will “require extraordinary care to prevent such.” And you go on to say that this (Ferndale disaster) should be taken as a warning ; that it should cause the proprietors to “reflect as to whether they are pursuing a right system or not ; to be satisfied that they have competent and efficient management ; to duplicate such management by consulting management ; to teach every workman that he is a shareholder in the safety of all ; that he may not only jeopardise his own life, but, as in the case of explosions, he may imperil the life of every other workman.” What do you mean by the last sentence, as to explosions ? What I meant was simply that explosions were often caused by the carelessness of the workmen ; and I meant also that if a workman at any of these mines came across a feeder in the course of his operations he should immediately acquaint those in authority with the fact.
3536. Did you mean to impress upon the management that they should take the special precaution of calling

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calling there workmen together and explaining to them the dangers they incur by departing from the paths of rectitude in the directions you mention? It might be done.

3537. Do you think the management should take this course especially in the collieries referred to; or do you think it is incumbent upon the management of any colliery to inculcate lessons of responsibility and care in the performance of their duties? Yes; I think they should be generally impressed with that view of their position. For example, supposing we were troubled with much gas in this district very different regulations would have to be enforced in order to enable the manager to carry on their collieries properly. The managers would have to be invested with greater power than they have at present.

3538. With respect to Maryville Colliery, you have said you paid Maryville a visit—what was your impression as to the mode in which the colliery operations were conducted? Well, it was a private matter, and I went there largely with the object of seeing whether the colliery could be conducted on a less expensive plan consistent with the safety of the men, and I pointed out where I thought a different method should have been pursued, though on a similar system.

3539. How has the coal been hitherto worked in Maryville? On the bord and pillar system, with 6-yard bords.

3540. Some of the earlier bords were 8 yards wide, but are now 6 yards, is that so? Yes.

3541. How did you propose that it could be worked? Mine was a different system of driving the headings. They had headings all round the shaft, four or five different headings instead of one to work the whole of the coal-field.

3542. *Mr. Jones.*] They were working the bottom coal then? Yes.

3543. *President.*] Towards the west and south of Maryville shaft you saw where the coal had been washed away forming the margin of an ancient river? Yes; that is a portion of the great wash running through the district.

3544. You know the character of the surface deposits at Maryville? Yes.

3545. Are they such as you suppose would form a sound roof? Well, I would not like to say so positively.

3546. The flat land on which the colliery is sunk is liable to floods, is it not? Yes, a portion of it is.

3547. Do you think the water would filter through a surface of 30 or 40 feet of sand and shells? I have no doubt it would.

3548. A considerable thickness of clay overlies the coal, do you know if it is puddle clay? I do not.

3549. Do you know if the extent of clay has been proved? A very short distance, I believe, because I recommended that three or four more boreholes should be put down.

3550. Were they put down? I think not. I was asked to take the management of the place altogether, but I have not done it.

3551. Did Mr. Harper inform you of any bores put down over the estate? Yes.

3552. Did he mention to you that in any of those bores this thick hard clay was found to be of a harder and more impervious character than the clay in which the shaft was sunk? I will not be positive.

3553. But you consider that the area and distribution of the clay should be known? Yes, certainly.

3554. Do you know whether an outlet shaft has been provided? It was commenced.

3555. And it was stopped? Yes.

3556. Do you know whether a second shaft is about to be commenced? Yes, so I understood. I know that they were very anxious to get it down; at least so the Chairman of Directors told me.

3557. You say you have seen some of the bords in Maryville 8 yards wide, in others they are 6 yards wide, with 4-yard pillars or less between. In some of these bords the roof-coal has been left in to support the superincumbent strata, and in others the roof-coal has been taken out? Yes, the roof-coal was being worked in some of them when I was there.

3558. Did you inspect a large fall that had taken place in one of the abandoned bords? Yes, I did see a bord which had broken away there.

3559. Did Mr. Harper inform you of the character of the deposits that came in? Yes. At least I saw them myself—that is, I saw the stuff that came in.

3560. Do you mean in one of the bords? Yes.

3561. I mean those to the south and west, towards the washout? Oh, yes; I saw two places stopped up there.

3562. You have spoken about a large fall that had burst down in one of the abandoned bords—what came down there? What I saw was a rotten argillaceous shale.

3563. Would it not be better described as a greenish unconsolidated sand? No, I think not. But I am speaking rather with respect to the north and east.

3564. Did you observe the different methods of working the roof-coal in Maryville Colliery—the one working the coal in the usual way, and at the termination of the bords, breaking the tops coming back; and the other leaving the bottom coal and working the upper coal going in? Which of these methods do you prefer with a view to safety? Well, I think I would prefer working on the “Jerry” than taking the top coal going in.

3565. What alteration, if any, in the system would you recommend? Well, I do not know that I would recommend anything specially. I should want boreholes to be sunk with a view to proving the superstrata before I would recommend anything special with regard to working. With the object of securing safety the narrower your bords and the more uniform your pillars the better.

3566. Then short of stopping the colliery on the ground of extra expense, would you consider that the present method is as free from serious objections as any? Yes; I am bound to admit that.

3567. Have you anything specially to propose as to the means you would suggest in working similar collieries? No; I would be guided entirely by circumstances. I would not attempt to lay down any hard and fast principle, because I think I should be doing an injustice both to the men and the proprietors.

3568. You know nothing about Bullock Island Colliery? No.

3569. And have you any suggestions to make as to a general scheme for working the coal under the harbour or the ocean that could be applied to collieries of a limited depth? No.

3570. That is, you have no suggestions to make in addition to those you have already made? No; excepting that, generally, great care should be exercised.

3571. *Mr. Curley.*] You have just said that you would be guided by circumstances in the working of collieries in this district in the localities that have been named. You give that opinion as a mining engineer? Yes.

Mr. T.
Croudace.
27 Aug., 1886.

3572. And you would be quite willing to allow any other mining engineer to follow the same line of action? Quite so. At the same time, as I have said, two heads are better than one. For instance, if I were working our Stockton property to-morrow I would have no hesitation in calling in some other manager to discuss the circumstances of the position, and ask them what they thought—as a matter of wisdom, propriety, and everything else.

3573. Would you suggest to your Company the advisability of calling in anyone else? I would do it. I think it desirable on account of the relief to one's own mind. Of course it is a different thing with the inland collieries where we know the elements that exist.

3574. *Mr. Davies.*] Supposing you and another in consultation were to disagree, would you have any hesitation in calling in a third? Yes; I have no hesitation in saying that three would be better.

3575. What is your opinion as to the durability of wooden chocks? Well, I have known timber to stand for eighteen or twenty years in my own experience.

3576. What timber is that? It was hardwood, certainly. I do not mean small timber, of course.

3577. Would you recommend "blood wood" in preference to other timber? I do not say that. Ti-tree is also durable, and iron-bark.

3578. What would be the additional cost of using chocks? I could not say, unless I went into it. But the cost would be pretty considerable.

3579. Would it pay if they were to use chocks as a general principle, and obtain picked timber for the purpose? Of course not.

3580. *Mr. Jones.*] I think I understood you to say that at the time you published your letters on the "Delta" Collieries you were not aware of the condition of the whole of the collieries mentioned? No; I knew generally as to the width of bords—that some of them were driving wide bords probably.

3581. If you were informed that some of these collieries were working with 6-yard bords and 8-yard pillars, and that in consequence of your letters stocks had fallen to the extent of £30,000, would you have reason to regret having written those letters? Not in the least. My motive was a pure one. I have had some of my own personal friends charge me with causing alarm, and I said to them, "There is nothing to be in the least alarmed at; tell your friends so." My only desire was to stay the prosecution of a system of working common to this district in that particular direction.

3582. Would you be one to adhere to any hard and fast rule of working under the sea, unless you knew the whole of the circumstances? I would not be one to recommend the Legislature to shut up a great national industry without a really very strong case. To surmise a set of circumstance would be no justification for establishing a hard and fast rule.

3583. You have admitted that it would be desirable to prove the nature of the overlying strata by putting down bores. But knowing the whole of the conditions, would it not be prudent to have some limit or minimum of strata overlying the coal, rather than that speculators should be permitted to rush in and work the coal at any risk? Well, I can scarcely imagine that speculators would be so foolhardy as to risk men's lives in that way. Supposing a man said to me, "Go and work the coal out here," in a manifestly dangerous place, I would not do it for love or money.

3584. *Mr. Usher.*] Are you aware that at the time of the publication of your letters in March last, Mr. Croudace, the stock of one of the Companies referred to depreciated to the extent of £38,000? I do not know it. Some of my friends have told me that Bullock Island stocks have fallen.

3585. If you ascertained that as a fact, would it not cause you to regret the publication of those letters? I never thought of it in that light. My only thought—my only desire was to prevent, if possible, what might be a much more serious accident than that at Ferndale.

3586. Still you may think now that you erred on the side of strong writing. Would you have any objection to furnish the Commission with a copy of your report on Maryville? Well, yes; it was quite a private matter. It belongs to the owners of Maryville really, and more particularly as it refers to the financial question more than anything else.

3587. *Mr. Turnbull.*] Have you thought about the way to lay out a colliery on the coast, where there will be rock and sand and different kinds of minerals? You might pursue a system of 4-yard bords with a certain system of "chocking," but that is only one opinion. You might find yourself in different circumstances, where it would seem permissible to double that width.

3588. Is there not a rule at Home for managers to consult with one another? Yes; and consider the stratification that lies over head.

3589. They take everything into consideration? Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Wilson Rennie sworn and examined:—

Mr.
W. Rennie.
27 Aug., 1886.

3590. *President.*] What are you, Mr. Rennie? I am a colliery manager.

3591. Where have you gained your experience? In Scotland, principally.

3592. Have you had any experience in this district? Yes; I was manager of the Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery in this district, some eighteen months before Mr. Gardener came.

3593. How long have you been in this district? About three years and nine months.

3594. Have you been in Newcastle during the whole of that time? No; I was nine months in Sydney.

3595. Then you have been three years in Newcastle? Yes.

3596. Have you made yourself acquainted with the different collieries round Newcastle? I know a few of them.

3597. Which are they? Well, besides Wickham and Bullock Island, I was a short time at Stockton—about four months.

3598. Did you commence working the coal at Wickham and Bullock Island? Two or three bords were turned away.

3599. Were you at Wickham and Bullock Island before the coal was got—that is, during sinking operations? Yes.

3600. What thickness was the rock above the coal? About 41 feet.

3601. Did you consider the cylinders in all respects sound and substantial? Yes.

3602. Do you know whether one or two of the cylinders are split? Not to my knowledge.

3603. Is a longitudinal split in a cylinder of any moment—could it be easily repaired? Yes.

3604. Then you are not aware whether the cylinders were split? They were all sound under my inspection.

3605.

3605. You are quite satisfied as to the thickness of the rock? Yes; there are 6 feet of hard white rock, and shaly rock 35 ft. 3 in.

3606. What is the thickness of the coal-seam? About 9 feet thick.

3607. Does a considerable thickness of clay overlie this rock? Yes.

3608. Do you consider that clay is a valuable adjunct for safety? I do.

3609. And that it affords considerable protection? Yes.

3610. How long do you say you were at Stockton? About four months. I was engaged in the preparation of surface requisites. The cylinders were only down about 20 feet.

3611. Do you know anything of the Stockton working since the pit was coaled? No.

3612. Have you had any experience in working under the sea? No; but I have had experience of working under water, such as canals.

3613. Have you any opinion to offer as to the safest mode of conducting colliery workings under the harbour of Newcastle or under the ocean? My views on the subject would be to keep the headings well in advance of the bords, and occasionally putting a bore up and testing the thickness of the coal.

3614. Have you any opinion as to the width of bords and thickness of pillars that should be adopted under such circumstances? I should say from 10- to 30-yard pillars and bords about 5 yards; I am referring now to coal such as it is at Stockton.

3615. Would you adopt a hard and fast rule irrespective of conditions? No; I would alter the system of working to suit the particular circumstances of the colliery.

3616. Is it within your knowledge that pillars and bords ought to be proportioned to the depth from the surface? Yes.

3617. What is your opinion as to the necessity or advisability of bores being sent in advance of prospecting drifts? I do not think that is necessary without there is water or gas present. By driving narrow headings in advance of the bords you can prove all you want to know.

3618. Have you any experience of cutting basalt faults under tidal waters? No.

3619. In approaching these, would it not be an advantage to ascertain their presence in the first place by a bore or bores? I do not think it is necessary.

3620. Have you heard of Prestonpans? Yes.

3621. Are you aware whether a large colliery was drowned out there three or four years ago through coming on a basalt fault? No; but I was in the district when the Clyde broke into Holm Farm.

3622. What width were the bords in Holm Farm? 4 yards.

3623. Was it in one of these that an old channel of the Clyde broke in? Yes.

3624. *Mr. Usher.*] Have you seen that dyke in Nobbys that runs north and south; it is a very soft material, and supposing that to continue right through any part of the Stockton property, what would you expect? Well, in a case like that, it would be necessary to have a bore in advance in approaching any heavy pressure of water; but you generally get an indication of what is going to happen.

3625. *Mr. Ourley.*] How far were the cylinders sunk into the rock in Wickham and Bullock Island? 6 feet into the white, hard rock, and the yellow clay was above that; the water was cut off 60 feet from the surface.

3626. Are you quite sure that the cylinders are not sunk further into the rock than you have stated? I am quite sure.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
W. Rennie.
27 Aug., 1886.

DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO HEREIN.

- Sections of bores put down in district embraced in this Report.
 Opinions of Attorney-General, and Letters of Inspectors and Managers, *re* "second shaft."
 Record of bores put down in the district.
 1. Check Inspectors' Report—Bullock Island.
 2. Letter of J. Robb to Inspector Dixon.
 3. Letter of Inspector Dixon to J. Robb.
 4. Letter of Examiner of Coal-fields to the same.
 5. Report of Commissioners, *re* Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery.
 6. Report of Mr. A. Tulip, on Bullock Island Colliery.
 7, 8, 9. Three Letters of Mr. Croudace to the Newcastle Press.
 Plan No. 1.—Of district embraced in report, showing positions of the various collieries and lines of sections and boundaries of leaseholds.
 Plan No. 2.—Showing outcrops of Borehole and Burwood coal-seams.
 Plan No. 3.—Showing coal workings of Broughall & Griffiths' Colliery; positions of Ferndale and conterminous small collieries.
 Plan No. 4.—Showing coal workings of Maryville Colliery.
 Plan No. 5.—Showing coal workings of Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery.
 Plan No. 6.—Showing coal workings of Stockton Colliery.
 Plan No. 7.—Showing coal workings of Australian Agricultural Company's New Pit.
 Plan No. 8.—Showing coal workings of B Pit of Newcastle Coal-mining Company.
 Plan No. 9.—Showing coal workings of Burwood Colliery.
 Plan No. 10.—Sections illustrating surface geology of part of Newcastle District. Sections through *aa*, *bb*, *cc*, *dd*, Plan 1.
 Plan No. 11.—Sections through *e e*, *do*, Nobby's and Signal Hill.
 Plan No. 12.—"Wash-outs," faults, and mode of working coal at Maryville, Tighe's Hill, &c.
 Plan No. 13.—Sections of the coal-seams worked in collieries adjacent to Ferndale.
 Plan No. 13a.—Soundings Newcastle Harbour and Sound.
 Plan No. 14.—Sections of shafts of collieries adjacent to Ferndale, and of coal seams sunk through.
 Plan No. 15.—Section of Bullock Island Shaft.

APPENDIX.

Reports and Correspondence of the Coal-Fields Department, *re* Maryville, Bullock Island, and Stockton.

Mr. Inspector Dixon to T. Broughall, Esq.

To T. Broughall, Esq., Colliery Proprietor, New Lambton,—
 Sir,

Glebeland, 20 March, 1886.

In view of the inundation of the Ferndale Colliery, and the consequent heavy pressure of water brought to bear on the eastern boundary of your colliery at Tighe's Hill, I hereby notify you of the 18th sub-section, section 12, of the Coal-mines Regulation Act 1876, which "provides for boreholes to be kept in advance and on both sides of every working approaching a place likely to contain a dangerous accumulation of water."

2. If you are driving towards the creek, I urge on you to use every precaution, as it is not properly known how far some of the old bords have been driven from the other side; and in my opinion it would not be safe to drive near the creek at all.

3. In conclusion, I have to urge that the above matter may receive your immediate attention, so that proper means may be adopted to secure the safety of all persons employed in your Tighe's Hill Colliery.

I have, &c.,
 JOHN DIXON,
 Inspector of Collieries.

Mr. Inspector Dixon to Messrs. Broughall & Griffiths.

To Messrs. Broughall & Griffiths, Colliery Proprietors, New Lambton,—
 Gentlemen,

Glebeland, 26 March, 1886.

It having come to my certain knowledge that some of the bords in your colliery at Tighe's Hill, on the A. A. Co.'s Estate, have to some extent been driven under the creek known as "Throsby's," and as I consider such a state of things is highly dangerous, and will tend to the bodily injury of all persons employed in said mine, I have, in pursuance of the provisions contained in the 25th section of the Coal-mines Regulation Act 1876, to give you notice to at once withdraw all persons employed in the Tighe's Hill Colliery, and to cease all operations in connection with the underground workings of said colliery at once, and henceforth.

I have, &c.,
 JOHN DIXON,
 Inspector of Collieries.

Mr. J. A. Gorrick to Secretary for Mines.

To the Honorable The Minister for Mines, Sydney,—
 Sir,

Bolton-street, Newcastle, 31 March, 1886.

I have the honor to call your attention to the accompanying notice received by Messrs. Broughall & Griffiths (for whom I write) from the Inspector of Mines here, and to say that the proprietors are incapable of giving it any effect, inasmuch as they are completely in the dark as to what is required in the entire absence of any particulars as to the manner in which it is considered the mine is dangerous or defective, or what is required to be remedied.

I am further desired to say that Mr. Dixon has not inspected the mine—which is invited—and that a report of the state of things will show that the mine is one of the safest in the Colony, as attested by the miners working in the pit.

I have, &c.,
 J. A. GORRICK,

This letter may be referred to Mr. Dixon, Inspector of Collieries, for a report without delay.—J.F., 1/4/86.
 Inspector Dixon, Coal-fields Office, Newcastle. The Inspector of Collieries herewith.—H.W., for E.C.F., B.C., 3/4/86.

Minutes.

From this report it appears as if Mr. Dixon is not aware of, or does not recollect that, an authority to mine coal under the creek is granted to the late Mr. Bevan.—J.M., 9/3/86. Under Secretary for Mines, B.C., 9/4/86.

The action of the Inspector is, I venture to think, praiseworthy; any permit or authority to mine under a creek or other reserve will not withdraw the workings from the operations of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, or from the supervision of the Inspector. Submitted.—H.W., 27/4/86. Approved.—J.F., 30/4/86.

The Examiner of Coal-fields, B.C., 3/5/86.—E.C., for U.S.

Mr. Inspector Dixon for report as to whether all operations in connection with the underground works of the colliery have ceased. My remarks only referred to your having been informed by Mr. Green (*vide* page 2) "that the creek was not to be undermined on any account," although an authority to mine coal under it was then in force, and was issued in August, 1883. I never intended it to mean that an authority to mine under a creek would withdraw the works from the operations of the Coal-mines Regulation Act.—J.M., 6/5/86.

Seen, and returned with further report.—J.D., 12/5/86.

Mr.

The Inspector of Collieries to The Examiner of Coal-fields.

Sir,

Glebeland, 12 May, 1886.

I beg to acknowledge your minute of 6th instant, *re* the Tighe's Hill Colliery workings. In reply, I have to state that I went to said colliery to-day (Wednesday) and found it working the same as ever, there being fourteen miners, two wheelers, one onsetter, and one deputy employed below. The workings under the branch creek have been stopped, and operations are now being carried on at the upper side of the shaft away from the creeks.

2. I may here state that I did not go below, but got the above information from the overman in charge.

I have, &c.,

JOHN DIXON,

Inspector of Collieries.

The Inspector of Collieries to The Examiner of Coal-fields.

Sir,

Glebeland, 7 April, 1886.

In reference to the notification sent by me to Messrs. Broughall & Griffiths on 26th March, last month, requesting them at once to cease work at their colliery, Tighe's Hill, and in view of the letter sent by Mr. Gorrick (solicitor) to the Honorable the Minister for Mines concerning the same matter, I do myself the honor to offer the following explanation:—

1. This colliery is situated on the A. A. Company's land, near Tighe's Hill. On this land there is a main creek and a branch creek, in both of which the tide rises, and in fact overflows the banks to such an extent at high tide as to reach within a short distance of the working shaft.

2. The working shaft is about 39 feet deep to the bottom of the seam. The height of the seam wrought is about 7 feet, which leaves about 32 feet of cover over the working places. From the bottom of the creek I should judge the cover to be about 29 feet at most. The cover immediately over the bords is composed of coal for about 7 feet in thickness, between which and the surface there is nothing but clay. When this royalty was first leased by Mr. Green I was informed that the creek was not to be undermined on any account, and knowing that Mr. Wm. Turnbull, the A. A. Company's colliery manager, had the supervision of the colliery, I naturally concluded that the coal under the creek would be left intact.

3. Being under the impression that the whole of the creek would be (and was being) left as a barrier between the Tighe's Hill Colliery and the workings of Robinson's old pit on the eastern side of the creek, I believe the Tighe's Hill mine to be safe, both as regards the creek and the accumulation of water in Robinson's old workings. However, after the unfortunate inundation of the Ferndale workings, and the consequent extra pressure of water from the old workings on the east, I made it my business (as you will remember when at Tighe's Hill with you on Friday, 19th March last) to go to the Tighe's Hill Colliery and call the overman out of the pit and ask him if any of the workings were under the creek. He (the overman) without hesitation, replied "No," and pointed to a stump some distance from the creek, and said, "That is the nearest point we are to the creek."

4. Not being quite satisfied about the workings, and having no record tracing of the colliery, I at once determined to notify Mr. Broughall not to drive under the creek at all. This notification I sent on the 20th March, last month, a copy of which I beg to herewith forward.

5. A few days after sending the above-mentioned notification it came to my certain knowledge that bords belonging to the Tighe's Hill Colliery had been to some extent driven under the creek and towards the old workings on the eastern side of the creek. Under such circumstances I believed that the persons employed in the Tighe's Hill Colliery were in danger, and not being able (under pressure of other duties) to inspect the said colliery at the time, I wrote the notification of 26th March, concerning which the complaint has been made.

6. On Thursday last, 1st instant, I made an inspection of the Tighe's Hill Colliery, and I submit that when in the workings even under the creek there did not appear to be any sign of danger of the roof falling, and to all appearances the workings were safe.

The above, in my opinion, just goes to prove the rather curious position an Inspector of Collieries may at times be placed in. For there is the fact of a very thin cover being over the workings of the Tighe's Hill workings, and the fact of two creeks being to some extent undermined, such creeks being subject to overflow their banks under tidal influence—yet it appears to me that unless actual proof can be given that the workings are falling in it is simply a matter of opinion as to the danger.

I here beg to state that on the day of my inspection there were twenty-three men and two wheelers at work in the Tighe's Hill Colliery. The colliery was stopped one day after receipt of my notification of 26th March, after which work was resumed and carried on ever since.

7. I herewith forward a plan of the Tighe's Hill Colliery workings which I got from Mr. Turnbull. This plan also shows the position of the creeks, &c. On the day of inspection I was in the face of the bord under the creek marked x on plan, but was not up to the face of the two adjoining bords, as there was a large quantity of water in them.

8. In conclusion, I beg to state that in serving the notification complained of in Mr. Gorrick's letter I followed my own convictions, and I submit, if in error, it was on the right side, for even now, after having inspected the colliery, I am not prepared to say that there is no danger to the persons employed therein.

I have, &c.,

JOHN DIXON,

Inspector of Collieries.

The Examiner of Coal-fields to The Inspector of Collieries.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 21 October, 1885.

Referring to my inspection and examination with you of the heading and bord which caved in a short time since, where two men were at work at the Maryville Colliery, the caving in having taken place immediately after the heading and bord driven by the two men reached a face of sand and gravel, when a tremendous rush of water and sand ran therefrom into the workings, which washout, consisting of sand and gravel, is now barred back by a barrier reaching to the roof of the coal seam; and in consequence of the disturbed nature of the country at this colliery and others in the neighbourhood, and the liability at any time of meeting with similar washes of sand and gravel, I have thought seriously as to the necessity of the owners of the Maryville, Wickham, and Bullock Island and Stockton Coal Companies being compelled to keep boreholes at least 10 feet ahead in all exploring headings driven north, east, south, or west of their working shaft.

2. Do you not think it is a dangerous practice, knowing the disturbed nature of the country in which the Maryville and Stockton Collieries are, for them to be worked (as they now are) by one shaft, and consequently only one means of escape for the men and boys, &c., working therein, and that a second shaft should be commenced at once. If so, you had better serve the colliery managers with registered notices to that effect, under section 25 of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1876.

I am, &c.,

JOHN MACKENZIE,

Examiner of Coal-fields.

The Inspector of Collieries to A. Gardiner, Esq., Colliery Manager, Wickham.

Sir,

Glebeland, 24 October, 1885.

In consequence of the disturbed nature of the country in connection with the Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery, and the liability of at any time approaching ground likely to contain a heavy feeder of water, I am directed to draw your attention to the necessity of keeping a borehole at least 10 feet ahead of the working-face in every exploring bord or heading driven north, south, east, or west.

2. I have therefore to urge (in pursuance of the provisions contained in the 25th section of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1876) that you would give the above matter your serious attention, with a view of having it strictly carried out.

I have, &c.,

JOHN DIXON,

Inspector of Collieries.

The Inspector of Collieries to H. Harper, Esq., Colliery Manager, Newcastle.

Sir,

Glebeland, 24 October, 1885.

Knowing the disturbed nature of the ground in connection with the Maryville Colliery, I have, in pursuance of the provisions contained in the 25th section of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1876, to notify you that I consider the practice of only having one shaft (and consequently only one means of escape) to be dangerous, and therefore have to urge that a second shaft in connection with the Maryville Colliery be commenced at once, and carried on without delay, so that a second opening from the surface to the present workings may be completed as soon as possible.

2. Seeing that in Maryville Colliery there exists a danger of tapping at any time loose ground liable to contain a heavy feeder of water, I am directed to draw your attention to the necessity of keeping a borehole at least 10 feet ahead of the working-face in every exploring place or heading driven north, south, east, or west.

3. I have therefore to urge that you would give your serious attention to the above matters at once, with a view of having them carried out without delay.

I have, &c.,

JOHN DIXON,

Inspector of Collieries.

The Inspector of Collieries to John Evans, Esq., Colliery Manager, Stockton.

Sir,

Glebeland, 24 October, 1885.

Knowing the disturbed nature of the ground in connection with the Stockton Colliery, and that, notwithstanding my notification of 10th September, last month, no attempt has yet been made to put down a second shaft, I have, in pursuance of the provisions contained in the 25th section of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1876, to notify you that I consider the practice of only having one shaft, and consequently only one means of escape, to be dangerous, and have to urge that a second shaft be commenced at once, and carried on without delay, so that a second opening from the surface to the present workings may be completed as soon as possible.

2. Seeing also that in a new colliery situated as Stockton is there is a danger of tapping at any time a very heavy feeder of water, I am directed to urge on you the necessity of keeping a borehole at least 10 feet ahead of the working-face in every exploring place or heading driven north, east, south, or west.

3. In conclusion, I have therefore to urge that you would give your serious attention to the above matters at once, with a view of having them carried out without delay.

I have, &c.,

JOHN DIXON,

Inspector of Collieries.

H. Harper, Esq., to The Inspector of Collieries.

Dear Sir,

Maryville Colliery, 28 October, 1885.

Your favour of the 24th instant came duly to hand, and your request I have carefully thought over. With regard to the second shaft, I have already put down one bore to the westward of our pit with a view of ascertaining the most suitable position of putting down a shaft. I am also putting in a bore ahead of some of my headings wherever I think there is the slightest necessity of doing so. As far as we can ascertain, there are other collieries adjacent who are worse off in this respect than we are, but we will endeavour to comply with the various suggestions as far as practicable.

Yours, &c.,

HENRY HARPER.

The Inspector of Collieries to The Examiner of Coal-fields.

Sir,

Glebeland, 29 October, 1885.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of 21st inst., concerning the disturbed state of the country in connection with the Maryville, Stockton, and Bullock Island Collieries, and the necessity for the second shaft at Maryville and Stockton, &c.

In reply, I beg to state that I most fully endorse your views respecting the abovenamed collieries, and, according to your instructions, have notified the managers, under the 25th section of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1876, to commence, at once, the second shaft at Maryville and Stockton, and to keep a borehole at least 10 feet ahead of the face in every exploring bord or heading driven north, east, south, or west, in the Maryville, Stockton, and Bullock Island Collieries, copies of which notifications I herewith beg to forward.

I have, &c.,

JOHN DIXON,

Inspector of Collieries.

The Inspector of Collieries to H. Harper, Esq.

Sir,

Glebeland, 13 November, 1885.

I hereby have to notify you of the very defective state of the ventilation in the Maryville Colliery, as found by me on my inspection of said colliery to-day (Friday), inasmuch as the total current of air circulating in the workings was only about 2,000 cubic feet per minute, for about 40 men, &c., being only about one-half the quantity of air required by sub-section 3, section 12, of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1876, for the above number of men, &c.

2. In pursuance of the provisions contained in the 25th section of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1876, I also notify you concerning the very defective state of the timber in the old bords, between the No. 3 and No. 4 headings, in the Maryville Colliery, for, knowing the soft nature of the roof, and seeing the great number of broken props in said bords, I am of opinion that in their present state they are dangerous, and may tend to the bodily injury of some person or persons employed in the Maryville Colliery. I have, therefore, to request that said old bords be retimbered throughout with good props, and that the old bord ends, on the side of No. 3 heading, be stopped up by a barrier of dirt extending from the stopping to at least 12 feet into each bord, and packed to the roof in each instance.

3. I have to urge that the above matters may have your immediate attention, so that they may be remedied at once.

I have, &c.,

JOHN DIXON,

Inspector of Collieries.

The Inspector of Collieries to H. Harper, Esq.

Sir,

Glebeland, 25 January, 1886.

I hereby have to notify you of the very defective state of the ventilation in the Maryville Colliery, as found by me on my inspection of said colliery to-day (Monday), inasmuch as the total current of air in the main return airway, near pit bottom, was only about 1,885 cubic feet per minute, being over 3,000 cubic feet of air per minute short of the quantity required by sub-section 3, section 12, of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1876, for the number of men, &c., at work in the Maryville Colliery at the time of my inspection.

2. On my inspection this morning I noticed that the top coal had been cut up and, to some extent, worked in three bords. Therefore, in pursuance of the provisions contained in the 25th section of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1876, I hereby notify you that, in my opinion, owing to the soft nature of the strata above the seam at the Maryville Colliery, it is a dangerous practice to work the top coal at the present time, more especially as there is only one shaft, and, consequently, only one way of escape for the persons employed below, in the event of a sudden inrush of water, sand, and gravel, which, in my opinion, may be liable to take place at any time after the removal of the top coal.

3. I have therefore to urge that the above matters may have your serious attention at once, with a view to the well-being and safety of all persons employed in the Maryville Colliery.

I have, &c.,

JOHN DIXON,

Inspector of Collieries.

The

The Examiner of Coal-fields to The Inspector of Collieries.

Re Maryville Colliery inspection of 18 June, 1886.

Dear Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 23 June, 1886.

In reply to your report of the 18th instant, with respect to defective ventilation at the Maryville Colliery, and the letter you have received from the manager, you had better make another early inspection, and if the defects complained of have not been rectified you must take the necessary steps to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Act.

2. You had also better write to Mr. Harper and again caution him respecting the serious loss of life that might occur should the mine be flooded through working out the top coal, the roof of the bords falling in, or pillars of sufficient strength to keep the roof or surface from falling down not having been left, and point out anything which you saw and considered to be dangerous when you were in the mine.

3. When did the Company commence working bords, and is the second shaft likely to be sunk to the Borehole coal-seam within the eighteen months?

I am, &c.,

JOHN MACKENZIE,
Examiner of Coal-fields.

P.S.—How is it that no colliery record tracing has yet been received? Did you see the plan when last inspecting the mine, and when is it surveyed up to? It is very necessary that the workings of the mine be kept surveyed up, in accordance with the provisions contained in the 5th section of the Act, and if, after an inspection, you think it advisable to have marked on the colliery plans the progress of the workings up to the time of such inspection you should notify the manager to that effect.—J.M.

The Examiner of Coal-fields to The Mining Manager, Maryville Colliery.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 23 June, 1886.

From a recent report received from Mr. Dixon, the Inspector of Collieries, with respect to an inspection he made of the Maryville Colliery on the 16th instant, and a letter he wrote you on 25th January last, in accordance with my instructions, after an examination of the mine, which I made with him, *I feel it my duty to inform you that, considering the extremely soft nature of the strata overlying the coal seam at the Maryville Colliery, and the probability of a much larger sudden influx of water flowing into the mine than has occurred on previous occasions, and a possibility of a serious loss of life to the men employed underground should it happen, that I consider it a dangerous practice to work the top coal, as a more sudden influx of water, sand, and gravel than has yet occurred might take place at any time.* Mr. Dixon says that in the C heading four of the bords fell in recently, and are now blocked up by dirt stoppings; that he also noticed a cut-through off C heading, where a heavy fall had taken place on the night prior to his visit, where he saw two men at work putting in a barrier stopping in case of another rush taking place. And at F heading, in the dip workings, he noticed that the top coal was being taken out of three bords, and on the same heading *the water is fairly streaming out of the roof in several places.*

2. I am glad to hear that you have made a commencement with the sinking of a second shaft, which was so urgently required, and I hope that it will be finished as quickly as possible, and within the time specified by section 12, sub-section 1, of the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1876.

I have, &c.,

JOHN MACKENZIE,
Examiner of Coal-fields.

The Inspector of Collieries to The Colliery Manager, Stockton Colliery.

Sir,

Glebeland, 25 June, 1886.

You will doubtless remember the conversation we had on Tuesday last, 22nd instant, whilst going through the workings of the Stockton Colliery, concerning the broken props in some of the bords, and my pointing out the necessity of having said timber renewed.

I have again to bring the subject under your notice, and, in pursuance of the provisions contained in the 25th section of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1876, hereby notify you that, in my opinion, it is dangerous to allow broken props to remain standing in any bord in the Stockton Colliery, and that such props should at once be taken out, and sound ones put in, so that the roof in every instance may be properly supported.

In addition to the above, I am further of opinion that in every abandoned bord a row of checks should be built in the roadway, from end to end, for in a high seam like Stockton, and where the bords are so free from refuse, a fall of roof might at any time be a source of danger to all persons employed below.

2. I have therefore to urge that you would attend to the above matters at once, with a view of having them carried into effect as soon as possible.

I have, &c.,

JOHN DIXON,
Inspector of Collieries.

H. Harper, Esq., to The Examiner of Coal-fields.

Dear Sir,

Maryville Colliery, Newcastle, 26 June, 1886.

Your letter of the 23rd inst. came duly to hand, and I have carefully perused the same. With regard to your remarks—the extremely soft nature of the strata overlying the coal seam at the Maryville Colliery,—I think you must have been misinformed respecting this formation. In the sinking of the Maryville working shaft the following is a true section of the formation we passed through:—In sand and marine shells, 32 feet; strong stiff hard clay, almost impregnable with a strong grouting tool, 101 feet (one hundred and one feet); gravel and white marl, 2 feet, with a little water; then coal and bands of fire-clay for 3 feet; then good coal, 11 feet. I have since put down a bore a little north-west of the working shaft, and about 7 or 8 chains from the same, with the following section:—Sand, 20 feet; strong stiff hard clay, 100 feet; coal and fire-clay, 4 feet; good coal, 5 feet 6 inches. The clay in this bore was so hard that the auger would not cut 6 inches at a time before being drawn and cleaned.

These two sections do not, in my opinion, indicate a chance of a probability of a sudden influx of water, even if there was an open body of water on the surface, which I maintain there is not on any portion of the estate. And my experience for the last forty years, which has been considerable in boring, sinking, and in the general working of coal mines, should have given me some practical knowledge of the nature and formation of roof or cover over a seam to justify its safe and practical working. I consider that a cover or formation such as we have at Maryville is far more safer than if we had a rock cover, with sand and water overlying it. The places referred to in Mr. Dixon's report in F heading, I have no doubt but there is a rock cover making in this direction. As this F heading is not above 7 or 8 chains from a bore put down by me at Smedmore, in which we had 60 or 70 feet of very hard conglomerate rock, my own opinion is that this rock, being porous, contains the water. But in all leading headings, especially those to the deep, I have invariably found water following and draining out of the roof, and as in this instance referred to by Mr. Dixon, probably in a fortnight's time these places will be drained and fresh places break out. This very same thing occurred in the A. A. Company's No. 2 pit on the opening out of the workings in 1862; but it soon drained off. With regard to the working of the top-coal bords, I have had the roof tested to-day, and cut up. There is 2 feet 7 inches of good coal left up, and then 1 foot 9 inches of strong slate or shale over this, and these places not over 5 yards wide. I cannot see the slightest danger in working this coal. The places that came in, referred to in Mr. Dixon's report, were driven up towards a fault or washout, and they are quite dry. I am taking every precaution I possibly can, and going to considerable expense by boring up in the leading headings every 10 or 12 feet, as we proceed with them, not that there is the slightest necessity of doing so, but as an extra precaution, and acting upon Mr. Dixon's advice.

Again,

Again, referring to the formation of roof over the Maryville Colliery, and all those collieries that are now being worked, and to be worked, on those places that have a sand and clay formation on the surface, I will just refer to the A. A. Company's No. 2 pit, which is down 162½ feet to the floor of the seam. In this shaft they had 28 feet rock over the seam. The balance was clay and sand, very much like the formation of the Maryville cover. In this colliery they have in many places taken out not only the top coal, but also the pillars, and have brought on very extensive creeps, showing for many acres in extent on the surface, and doing no material damage below, as I am aware of, either by water influx or anything else. I maintain that the Maryville Colliery is now working a similar formation as the A. A. Co. In every bore that I have put down in this district where there has been a sand and clay formation on the surface I have always found the clay very hard and dry until I am through the clay. Then I have met a bed of gravel, varying from 6 inches to 2 feet 6 inches. This I found troublesome, and full of water. It is from this gravel bed under the body of clay that have ever given us any trouble at Maryville. But it will soon drain off perfectly dry. In crossing this washout on the north-west side of Maryville workings we had this wash or gravel bed for many yards, which let off a great quantity of water. But it is now nearly all drained off, so I do not think there is the slightest cause for alarm at Maryville; but, at the same time, we will take every precaution possible to avoid the possibility of an accident.

I am, &c.,
HENRY HARPER.

The Examiner of Coal-fields to The Manager, Stockton Colliery.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 7 August, 1886.

Referring to my inspection of the Stockton Colliery on 5th instant, along with yourself and the Inspector of Collieries, when we measured the width of some bords and pillars, and found them not to be as shown on the plan of the workings, I have to request that an accurate plan be made as early as practicable, showing, as near as possible, the coal which has been extracted, and the coal left for the support of the roof. As it is absolutely necessary in a mine situated as the Stockton Colliery is (as Mr. Dixon says in his notification to you) that when the bords are driven an excessive width, and the pillars thereby thinned, the colliery plan should show it, so that when an inspection is made the Inspector may be better able to form an opinion with respect to any probable danger from the roof falling in, and whether it is likely that it might lead to a flooding of the mine, and consequent loss of life.

I have, &c.,
JOHN MACKENZIE,
Examiner of Coal-fields.

J. Evans Esq., to The Examiner of Coal-fields.

Dear Sir,

The Stockton Colliery, Newcastle, 9 August, 1886.

Your letter dated 7th August to hand, and I note what you say *re* preparing a plan showing the exact amount of coal extracted, and the pillars that are left to support roof. Considering the small scale colliery plans are usually made on, viz., 2 chains to the inch, I consider my present plan practically correct; but, to meet your views, I will prepare a plan on a scale of 1 chain to the inch, which will show with more accuracy the exact state of the mine, the coal that is worked and left.

To do this will necessitate considerable time, so I shall have to re-survey the whole mine, and I cannot promise to get it done under a period of six weeks.

I am, &c.,
JOHN EVANS.

Opinion *re* 25 Vic. No. 29.

The question submitted for my opinion is one which is not entirely free from doubt, but upon a very careful consideration of section 12 rule No. 1 and section 25 of the Act, I have come to the conclusion that the making of a second shaft, under the circumstances referred to, is a proceeding for which "provision" or "rule" is already made by section 12 rule No. 1.

The second shaft would be in this case only necessary as a means of enabling persons to escape from accident which is not at present "threatening" or *tending to bodily injury* of any persons, and which may never happen. I think therefore the colliery proprietors may claim the protection of the 12th section, and defer the making of the second shaft until the expiration of the eighteen months.

12 March, 1886.

J. H. WANT,
Attorney-General.

SECTION OF BORES PUT DOWN IN DISTRICT EMBRACED IN REPORT.

No. 1.—Waratah Staiths, on Hunter River.

Section of Strata bored through by Diamond Rock Drill for the Waratah Coal Company, on their property at Port Waratah, near Newcastle.

	Strata. ft. in.	ft. in.	Core lost. ft. in.
Sand	45 0	.....	.....
Yellow and white clay	39 0	.....	.....
Soft sandstone	1 0	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 7
Sandstone (harder)	0 8½	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 8
Very fine bluish sandstone	1 10½	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 6
Very fine bluish sandstone	0 9½	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 7
Very fine bluish sandstone	1 0½	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	2 0½
Very fine bluish sandstone	2 9½	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	1 0
Very fine bluish sandstone	1 0½	.....	.....
Light red sandstone	1 0	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 5½
Sandstone with light blue shale partings	3 1	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 10
Sandstone and shale partings	1 0	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 8
Sandstone, blue shale partings	1 4½	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 11½
Bluish sandstone, shale partings	1 4	.....	.....
Blue shale	0 1½	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 7

No. 1—continued.

	Strata. ft. in.	ft. in.	Core lost. ft. in.
Blue shale	0 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	.....	.....
Sandstone full of shale partings	3 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	.....	.....
Sandstone with shale partings	1 0	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 4
Sandstone full of shale partings	0 8	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sandstone full of shale partings	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Shale with sandstone partings	1 1	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 6
Shale and sandstone in partings	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bluish sandy shale	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 6
Blue shale with occasional partings	22 10	.....	.....
Blue shale	1 0	.....	.....
Reddish shale	0 3	.....	.....
Blue shale	12 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 6
Blue shale	5 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 9
Blue shale	0 6	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	1 0
Blue shale	6 1	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue shale	11 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 10
Blue shale	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue shale	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue shale	0 3	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 8
Blue shale	3 9	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 7
Blue shale	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 5
Blue shale with yellow partings	2 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue shale	2 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 5
Blue shale	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue shale	9 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue shale	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Shale and sandstone	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Sandstone with a little shale	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Very fine conglomerate	0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Shale and sandstone in layers	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 7
Sandstone with a little shale	0 9	.....	.....
Blue shale	11 0	.....	.....
Sandstone and shale	1 2	.....	.....
Sandstone with few bands shale	4 7	.....	.....
Shale with bands sandstone	0 8	.....	.....
Shale and sandstone layers	6 7	.....	.....
Blue shale	8 0	.....	.....
Shale and sandstone in layers	1 7	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 5
Fine conglomerate	0 5	.....	.....
Blue shale	1 0	255 5	.....
Coal	2 0	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 6
Coal	0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	.....	.....
Sandstone	2 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	.....	.....
Shale and sandstone	3 5	.....	.....
Blue shale and sandstone	1 7	.....	.....
Blue shale	2 5	.....	.....
Light brown sandstone	1 4	.....	.....
Blue shale with fossils	0 8	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 3
Blue shale and sandstone	1 2	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 10
Sandstone with little shale	2 0	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 4
Grey sandstone	1 0	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 5
Coarse grey sandstone	0 6	.....	.....
Sandstone with little shale	1 2	.....	.....
Grey sandstone	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grey sandstone with shale	0 7	.....	.....
Grey sandstone	0 8	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 8
Coarse grey sandstone	0 6	.....	.....
Sandstone and shale in layers	3 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Shaly sandstone	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	.....
Core lost .....	.....	.....	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grey sandstone	1 10	.....	.....
Shaly sandstone	0 8	.....	.....
Grey sandstone	1 1	289 1	.....

No. 1—*continued*.

	Strata		Core lost	
	ft.	in.	ft.	in.
Coal	0	2½		
Core lost			0	5
Coal	0	1		
Cherty shale	0	5½		
Core lost			0	9
Very fine sandstone	0	7		
Core lost			0	6
Fine sandstone	0	8		
Core lost			0	10
Fine hard white sandstone	0	5		
Core lost			1	2½
Fine sandstone	1	9½		
Cherty sandstone	0	10		
Chert	2	2		
Cherty sandstone	0	6½		
Core lost			0	8½
Chert	1	9		
Total	271	7	31	5
Total	303	0		

No. 2 BOREHOLE.—FERNDAL ESTATE.

	ft.	in.
Sand	29	9
Rotten rock	4	0
Conglomerate	28	0
Brown soft sandstone	1	0
Brown sandstone mixed with clay	2	3
Shaly sandstone	10	0
Brown soft sandstone	0	7½
Shaly sandstone	9	4½
Shaly clay dark	8	1
Coal	0	3
Grey sandstone	25	0
Clay parting	0	1
Grey sandstone	3	0
Clay parting	0	1
Grey sandstone	1	0
Shaly sandstone and post bands	57	6
	180	0

BORE No. 3.—FERNDAL E.

In East Swamp, M on plan.

	ft.	in.
Loose sand	52	0
Conglomerate	48	6
Clay	0	2
Coal	1	0
Soft band	0	5
Coal	3	8
Grey sandstone	1	3
Total depth	107	0

No. 4.—FERNDAL E.

To N and E above high-water-mark.

	ft.	in.
Surface	1	0
Conglomerate	48	3
Shaly sandstone	5	0
Conglomerate	11	0
Shaly sandstone	22	6
Shaly clay	9	0
Coal	1	10
Coal and dirt	0	9
Coal	3	2
Grey sandstone	0	6
Total depth	103	0

BORE No. 5.—FERNDAL E.

In centre of flat, north-east of pumping-pit.

	ft.	in.
Loose sand	61	0
Conglomerate	22	0
Soft bed with gravel	0	6
Shaly clay	14	6
Sandy shale	13	6
Coal	0	9
Clay band	1	3
Coal	0	8
Clay band	1	9
Coal	3	3
Grey sandstone	0	4
Total depth	119	6

BORE No. 6.—FERNDALE.

In east swamp, contiguous to road to Smelting Works.

	ft.	in.
Loose sand	48	0
Sandy shale	3	0
Conglomerate	22	0
Clays	0	3
Coal, inferior	0	6
Coal and clay	0	11
Coal	3	2
Sandy shale	11	6
Conglomerate	3	0
Shaly clay, with coal pipes	2	6
Shaly sandstone	33	8
Shale	5	0
Coal	3	9
Grey sandstone	0	9
Total depth	148	0

BORE No. 7.

At pumping-shaft.

	ft.	in.
Sandy shale	9	0
Conglomerate	42	9
Brown clay	0	9
Coal	0	4
White shale	0	4
Conglomerate	2	5
Shaly sandstone	1	6
Conglomerate	20	6
Clay	0	6
Conglomerate	20	0
Dark shale	5	3
Coal	1	6
Brown clay	1	10
Soft coal	0	6
White clay	0	8
Coal	3	3
Grey sandstone	0	6
Total depth	111	7

BORE No. 8.—FERNDALE.

South of pumping-shaft, marked O on plan.

	ft.	in.
Loose sand	20	0
Conglomerate	30	0
Clay, bed	0	6
Conglomerate	25	0
Dark shale	4	0
Shaly sandstone	22	0
Shaly clay	6	0
Coal	3	3
Sandstone, grey	0	7
Total	111	4

BORE No 9.—FERNDALE.

Outside of road near bridge across Tighe's Creek, from Wickham to east of pumping-pit.

	ft.	in.
Loose sand	40	0
Clay	18	0
Smut	0	3
Sandy shale	59	7
Brown clay	0	3
Coal	1	8
Coal and clay	2	5
Coal	4	4
Shaly clay, with coal-pipes	5	3
Coal	2	4
Clay band	0	7
Coal	0	7
Clay band	1	4
Coal	3	8
Grey post	0	6
Total	140	9

BORE No. 10.—FERNDALE.

Near Tighe's Bridge, south of Robinson's colliery.

	ft.	in.
Depth of shaft.....	52	0
Bore commenced.....		
Conglomerate	33	0
Shale	5	0
Soft coal	1	6
Coal	3	0
Shale, with coal bands	3	0
Coal	2	7
Grey sandstone	0	6
Total	100	7

BORE No. 11.

Section of Bore, Maryville Colliery, west side of shaft.

	ft.	in.
Clay soil	2	0
Sand	18	0
Clay, very hard and strong	103	0
Soft black smut	0	10
Coal, strong.....	3	4
Total	127	2

BORE No. 12.

Section of Bore put down on the Smeadmore Estate, north 35 degrees west of shaft.

	ft.	in.
Sand	26	0
Strong stiff clay	54	0
Soft sandstone.....	4	3
Hard conglomerated rock	30	1
Fireclay band	0	3½
Dark grey sandstone	0	5
Brown fireclay with coal pipes	1	2
Coal with clutter bands	3	1
Band of fireclay	1	4
Coal, good	3	7
Total	124	2½

BORE No. 13.

Copy of Bore at Wickham, near Hudson Bros.

	ft.	in.
Sand	27	0
Clay	100	0
Conglomerate	3	0
Sandy clay	5	5
Coal and dirt	1	11
Clean coal.....	7	11
Soft band or jerry	0	6
Clean coal.....	5	1
Total	150	10

BORE No. 14.

Bore No. 1, on Mr. Dangar's ground, near the junction of the G.N.R.

	ft.	in.
Sand	20	0
Clay	18	0
Pipeclay	4	0
Dark shaly clay	18	8
Grey shaly clay	57	0
Smutty coal.....	0	4
Dark shaly clay with hard bands	25	8
Post	0	4
Total	144	0

BORE No. 15.

Bore No. 2, on Mr. Dangar's Estate, near the A.A. Co.'s boundary at the creek.

	ft. in.
Clay	6 0
Sand	3 0
Clay	31 0
Sand	1 6
Red sandstone, soft	6 0
White sandstone, soft	8 0
Grey shaly sandstone	14 6
Shaly clay	10 0
Shaly sandstone	30 0
Pipeclay	1 0
Dark shaly clay	32 0
Post band	0 6
Dark shaly clay	13 4
Grey post	0 2
Total ..	157 0

A List of the Bores on the Ferndale Estate.

BORE A.

	ft. in.
Sand	29 9
Rotten rock	4 0
Conglomerate	28 0
Brown sandstone, soft	1 0
Brown sandstone, mixed with clay	2 3
Shaly sandstone	10 0
Brown sandstone, soft	0 7½
Shaly sandstone	9 4½
Shaly clay, dark	8 1
Coal	0 3
Grey sandstone	25 0
Clay parting	0 1
Grey sandstone	3 0
Clay parting	0 1
Grey sandstone	1 0
Shaly sandstone with post bands	57 6
Total	180 0

BORE B, at Gravel Quarry.

	ft. in.
Shaly sandstone	9 0
Conglomerate	42 9
Brown clay	0 9
Coal	0 4
White shaly clay	0 4
Conglomerate	2 5
Shaly sandstone	1 6
Conglomerate	20 6
Clay	0 6
Conglomerate	20 0
Dark shaly clay	5 3
Coal	1 6
Brown clay	1 10
Soft coal	0 6
White clay	0 8
Coal	3 3
Grey sandstone	0 6
Total	111 7

BORE C.

200 yards north of Gravel Quarry.

	ft. in.
Surface	1 0
Conglomerate	48 0
Shaly sandstone	5 4
Conglomerate	8 0
Shaly sandstone	17 0
Shaly clay	15 9
Coal, soft	2 10
Band	0 9
Coal	3 0
Grey sandstone	0 4
Total	102 0

BORE D.

Mr. Spark's well.

	ft.	in.
Well	34	0
Conglomerate	50	6
Shaly clay	5	0
Coal, soft	1	6
Coal	3	0
Shaly band	3	0
Coal	2	7
Grey sandstone	0	5
Total	100	0

No. 16.

Account of strata sunk through at Linwood, leased by Messrs Walker & Wilde, from Mr. Peter Fleming,
now Wickham & Bullock Island Co.'s Leasehold.

	ft.	in.
Sand	40	0
Oyster-bed, very hard (shells and mud)	3	0
Strong blue clay	42	0
Chert rock, hard	0	9
Strong blue clay (very stiff)	15	2
Coarse sand and gravel (water heavy)	2	6
Strong blue clay	8	0
Oyster-shells and mud (cemented together)	3	6
Blue clay	4	6
Strong chert rock (very hard)	0	6
Blue clay (slippery faces)	8	0
Smutty clay (like crop of coal)	3	0
Brown soft sandstone	2	0
Smutty clay, with streaks of coal	3	6
Strong clay (well bedded in layers)	2	3
Fine white quicksand	0	6
Clayey sandstone	1	0
Conglomerate	8	3
Soft sandstone	1	0
Sandstone	12	0
Coal	1	2
Clay band	0	5
Bituminous coal	4	4
White indurated clay	0	0½
Bituminous coal	4	2
Hard grey sandstone		
Total thickness	172	0½

No. 17 BORE.

Junction of Maitland and Wickham Roads (Dangar's lands).

	ft.	in.
Loose sand	44	0
Clay	42	0
Smut	3	6
Clay and gravel	39	0
Rotten rock	8	0
Sandstone	30	0
Shale	1	6
Sandstone	6	0
Hard post band	1	6
Sandstone	6	0
Hard post band	0	3
Sandstone	9	0
Hard post band	1	6
Sandstone	12	0
Hard post band	0	6
Sandstone	10	0
Shale	2	0
Shaly sandstone	10	0
Shale	4	6
Smut and dirt	0	3
Coal and shale	1	10½
Coal	2	6½
Clay band	0	1
Coal	3	0
Clay band	0	1
Coal	4	5½
Hard band	0	1
Coal	1	0
Black band	0	9
Coal	4	9½
Total	250	6½

No. 18, A.A. Co.

An account of strata passed through in No. 7 Borehole, on the A. A. Company's Newcastle property, situate in lot 43, sec. B, near Woods Brewery; bored by W. Steel, December 1877.

	ft.	in.
Sand	56	0
Clay blue	30	0
Oyster-shells	0	9
Clay, various colours.....	37	0
Sand and pebbles	5	0
Clay, of various colours	16	4
Gravel, stone	2	0
Soft post and coal threads	2	0
Hard post.....	2	11½
Total.....	152	0½

BORE No. 19, A.A. Co.

An account of strata passed through in No. 10 Borehole, on the A. A. Company's Newcastle property, between the Gas-works and duffer pit; bored by W. A. Steel, July, 1880.

Surface 16'41 ft. above high-water mark.

	ft.	in.
Surface sand	55	0
Clay of various colours	42	0
Gravel and large stones.....	8	0
Clay, mixed pebbles, and stones	28	7
Post conglomerate	4	0
Post and slate girdles	9	8½
Post, hard.....	19	5½
Crusted post ribbed with ironstone	18	5½
Post and slate girdles.....	13	11
Coal and bands	3	1½
Post, very hard	19	7½
	1	1½
	223	0

BORE No. 20, A.A. Co.

An account of strata passed through in No. 2 Borehole, on the A.A. Company's Newcastle property, near No. 2 pit.

Surface 13'94 ft. above high-water mark.

	ft.	in.
Sand	28	0
Slate-coloured clay.....	2	6
Sand	10	0
Clay	11	6
Clay	28	6
Coal smut, with blue clay slate forming with coal pipes	15	0
Blue slate.....	10	3
Chert bed.....	0	1½
Blue slate and post girdles	5	6
Post and slate girdles	14	0
Grey post	0	5
Post and slate girdles.....	6	3
Grey post	0	9½
Post and slate girdles.....	5	3½
Grey post	1	9½
Post and slate girdles.....	1	6
Grey post	6	6
Blue slate	1	4
Grey post (shelly)	2	9
Ironstone	0	5½
Grey post (shelly)	4	3
Crusted grey post	1	1½
Blue slate.....	2	0½
Crusted grey post	2	7½
Post and slate girdles	1	4
Post ribbed ironstone.....	1	9½
Post and slate girdles	2	3
Conglomerate sand and pebbles	3	10
Blue slate with several small beds of ironstone, post, and chert rock.....	6	1½
Slate ironstone.....	4	4½
Coal smut.....	0	6½
Slate	0	5
Coal smut.....	0	8½
Coal and bands	17	0½
Total.....	201	0½

BORE No. 21, A.A. Co.

An account of strata passed through in No. 5 Borehole, on the A.A. Company's Newcastle property,
near Bellingham.

Surface 15·21 feet above high-water mark.

	ft.	in.
Surface sand and several gravel-beds...	30	6
Black clay mixed with pebbles	10	5
Clay of various colours	23	1
Soft coal	1	8
Blue slate	2	6
Soft post	1	6
Blue slate	3	6
Grey post	1	10
Blue slate	4	6
Grey post	2	7½
Blue slate	3	7½
Post and slate girdles	2	4½
Post, grey	2	6½
Blue slate	2	8½
Grey post	4	4½
Grey post and slate girdles	7	10½
Ironstone band	0	0½
Grey post	0	5
Ironstone band	0	1½
Grey post	3	4½
Ironstone band	0	1½
Post and threads of ironstone	3	2½
Post	2	1½
Post and slate girdles	4	7
Slate	1	3½
Post and slate girdles	5	6½
Slate	1	5½
Grey post	0	9
Slate and post girdles	10	8
Post grey	1	8
Ironstone	0	2
Post and slate girdles	8	5½
Ironstone	0	6
Blue slate	7	3½
Ironstone	0	1
Slate and post girdles	1	3
Ironstone	0	1½
Post and slate girdles	3	10½
Dark slate	1	0
Grey post	4	10½
Slate and post girdles	1	8½
Slate, blue	3	0
Slate and post girdles	3	3½
Ironstone	0	1½
Blue slate	3	1½
Ironstone band	0	2
Blue slate	2	1½
Ironstone	0	6
Slate crown	1	0½
Smut and clay	0	10½
Fireclay	1	0
Coarse coal	0	6
Coarse coal clay partings	0	5
Fireclay	0	5½
Coal and bands	16	5½
Post	0	5
Total	208	10½

BORE No. 22, A.A. Co.

An account of strata passed through in No. 12 Borehole, situated near B pit, on A.A. Company's Newcastle
Estate; bored by W. A. Steel, February, 1884, to February, 1885.

Surface 43·36 feet above high-water mark.

	ft.	in.
Surface clay	16	6
Soft post	11	6
Black slate and coal pipes	1	3½
Coal, rather coarse	2	10½
Coal, coarse and slaty	7	0½
Coal, clean	1	8½
Slate band	0	4½
Coal, clean	2	3½
Slate and post	6	5½
Post and ironstone band	14	1½
Post and slate girdles	3	6½
Post and ironstone bands	12	7½
Slate	8	9½
Black slate and coal pipes... ..	0	8
Coal and stone band ¾-in. thick	3	0
Fireclay	0	6
Post with pebbles	10	10½
Post and ironstone-beds and ribs	17	7½
Post, grey	1	9½
Slate	4	10½
Coal	1	6½
Slate	2	11½
Post, grey	5	5

BORE No. 22—*continued*.

	ft. in.
Slate	2 9
Post, grey	0 11½
Slate	0 7½
Post (grey) and slate	31 11
Post, grey, very hard	7 6¼
Post and slate girdles	26 10¼
Post, hard, grey	12 1
Post and slate girdles	2 11½
Post, grey, hard	3 3¼
Post and slate	3 6¼
Post, grey, hard	10 9½
Slate and post bands	12 6¼
Coaly slate and fireclay	3 4½
Coal and bands	18 8¼
Total	276 3½

BORE No. 23, A.A. Co.

An account of strata passed through in No. 9 Borehole, on the A.A. Company's Newcastle property, near the Gas-works; bored by W. A. Steel, May, 1880.

Surface 17·36 feet above high-water mark.

	ft. in.
Surface sand	50 0
Clay of various colours	30 0
Clay and pebbles	20 0
Slate (forming)	5 6
Coal	1 7½
Fireclay	0 4
Soft post	4 6
Slate and post girdles	44 5½
Post	3 0
Slate and post girdles	12 6¼
Post	0 7½
Slate and post girdles	5 2½
Post and slate girdles	5 5
Post	22 9
Post with pebbles	19 11½
Brown slate and coal pipes	8 3½
Fireclay	0 5
Brown slate and coal pipes	3 6¼
Coal and slate bands	0 5
Coal and bands	13 11½
Post	2 4½
Total	254 9¼

BORE No. 24, A.A. Co.

An account of strata passed through in No. 8 Borehole, on the A.A. Company's Newcastle property, situate in the north-east corner of said property, near their Newcastle office; bored by W. Steel; completed, January, 1880.

Surface 3·56 ft. above high-water mark.

	ft. in.
Surface sand	20 0
Clay and pebbles	33 0
Soft post	7 11½
Blue slate	2 0½
Hard black slate	1 0½
Blue slate	0 11½
Coarse coal	0 6
Coal	1 3½
Stone band	0 0¾
Coal	1 8
Fireclay	0 7
Grey post	23 8
Post and slate girdles	13 4
Slate with fossil leaves	1 6¼
Coal	1 6¼
Brown slate with fossil leaves	3 10
Grey post	3 0½
Post and slate girdles	1 8¼
Fireclay	0 10¼
Grey post	7 0½
Grey post and slate girdles	40 7
Grey post	13 2¼
Grey post and slate girdles	5 8½
Grey post	1 10¼
Grey post and slate girdles	2 8
Grey post	3 10½
Grey post and slate girdles	2 9½
Grey post	10 3
Grey post and slate girdles	4 0
Grey post with ironstone girdles	37 8¼
Grey post and slate girdles	2 1½
Brown coaly slate	2 3½
Coal and bands	22 2½
Hard grey post	0 4
Total	275 3½

BORE No. 25, A.A. Co.

An account of strata passed through in No. 4 Borehole, on the A.A. Company's Newcastle property, near the F pit.

Surface 71·46 ft. above high-water mark.

	ft.	in.
Surface sand	10	0
Sandy loam of various colours	30	6
Coal smut	2	0
Very stiff clay of various colours	20	6
Clay and pebbles	12	0
Coal smut	1	0
Clean coal	0	6
Clean coal and $\frac{1}{2}$ band	0	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Clean coal	0	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Slate of various colours	4	11
Slate and post girdles	12	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue post	6	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue slate	9	5
Clean coal	1	7
Slate	3	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grey post	4	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grey post and slate	2	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Slate and post beds	3	3
Ironstone	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Coaly slate	0	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue post	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Slate with fossils	2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grey post and slate girdles	2	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grey post and ironstone	3	10
Hard grey post	1	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue slate	2	6
Ironstone	0	1
Blue post and slate girdles	1	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
Grey post and pebbles	10	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grey post and slate girdles	3	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Blue post	5	4
Post and slate girdles	8	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Grey post	5	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Blue slate	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grey post	4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ironstone	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Hard grey post	16	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue slate	0	9
Grey post	12	10
Ironstone	0	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grey post	17	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Blue slate	9	11
Brown slate	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Coaly slate	1	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Coal, coarse	1	0
Slate, wine-coloured	0	5
Slate mixed with coal pipes	5	9
Coal (no sample)	1	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Coal and bands	13	1
Grey post	0	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total	263	5 $\frac{1}{2}$

BORE No. 26, A.A. Co.

An account of strata passed through in No. 1 Borehole, on the A.A. Company's Newcastle property.

Surface 6·71 ft. above high-water mark.

	ft.	in.
Blue sandstone	2	0
Ironstone band	0	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue sandstone	4	0
Ironstone band	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue sandstone	5	0
Ironstone band	0	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue sandstone	6	0
Soft brown coaly shale	4	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Clean coal	1	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue slate with coal pipings	2	9
Blue post	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue slate	1	4
Blue post	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue slate	1	0
Blue post	1	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue slate	0	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue post	0	7
Blue slate	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue post	1	3
Blue slate	2	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue post	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue slate with threads of ironstone	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ironstone	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue slate with hard post girdles	1	3
Blue post	5	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ironstone	0	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blue post	0	6 $\frac{1}{2}$

BORE No. 26—*continued*.

	ft. in.
Hard blue slate	0 5½
Ironstone	0 3½
Hard blue slate	2 7½
Blue post	1 0½
Blue slate with post girdles	3 5
Blue post	2 4
White chert	0 6
Grey post	1 11½
Blue post with threads of ironstone	4 11½
Ironstone	0 7½
Grey post with small pebbles	6 5½
Ironstone	0 6½
Crusty grey post	3 7½
Soft grey post	9 0½
Grey post (hard)	6 9½
Grey post and slate girdles	19 8½
Grey post with ironstone ribs	7 2½
Coarse grey post with pebbles	12 1½
Black slate band	0 6½
Grey post and slate girdles	1 2
Shelly post	0 5
Blue slate	8 9
Soft black dant	2 6
Clean coal	0 4½
Blue clay	0 2
Coarse slaty coal	0 5½
Soft black dant	0 7
Coarse slaty coal	0 4½
Clean coal	0 2½
Black smut	0 2
Clean coal	0 3½
Slate and coal pipes	0 5
Smut	0 1½
Blue slate	1 3½
Clay	0 1½
Coal and hands	14 3½
Splint coal	0 1½
Blue slate	4 7
Post	0 5
Total	177 10½

BORE No. 27.

At No. 2 pit, the following appears to answer your inquiries :—

	ft. in.
Sand and clay	99 0
Stone of various kinds	27 0
Grey shale	24 0
Coal	9 6
	159 6

BORE No. 28.

Account of strata sunk through at the A pit, Burwood Coal-mining Company (Limited), furnished by Mr. Simpson.

	ft. in.
Black soil	1 6
Gravel clay	23 6
Clay mixed with boulders	10 0
Grey sandstone	1 0
Dirty coal mixed with black stone	3 8
Soft sandstone with conglomerate girdles	5 5
Hard grey sandstone	8 7
Coarse coal and shale	3 0
Blue shale	4 0
Hard blue shale	1 2
Grey post	1 3
Blue shale and girdles	21 11
Dark blue shale	6 0
Hard brown post with ironstone girdles	2 6
Blue metal	95ft. 6in. 2 0
Coal	2 0
Band	0 6
Coal	2 0
Band	0 2
Coal	0 6
Blue metal	1 8
Coal	1 8
Black stone	1 8
Dirty coal	11ft. 6in. 1 4
Blue metal with post girdles into	13 0
	120 0

BORE No. 29.

Account of strata bored through with diamond rock drill at Flaggy Creek, near Glenrock Lagoon, 17th March, 1881.

	ft.	in.	ft.	in.
Coarse conglomerate			42	0
Blue shale (with impressions)			3	0
Sandstone with a little shale			9	0
Sandstone and chert			10	0
Indurated clay			1	0
Coal (Burwood seam?)	6 ft. to	6	9	
Sandstone with chert and shale (with impressions)			26	0
Black shale mixed with coal			2	10
Shale			1	0
Sandstone and conglomerate			5	0
Blue shale with black shale bands (full of impressions)			33	0
Coal (dirty seam?)				
Blue shale (with impressions)			13	0
Grey conglomerate and sandstone			18	0
Blue shale (with impressions)			35	0
Coal (yard seam?)				
Grey post and blue shale			77	0
Borehole seam—				
Coal and shale bands	1	0		
Coal, good clean	3	2		
Strong band	0	1		
Coal, good clean	3	8		
Iron band	0	6		
Coal, good	0	4		
Band	0	1		
Coal, good clean	1	1		
Band mixed with coal	1	6		
Coal, good	0	8½		
			12	1½
Grey post and shale			46	0
			334	5½

BORE No. 30.

The Newcastle Coal-mining Co mpany (Limited).

Section of strata passed through in sinking B pit.

	ft.	in.	ft.	in.
Hard yellow clay	30	0		
Yellow clay with a little sand mixture	10	0		
Soft clay with boulders	31	6		
Coal, very soft	1	6		
Blue shale, soft	11	0		
Blue shale, soft	36	5		
Hard grey post	24	1		
Blue shale	1	6		
Hard grey post	3	6		
Blue shale	5	8		
Hard grey post	0	10		
Blue metal, rather soft	7	6		
Grey post	6	5		
Blue metal, rather hard	4	7		
Dark blue metal, mixed with sandstone bands	1	1		
Coal	1	3	177	11
Dark blue shale	1	1		
Coal top band	2	10		
Coal, big tops	2	8½		
Bands	0	1		
Coal, bottom lifts	1	3		
Morgan	0	6		
Coal	0	10		
Band	0	0½		
Coal (little tops)	0	10		
Jerry	1	3		
Coal bottom	2	3		
			12	7
			190	6

BORE No. 31.

Section of present winding-shaft, Stockton.

	ft.	in.
Sand	60	0
Sand and clay	2	0
Blue sand	4	0
Red conglomerate	24	0
Grey conglomerate	28	0
Fireclay and blue shale mixed	10	9
Coal	2	3
Band	0	3
Coal	2	3
Sandstone and blue freestone	49	0
Coal (clean)	2	0

BORE No. 31—*continued*.

	ft. in.
Freestone	130 0
Blue shale	17 0
Coal	2 6
Band	0 1
Coal	12 6
Blue shale	6 0
Coal with parting	9 6
Hard freestone	28 0
Total depth	391 0

No. 32.—DIAMOND DRILL.

Strata passed through at Stockton, as near as could be ascertained, by the Diamond Drill.

2nd January, 1883.

	ft. in.
Sand, coarse, with beds of shells	58 6
Stiff blue clay	18 0
Coarse hard sand, comparatively dry	2 0
Loose conglomerate mixed with clay	10 1
Stiff clay of a yellowish hue	3 0
Soft micaceous sandstone with small coal pipes	10 0
Soft white rock like pipeclay	0 11
Fine conglomerate of greyish colour	9 6
Shaly sandstone with clay bands	2 0
Fine conglomerate, light colour	3 6
Band of stiff white clay	2 9
Shaly sandstone, very soft, with a quantity of coal pipes	4 0
Fine clay	1 2
Coal, smutty, bad colour	3 2
	128 7
From this depth to 328 feet is made up of strata as shown in bores and measures, 200 feet.	200 0
Deduct for waste, at the rate of about 8 per cent. ; this high waste or loss of core is partially caused by the shale-beds being acted upon in the core-barrel by the hard grey and blue post.	
The usual waste is about 6 per cent.	
	328 7
Coal with inch band	13 0
	341 7

JOHN COGHLAN,
Proprietor, Australian Diamond Drill

No. 33 BORE

An account of strata bored through near Stockton, in 1863, by the late Mr. Jonathan Dixon.

Quarter of a mile north of Patent Slip, and near Hunter River.

	ft. in.
Dry sand	4 6
Blue clay	4 0
Quicksand	49 6
Blue clay with shells	82 0
Running sand	4 0
Conglomerate with coal pipes	11 9
Grey metal	4 0
Blue metal	1 0
Grey metal and post	15 0
Grey metal with strong post	4 6
Blue metal with post	11 10
Blue metal	3 2
Grey post	2 1
Blue metal	6 1
Post girdle	0 6
Blue metal with post	4 1
Brown post	0 8
Post with grey metal and coal pipes mixed	4 8
Good coal	1 3
Grey metal	7 3
Post girdle	0 2
Grey metal	3 2
Blue metal mixed with post and coal pipes	10 5
Coal	0 11½
Band	0 6½
Coal	0 3
Band, thickness to Stockton	1 10
Coal	4 2½
Band	0 0½
Coal	4 3
Blue metal	0 6
Total depth	248 2

No. 34 BORE.
A little further north.

	ft.	in.
Dry sand	6	0
Quicksand	59	0
Total depth	65	0

No. 35 BORE.
Still further north.

	ft.	in.
Dry sand	14	6
Quicksand	74	7
Clay	10	0
Total depth.....	99	1

No. 36 BORE.
Further north still.

	ft.	in.
Dry sand	16	0
Quicksand	67	6
Blue clay	63	6
Mixed loamy clay	4	0
Sand	13	0
Total depth.....	164	0

Section of No. 37 BOREHOLE.

About 1 mile from No. 1 Bore, and in about the centre of the narrow strip of land, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile across from the Bluff, on the river-side, to the sea.

	ft.	in.
Dry sand	10	6
Quicksand	90	6
Blue clay	2	0
Quicksand	14	8
Blue clay	4	0
Quicksand	17	0
Clay	1	0
Sand	1	6
Clay	1	4
Quicksand	15	4
Blue clay	0	10
Sand	2	0
Clay	0	4
Quicksand	8	8
Clay mixed with sand	3	0
Sand	3	6
Blue clay mixed with sand	16	8
Grey post.....	36	0
Blue metal, mixed with post	9	11
Blue metal, mixed with post and coal pipes.....	3	0
Black shale with coal pipes.....	2	1
Coal, mixed with black shale and bands	1	6
Coal	0	4
Band.....	0	3
Coal, mixed with brown bands	0	5
Good coal.....	5	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Band.....	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Good coal.....	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grey metal with coal pipes	2	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total depth.....	255	7

From the above it will be seen that bores Nos. 35 and 36 were only put down to the stone-head to test the ground, and No. 34 was not bored through the clay.

Nos. 33 and 37 were bored to the seam, and were about 1 mile apart. No. 37 was the worst hole we had, as we were compelled by the nature of the ground to have two sets of pipes in it. We had 40 feet of large pipes from the surface, and put 200 feet of smaller ones inside of them, and had to drift them almost on to the coal head.

No. 1.

Check Inspectors' Report on the condition of the shafts and underground workings of the Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery.

To Mr. Gardiner, Manager,—

Sir,

In compliance with the Act, we made an inspection of the colliery workings last Tuesday, March the 30th, 1886, and respectfully beg leave to submit the following report:—

We examined the little shaft on the Wickham side, and found it was in a sound condition. We would recommend that the broken slides be taken out, and a vertical ladder placed in the pit for the greater security and egress of the workmen in the event of accident, either from water or a subsidence.

The winding-pit is also in a good condition. We made a careful inspection, and found a few plates cracked—about 5 lengths of tubing below the “ring.” These have been plugged to prevent an escape of water, and this has been done successfully. We apprehend no danger from these broken plates at present, as the pit has been strengthened by buntings and slides; but we would specially draw your attention to the necessity of securing these cracked cylinders by iron bands or splices to prevent any accident that might occur by a falling cage or skip displacing the woodwork. In

In reference to the underground workings adjacent to the Wickham pit, we discovered a fall of coal and drift, which we request you will immediately repair.

We consider the air, if properly conducted, fully sufficient for the purposes of good ventilation, but having no instrument of measurement we cannot determine what quantity of air is travelling in the air-courses and headings. We cannot therefore, on this head, give an accurate report. Our inspection in this respect is somewhat crippled, but to the best of our judgment, by visiting the working-places and by inquiry from the miners employed, we found the air in the majority of places to be good, although we heard a few complaints, notably in Davis and Weeks's heading. We found that the air, instead of going into the places, is partly coming back through the canvas screens. We therefore beg leave to suggest that doors be used to conserve the air to its appointed use. We also suggest that the back headings be kept on a parallel as near as possible with the winning headings. We believe this plan will improve the ventilation in these places. We also found the roadways in good repair, and the men supplied with sufficient timber. We omitted to mention that the winding-pit below the cylinders requires some attention. A part of the coal sounded a little hollow, and if a portion of this fell it would place the hooker-on at least in some jeopardy.

JOSEPH HOLMES, }
GEORGE MENIKEN, } Check Inspectors.

No. 2.

The Miners' Secretary to The Inspector of Collieries.

Dear Sir,

Linwood, Wickham, 20 July, 1886.

A proposal having been made by Mr. Harper, Manager Maryville Colliery, to work certain places on top of the bottoms, and the prices agreed to by the miners, I am directed by the miners to respectfully request you to make an inspection and confer with the manager in regard to the safety or otherwise of so working certain places. The subject of the strata overhead was fully discussed at a meeting held this evening, and a resolution embodying the above arrived at.

May I ask you to give the matter your most earnest attention.

I remain, &c.,
JOHN ROBB,
Miners' Secretary.

No. 3.

The Inspector of Collieries to The Miners' Secretary.

Dear Sir,

Glebeland, 22 July, 1886.

I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 20th instant, which came to hand this morning. In reply I have to state that I have forwarded same to the Examiner of Coal-fields, and you may rest assured the subject matter therein contained will receive the greatest possible attention.

I have, &c.,
JOHN DIXON,
Inspector of Collieries.

No. 4.

The Examiner of Coal-fields to The Miners' Secretary.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 26 July, 1886.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt from Mr. Dixon, the Inspector of Collieries, of a letter dated 20th instant, received by him from you informing him of a proposal made to the miners at the Maryville Colliery, by Mr. Harper, for working certain places on the top of the bottoms, and the prices agreed to by the miners, and requesting him to make an inspection and confer with the manager in regard to the safety or otherwise of so working certain places. In reply I beg to inform you, that he cannot comply with your request, as by so doing the Government would be accepting a responsibility which belongs to the owners of the property alone.

I have, &c.,
JOHN MACKENZIE,
Examiner of Coal-fields.

No. 5.

Report of Commission *re* Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery.

To the Chairman and Members of Royal Commission,—

Newcastle, 12 August, 1886.

Gentlemen,

We, the undersigned, chosen by you to examine the Bullock Island Colliery shaft, beg to state that we did so on the 11th instant.

We measured the seam at the bottom of this shaft and found it to be (including coal and bands) 18 feet 9 inches in thickness, and the rock immediately above this seam, which Mr. Menekin said was 25 feet thick, we found to be 27 feet 6 inches.

The manager informed us that the cast-iron cylinders were set into this rock, but he could not say how far.

We examined each of the cylinders in this shaft, and found that the thirty-first cylinder from the surface was split longitudinally, crossing all the joints, and extending all round the shaft in this particular cylinder. This break was wedged up some of the way, and made water-tight with wedges $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in thickness at the head.

We also found that the thirty-fifth cylinder was split in a longitudinal direction, and extended about two-thirds of the way round the shaft and crossing the joints of the segments. This break was also wedged up with wedges $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in thickness at the head, and made almost water-tight.

These broken cylinders are situated in the clay stratum, there being about 29 feet of clay above first broken cylinder, and about 41 feet above the second broken cylinder.

We have, &c.,
WILLIAM TURNBULL, }
JAMES CURLEY, }
Members of Royal Commission.

No. 6.

Report by Andrew Tulip on Bullock Island Colliery.

To Dr. Morson,
Sir,

Morpeth, 7 May, 1886.

I went down to Newcastle, according to arrangement with you on Wednesday morning, and made my way to Bullock Island, and soon found the pit, and had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Gardiner, the manager, who gave me a cordial welcome, and I presented him with Mr. M'Kenzie's letter which you gave me. I told him that I wished to see the plan of the workings of the mine, and also to know the nature of the different strata they went through in sinking the shaft. So he took me down to the office and showed me the plan of the workings which I carefully examined, and found to be very satisfactory indeed, the bords being only 6 yards wide, and the pillars 8 yards thick, for which I highly commended him, as it is a great improvement on some systems I have known, and makes the mine very much safer. I also saw by the plan, that they have left a great many barriers in different parts of the mine, which I consider is of vast importance for safety. One place in particular I was exceedingly pleased with, and that is, where the two drives meet they have left a very large barrier of solid coal and only driven two narrow roads through it, and have provided places for dams, if ever needed. This

I think, is an act of great judgment on their part which I cannot but highly admire, and it also shows me that in Mr. Gardiner you have a very able manager. He tells me also that he is only taking between 5 and 6 feet of the coal away, at the present time, and leaves the other for tops to be taken down at any time after. By so doing there is no fear of any breaking away or falling in of the roof for generations to come. In addition to this, I see by the sections of the strata gone through in the shaft, that they have 45 feet of hard solid rock on top of the coal, with great beds of clay on top of this rock, so that I think you could not have a safer cover for the coal.

In concluding the report, I will say that I wish I had a few thousands that I could put into your company, for I would have no hesitation in doing it. I am sure I can with confidence say, that you have every reason to be thankful that you have so many shares in such a safe colliery.

I am, &c.,
A. TULIP.

P.S.—I will call sometime to-morrow, and answer any questions you may ask.—A.T.

No. 7.

Letter written by Mr. Croudace, and published in the *Newcastle Daily News*, as follows:—

THE FERNDALE DISASTER: ITS RELATION TO OTHER MINES.

[To the Editor.]

Sir,

25 March, 1886.

I desire, with your permission, to say a few words upon the "delta collieries" of Newcastle. I am led to do so by the expression of opinion promulgated by the writer of the sub-leader of your contemporary, the *Miners' Advocate*, in its issue of Saturday last, March 20th. The following are the words I refer to:—

"There are several other collieries in the district in a similar position to Ferndale, so far as being worked under sand and water is concerned; but the accident at Ferndale need not in any way intimidate the miners working in these collieries, or depreciate the value of the shares. It should, however, have the effect of inducing the Minister for Mines to take immediate action to introduce a Bill, giving him absolute power to decide the system of working to be carried on at all collieries with water overhead."

Then, towards the end of the article, the following occurs:—"In the city, yesterday, the general theme of conversation amongst all classes was the danger of working all collieries where there is water or quicksand overhead. With ordinary care there is no such danger as apprehended, and however much it may suit keen speculators to depreciate mining stock on an occasion like this, the shareholders in such companies will be very much wanting in forethought if they sacrifice their interests in consequence of an accident that may never occur again in the district." I must say, as one having some knowledge of mining under various circumstances, that I cannot endorse these views. In the first place, let us take a bird's-eye view of Newcastle and neighbourhood. The city is built upon an escarpment, which extends from Allan's Hill southerly as far as the sand-drift. The country immediately surrounding this escarpment consists largely of mud, clay, and sand, which will be found overlying the Wallaby Flat, Broad Meadow, Wickham, Bullock Island, Honeysuckle Point, portions of Tighe's Hill, Port Waratah, and numerous islands beyond. On the immediate north we have the peninsula of Stockton, dividing the waters of the harbour from the sea. The A.A. Company were the first to commence mining operations within its limits. Then we had Ferndale and numerous small landsale collieries at Tighe's Hill, and more recently Wickham and Bullock Island, and Maryville, then Stockton, and lastly Hetton. The various shafts for these collieries have all proved, to a greater or lesser degree, the influence of what I term the delta of Newcastle. We have had accounts given to us in the public newspapers of the difficulties that had been met with during the process of sinking them through mud, sand, gravel, &c. We know that the whole of these properties are, more or less, subject to the influence of tidal waters. River, as also flood waters and sea waters. We also know that they are subject to faults and dykes, and, I believe in some, fissures will be found.

Now let us compare this formation with that found beyond the limits of the "delta." I allude to the district surrounding such collieries as Waratah, Lambton, Wallsend, Co-operative, Minmi, Glebe, and Burwood, although it must not be forgotten the two latter are bounded by the sea on the east. No tidal waves can ever affect this, each has a stratification of some hundreds of feet of good solid rock, and yet through this rock, during the process of working, breaks occur to the surface, a distance varying from 100 to 500 feet. Such being the case, it is evident that a similar system of mining cannot be safely followed within the tidal limits of this delta formation. It may be at the A.A. Company, where their workings are beyond tidal influence, and at the outskirts of the delta; but such collieries as Stockton, Wickham, and Bullock Island, Maryville, Hetton, and Ferndale ought not to risk it, and the proprietors should see that it is not attempted. A warning has been given to them: let me beg of them to accept it.

Now, who shall say which is the proper and most efficient means for working such collieries? Certainly not the Minister for Mines, for this reason; that whilst I admit at the present moment we have a practical man as Minister, a few weeks ago we had not such, and a few weeks hence we may not have such; but even supposing that we always may have a competent Minister, I say and maintain that it is not for the best interests of the public that the responsibility of such accidents as Ferndale should be thrown upon their shoulders, and such must most assuredly be the case if the mines are to be worked under the dictum of the Crown. I say leave the responsibility with those who venture into such undertakings, resting assured that the natural law of self-interest and self-preservation will compel them to adopt and pursue the very best means. I have such faith in these natural laws that I am confident, alarmed by this sad accident of Ferndale, both the mine owners, as well as miners, are at this moment reflecting and taking more than ordinary care.

I here beg to disagree with the latter portion of the writing quoted, namely, "with ordinary care there is no such danger as apprehended."

I say there is very great danger of a similar calamity overtaking any one of these "delta collieries." I further say it is not "ordinary care" that will prevent such, but it will require *extraordinary care to prevent such*. Do not let us teach by any such writings the proprietors or those working underground that these collieries do not bear a similarity to each other, that one is so much deeper than the other, or any such fallacy; rather let us tell them to take this as a warning, to take thought and reflect as to whether they are pursuing a right system or not; to be satisfied that they have competent and efficient management; to duplicate such management by consulting management; to teach every workman that he is a shareholder in the safety of all; that he may not only jeopardise his own life, but, as in the case of explosions, he may imperil the life of every other workman.

I am not an alarmist, neither am I a keen speculator seeking to depreciate stock, nor am I one given to flatter masters or pander to men; but, in conclusion, I simply warn all interested, both masters and men, that should such an accident occur to any of the collieries named as recently occurred at Ferndale, they will not be so fortunate in the results.

I am, &c.,
THOMAS CROUDACE.

No. 8.

THE "DELTA" COLLIERIES OF NEWCASTLE.

[To the Editor.]

Sir,

30 March, 1886.

I have very few moments to address you upon the above, but I am constrained to do so from sundry information given to me whilst in town on Friday last.

It appears that my recent letter has created some sensation amongst shareholders, and it is even said that shares are falling. The fact is, that *before ever my letter appeared shares had fallen*. It is therefore evident there must have been some apprehensive minds, previous to my opinion reaching them.

If shareholders will carefully and calmly read my letter over, I am confident they will realise that there is nothing therein to create any *serious alarm*; but I hope there is a good deal to cause them to take every possible precaution to prevent a similar calamity to Ferndale, or perhaps a worse.

I have for the first time this morning seen Mr. John Evans's letter, which appeared in your contemporary's issue of Saturday. Owing to starting for Tamworth to-morrow morning, I will not have time to give a brief reply now, but I will do so on my return. There may be more in that letter to interest shareholders.

Yours truly,
THOS. CROUDACE.

No. 9.

No. 9.

THE "DELTA" COLLIERIES OF NEWCASTLE.

[To the Editor.]

Sir,

12 April, 1886.

I now desire to fulfil my promise of saying a few more words upon the abovenamed subject, but at the same time I regret I have so little time at my disposal to discuss so important a matter.

During my absence at Tamworth, where I was acting as Government Arbitrator in the case of *J. Gills v. Commissioner for Railways*, I notice three letters had been written, more or less in reply to my first production. I will as briefly as possible deal with those, but not in any unkind spirit. As regards my friend Timothy's inquiries, I would say I used the word delta because I could not find any more appropriate or correct term to use, nor do I think any intelligent man will attempt to deny the delta formation of a large section of ground I describe. Deltas are formed at the mouths of rivers; they will also be found in inland lakes, in the estuaries of the Mediterranean, and elsewhere.

I now come to Mr. Evans's letter. I must at once take exception at what he most unwarrantably terms "my prejudicial views." What can a perfect stranger to me know of my prejudices—nothing whatever, unless it is a prejudice to desire to save men's lives from being unduly jeopardised, or unless it is a prejudice to wish to protect the best interests of shareholders. If these are "prejudiced views," then I plead guilty. I scarcely think there is a miner or shareholder at any of the delta collieries will censure me for such views, although Mr. Evans may do so, and knowing as I do when I first wrote to you that my motives were pure and my views correct, that some "self-reliant, infallible spirit" compels me to uphold them.

I did not know before that "Stockton" had 354 ft. 6 in. of cover. I thought it was between 320 and 330 feet; but I do know this, that it is not the deepest in the district by a "long chalk," for instance, the Waratah Co.'s Raspberry Gully shaft is 520 feet to the Borehole seam, and the Lymington Co.'s shaft is about 500 feet to the same seam.

I also assure Mr. Evans that under the "ordinary method" of working throughout this district, I can show him at any of the following collieries, Waratah, Lambton, Wallsend, and A. A. Co.'s, breaks to the surface cover varying from 100 feet to 500 feet.

Mr. Evans instances an explosion of gas occurring, and resulting in great loss of life, as being no reason why other collieries need be alarmed. Now, I will ask any old miner in this district, or any manager, as to what was the result at their colliery in England when they heard of a frightful explosion occurring near them. Was it not immediately to create a sensation of alarm? Was not every workman and official cautioned to be extra careful? Were not any shortcomings immediately rectified? And I have known, under similar conditions, where neighbouring collieries were shortly afterwards put under consulting viewership, and where the resident manager most gladly welcomed the consulting man. Not only this, but more—I assert that not merely the neighbouring collieries were so affected, but the news went through the whole of Great Britain, and extraordinary care was at once put into force at every fiery mine.

I will now deal with the question of a consulting engineer or manager. I would ask any one connected with mining, more particularly if he be a shareholder, what is there so very obnoxious in this proposition? Is he a man called in to injure you? Assuredly not. What then? Simply to endorse or condemn, as the case may be. The action of your resident manager if he endorse all that the manager has done or does, and has done, can you imagine anything more satisfactory. What a relief it must be to every shareholder to know that work and good work has been done, even should a calamity overtake the mine. Every one knows that all has been done that could be done by way of foreseeing, and as far as possible preventing. Now, let me suppose that he does not endorse, but actually condemns some work or some want of foresight, surely such would only be done in the very best interests of shareholders and all concerned, the manager included, and such non-endorsement or actual condemnation would have to be to the satisfaction of the directors. I cannot imagine a competent consulting man keeping an incompetent man under him; for, by so doing, he condemns himself. This is suggested by Mr. Jones, and, as I say, the result will be the condemnation of both. I can imagine the resident man being superior to the consulting, this will soon prove itself, and the remedy applied, viz.:—getting a superior consulting man. Believing, as I do, that every one of the collieries I have named, requires more than mere ordinary care (and in this view I see Mr. Jones agrees with me). I have no hesitation in saying that were I manager at any one of them I would, of my own free will, ask the directors to appoint a consulting man, and thereby divide a serious responsibility.

In the main, I consider Mr. Jones agrees with me, but I see he asks, "Why Mr. Croudace included 'Stockton Colliery' in his list of 'delta collieries,' and omitted Burwood, I cannot understand, unless, &c., &c." I would tell Mr. Jones I cannot recognize a similarity between "Stockton and Burwood;" the former is situated on a peninsula not very wide, the western side is affected by the waters of the Hunter, its eastern side washed by the waters of the vast Pacific. I am also aware that the proprietors lease the right of mining under the sea. The latter, or Burwood, I understand, is bounded on the east by the iron-bound rocks of the coast, and beyond this has no other water influence beyond the rains of heaven.

In my first letter I wrote as to how some of these collieries were affected by tidal waters, faults, and dykes, also fissures. All this I firmly believe, and, notwithstanding there may be even 260 feet of rock at Stockton, I know such like agencies as just mentioned are the very source and essence of danger. Let me give you an instance: At the Hartley Colliery, in the north of England, and where the seam lies a great deal deeper than Stockton, and much further from the sea, a fault was struck which gave off saltwater. Large pumps were erected, I think about 30 inches or 3 feet in diameter, but still the water for a time beat them. Then there happened one of those sad accidents which has sent a thrill throughout England, namely—the breaking of the pumping beam, the destruction of the *only* shaft the colliery had, and the loss of upwards of 300 men. I hope Stockton is in no way similar to this—I hope they are free from faults, and that they have at least two shafts. I think this must be the case from the confident assertions made by Mr. Evans.

I feel that these letters may have a greater or lesser effect upon miners, other underground workmen, and shareholders, in accordance with their temperament. I would therefore desire above everything to assure all such, that the only object I have in view is the safety of the workmen and the well-being of the shareholders. I would not have either parties believe that under ordinary care and ordinary systems of work they are as safe as the inland collieries. I maintain, if they want to be, and to feel, as safe as the other mines, they must use more than ordinary care, and they must not pursue the ordinary system of working.

I further maintain and believe that, with extra care and a modification of the present system of working, with an improvement in the system of timbering, &c., together with a guarantee to the public as regards the management in the line I have pointed out, the present shareholders may have every confidence, the public may invest, and the underground workers may feel safe.

I do not think I can say more, but I feel bound to say as much, and I sincerely hope every one interested will accept my remarks in the spirit they are offered, namely—for the very best wishes for all concerned. Having recently had occasion to speak of Stockton, the following are the words I used:—"I understand the seam is about 12 feet thick, and the coal, although somewhat tender, is of most excellent character, very suitable for house and gas purposes." I scarcely think Mr. Evans will find fault with such an unprejudiced view.

I am, &c.,

THOS. CROUDACE.

[Plans.]

MEMO. :—

The Diagrams and Plans connected with the Third Report from the Royal Commission on Collieries will be found in a Supplementary Volume.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

ACCIDENTS AT FERNDALE AND LITHGOW VALLEY COLLIERIES.
(COMMISSIONS APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 21 September, 1886.

[Return in reply to a Question asked by Mr. Olliffe, M.P., on the 21st September, 1886, as to what instructions have been issued to the Commission lately sitting to inquire into the accidents at the Ferndale and Lithgow Valley Collieries.]

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, and so forth.

To our trusty and well-beloved—

J. R. M. ROBERTSON, Esquire, M.D., F.R.S., C.E., J.P.,
JAMES CURLEY, Esquire,
WILLIAM DAVIES, Esquire,
JOHN JONES, Esquire,

J. Y. NEILSON, Esquire,
JAMES SWINBURNE, Esquire,
JOHN THOMAS, Esquire,
WILLIAM TURNBULL, Esquire, and

JOHN USHER, Esquire.

Greeting:

WHEREAS by an Instrument under the Great Seal of our Colony of New South Wales, bearing date the tenth day of April instant, we did appoint you to make a diligent and full inquiry into the causes of the accident that recently occurred to the Ferndale Colliery, in the District of Newcastle, in our said Colony, and also to report upon the condition of the Collieries adjacent thereto: And whereas it hath appeared to us to be expedient to extend your powers as our said Commission: Now therefore know ye, that we, of our special grace, have thought fit to and do hereby grant you full power and authority to make an inquiry into the disaster that happened at the Lithgow Colliery, and to report upon the working and ventilation of the coal-seams, and more especially the thin coal-seams of our said Colony.

In testimony whereof, we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of our said Colony of New South Wales to be hereunto affixed.

Witness our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor CHARLES ROBERT, BARON CARRINGTON, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, our Governor and Commander-in-Chief of our Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, at Government House, Sydney, in New South Wales aforesaid, this twenty-ninth day of April, in the forty-ninth year of our Reign, and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six.

By His Excellency's Command,

Entered on record by me, in Register of Patents, No. page this day of
one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six. For the Colonial Secretary and Registrar of
Records.

Principal Under Secretary.

VICTORIA by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, and so forth.

To our trusty and well-beloved—

J. M. R. ROBERTSON, Esquire, M.D., F.R.S., C.E.,
JAMES CURLEY, Esquire,
WILLIAM DAVIES, Esquire,
JOHN JONES, Esquire,

J. Y. NEILSON, Esquire,
JAMES SWINBURNE, Esquire,
JOHN THOMAS, Esquire,
WILLIAM TURNBULL, Esquire, and

JOHN USHER, Esquire.

Greeting:

Know ye, that we, reposing great trust and confidence in your ability, zeal, industry, discretion, and integrity, do, by these presents, authorize and appoint you, or any five of you, as hereinafter mentioned, to make a diligent and full inquiry into the causes of the accident that recently occurred to the Ferndale Colliery,

Colliery, in the District of Newcastle, in our Colony of New South Wales, and also to report upon the condition of the Collieries adjacent thereto: And we do by these presents give and grant to you, or any five of you, at any meeting or meetings to which all of you shall have been duly summoned, full power and authority to call before you all such persons as you may judge necessary, by whom you may be better informed of the truth in the premises, and to require the production of all such books, papers, writings, and all other documents as you may deem expedient, and to visit and inspect the same at the offices or places where the same or any of them may be deposited, and to inquire of the premises by all lawful ways or means: And our further will and pleasure is that you, or any five of you, after due examination of the premises, do and shall, within the space of three months after the date of this our Commission, or sooner if the same can reasonably be, certify to us under your, or any five of your hands and seals, what you shall find touching the premises: And we hereby command all Government officers and other persons whomsoever within our said Colony that they be assistant to you and each of you in the execution of these presents: And we do appoint you, the said J. M. R. ROBERTSON, Esquire, to be President of this our Commission; and do give you power at your discretion to procure such clerical and other assistance as you may deem necessary for enabling you duly to execute this our Commission, which said Commission we declare to be a Commission for all purposes of the Act 44 Victoria No. 1, intituled "*An Act to regulate the taking of Evidence by Commissioners under the Great Seal.*"

In testimony whereof, we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of our said Colony of New South Wales to be hereunto affixed.

Witness our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor CHARLES ROBERT, BARON CARBINGTON, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, our Governor and Commander-in-Chief of our Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, at Government House, Sydney, in New South Wales aforesaid, this day of April, in the forty-ninth year of our Reign, and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six.

By His Excellency's Command,

Entered on record by me, in Register of Patents, No. page this day of
one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six. For the Colonial Secretary and Registrar of
Records.

Principal Under Secretary.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

DIAMOND DRILLS.
(NUMBER IN USE BY THE GOVERNMENT, &c.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 27 January, 1886.

RETURN to an *Order* made on the 15th December, 1885, by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, and laid upon the Table of the House by the Honorable the Minister for Mines, "showing the number of Diamond Drills at present in use by the Government, specifying the respective districts in which they are being used, for what period, and at what cost."

(*Dr. Ross.*)

RETURN showing the number of Diamond Drills at present in use by the Government, specifying the respective Districts in which they are being used, for what period, and at what cost.

Drill No.	District in which it is boring.	Period in use there.	Cost.
			£ s. d.
A	Clarence Siding, Western Lines	8 months and 2 weeks	543 19 1
3	North Shore, Lavender Bay	2 months	80 0 4
4	Monkwearmouth, Miani	9 months and 3 weeks	506 12 9
5	Penrith	4 months and 3 weeks	178 13 2
7	Dempsey Island, Newcastle	14 months and 3 weeks	1,479 0 11
8	Redhead, Charlestown	Just arrived at site ... ..	.....
10	Lucknow, Orange	10 months and 1 week	510 6 11
11	Heathcote, Illawarra Line	8 months and 3 weeks	691 15 1
12	Pelican Flat, near Newcastle	10 months	781 6 5
13	Werris Creek	8 months and 1 week	687 0 0
			£5,458 14 8

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

DIAMOND DRILLS.
(PARTICULARS OF.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 13 July, 1886.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, on the 6th July, 1886, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“ A Return showing the number of Government Diamond Drills now in use ; the cost from 1st July, 1885, to 1st June, 1886 ; the revenue received for their use during the same period ; where they are now at work ; for whom ; and how long they have been in each locality.”

(*Mr. W. J. Fergusson.*)

GOVERNMENT DIAMOND DRILLS.

Number of Drills now in use.	Cost from 1st July, 1885, to 1st June, 1886.	Revenue received from use from 1st July, 1885, to 1st June, 1886.	Where at work.	For whom working.	Length of time in locality.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			months
7	7,763 16 10	7,413 12 7	Clarence Siding ...	Brookdale Company ...	15
			Young Wallsend ...	J. C. Bonnarius ...	5
			Bundanoon ...	Sydney and Melbourne Coal Co. ...	5
			Redhead ...	Redhead Coal Company ...	7½
			Ballimore ...	Great Western Coal Company ...	3½
			Holt-Sutherland Estate ...	Cumberland Coal Company ...	3
			New Lambton ...	Under Secretary for Works ...	5

The details of the above cost and revenue are :—

	No. of Drills.	Cost.	Revenue.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From 1 July, 1885, to 12 September, 1885	11	2,036 10 10	1,604 9 11
„ 14 September to 31 December, 1885	11	3,008 13 8	3,003 8 0
„ 1 January, 1886, to 27 March, 1886	10	1,571 18 2	1,583 10 10
„ 29 March, 1886, to 1 June, 1886	8	1,146 14 2	1,222 3 10
		£7,763 16 10	£7,413 12 7

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MR. E. C. MEREWETHER'S MINERAL LEASE, KAHIBAH.

(CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING, &c.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 2 June, 1886.

RETURN (in part) to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated the 30th March, 1886, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Copies of all letters and papers connected with Mr. E. C. Merewether's
“mineral lease No. 617, parish of Kahibah, county of Northumberland,
“including all papers connected with Mr. Alexander Lindsay's appli-
“cation to have a Government township laid out on such leasehold.”

(*Mr. Neild.*)

SCHEDULE.

NO.	PAGE.
1. The Land Agent, Newcastle, to the Under Secretary for Mines, forwarding E. C. Merewether's application for mineral lease No. 14, at Newcastle, of 296 acres of land, parish of Kahibah, county of Northumberland, &c. 10 March, 1876	3
2. Memorandum of instructions—Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Tucker to re-measure the land, plan, &c. 26 August, 1878	3
3. Mr. Licensed-Surveyor J. J. Tucker to the Chief Mining Surveyor, transmitting plan and description of portion No. 33, parish of Kahibah, &c., as re-surveyed by him. 14 October, 1878	4
4. Executive Council minute, approving of issue of mineral lease to Mr. E. C. Merewether, of the above portion of land. Minutes thereon. Schedule. 2 November, 1878	4
5. Lease for nineteen years and fifty days of mineral lease No. 617, of 287½ acres of land (ex-road) to Mr. E. C. Merewether, parish of Kahibah. 11 November, 1878	4
6. Government Gazette notice to applicants for mineral leases. 10 December, 1878	8
7. Mr. E. C. Merewether to the Under Secretary for Mines, with reference to the issue of the lease and forwarding balance of rent for broken period. Minutes thereon. 17 February, 1879	8
8. Minute of the Under Secretary for Mines—Examiner of Coal-fields to report upon labour conditions; the examiner's report with letter from Mr. Merewether with memo. of moneys expended by himself and others upon the land. Minute thereon. 26 May, 1884	9
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MR. E. C. MEREWETHER'S MINERAL LEASE, KAHIBAH.

No. 1.

The Land Agent, Newcastle, to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Police Office, Newcastle, 10 March, 1876.

At the request of Edward C. Merewether, Esq., the applicant, I forward herewith application for Mineral Lease No. 14, at Newcastle, together with the plan and description of the land applied for.

For plan see No. 2.

I have, &c.,

HEN. BAKER,

Land Agent, Newcastle.

Mineral Lease Regulations, Schedule 2.

Form of Application.

To the Honorable the Secretary for Mines, Sydney,—

Sir,

The Ridge, Newcastle, 17 December, 1875.

I hereby make application for a mineral lease of that piece or parcel of land situated in the county of Northumberland, parish of Kahibah, being measured portion No. 33, in the plan of said county, and containing 296 acres, of which I took possession on the 14th day of December instant, at the hour of 2 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of mining thereon and therein for coal, by erecting a post at the north-west angle thereof. The datum point is also the south-west corner-pin of James Mitchell's 413 acres, and is distant about 2½ miles in a south-west direction from Newcastle.

Notice of my intention to make this application has been given in accordance with the Regulations in that behalf, and I hand herewith the sum of £74 sterling, being the first year's rent in advance of the said land, and the sum of £7 sterling to cover the cost of survey.

I hereby acknowledge that this application is made upon the distinct understanding and condition that if I shall abandon or fail to proceed with it, or if it is refused the Secretary for Mines for the time being may deduct from the sum of £81 deposited as aforesaid any cost to which in his opinion the Crown may have been put in or about or in respect of this application; and this application shall thereupon become and be void, and the possession aforesaid shall cease and determine. And if the lease shall be granted I shall and will commence mining operations upon or in connection with the demised land within six months from and after the granting thereof, and shall and will employ upon such land not less than two men during the first two years of the term thereby created, and not less than sixteen men during the remainder of such term. And shall and will at any time when called upon in terms of the Regulations relating to Mineral Leases to do so, execute and take delivery of such lease, or failing therein for a period of fourteen days after being so called upon, I shall and will forfeit the said sum of £81 and all right, title, or interest in and to the said land and the possession thereof, and the said lease shall be forthwith cancelled.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD CHRISTOPHER MEREWETHER.

P.S.—I also enclose herewith plan and description of the land in question, and beg to state for your information that it was formerly in the occupation of and worked by the late Dr. Mitchell, and has recently been surrendered by the trustees of his will. In consequence of the broken nature of the ground and other natural difficulties it has hitherto been worked by headings driven into it from other lands adjoining it on the east, the property of the late Dr. Mitchell, and of which I am now the owner in fee-simple. I propose to continue working the coal in the same way, and for the same reasons; but owing to a creek having broken into and flooded the headings first opened out it will be necessary to drive fresh ones, a work which must occupy a considerable time, and on which only a limited number of men can be employed. Under these circumstances I trust that no exception will be taken to the small number of men I propose to employ during the first two years of the term. I may add, in conclusion, that if there be any irregularity in the application, or it be incorrectly filled in, it has arisen from ignorance, and not from any wish or intention to disregard the regulations.—EDWARD C. MEREWETHER.

This application was received by me this 18th day of December, 1875, at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and is numbered 14.—HEN. BAKER, Land Agent.

Mineral Lease Regulations, Schedule 6.

Notice of Application and Deposit.

The Under Secretary for Mines, Sydney,—

Sir,

The Ridge, Newcastle, 18 December, 1875.

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day deposited with the Land Agent at Newcastle the sum of £74, being the first year's rent in advance of 296 acres of land at Newcastle, for the purpose of mining for coal, and the sum of £7, being the fees for survey of the said land. The number of my application is 14.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD C. MEREWETHER.

No. 2.

Memorandum by Chief Mining Surveyor to Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Tucker.

[Urgent.]

Department of Mines, Sydney, 26 August, 1878.

Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Tucker is requested, at his earliest convenience, to re-measure portion 33, parish of Kahibah, county of Northumberland. (A tracing of applicant's sketch attached hereto for Mr. Tucker's guidance.)

This land is applied for as application 14, at Newcastle, and was originally surveyed by Mr. Licensed Surveyor Maitland, but that survey being found incorrect and unsatisfactory, instructions to re-measure were sent to Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Stuart, 21st March, 1876, but that officer has hitherto neglected to furnish his survey and report.

This instruction, therefore, cancels those sent to Mr. Stuart, and is of a most urgent character.

Mr. Tucker will therefore have the goodness to give to it his earliest attention.

Application 14, Newcastle; E. C. Merewether; portion 33; 296 acres; parish of Kahibah.

ROBT. D. FITZGERALD,

Chief Mining Surveyor.

Plan and report transmitted to the Chief Mining Surveyor with my letter of this day's date.—J. J. TUCKER, 14 October, 1878.

No. 3.

Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Tucker to The Chief Mining Surveyor.

Sir,
I have the honor to transmit to you herewith plan of re-survey of one portion of land, No. 33, in the parish of Kahibah, county of Northumberland, containing 287½ acres, applied for by E. C. Merewether, under clause 56 of the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1874," and surveyed in accordance with Charting Branch Memorandum of the 26th August, 1878.

See No. 2.

I have the honor to report that, with exception of part of the south boundary, I found the portion moderately well marked, but with the exception of the north-east corner all the corners had to be established by intersection. I am of opinion that no portion of the area is likely to be required for settlement or other public purposes, except the reserve road shown on the plan, and which has been marked on the ground. I am aware that the length of the boundaries and bearing and distances of the road now given differ materially from those previously recorded. I have only to remark that those now stated are correct. There was nothing to show what portion of the surface is likely to be required by the applicant for his mineral works.

See No. 5.

Newcastle, 14 October, 1878.
I have, &c.,
J. J. TUCKER.

Application No. 14, at Newcastle—Applicant's locality, The Ridge, Newcastle.
Description.

County of Northumberland, parish of Kahibah, 287 acres 2 roods, ex. road, portion 33B: Commencing at a point in the bed of a small creek, being the south-west corner of James Mitchell's (now E. C. Merewether's) 950 acres, in the parish of Newcastle; and bounded thence on the east by part of the west boundary-line of that 950 acres, bearing north 24 chains and 55 links; on the north by the south boundary of a measured portion of 413 acres and 3 roods, now the property of E. C. Merewether, bearing west 52 chains and 52 links; on the west by the east boundary-line of portion 29A, and part of the east boundary-line of portion 30A, bearing south 60 chains and 40 links; and on the south by the north boundary-line of portion 34B, of 174½ acres, bearing east 34 minutes north 46 chains and 5 links; and on the remainder of the east by part of the west boundary-line of portion 3, and the west boundaries of portions 2 and 1, all of 50 acres bearing north 33 chains and 98 links to the bed of small creek aforesaid; and thence by a line down the creek bearing north 77 degrees 42 minutes east 6 chains and 62 links to the point of commencement.

No. 4.

Minute for Executive Council.

Recommending the approval of 13 applications for mineral leases.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 2 November, 1878.
THE applications for mineral leases of Crown Lands particularized in the accompanying schedule, are submitted for the approval of His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council, in terms of the "Mining Act of 1874."
W. H. SUTTON.

The Executive Council advise that the several applications for mineral leases, specified in schedule be approved.—ALEX. C. BUDGE, Clerk of the Council.
Minute, 28/47, 4/11/78. Approved.—H.R., 4/11/78. Confirmed, 11/11/78.

SCHEDULE ALLUDED TO.
Not within a Mining District.

No.	Name.	Locality.	Area.	Date of Application.
Newcastle—14	Edwd. C. Merewether	County of Northumberland, parish of Kahibah.	Acres. 296	18 December, 1875.

No. 5.

Lease.

THIS Indenture, made the eleventh day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight, between Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, of the one part, and Edward Christopher Merewether, of Newcastle, in the Colony of New South Wales (hereinafter called the lessee), of the other part—witnesseth:—That in consideration of the sum of seventy-one pounds seventeen shillings and sixpence, paid by the said lessee on the eighteenth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, and of the rents hereinafter reserved, and of the covenants and provisions hereinafter contained, Her Majesty doth by these presents grant and demise unto the lessee, his executors, administrators, and transferees, all that piece or parcel of land, containing by admeasurement two hundred and eighty-seven acres and two roods, and more particularly described and delineated in the Schedule hereto, or in the plan hereunto annexed and numbered 33B, except the surface of that portion thereof, bounded by lines coloured red, containing acres, more or less, and all those mines, veins, seams, or deposits of [the mineral or metal proposed to be worked] in, on, and under the said land (hereinafter called the said mine); together with all and singular the shafts, levels, drifts, works, ways, fixtures, erections, liberties, easements, advantages, and appurtenances which are now or at any time during the term hereby granted may be held, occupied, or enjoyed therewith, for the purposes of mining upon and under the said land for coal; and also with full power for the said lessee, his executors, administrators, and

and transferees, and his and their agents and workmen (including contractors, tributors, and so forth), to dig, sink, drive, make, and use excavations, pits, shafts, levels, tunnels, watercourses, and other works necessary for winning and raising the coal in, on, or under the said land; and to take and appropriate the same during the term hereby granted; and to make and construct on the said land races, drains, dams, reservoirs, roads, and tramways; and also to erect on the said land all buildings, engines, furnaces, pumps, machinery, and appliances necessary for the purpose of winning and obtaining the coal in, on, or under the said land, and for effectually carrying on the works of the said mine; and also to erect on the said land such offices, cottages, and dwelling-houses for the use of the agents, workmen, and persons employed in the said mine and works as the said lessee, his executors, administrators, and transferees shall think proper: To hold the said land, mine, and premises, with the appurtenances (subject nevertheless to the reservation or exception of that portion of the surface of the said land shown on the plan aforesaid, bounded by lines coloured red, and to such rights and interests as may be lawfully subsisting therein at the date of these presents) unto the said lessee, his executors, administrators, and transferees, for the term of nineteen years, and fifty days next ensuing, for the purpose of mining therein or thereon for working or winning the said coal and for no other purpose,—yielding and paying therefor unto Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, yearly and every year during the said term, the yearly rent of seventy-one pounds seventeen shillings and sixpence, in advance, the first year's rent having been paid as aforesaid, on the eighteenth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight, the next payment, being the rent of the said land for one month and twenty days, at the rate of fivepence per acre per month, from the eleventh day of November to the thirty-first day of December, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, shall be made to the Colonial Treasurer, in Sydney, on or before the thirtieth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight; and thereafter, on or before the thirtieth day of November in each and every year, the yearly rent aforesaid (being the rent of the land hereby demised, for the year commencing the first day of January next after each such payment) shall be paid to the Colonial Treasurer aforesaid, clear of all rates, taxes, and assessments to which the said land, mine, and premises are now, or at any time during the said term, may be subject or liable: Provided always, and it is hereby agreed that if the said yearly rent shall be in arrear for thirty days after the same shall have become payable, whether such rent shall have been legally demanded or not, any officer appointed or authorized thereto by the Secretary for Mines may, by himself or his agent, enter upon the said land, and seize and distrain all minerals, metals, and ores actually got and raised from the said mine; and all machinery, apparatus, tools, waggons, carts, carriages, engines, plant, and all other goods, chattels, and effects whatsoever in, upon, and about the said land and premises; and in every distress thus made may take away, sell, and dispose of as in cases of distress for rent reserved in common leases; and out of the moneys arising thereby retain so much as shall be sufficient to satisfy the said arrears, and which shall at the time of such sale be unpaid; and all expenses incurred by him or them in or in respect of such seizure, distraint, removal, and sale; and if there be any surplus such officer shall pay the same to the said lessee, his executors, administrators, or transferees; and the acceptance or receipt of rent by or on behalf of Her Majesty, after breach of any covenant hereinafter contained, shall not be or be deemed a waiver of the right of Her Majesty, or of the Secretary for Mines, or other officer on behalf of Her Majesty, to enforce observance of such covenant. And if the said lessee, his executors, administrators, or transferees shall mine for or win from the said land, mine, and premises any gold, or any earth, rock, stone, quartz, clay, sand, gravel, or soil containing gold, or any mineral or metal with which gold is associated, or combined, without the express sanction first had and obtained of the Secretary for Mines for the time being, the Governor, with the advice of the Executive, may declare these presents void, and thereupon all the right, title, and interest of the lessee, his executors, administrators, and transferees under these presents shall cease and determine both at law and in equity. And the said lessee does hereby, for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators, and transferees, covenant with Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, in manner following, that is to say:—

1. That the said lessee, his executors, administrators, and transferees shall and will during the said term pay unto Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, the rent hereby reserved, at the times and places hereinbefore appointed for payment thereof, clear of all deductions.

2. And shall and will after the expiration of six months from date of delivery hereof, upon and during all lawful working days, except when prevented by inevitable accident or during the execution of repairs, make, construct, and work the said land, mine, and premises in the best and most effectual manner, and to the best advantage, without interruption; and shall and will diligently explore and search for coal in, on, and under the said land, mine, and premises.

3. And shall and will, after the expiration of the said six months, employ in the construction of the works, or in mining operations on or under the said land, during the first month of the said term, and during the usual hours of labour, two able and competent workmen and miners at the least, and during the remainder of the said term, and during the usual hours of labour, shall and will employ as aforesaid, not less than ten such workmen and miners, unless prevented by inevitable accident, or during the execution of repairs, so that within the first three years of the term hereby created there shall be expended upon the said land, mine, and premises, such a sum of money as shall be equal to five pounds sterling upon each and every acre hereby demised: Provided that the lessee, or if there be more than one lessee, each lessee who shall work as aforesaid shall count as and be deemed for the purposes of these presents to be a workman or miner employed as aforesaid.

4. And shall and will during the said term effectually drain the said mine, and pump all water likely to cause injury thereto, or which would prevent or interfere with the working thereof; and if the said mine shall be affected, or be liable to be affected, by the same flow or body of water as any other mine or mines contiguous thereto, shall and will, if and whenever requested so to do, contribute with the lessee or lessees or owner or owners of such other mines, a reasonable proportion of the machinery and labour necessary to free and keep such mine or mines free from water to a workable extent; or if the said mine shall be kept free from water to a workable extent, either wholly or partially by means of the machinery and labour of a contiguous mine or mines; or by reason of any works constructed or money expended by the lessee or lessees, owner or owners, of such contiguous mine or mines,—then shall and will pay to such lessee or lessees, owner or owners, as aforesaid, a reasonable proportion of the cost of such machinery, labour, or works, or a reasonable proportion of the money so expended, and the Secretary for

for Mines for the time being may, if and whenever he shall think fit, depute some efficient person who shall have access to and inspection of all such mines, to determine when the said mine is so freed or kept wholly or partially free from water, and what are the reasonable proportions of such expenses aforesaid, and to whom and when the same are to be paid,—such decision to be final and conclusive on all parties.

5. And shall and will make such provision for the disposal of the detritus, dirt, waste, or refuse of the said mine that the same shall not be an inconvenience, nuisance, or obstruction to any roadway, river, creek, or private or Crown lands, or shall not in any manner occasion any public or private damage or inconvenience.

6. And shall and will erect, and keep erected, during the said term, a post, painted white, at each angle of the said land, and at such points along the boundary-lines as shall be necessary, so as plainly and accurately to define the boundary-lines and angles of the said land; and each such post shall be fixed firmly in the ground, and shall project above the surface thereof not less than 3 feet.

7. And shall and will, as often as required so to do during the term, make and deliver to the Secretary for Mines for the time being, or any officer appointed or instructed to collect, obtain, or receive the same, all such true and proper plans and sections, returns, and statistics of the workings and operations of the said mine, made up to the last day of the preceding month (the truth and accuracy of which shall be verified by the statutory declaration of the lessee for the time being, or the manager, or other officer having the charge, control, and direction of the works of the said mine) as the Secretary for Mines shall from time to time direct. And shall and will, whenever required by the Secretary for Mines so to do, deliver to any officer appointed or instructed as aforesaid, samples of the minerals, metals, and ores, or any of them, found in or upon such mine and land.

8. And shall and will, during the said term, make proper and reasonable compensation to the occupier or occupiers, lessee or lessees from the Crown, of any adjoining land in respect of any damage which may be sustained by him or them, by reason of the working of the said mine, or the carrying on of the works thereof or connected therewith, such compensation to be determined by the Secretary for Mines, or by some person authorized by him so to do.

9. And shall and will permit any mining surveyor, or other person duly authorized in that behalf, with all proper or necessary assistants, at all reasonable times, during the said term, quietly to enter into and upon the said land, mine, and premises, to survey and examine the state and condition thereof; and for the purposes aforesaid, to descend all pits and shafts, and to enter into and use all adits, levels, galleries, drives, and excavations, and to use all roads, ways, engines, ropes, machinery, gear, appliances, materials, labour, and other things in or on the said land and mine, which shall be by him deemed necessary, without making any compensation for the same, so nevertheless that in so doing no unnecessary interference is caused with the carrying on of the said mining works.

10. And further, shall and will at all times during the said term keep and preserve the said mine and premises from all avoidable injury or damage, and also the levels, drifts, shafts, watercourses, roads, ways, works, erections, and fixtures therein and thereon in good repair and condition, except such of the matters and things last aforesaid as shall from time to time be considered by a mining surveyor or other proper officer authorized by the Secretary for Mines to inspect and report upon such matters and things to be unnecessary for the proper working of the said mine or any contiguous mine, and in such state and condition shall and will at the end or sooner determination of the said term deliver peaceable possession thereof, and of all and singular the premises hereby demised to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, or to the Warden or other officer authorized to receive possession thereof. Nevertheless, the Secretary for Mines may, if he think fit, permit the lessee, his executors, administrators, and transferees, within six months after possession shall have been received as aforesaid, to enter upon the said land, and to remove therefrom such machinery, plant, and apparatus as shall have been erected and fixed upon such land, and such earth, rock, ore, mineral, or metal as shall have been won from and raised to the surface of such mine.

11. And shall not nor will use or occupy, or permit to be used or occupied, the said land, or any part thereof, for other than mining purposes, or for pasturage, or as sites for dwellings, or garden ground for the persons employed in, on, or about the said mine.

12. And shall not nor will mine in or upon the said mine, land, and premises for any mineral, metal, or ore other than coal, without the express sanction of the Secretary for Mines.

13. And shall not nor will transfer, underlet, or part with possession of the said land, mine, and premises, or any part thereof, or mortgage, charge, or encumber the same, without the license first had and obtained of the Secretary for Mines for the time being: Provided always that no such license shall be necessary in cases where, by operation of law or otherwise, a sale of the said land, mine, and premises, or any part or parts thereof, is made by any person or persons entitled to sell the same for the benefit of the creditors or a creditor of the lessee or his transferees, or in cases where the lessee or his transferees desires to let the said mine and premises, or any part thereof, to be worked on tribute.

14. And shall not nor will close up or obstruct any adit or adits to or from any contiguous mine or mines, whereby fresh air is admitted or ventilation promoted.

15. And shall not nor will plead acceptance of rent by or on behalf of Her Majesty as a waiver of the right of Her Majesty, or of the Secretary for Mines, or other officer on behalf of Her Majesty, to enforce observance of the covenants herein contained, or of the right of the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, to declare these presents void for breach of any such covenant: Provided always and it is hereby agreed and declared in manner following:—

16. That it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, her heirs, successors, and assigns to make and use in, on, or under the said land any levels, drifts, leads, shafts, watercourses, adits, roads, ways, and passages for freeing and keeping free any other lands or mines from water, or for conveying water to any other lands or mines for mining purposes, or for supplying any other mines with fresh air, or for effectually working any other mines, or for any public purpose whatsoever, causing as little damage, obstruction, or interference as possible to or with the said mine and the works thereof. And if at any time during the term hereby created any part or parts of the land hereby demised, or any part or parts of the surface thereof, shall be required for the purpose of any township, village, railway, road, canal, watercourse, reservoir, or for any other

other public purpose, it shall be lawful for the Governor, for the time being, with the advice of the Executive Council, on giving three months notice of his intention so to do, to cause to be set out the part or parts of the said land, or of the surface thereof which shall be so required, and as soon as the same shall be so set out such part or parts of the said land, or of the surface thereof, shall cease to be included in the land hereby demised, and the lessee, his executors, administrators, or transferees, shall not be entitled to any abatement of rent, or any compensation whatever in respect thereof.

17. And if the lessee, his executors, administrators, or transferees shall prove to the satisfaction of the Secretary for Mines for the time being that the said mine is unworkable from any cause whatsoever, or that the lessee, his executors, administrators, or transferees is or are unable, by reason of sickness or other sufficient cause, to work in such land or mine, or that the supply of water is insufficient to allow the working of the said land, mine, and premises to be profitably carried on, the said Secretary for Mines may grant permission to suspend work therein or thereon, for any period not exceeding six months, without the lessee, his executors, administrators, or transferees incurring in respect thereto any forfeiture or penalty for breach of any covenant herein contained.

18. And lastly, that if the lessee, his executors, administrators, or transferees shall at any time during the said term fail to use such land *bonâ fide* for the purpose for which it has been demised, or if and whenever the said rent shall be in arrear for thirty days after the time appointed for payment thereof, whether the same shall have been legally demanded or not, or if and whenever there shall be a breach of or non-compliance with the covenants and provisoes herein contained by the lessee, his executors, administrators, or transferees, and the lessee, his executors, administrators, or transferees shall not have obtained from the Secretary for Mines for the time being, permission to suspend work as aforesaid, in case the breach shall have been for the non-compliance with the covenants for the employment of workmen or miners, or for the working of the mine, the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, who alone and finally shall judge and determine the matter upon the evidence or reports submitted by the Secretary for Mines for the time being may declare these presents void, and upon publication in the Government Gazette of notice of such declaration, all the right, title, and interest of the lessee, executors, administrators, and transferees, under these presents shall cease and determine both at law and in equity, and the production of a copy of the Government Gazette containing a notice, purporting to be signed by the Secretary for Mines, declaring the lease void, shall be conclusive evidence in all Courts whatsoever in the Colony of New South Wales of a breach of or non-compliance with the covenants and provisoes herein contained, sufficient to authorize and sustain such declaration having been lawfully made, and that the interest created hereunder has been lawfully determined; and thereupon it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, or her or their agents or officers, or for any bailiff or other person duly authorized thereto, or for any holder of a mineral license, who has the permission of the Secretary for Mines for the time being, without any previous demand whatsoever, to enter forthwith into and upon the said land and premises hereby granted, and the same to repossess and enjoy as fully and effectually to all intents and purposes as if these premises had not been made, and the said lessee, his executors, administrators, and transferees, to expel and remove without any legal process, and as effectually as the Sheriff might do in case judgment in ejectment had been obtained and a writ of *habere facias possessionem* had been issued on such judgment; and in case of such entry and any legal proceeding taken in respect thereof, the defendant or defendants in any such proceeding may plead leave and license in bar thereof; and these presents shall be conclusive evidence of such leave and license by the lessee, his executors, administrators, and transferees, or other the person or persons, plaintiff or plaintiffs, in such proceedings, for such entry or other matters complained of in such proceedings.

In witness whereof, His Excellency SIR HERCULES GEORGE ROBERT ROBINSON, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of New South Wales, hath, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, caused the seal of the said Colony to be affixed to this Grant, and also set his hand at Government House, Sydney, in the said Colony, the day and year first above written, and the lessee has also set his hand and seal the seventeenth day of February, 1879.

HERCULES ROBINSON.

EDWARD C. MEREWETHER.

Signed, sealed, and delivered by the within named Edward C. Merewether, in the presence of,—

ALEX. LUMSDAINE, C.L.A., Newcastle.

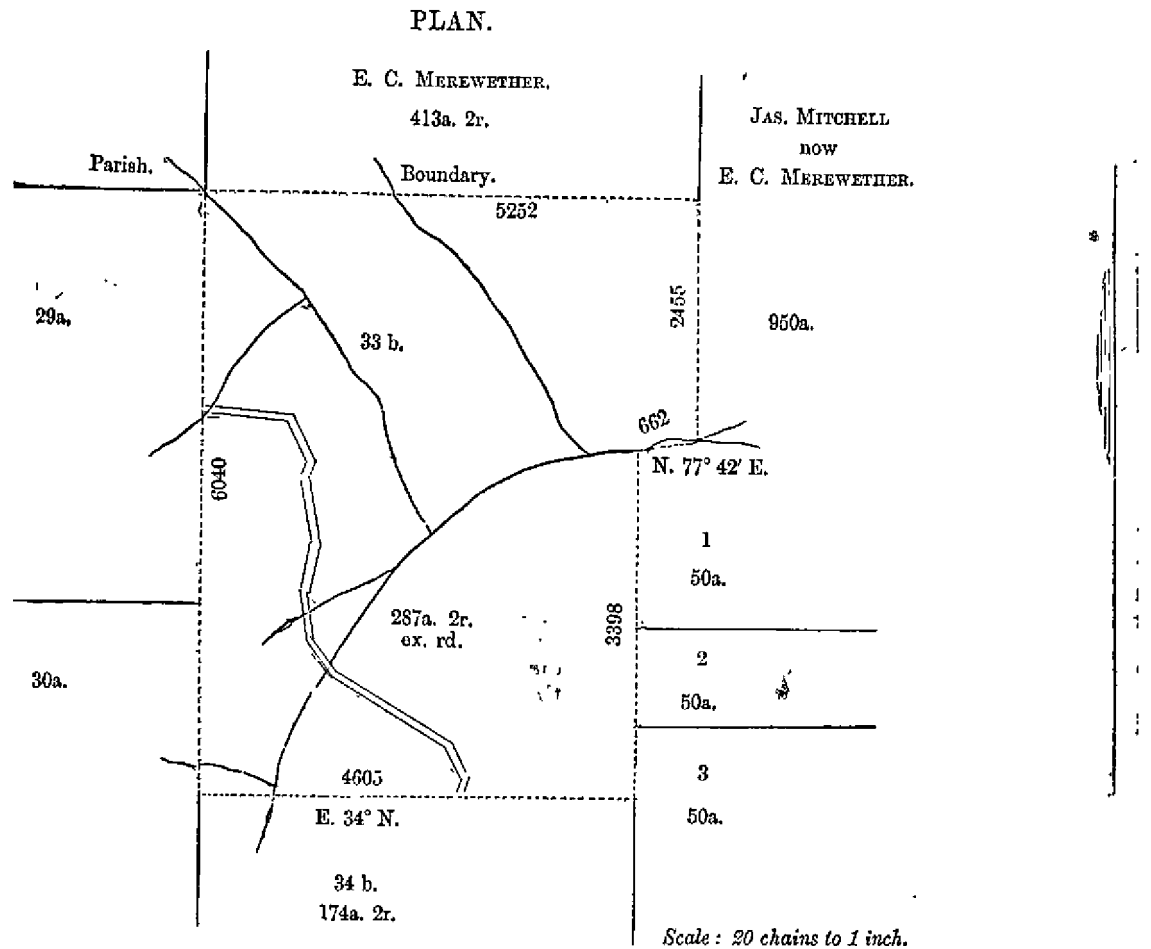
17/2/79.

W. H. SUTTOR.

SCHEDULE.

Two hundred and eighty-seven acres two roods, county of Northumberland, parish of Kahibah, portion 33b: Commencing at a point on the bed of a small creek being the south-west corner of James Mitchell's, (now E. C. Merewether's) nine hundred and fifty acres in the parish of Newcastle, and bounded thence on part of the east by part of the west boundary-line of that portion bearing north twenty-four chains fifty-five links; on the north by the south boundary of a measured portion of four hundred and thirteen acres three roods, now the property of E. C. Merewether, bearing west fifty-two chains fifty-two links; on the west by the east boundary-line of portion 29A, and part of the east boundary-line of portion 30A, bearing south sixty chains forty links; on the south by the north boundary-line of portion 34b of one hundred and seventy-four and a half acres, bearing east thirty-four minutes north forty-six chains five links; and on the remainder of the east by part of the west boundary-line of portion 3; and the west boundaries of portions 2 and 1, all of fifty acres, bearing north thirty-three chains ninety-eight links to the bed of the small creek aforesaid; and thence by a line down the creek bearing north seventy-seven degrees forty-two minutes east six chains sixty-two links, to the point of commencement.

PLAN.



Registered in the Department of Mines, at Sydney, this 10th day of December, A.D. 1878, at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and numbered in the Register, 617.

T. C. BINNY, Registrar.

No. 6.

Gazette Notice.

NOTICE to applicants for Mineral Leases.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 10 December, 1878.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undermentioned applications for mineral leases of Crown Lands have been approved by His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council.

W. H. SUTTON.

No., Newcastle, 14; name, E. C. Merewether; locality, county of Northumberland, parish of Kahibah; area, 287 acres 2 roods; date of application, 18th December, 1875; date of commencement of rental, 11th November, 1878; lease No., 617.

No. 7.

Mr. E. C. Merewether to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

The Ridge, Newcastle, 17 February, 1879.

On the 18th December, 1875, I applied for a mineral lease of a measured portion of land in the parish of Kahibah, county of Northumberland, which was shown on the map of that county as containing 296 acres, and at the same time paid the C.P.S. at Newcastle the first year's rent amounting to £74.

I have recently received a *notice* from that officer informing me that the lease was lying at his office for execution by me, and on inspecting it I found that the area of the land having been reduced by the laying out of a public road to 287½ acres, the annual rent had been reduced to £71 17s. 6d., leaving a balance to my credit of £2 2s. 6d.

The lease, however, runs from the 11th November, 1878, and the rent for the broken period of fifty days is stated to be £10 0s. 11d. This, less the amount to my credit, would leave the sum of £7 18s. 5d. still due to the Crown, and I beg to enclose herewith cheque for that amount, with £1 added, which I am informed is the fee payable on the issue of the deed.

I have executed the lease and counterpart, but cannot of course obtain the deed until I produce a receipt for the rent for the broken period, and I have therefore the honor to request that you will be good enough to cause such receipt to be forwarded either to the C.P.S. at Newcastle or direct to me at the above address with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD C. MEREWETHER.

Rent may be received.—H.W., 18/2/79.
receipt to Mr. Merewether, 19/2/79.

Cheque, £8 18s. 5d.—T.C.B., 18/2/79.

Treasury

No. 8.

See No. 1.

Copy not
obtainable.

No. 8.

Minute of The Under Secretary for Mines.

THE Examiner of Coal-fields will please report whether the labour conditions of mineral lease 617, Newcastle, E. C. Merewether, lessee, are being observed.

H.W., B.C., 26/5/84.

Mr. Merewether being in Newcastle, and having been informed by his agent of my proposed inspection, he accompanied me on the 31st ultimo to his Redhead Tunnel on his freehold land (portion 19) adjoining the 287½ acres. I find that no men are at present, or have been for some time past, employed on his 287½ acres mineral lease; but since the first week in January last, and up to the present time, two and sometimes three men have been employed by Mr. Merewether in re-opening and draining the Redhead Tunnel with a view, he informs me, of driving the tunnel into the coal under the 287½ acres, which he estimates will have to be driven about 100 yards from its present face. At Mr. Merewether's request I forward herewith a letter he has written me and a statement of moneys expended by him in rents, sinkings, and borings on mineral lease No. 617.

Under Secretary for Mines, B.C., 2/6/84.—J.M.

Let Mr. Merewether be called upon to show cause why the lease should not be forfeited.—J. P. ABBOTT, 4/6/84.

Mr. R. Scott to The Examiner of Coal-fields, Newcastle.

Sir,

I regret that I was away from my office when you called there this morning. Should you, however, find it convenient to call again to-morrow, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., I will be glad to furnish you with any information you may require.

The Junction, Newcastle, 27 May, 1884.

I am, &c.,

ROBERT SCOTT.

Mr. E. C. Merewether to The Examiner of Coal-fields.

Sir,

In reference to the visit of inspection which, accompanied by me, you, this day, made to the tunnel on my freehold land at Little Redhead, and also to the adjoining block of land which I hold under lease from the Crown, I beg now to enclose a statement of the moneys which I have expended on the said leasehold land since the issue of the lease in 1879, and also of sums expended by myself and the late Dr. Mitchell on the same block under a prior lease from the Crown, and have the honor to request that you will be good enough to forward this statement with the report, which you are about to furnish, to the Department of Mines.

Burwood Office, Newcastle, 31 May, 1884.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD C. MEREWETHER.

Memo. of moneys expended by E. C. Merewether on the portion of Crown Lands in the parish of Kahibah, county of Northumberland, held by him under lease No. 617:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Betwixt 22nd January and 12th August, 1880, in sinking a shaft 131 feet deep...	435	13	0			
Betwixt March 10th and 29th, 1881, in boring with diamond drill 296 feet to bottom of Borehole seam	482	18	4			
Cost of boxes for core of same, which Mr. Merewether has presented to the Mining Department	4	12	10			
				923	4	2
Rent of land for the years 1879 to 1884, both inclusive, at £71 17s. 6d. per annum—5s. per acre	431	5	0			
Rent paid for same block, under the original lease, 6 years, at £74 per annum ...	444	0	0			
				875	5	0
Before the property came into Mr. Merewether's possession Dr. Mitchell or his assigns had paid rent at same rate for eleven years (say)				814	0	0
				£2,612	9	2

No return whatever as yet.

E. C. MEREWETHER,
31/5/84.

No. 9.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. E. C. Merewether.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 6 June, 1884.

You are hereby called upon to show cause, within thirty days, why mineral lease No. 617, delivered 17th February, 1879, under which you are the lessee, should not be cancelled for non-observance of the conditions thereby imposed.

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary for Mines.

No. 10.

Mr. E. C. Merewether to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Castlefields, Bondi, 4 July, 1884.

Acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 6th ultimo, "requiring me to show cause within thirty days why mineral lease No. 617, under which I am lessee, should not be cancelled for non-observance of the conditions thereby imposed," I have now the honor to submit the following statement for the favorable consideration of the Honorable the Minister for Mines:—

The measured portion of land demised by lease No. 617 was originally leased to the late Mr. James Mitchell, and was worked by him or his assigns or representatives until the close of the year 1875, when the lease was surrendered by me, and I applied for a fresh lease of the land under the provisions of the 56th clause of the Mining Act of 1874.

In my application I undertook, if the lease were granted, to employ two men during the first two years of the term, and ten men during the remainder of the term.

In a memorandum, however, appended to my application, to which I beg to refer you, I stated that for reasons therein given the coal in the land applied for had previously been worked by headings driven into it from freehold lands adjoining it on the east, which had belonged to the late Mr. Mitchell, but were then my property; that I proposed to continue to work the leasehold coal in the same way, but that owing to a creek having recently broken into and flooded the headings first opened out, it would be necessary to drive fresh ones, a work which would occupy considerable time. At the time, I had every reason to suppose I should be able to do this, and had let my tunnels for the purpose, but being dissatisfied with the way in which the men to whom I had let them were going on, I got rid of them early in 1876, and waited the issue of my application.

A lease was issued to me in January, 1879, and towards the close of that year I entered into a contract for sinking a shaft in the leased land down to the first seam of coal known as the Victoria Tunnel Seam. The work was commenced early in January, 1880, and was completed in August of same year. The floor of this seam was reached at a depth of 131 feet, and the amount expended on the work was £435 18s. During its progress three and sometimes four men were employed.

Later in the same year I entered into negotiations with the Diamond Drill Company to put a bore down to prove the ground to a further depth of from 250 feet to 300 feet. An agreement to that effect was entered into in November, but finding that the Diamond Drill Company could not undertake to commence the work for some time, I addressed a letter to you on the 10th December, 1880, asking that the Minister for Mines might be moved to sanction a suspension of my operations until the Diamond Drill Company were ready to proceed with the work. This request having been granted, the work was commenced in the month of February, 1881, and was completed at the end of March. The floor of the second seam, known as the "Borehole Seam," was proved at a depth of 255 feet below the floor of the upper seam, but the bore was carried down 49 feet further, making a total depth of 304 feet proved by the diamond drill.

The cost, as shown by my books, was £482 18s. 4d. For reasons which it would take long to tell in writing, but could be verbally explained to you or the Minister in a short time, I then held my land until the month of October last, when I agreed with four or five working men to let them my tunnels on very easy terms, with the view of again winning the leasehold coal by continuing the headings already driven in my freehold land, more than one of which had been stopped within a few chains of the eastern boundary of the leased land. Two, and sometimes three, of these men have been engaged ever since in freeing the tunnels from water and clearing the headings of falls, and they will, I confidently expect, be shortly at work getting out coal.

The headings originally driven into the leasehold land by my predecessors are, to use a technical phrase, drowned up, and must remain so until we are able to approach them from another direction, as, although a strong dam was erected across them at the point where the creek broke in and is still standing, the water still gets through, and they cannot be used. The men to whom I have let my tunnels are earnest, energetic fellows, and I have every confidence in their determination to push on the work.

I trust I have now said enough to show that I took up the land in good faith, and although I have failed to carry out the letter of the lease in so far as the labour conditions are concerned, I have in great measure acted up to the spirit of it, as the statement of the amount expended on the land in works and rent, which is hereto appended, will show that I have spent nearly the full amount of £5 per acre, which the lease provides shall be spent in the first three years of the term.

I venture, however, to urge, in support of my claim for consideration, the fact that under the old lease, which was, I believe, taken out at the end of 1861, as soon as the Lands Occupation Act of that year was passed, large sums of money were expended on the land by the late Mr. Mitchell or his assigns, and after his death by his representatives in works and rent; the latter alone, which is the only item I can trace, amounted to £1,036.

I may also urge that the leasehold block is surrounded on all sides but the west by freehold lands belonging to me, and consisting as it does of rough broken country, can be worked to the best advantage from my land and tunnels, which it may be well to mention are connected by a private railway with the Great Northern Railway and the shipping wharves at Newcastle.

I would further plead that I have been led to understand that the consideration I ask for has been extended to others under somewhat similar circumstances, and unless I am wrongly informed was so extended not long since in a case in which Mr. G. A. Lloyd was lessee.

I must apologise for the length to which I have carried this explanation, but looking to the great importance of the question to me, and the fact that I could only show my *bona fides* by going fully into the circumstances, I hope it may be excused.

In addition to the statement of expenditure, I append a rough tracing of the land and a portion of the works, which may help to make my explanation clearer, and in conclusion beg to add, that should the Minister for Mines be pleased to consider that I have shown sufficient cause why my lease should not be cancelled, but is not satisfied to allow further operations on the leasehold to remain in abeyance until it is tapped from the existing tunnels, I will undertake, if so required, to employ on the leasehold within one month from the date of notice to that effect, the number of men for which provision is made in the lease, though I cannot but regard it as almost a waste of money.

I shall be glad to afford any personal explanation that may be needed, and now leaving the matter in your hands,

I have, &c.,

EDWARD C. MEREWETHER.

In this case, I presume, there is no need to refer the matter to any officer for enquiry, as the lessee admits that he has not literally complied with the conditions of the lease in regard to the employment of labour. There are precedents for allowing land to be worked from adjoining land, and in such cases for suspending the conditions until the underground works in the adjoining land reach the land in question.

Submitted.—H.W., 9/7/84. *Vide* application with note thereon.

Memo. of moneys expended on the portion of Crown Lands in the parish of Kahibah, county of Northumberland, presently held by E. C. Merewether under mineral lease No. 617, being measured portion No. 33 in the plan of said county, formerly containing 296 acres, but now reduced by Roads to 287½ acres:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Botwixt January and September, 1880, in sinking a shaft 131 feet deep to bottom of Victoria Tunnel seam	435	13	0			
Botwixt February and April, 1881, in boring with Diamond Drill 255 feet from bottom of Victoria Tunnel seam to bottom of Borehole seam, and 49 feet below last seam (say 304 feet in all)	482	18	4			
				918	11	4
Rent of land for six years, 1879 to 1884, both inclusive, at £71 17s. 6d. per annum, being at rate of 5s. per acre on 287½ acres	431	5	0			
Rent for broken period, from 11th November to 31st December, 1879	7	18	5			
Survey fee	7	0	0			
Deed fee	1	0	0			
				447	3	5
Total amount expended under present lease	1,365	14	9			

Rent paid for same block of land under old lease by the late James Mitchell, his assigns or representatives, for fourteen years, 1862 to 1875, both inclusive, at £74 per annum, being at rate of 5s. per acre on 296 acres... .. 1,036 0 0

Total amount expended on the block so far as can now be ascertained

EDWARD C. MEREWETHER,
5 July, 1884.

Minute of the Secretary for Mines.

THIS letter may be referred to Mr. Mackenzie for report, and I wish him particularly to inform me whether a shaft was sunk upon the area leased, as mentioned by Mr. Merewether; and if it was, then whether the amount stated to have been expended (£435 13s.) was a reasonable sum for the work so done. He will also report generally and fully upon the letter. Inform Mr. Merewether that I have referred the letter to Mr. Mackenzie for his report; that upon receiving it I shall be glad to see him before I decide the matter.—J. P. ABBOTT, 10/7/84.

The Examiner of Coal Fields for report, B.C., 11/7/84.—H.W.

No. 11.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. E. C. Merewether.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 11 July, 1884.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, in reply to See No. 10. mine of the 6th ultimo, wherein you were called upon to show cause why mineral lease No. 617 should not See No. 9. be cancelled, and I am to state that your letter will be referred to the Examiner of Coal-fields for report, upon receipt of which the Secretary for Mines will be glad to see you before he arrives at a decision on the case.

I have, &c.,

GERALD E. HERRING,
For the Under Secretary.

No. 12.

The Examiner of Coal-fields to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 17 July, 1884.

In compliance with the instructions of the Honorable the Secretary for Mines, conveyed to me under your blank cover of the 11th instant, on Mr. Merewether's letter of the 4th idem, I have the honor See No. 11. to report,—

1. That I have been to Mr. Merewether's Burwood office, and seen his agent, who showed me five tenders received by Mr. Merewether in 1879 for sinking a shaft, 9 feet in diameter in the clear, on his No. 617 mineral lease, of 287½ acres, from the Crown, which are as follows:—

1. Cockburn and others	...	...	...	at £4 15s. 0d.	per foot.
2. Lee and others...	...	...	...	at £3 2s. 6d.	do.
3. Ponman and others	...	...	...	at £3 2s. 6d.	do.
4. Wm. Little	...	...	...	at £2 12s. 0d.	do.
5. Johnson and others	...	...	...	at £3 5s. 0d.	do.

No. 5, the tender of Johnson and others, was the one accepted, at 65s. per foot, the contractor to find all labour, tools, and all other materials necessary for the completion of the contract.

2. That the shaft is sunk upon No. 617 mineral lease, and I have seen in Mr. Merewether's cash-book an account of the payments made for sinking it (copy of same herewith), and believe the amount stated (£435 13s.) is a reasonable sum for the work done.

3. That it appears from the colliery record tracing, forwarded herewith, that coal was wrought out from the Victoria tunnel seam under the No. 617 mineral lease up to December, 1868, and from the colliery plan in Mr. Merewether's possession, that some coal was wrought out by a few bords after that date. (*Vide* tracing sent.)

4. I had no notification of, and therefore know nothing respecting, the fresh lease Mr. Merewether says he applied for; what he undertook to do, or of the memorandum to which he refers, stating that

that for reasons therein given the coal in the land applied for had been previously worked by headings driven into it from freehold lands adjoining, by which headings he proposed to continue to work the leasehold coal in a similar way, but a creek having broken into it and flooded the headings, it was necessary to drive fresh ones.

I have, &c.,
JOHN MACKENZIE,
Examiner of Coal-fields.

Submitted.—H.W., 19/7/84. Inform Mr. Merewether that if he wishes to see me he can do so, and inform me as to particulars of Lloyd's case, referred to by him.—J. P. ABBOTT, 23/7/84. Inform Mr. Merewether that I am satisfied that he has not complied with the conditions of the lease, but owing to the heavy expenditure he has made I will not forfeit it; but in consideration of this he must pay a fine of £50 to the Consolidated Revenue, and carry out all conditions for the future.—J. P. ABBOTT, 12/8/84.

No. 13.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. E. C. Merewether.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 25 July, 1884.

Referring to my letter of the 11th instant, to the effect that upon receipt of the Examiner's report in the matter of your mineral lease No. 617, the Secretary for Mines would be glad to see you before a decision is arrived at on the case. I have the honor to inform you that the report has been received, and that the Secretary for Mines will see you if you desire to have an interview with him.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 14.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. E. C. Merewether.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 15 August, 1884.

Referring again to the matter of the cause shown why your mineral lease No. 617 should not be cancelled, I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to state that he is satisfied you have not complied with the conditions of the lease, but that owing to the heavy expenditure you have made in connection with the lease he has decided not to forfeit it.

I am to add, however, that in consideration of such decision you are now called upon to pay a fine of £50 to the Consolidated Revenue, and in future to observe all the conditions imposed by the lease.

I have, &c.,
HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 15.

Mr. E. C. Merewether to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Castlefield, Bondi, 19 August, 1884.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, informing me that the Secretary for Mines, though satisfied that I have not complied with the conditions of my mineral lease No. 617, has decided, for the reasons therein stated, not to forfeit it, but that in consideration of that decision I am required to pay a fine of £50 to the Consolidated Revenue, and to fulfil in future all the conditions of the lease.

In reply, I desire to express my thanks for the consideration extended to me, and herewith enclose cheque for £50, drawn on the Bank of Australasia, Sydney, of number and date as in the margin.

I beg to add, that I will take the necessary steps for complying with the labour conditions of the lease with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.,
E. C. MEREWETHER.

£50 cheque acknowledged, 23/8/84. See decision on 84-6659. The £50, being fine for non-observance of the labour conditions, may be paid into the Treasury.—H.W., 22/8/84. Paid into Treasury, 22/8/84.

No. 16.

Mr. A. Lindsay to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Patrick-street, Newcastle, 24 August, 1884.

I do myself the honor of drawing your attention to the abandonment or non-fulfilment of the conditions of a mineral lease in the Newcastle division, No. 617, portion No. 33B, containing 287 acres 2 roods, in the county of Northumberland, parish of Kahibah, date of delivery of lease, 17th February, 1879, to one E. C. Merewether, with a desire to have the said lease cancelled.

And I would most respectfully submit, for the consideration of the Government, of which you have the honor to be a member, that this land, now held under a mineral lease as above described, should be laid out and put up for sale as a Government township, so as to give the working classes of this district an opportunity of obtaining a freehold home of their own for themselves and families—a thing quite impossible now for them to obtain, as the land for a considerable distance to the south and west of Newcastle is the private property of the before-mentioned person—E. C. Merewether—and he will only grant a lease of his land on terms and conditions which seem to me both oppressive and arbitrary, a copy of which I shall forward for your inspection if deemed necessary.

And

And as a further reason for forming this land into a Government township is the complete absence of any Government township on the south side of Newcastle, that is to say, between Newcastle and Lake Macquarie; and as a further reason why it should be formed into a Government township is the elevated position this land occupies; in fact a healthier spot could not be found between this port and Lake Macquarie.

I sincerely trust the above suggestions will be now received by you and the other members of the Government in the same friendly spirit in which I have written, and not to think that I have any desire to dictate as to what you should do in this or any other matter.

Trusting you will take such steps in this affair as seems to you most desirable,

I have, &c.,

ALEXANDER LINDSAY,
Mining Engineer.

The forfeiture having been waived quite recently, in consideration of the payment of a fine, nothing can now be done so long as Mr. Merewether observes the conditions; but an extract might be made of that part of the letter relating to the survey of a township, and forwarded to the Lands Department.—H.W., 27/8/84.

Submitted. Approved.—J. P. ABBOTT, 1/9/84. Extract to Lands, 4/9/84. Mr. Lindsay informed, 5/9/84.

No. 17.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. A. Lindsay.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 5 September, 1884.

With reference to your letter of the 24th ultimo, in which you draw attention to the non-fulfilment of the conditions of mineral lease No. 617, with a view to having such lease cancelled, I have the honor to inform you that the forfeiture of the lease in question having been waived quite recently in consideration of the payment of the fine, nothing can now be done in respect of cancellation so long as the lessee (E. C. Merewether) observes the conditions. See No. 16.

I am to add that an extract of that part of your letter respecting the desirability of forming a township between Newcastle and Lake Macquarie has been forwarded to the Lands Department.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 18.

Mr. E. C. Merewether to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Castlefield, Bondi, 16 September, 1884.

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to lay before the Honorable the Secretary for Mines the enclosed application for authority to sublet, on the terms therein stated, the right to work the minerals underlying the lands demised to me by mineral lease No. 617.

I have, &c.,

E. C. MEREWETHER.

Mr. E. C. Merewether to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Castlefield, Bondi, 16 September, 1884.

As the registered lessee of the mineral lands demised by a certain mineral lease granted by Her Majesty the Queen to me, dated 11 November, 1878, and numbered 617 in the Register, I have the honor to request that you will be pleased to authorize me to sublet to Messrs. T. and M. C. Cowlishaw, of Sydney, the right to work the minerals underlying the whole of the lands so demised to me, with power to them to assign their interest therein to the Burwood Coal-mining Company.

The purpose for which I propose to sublet the land is to mine for coal and fireclay in connection with mines now open or hereafter to be opened in adjoining lands of which I am the owner in fee-simple, and the several terms, conditions, and restrictions to which the sub-leases will be subject are—

- 1st. The due fulfilment of all and singular the terms, conditions, covenants, provisoes, restrictions, and reservations, contained in the mineral lease No. 617 above mentioned, save and except as regards the annual rent therein reserved, payment of which will continue to be made by me.
- 2nd. The sub-lease will give no rights to the use of the surface, except in so far as it may be required for the opening out of tunnels and the sinking of shafts.
- 3rd. The sub-lease will reserve to me a royalty or tribute of one penny (1d.) per ton in every shilling of the selling price on all coal and fireclay wrought or raised from the said lands.

I have, &c.,

E. C. MEREWETHER.

£1 cheque.—T.C.B., 18/9/84. M. L. 617, E. C. Merewether. Delivered rent paid 31/12/84. *Vide* 84/8,611. Submitted.—T.C.B., 20/9/84. Mr. Benny,—Any fee with this application?—G.E.H. (for U.S.), 22/9/84. Yes. Submitted.—G.E.H. (for U.S.), 22/9/84. Approved.—J. P. ABBOTT, 23/9/84. Lufd., 2 October, 1884.

No. 19.

Mr. A. Lindsay to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Patrick-street, Newcastle, 18 September, 1884.

I do myself the honor of acknowledging with thanks the receipt of your communication bearing date 5th instant, and numbered 84-8,811, "re the cancellation of mineral lease No. 617" in the Newcastle Division, and formerly held by one E. C. Merewether. See No. 17.

In reply, I have to say that I am really astonished at the reply I have received; in fact I cannot come to any other conclusion than this, that I must have got a reply that has been intended for some other person and sent to me by mistake.

For in the first place how can the Minister delegate to himself the power to accept a nominal fine for non-compliance, when it is clearly stated in the seventh line of the eighteenth clause of the mineral lease

lease "that the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, who alone and finally shall judge and determine the matter upon the evidence or reports submitted by the Secretary for Mines for the time being, may declare these presents void, and upon publication in the Government Gazette of notice of such declaration all the right, title, and interest of the lessee, executors, administrators, and transferees, under these presents shall cease and determine both at law and in equity?"

Again, I know for a certainty that others have been dealt with strictly in accordance with the terms of mineral lease, and had the land taken from them; this I do not object to so long as all are served alike, but I cannot understand why flesh should be made of one and fish of another; you go on to say that a fine has been imposed for the non-compliance. Now admitting for argument sake that you have power to do such a thing, I think by going into calculations I will be able to show you that he has the best of the bargain. By a prospectus just issued I see they contemplate working out the two top seams within fifty years; take their own figures, 287½ acres at 12,024 tons per acre, will give a total quantity of 3,456,900 tons from 11 feet workable coal at 11d. per ton, = £158,441 5s.

Deduct amount payable to Government fifty years	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
rental under mineral lease at 5s. per acre ...	3,593	15	0			
Proposed fine	50	0	0			
				3,643	15	0
Net profit to Merewether on round coal without any outlay				154,797	10	0
Saves under labour clause two men for two years at 10s. per day from '79 to '81				312	0	0
Saves ten men for three years at 10s. per day from August, 1881, to August, 1884				1,560	0	0
Then presuming he paid no ground rent till he got his lease three and two-third years, to 17th August, 1879, at £71 17s. 6d. per annum				263	10	10
Net profit by the transaction to Merewether	£156,933	0	10			

I think I have shown clearly to you that there is very little mutuality in this bargain, not mentioning the legality at all, and with all due respect to the Honorable the Minister for Mines, I enter my solemn protest against E. C. Merewether being allowed to hold this mineral lease for the reasons I have already given.

I have, &c.,

ALEXANDER LINDSAY,
Mining Engineer.

Acknowledge the receipt.—J. P. ABBOTT, 27/9/84.

Acknowledged, 30/9/84.

No. 20.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. A. Lindsay.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 30 September, 1884.

I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary for Mines, to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, on the subject of mineral lease No. 617, in the name of E. C. Merewether.

I have, &c.,

G. E. HERRING,
(For the Under Secretary.)

No. 21.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. E. C. Merewether.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 2 October, 1884.

Referring to your letter of the 16th ultimo, in which you enclose an application for authority to sublet the right to work the minerals underlying the lands demised to you under lease No. 617, I have the honor to inform you that the Secretary for Mines has granted such authority.

I have, &c.,

G. E. HERRING,
(For the Under Secretary.)

No. 22.

Messrs. Salter and Barker to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Longueville Chambers, Young-street, Sydney, 8 November, 1884.

On behalf of Mr. E. C. Merewether we have the honor of asking your attention to the following circumstances:—

By mineral lease, dated 11th November, 1878, No. 617, 287 acres 2 roods, county of Northumberland, parish of Kahibah, were leased to our client under covenant (clause 12), that he should not mine for any mineral save coal and (clause 13) should not underlet without the express sanction and license of the Secretary for Mines. Our client has (subject to the Minister's assent being obtained) agreed to sublet the lands comprised in the lease to Messrs. Cowlshaw Brothers for the purpose of mining for coal and fireclay.

We have, on behalf of our client, to ask that you will be pleased to give your sanction to his underletting as proposed, and to endorse on the lease a memorandum to include an express sanction to mine for fireclay. We enclose the form of consent we propose to endorse, and shall be obliged if you will kindly give the matter early attention.

We have, &c.,

SALTER & BARKER,
Solicitors for E. C. Merewether.

It

15

It is hereby notified that express sanction has been given to the within lessee to mine for and win and remove fireclay under the terms of the within lease; and also to transfer or underlet to Messrs. Cowlshaw Brothers, or any member of the said firm, for all the interest of the lessee, or any portion thereof, but without prejudice to the lessees' liability as original lessee, or to the terms and conditions of the said lease, save as hereby expressly enlarged.

Mr. Lindsay called to-day and stated that he intends to apply for a copy of the cause shown by Mr. Merewether, with a view to proving that it is not based on fact, in the hope that the Minister will reconsider the decision. Perhaps no action should be taken on this application till Mr. Lindsay's letter has been received and dealt with.—H.W., 12/11/84. Submitted.

I shall not reconsider my decision upon anything Mr. Lindsay may allege. I will approve of the transfer, but will not give permission to mine for fireclay, except upon payment for the right, at the rate of 5s. per acre per annum.—J. P. ABBOTT, 12/11/84.

Informed.—H.W., 13/11/84. Messrs. Salter and Barker and A. Lindsay informed, 17/11/84.

No. 23.

Mr. A. Lindsay to The Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Patrick-street, Newcastle, 15 November, 1884.

I do myself the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your favour, bearing date 30th September, 1884, numbered 84-9,854, *re* the cancellation of lease No. 617, granted for coal-mining purposes to one E. C. Merewether at Newcastle, and your remarks thereon noted. See No. 20.

Would you kindly furnish me with a copy of the reasons given by the said E. C. Merewether, when called upon by the Honorable the Minister for Mines to show cause why the said lease should not be declared forfeited so far as he the said E. C. Merewether was concerned.

By so doing you will greatly oblige.

I have, &c.,

ALEXANDER LINDSAY,
Mining Engineer.

As the matter has been decided there appears to be no reason for complying with this request.—H.W., 27/11/84. Submitted. Inform Mr. Lindsay that Mr. Merewether gave reasons which satisfied me, and that I decline to give him a copy of those reasons.—J. P. ABBOTT, 27/11/84. Informed, 28th November, 1884.

No. 24.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Messrs. Salter and Barker.

Gentlemen,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 17 November, 1884.

Referring to your letter of the 8th instant, in which you ask on behalf of Mr. E. C. Merewether that the Secretary for Mines will sanction the subletting of the land held under mineral lease No. 617, by your client the said E. C. Merewether, and endorse on the lease express authority to mine the land for fireclay, I am directed to inform you that Mr. Abbott will approve of the transfer but declines to grant permission to mine for fireclay, except upon payment for the right at the rate of 5s. per acre per annum in addition to the rent received under the lease. See No. 22.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 25.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. A. Lindsay.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 17 November, 1884.

Referring further to your letter of the 18th September last, in which you protest against allowing Mr. E. C. Merewether to hold his mineral lease No. 617, I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you that in view of all the circumstances he does not see any reason for altering the decision already given. See No. 19.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 26.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. A. Lindsay.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 28 November, 1884.

Referring to your letter of the 15th instant in which a request is made for a copy of the reasons given by Mr. E. C. Merewether in reply to a notice calling upon him to show cause why mineral lease No. 617 should not be cancelled, I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you that Mr. Merewether gave reasons which satisfied him, and that he declines to furnish a copy of such reasons. See No. 23.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,
Under Secretary.

No. 27.

Mr. E. C. Merewether to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

Mount Wilson, Western Line, 29 November, 1884.

My solicitors, Messrs. Salter and Barker, have forwarded to me your letter of the 17th instant, intimating that the Secretary for Mines declines to grant to me, as lessee of the land held from the Crown under lease No. 617, the right to mine for fireclay as well as coal, except upon the payment for such right of 5s. per acre per annum in addition to the rent reserved in the lease. See No. 24.

I

See No. 18.

I am sorry that in their application my solicitors omitted to state the grounds on which it proceeded, and venture now to bring them before you for the information of the Secretary for Mines. They are as follows:—On the 16th September last, I, by letter, applied for authority to sublet the right to work the minerals underlying the lands held by me under mineral lease No. 617, and in my application stated that the purpose for which I proposed to sublet was to mine for coal and fireclay.

See No. 21.

By letter from your Department of number and date as in the margin, I was informed that the Secretary for Mines had granted the authority so applied for, and under the impression that that authority empowered me to sublet the right to mine for fireclay as well as coal, I directed the sub-lease to be prepared on those lines.

See No. 22.

The counsel, however, who was employed to draft the sub-lease advised that for my own protection and the protection of my sub-tenants, the Secretary for Mines should be requested to give his express sanction either by endorsement on the lease or otherwise to the mining for fireclay, and hence the application recently made on my behalf by Messrs. Salter and Barker.

I beg further to state, for the information of Mr. Abbott, that the fireclay, which it is proposed to work, is a thin stratum that occurs in the middle of the Burwood seam of coal, and is only from 1 to 2 inches in thickness.

The coal cannot be worked without taking out the fireclay, and as only a comparatively small quantity can be taken out in a year the addition of 5s. per acre per annum for the rent for the privilege of taking it out would amount to a prohibition, and the clay would be thrown aside with other refuse and left in the mine.

I am not aware that any other fireclay of any commercial value exists in the land held under lease No. 617, and I trust that under the circumstances Mr. Abbott may see fit to reconsider his decision and give his express sanction to the removal of the thin seam in question without insisting on the payment of the additional rent.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD C. MEREWETHER.

It might perhaps be well to instruct the Examiner to report upon the character of the deposit of fireclay and the rent that would be reasonable in view of all the circumstances.—H.W., 4/12/84.

See No. 23.

Submitted. I shall not insist upon my previous decision. Mr. Merewether may transfer the lease.—J. P. ABBOTT, 13/12/84. Prepare the license scheduled 14.—H.W., 15/12/84. Letter with authority, 23rd December, 1884.

No. 28.

The Under Secretary for Mines to Mr. E. C. Merewether.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 23 December, 1884.

See No. 27.

I have the honor to forward herewith a form of license allowing you to mine for fireclay on the land demised to you under mineral lease No. 617, as requested by your letter of the 29th ultimo.

I have, &c.,

HARRIE WOOD,

Under Secretary.

Mineral Lease Regulations.

Schedule 14.

License to mine for other metals or minerals.

I, JOSEPH PALMER ABBOTT, the Secretary for Mines of the Colony of New South Wales, hereby authorize you Edward Christopher Merewether, who appear to be the present legal holder of the mineral lease granted by Her Majesty the Queen to Edward Christopher Merewether, and dated the 11th day of November, 1878, and numbered in the Register 617, and your executors, administrators, and transferees, to work and win in the mine comprised in such lease for fireclay in addition to the metal or mineral mentioned in the said lease, for the residue of the term thereby granted, subject to the payment of rent at the rate of _____ per acre of the land demised by the said lease, in addition to the rent reserved under the said lease, and to the following terms, conditions, and limitations, that is to say:—And this license is granted upon the express condition that the rent aforesaid shall be payable and recoverable in the same manner as rent reserved under the said lease; and the covenants, provisoes, and agreements in the said lease shall be applicable in all respects to the rent hereby made payable and to the fireclay hereby authorized to be worked, and the said lease shall be read throughout as if the said fireclay hereby authorised to be worked were demised by the said lease, and the rent hereby made payable was reserved and made payable in the said lease.

J. P. ABBOTT,

Secretary for Mines.

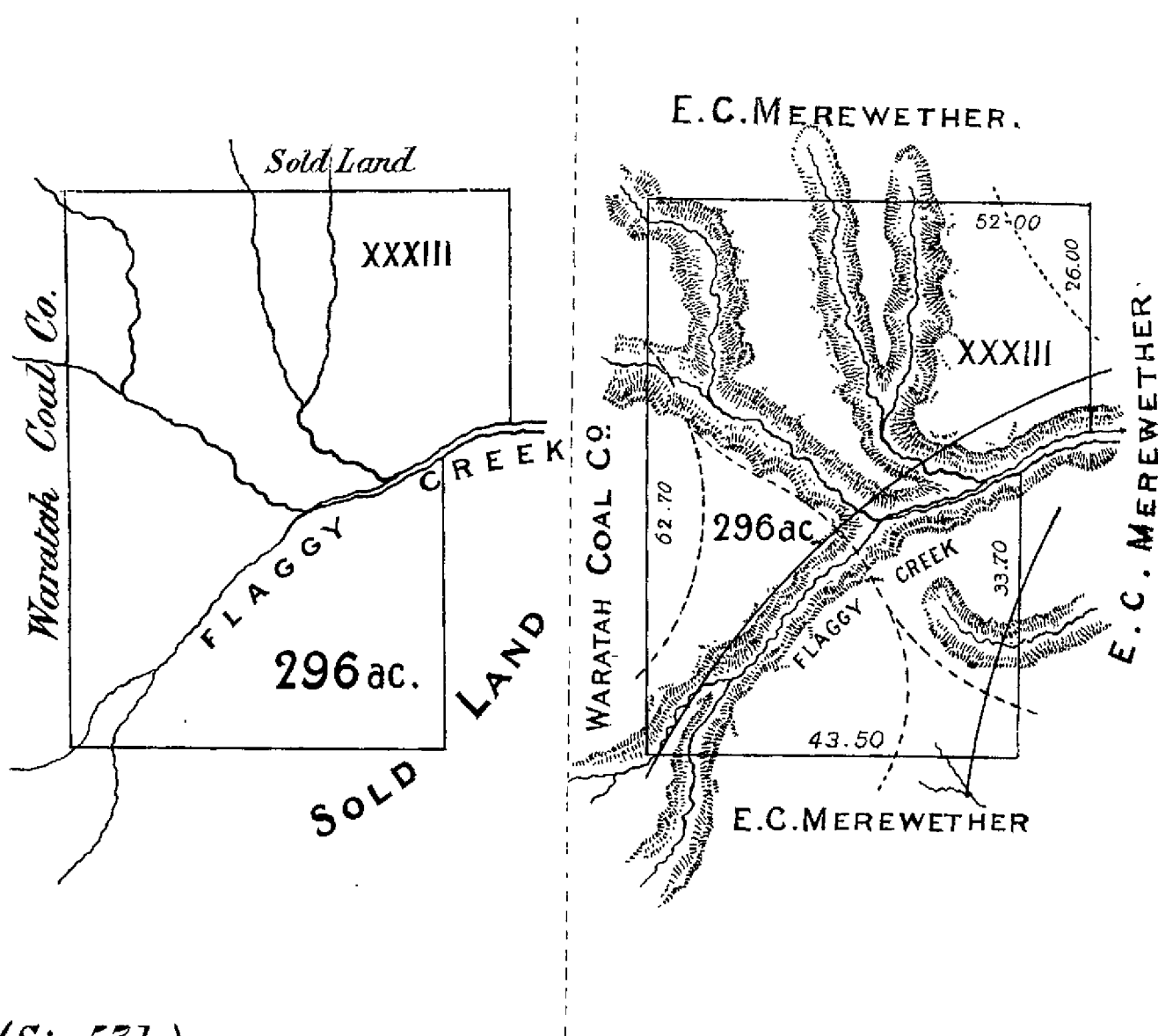
Dated at Sydney, this 23rd day of December, 1884.

[Two Diagrams.]

PLAN OF PORTION 33
in the
Parish Khibah, County Northumberland.

*Applied for by E.C. Merewether, Appⁿ 14 at Newcastle,
under the clause of the Mining Act of 1874.*

Scale - 20 Chains to an Inch



(Sig:531-)

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

PATRICK HANNAN'S MINING CLAIM AT
TEMORA ;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,

16 *June*, 1886.

SYDNEY : THOMAS RICHARDS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1886.

1885-6.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 64. FRIDAY, 21 MAY, 1886.

16. PATRICK HANNAN'S MINING CLAIM AT TEMORA:—Mr. O'Sullivan moved, pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed, with power to send for persons and papers, to inquire into and report upon the matter of a claim made by Patrick Hannan, arising out of the supposed illegal transfer of a mining claim by the Mining Registrar of Temora.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Harold Stephen, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Burke, Mr. J. D. Young, Mr. Spring, Mr. Lysaght, and the Mover.
- (3.) That the Report from the Select Committee of Session 1883-4 on the same subject be referred to such Committee.
- Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 78. WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE, 1886.

3. PATRICK HANNAN'S MINING CLAIM AT TEMORA:—Mr. O'Sullivan, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 21st May, 1886.
- Ordered to be printed.
-

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1885-6.

PATRICK HANNAN'S MINING CLAIM AT TEMORA.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly appointed on the 21st May, 1886,—“ *with power to send for persons and papers, to inquire into and report upon the matter of a claim made by Patrick Hannan, arising out of the supposed illegal transfer of a mining claim by the Mining Registrar of Temora,*” and to whom was referred, on 21st May, 1886, the Report from the Select Committee of Session 1883-4 on the same subject, have agreed to the following Report :—

1. Your Committee having carefully considered the Report and Evidence referred to them, find,—
 - (1) That Patrick Hannan was the holder of a twelfth share of six men's claim situated at Temora, and known as “Bourke's Lease.”
 - (2) That on the 12th day of April, 1881, Henry Margules, Mining Registrar at Temora, registered, in the name of William Oliver, a transfer of half of the said twelfth share of the said Patrick Hannan, without his consent or authority.
 - (3) That in consequence of this illegal transfer the said Patrick Hannan was deprived of his interest in the said claim, at that time and for some time after of considerable value, as shown by the evidence of Mr. Warden De Boos.
 - (4) That the said Patrick Hannan was deprived of his mining share in the said lease altogether by the illegal action of the Mining Registrar.

2. That, in view of the above facts, your Committee recommend the case of the said Patrick Hannan to the favourable consideration of the Government.

E. W. O'SULLIVAN,

Chairman.

No. 3 Committee Room,

Sydney, 16th June, 1886.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

TUESDAY, 15 JUNE, 1886.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. O'Sullivan, | Mr. Harold Stephen.

In the absence of a quorum, the meeting called for this day lapsed.

WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE, 1886.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. O'Sullivan, | Mr. Harold Stephen,
Mr. Lysaght, | Mr. Dawson.

Mr. O'Sullivan called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings, appointing the Committee, and referring Report from Select Committee of Session 1883-4, read by the Clerk.

Printed copies of the previous Report before the Committee.

Committee deliberated.

Motion made (*Mr. Harold Stephen*) and Question,—“That the Report brought up by a former Committee on this subject, and dated 25th June, 1884, be the Report of this Committee,”—put and passed.

Chairman to report to the House.

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

CLAIM OF MATTHEW M'IVOR TO A TIN-MINE
AT PHEASANT'S CREEK ;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND

APPENDIX.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,
27 *August*, 1886, A.M.

SYDNEY : THOMAS RICHARDS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1886.

1885-6.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 98. FRIDAY, 23 JULY, 1886.

11. CLAIM OF MATTHEW M'IVOR TO A TIN-MINE AT PHEASANT'S CREEK :—Mr. Targett moved, pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed, with power to send for persons and papers, to inquire into and report upon the claim of Matthew M'ivor to a Tin-mine at Pheasant's Creek.
 - (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Melville, Mr. Henry Clarke, Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Levien, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Jones, Mr. Burke, and the Mover.
 - (3.) That the Report and Evidence from the Select Committee on the same subject, brought up on 9th October, 1884, be referred to the said Committee.
- Question put and passed.

VOTES No. 117. FRIDAY, 27 AUGUST, 1886, A.M.

8. CLAIM OF MATTHEW M'IVOR TO A TIN-MINE AT PHEASANT'S CREEK :—Mr. Levien, on behalf of Mr. Targett, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before, the Select Committee for whose consideration and Report this subject was referred on 23rd July, 1886; together with Appendix.
- Ordered to be printed.

* * * * *

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1885-6.

CLAIM OF MATTHEW M'IVOR TO A TIN-MINE AT PHEASANT'S CREEK.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on the 23rd July, 1886,—“*with power to send for persons and papers, to inquire into and report upon the claim of Matthew M'Ivor to a Tin-mine at Pheasant's Creek,*” and to whom was referred on the same date *the Report from the Select Committee of Session 1883-4*, in reference to the said claim,—have agreed to the following Report:—

1. Your Committee having examined the witnesses named in the List* (whose evidence will be found appended hereto) and considered the Report referred to them, find as follows:—

*See List, page 5.

- (1.) That application for a mineral lease of block No. 9, of 20 acres, parish of Moogem, county of Clive, was made by Matthew M'Ivor on the 27th day of July, 1881, which application was duly received on the 5th day of August, 1881, by the Warden's Clerk at Glen Innes.
- (2.) That an application for a mineral conditional purchase of the very same land was made on 25th May, 1882, by one G. K. King.
- (3.) That a mineral lease of the said land was duly granted on the 9th day of May, 1882, and afterwards issued to the said Matthew M'Ivor, and a notification thereof appeared in the Government Gazette.
- (4.) That the said Matthew M'Ivor complied with all the regulations respecting said land to entitle him to a lease thereof.
- (5.) That in consequence of unnecessary and unaccountable delay in the Department of Mines, twelve months and five days elapsed between the time the application for lease was made and its being issued.
- (6.) That no less than forty-eight applications for mineral leases made by other applicants, subsequently to Matthew M'Ivor's application, were issued to them before the said lease was issued to the said Matthew M'Ivor.
- (7.) That the said lease was signed by His Excellency the Governor as if executed on the 9th day of May, 1882, whereas actually it was not executed until the 3rd day of June, 1882; and in consequence thereof the said Matthew M'Ivor lost the said land in an action brought by the said G. K. King against him.
- (8.) That the said Matthew M'Ivor had no knowledge of this illegal practice until the point was taken at the trial in the Supreme Court, and by it he lost, not only his land, but was put to very great expense, &c.
- (9.) That, on the faith of the validity of the lease, other persons purchased large interests from the said Matthew M'Ivor, and that it is most probable that the mine would have been floated into a public Company, with a capital of £45,000.

2. Your Committee, in view of the foregoing facts, are of opinion :—

- (1.) That as the land applied for was a measured portion, and as in the application the said Matthew M'Ivor said "the previous survey is accepted, being measured portion block No. 9," the lease should have been issued shortly after the application was made.
- (2.) That inasmuch as the said land was in a proclaimed Gold-field it was not legally open to conditional purchase.
- (3.) That upon the evidence of professional and practical men of high standing (in this Colony and Victoria) the said land contains great mineral wealth.
- (4.) That the claim of Matthew M'Ivor is entitled to the most favourable consideration of the Government.

W. S. TARGETT,

Chairman.

No. 3 Committee Room,

Sydney, 5th August, 1886.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

TUESDAY, 3 AUGUST, 1886.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Targett, | Mr. Dawson,
Mr. Henry Clarke.

Mr. Targett called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings, appointing the Committee, and referring Report from Select Committee of Session 1883-4, read by the Clerk.

Printed copies of the Report before the Committee.

Committee deliberated.

Ordered,—That R. T. Kirby and the Under Secretary for Mines be summoned to give evidence next meeting.

Adjourned to Thursday next at 2.30 o'clock.

THURSDAY, 5 AUGUST, 1886.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Targett in the Chair.

Mr. Henry Clarke, | Mr. Burke,
Mr. Jones.

Roger Thomas Kirby called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness handed in letter from Lands Department, also sketch showing the position of Mr. M'Ivor's lots on Pheasant's Creek. (*See Appendix.*)

Harrie Wood (Under Secretary for Mines), called in, sworn, and examined.

Room cleared.

Committee deliberated.

Motion made (*Mr. Jones*) and Question,—“That the Report brought up by a former Committee on this subject and dated 8th October, 1884, be the Report of this Committee,”—put and passed.

Chairman to report to the House.

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1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

CLAIM OF MATTHEW M'IVOR.

THURSDAY, 5 AUGUST, 1886.

Present:—

MR. BURKE, | MR. JONES,
MR. HENRY CLARKE.

W. S. TARGETT, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. Roger Thomas Kirby called in, sworn, and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] You have received a notification with reference to this land specified before the Committee as No. 9 of 20 acres, parish of Moogen, county of Clive, made by Matthew M'Ivor? Yes.
2. Do you produce that document? The letter I received had reference to the lots adjoining No. 9 and numbered 8 and 10. They were conditional purchases of Mr. M'Ivor, the complainant in this case, and Walter Lee. They were held in the names of those gentlemen as conditional purchases for M'Ivor and Company. (*Vide Appendix A.*)
3. Is this the only document with reference to it? That is the only document with reference to it. I may state that as agent I applied for the refund of the money some time ago on the ground that the selection was on a gold-field. I also produce a sketch showing the position of the blocks. No. 9 is the block forming the subject of this inquiry, and Nos. 8 and 10, each portions of 20 acres, are the selections referred to in the letter produced from the Lands Department. (*Vide Appendix B.*)
4. *Mr. Jones.*] You put this document in for the purpose of showing that Nos. 8 and 10 were refused because the selection was on a gold-field? Yes, by the terms of that letter you will see that it is on a gold-field and not on Crown lands open to conditional purchase.
5. And this application refers to 8 and 10 on a gold-field? Yes, as shown upon the accompanying sketch.

Mr.
R. T. Kirby.
5 Aug., 1886.

Mr. Harrie Wood, Under Secretary for Mines, called in, sworn, and examined:—

6. *Chairman.*] Do you recognize the signature to this document (*Appendix A*) as that of Mr. Wilson? Yes, an officer in the Lands Department.

Mr. H. Wood.
5 Aug., 1886.

CLAIM

CLAIM OF MATTHEW M'IVOR.

APPENDIX.

A.

[To the Evidence of Mr. R. T. Kirby, August 5, 1886.]

The Under Secretary for Lands to T. M. Slattery, Esq., M.P., and Mr. J. V. Hinton.

Gentlemen,

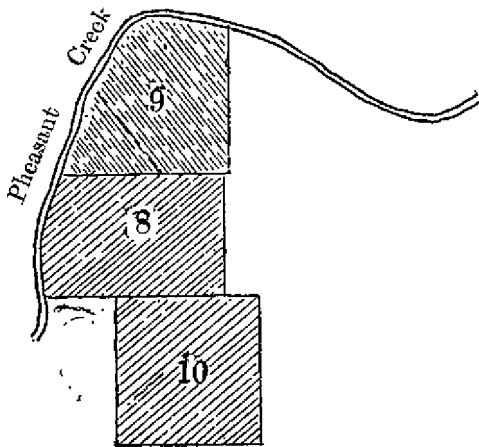
Department of Lands, Sydney, 12 July, 1886.

I desire to inform you that the application made by W. Lee and M. M'Ivor, at Glen Innes, on the 6th April, 1882, for the mineral conditional purchase of 40 acres of land is void, as the land is not open to mineral conditional purchase, being within a gold-field.

2. Enclosed is a form which, on being filled up in accordance with the instructions thereon, and forwarded to the Treasury, Sydney, will enable you at once to obtain the refund of your deposit.

I have, &c.,
F. H. WILSON,
For the Under Secretary.

B.



Portions 8, 9, 10 are situate about the centre of the Timbarra Gold-field.

1885-6.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINING ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT ACT OF 1884.

(REGULATIONS UNDER, RELATING TO MINING LEASES.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 48 Vic. No. 10, sec. 4.

REGULATIONS RELATING TO MINING LEASES
UNDER THE MINING ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT ACT OF 1884.

NEW SOUTH WALES, } Proclamation by His Excellency The
to wit. } Right Honourable CHARLES ROBERT,
BARON CARRINGTON, a Member of Her
(L.S.) Majesty's Most Honourable Privy
CARRINGTON, Council, Knight Grand Cross of the
Governor. Most Distinguished Order of Saint
Michael and Saint George, Governor and
Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of
New South Wales and its Dependencies.

WHEREAS by the Mining Act Further Amendment Act of 1884, the Governor is empowered to make Regulations for certain purposes, to be dealt with as Regulations made by the Governor under the principal Act: Now, therefore, His Excellency the Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, doth make the Regulations following, that is to say:—

1. The holder or holders of any Permit or Authority granted under the principal Act, and still in force, may make application in the form in the Schedule A hereto for the conversion of such Permit or Authority into a lease.

2. Upon receipt in the Department of Mines of such application, together with a sum of money equal to one year's rent of the land, and (if required) the fee for survey of the land, the Governor may, subject to the rents or royalties, or both, and to the covenants and conditions hereinafter prescribed, and to such special covenants and conditions as shall in certain cases appear to the Governor necessary, grant a lease of the land for the term applied for, or subject to such modifications as shall appear proper.

3. To obtain a lease of land referred to in section 2 of the said Act, not included in any Permit or Authority, the mode of taking possession, giving notice, and lodging application shall, where practicable, be the same as prescribed in the Regulations made under the principal Act, relating respectively to Gold-mining and Mineral Leases; and such Regulations shall, except as otherwise expressly provided in these Regulations, apply to all other matters relating to applications and objections thereto and to leases,—but the restrictions in such Regulations as to the form and dimensions of the land and the position of the boundary lines in regard to any vein, reef, or lode, shall not apply. Where, by reason of the land being under water, or from any other sufficient cause, possession cannot be taken, the applicant shall attach to his application a plan or sketch of the land applied for, and shall in the notices and application give such description as will lead to the ready identification thereof.

4. The Regulations made under the principal Act relating to Gold-mining shall, except as regards the form of application, the area and the dimensions of the land, and the position of the boundaries in relation to any vein, reef, or lode, or as otherwise provided in these Regulations apply to any Special Lease for Gold-mining purposes. Every application for a Special Lease shall be in the form in the Schedule B hereto, and the extent of land demised by any such lease shall be in proportion to the number of men to be employed, and the capital to be expended in the purchase and erection of machinery, or the construction of costly works for the purpose of working the land, not exceeding 2 acres for every man employed, and 1 acre additional for every £200 to be expended in machinery, dams, or races, provided that the area demised by any one lease shall not exceed 100 acres.

5. Upon approval by the Governor of any application for a special lease, notice shall be published in the Gazette promising a lease of the land applied for or so much thereof as may be available upon condition that within a period to be named in such notice, such a sum of money as may be approved by the Governor shall be expended in the purchase and erection of machinery or in the construction of works said in the application to be necessary, and upon compliance within such period or such extension thereof as may upon cause shown, be approved by the Secretary for Mines, a special lease of the land aforesaid shall forthwith issue to the applicant, but upon the applicant failing to comply with the conditions aforesaid, the Governor may revoke the promise of lease and refuse the application, or may reduce the area of the land applied for to the dimensions prescribed for an ordinary lease.

6. Every lease granted under the Mining Act Further Amendment Act of 1884, shall be subject to the rents, royalties, and conditions following:—

7. Leases for mining for minerals, other than coal or gold, including the right to occupy the surface or some portion thereof, five shillings per acre per annum; without the right to occupy any portion of the surface, two shillings and sixpence per acre per annum; for land wholly under water, one shilling and sixpence per acre per annum; leases for coal-mining, including the right to occupy the surface or some portion thereof, two shillings per acre per annum; without the right to occupy any portion of the surface, one shilling and sixpence per acre; for land wholly under water, one shilling per acre per annum. Leases for gold-mining, two shillings and sixpence per acre per annum. In respect of every ton of coal, the sum of sixpence; and in respect of gold, one pound per centum of the value of the gold raised from the land demised shall be paid as royalty; provided that if the royalty payable in respect of the coal raised during any one year exceeds the rent paid for such year, the amount paid as rent may be deducted from the

sum payable as royalty, but if the royalty as aforesaid in any one year amounts to less than the rent paid for such year, the lessee shall not for such year be required to pay royalty.

8. Upon or in connection with the land demised by any such lease, work shall be commenced within such period and be carried on by such a number of men in such manner within such limits and subject to such supervision as the Governor may in each case direct: Provided that the Secretary for Mines may at any time and for any period authorize the suspension wholly or in part of work upon or in connection with any such lease.

9. The term of any such lease shall be that named in the application, or such shorter term as shall be approved by the Governor, not being less than one year, and such term shall commence upon and be computed from the date on which the Governor shall approve of the granting of the lease.

10. The rents reserved under any such lease shall be paid in advance to the Colonial Treasurer, on or before the first day of each year of the term.

11. The royalties reserved under any such lease shall, subject to the deduction of rent as aforesaid, be paid to the Colonial Treasurer at the expiration of each year, or within one month thereafter, and with each such payment a statement shall be furnished under the hand of the lessees, or some one of them, or of the manager of the mine, setting out the quantity and value of mineral raised from the land demised, and the accuracy of every such statement shall be verified by the statutory declaration of the person making it. The lessees or lessee shall keep a proper book, in which shall be entered the quantity of gold or coal raised each day from the demised land, and the value of such mineral shall also be entered from time to time as soon as known, and such book shall at all times be open to the inspection of any officer of the Department of Mines.

12. If any lessee shall fail to execute his lease when called upon to do so, or shall fail to pay the rent or royalty reserved under his lease within the prescribed time, or shall fail to keep a proper record of the quantity and value of the gold or coal raised, or shall refuse to allow such record to be inspected by any officer of the Department of Mines, or shall fail to observe and perform the other conditions or covenants of his lease, or in the case of a special lease shall fail to expend in the purchase and erection of machinery, or the construction of dams, races, or other costly works, the amount of money proposed in the application to be so expended, he shall forfeit his right to such lease, and the Governor may thereupon, or at any time thereafter, cancel such lease, and upon publication in the Gazette of such cancellation the lease shall be absolutely void.

13. From and after the publication of these Regulations, the Regulations relating to Mining Leases, under the Mining Act Further Amendment Act, 1884, made by the Governor on the 16th day of September, 1884, and published in the Gazette No. 481, on the 19th day of September, 1884, are hereby repealed, but such repeal shall not affect any proceeding, matter, or thing lawfully taken, done, commenced, or rights acquired before these Regulations came into operation, nevertheless any application made under the repealed Regulations may be dealt with under these Regulations, and the holders of any lease granted under the repealed Regulations may surrender such lease with a view to obtain a lease of the same land under these Regulations, and upon such surrender being approved by the Governor, a lease in terms of these Regulations may forthwith issue to the holders of the surrendered lease.

SCHEDULE A.

To the Honorable the Secretary for Mines,
being the holder of a _____ granted
under Section _____ of the Mining Act, 1874, to mine for
all that piece or parcel of land being
_____ and containing
_____ acres, more or less, do hereby apply for a lease of the
said land for a period of _____ years, with the right to occupy
_____ acres of the surface thereof in such position as may
be approved of, and _____ undertake if such lease be
granted to execute the same when called upon to do so, and
within _____ days after the granting of such lease to com-
mence work thereon [or upon adjoining land proposed to be
worked in connection therewith, and to extend the underground
works into such land with the utmost possible speed] and there-
after to employ in mining upon [or under] such land
men, and to observe and perform all the covenants and con-
ditions contained in such lease; and _____ herewith
tender the sum of _____, being the first year's
rent of such land, and the fee for survey of the land, and
agree to forfeit such rent if _____ fail to
accept and execute such lease when called upon to do so.
Dated at _____, this _____ day of _____

Received at the Department of Mines, Sydney, this
day of _____, 188, at _____ o'clock in the
noon.

Registrar.

SCHEDULE B.

To the Honorable the Secretary for Mines,
hereby make application for a Special Lease for
_____ years of all that piece of land, being
_____ containing _____ acres for the purpose of
Gold-mining. The deposit proposed to be worked consists of
_____, and by reason of _____
_____, requires for its proper development
the erection or construction of the following machinery or
works:—

the estimated cost of which is £ _____, and _____ propose to
employ upon or in connection with such land _____ men; and
herewith tender the sum of _____, being the first
year's rent of such land and the fee for survey of the land, and
agree upon notification of approval of this application
to expend the sum of £ _____ in the purchase and erection
of the machinery, or the construction of the works aforesaid,
within _____ of notice of such approval, and to accept
and execute the lease when ready, or failing therein to forfeit
the rent deposited herewith.

Dated at _____, this _____ day of _____, 188.

Received this _____ day of _____, 188, at the
hour of _____ in the _____ noon.

No. of application
[86-3,537]

Mining Registrar.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Government House,
Sydney, this eleventh day of March, in the year of our
Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, and
in the forty-ninth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

By His Excellency's Command,

JAMES FLETCHER.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!