

Sessional Papers

1899.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 1.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

THURSDAY, 20 APRIL, 1899.

No. 1.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

Resolution.

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

Resolved,—That it is expedient to bring in a Bill to regulate, restrict, and legalise Sunday trading; to make other provisions with respect to the sale of liquor on Good Friday and Christmas Day; and to amend the law with respect to clubs and co-operative stores.

While the Honorable Member for the Lachlan, Mr. Carroll, was speaking, Mr. Crick rose to call attention to certain chairs in the Ladies' Gallery being turned down, as if reserved.

The Temporary Chairman, Mr. Fegan, ruled that it was not in order to interrupt an Honorable Member speaking, to call attention to such a matter.

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

The Point of Order is,—That Mr. Crick drew attention to a certain number of chairs in the Ladies' Gallery being turned down as reserved chairs, and the Chairman ruled that, as Mr. Carroll was speaking, Mr. Crick could not draw attention to that matter while Mr. Carroll was speaking.

Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 50.

Mr. Lee,	Mr. McLean,	Mr. Thomas Clarke,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Wright,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Hughes,	Mr. Nobbs,
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Ross,	Mr. Willis,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Moore,	Mr. Stevenson,
Mr. Wilson,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Copeland,	Mr. Crick,	Mr. Reid,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Afleck,	Mr. Whiddon,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. David Davis,	Mr. Wood,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Waddell,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Haynes,	Mr. Rigg,	Mr. McGowen.
Mr. Miller,	Mr. Law,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Henry Clarke,	Mr. Spence,	Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Garland,	Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Hawthorne.
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Harris,	
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Hassall,	
Mr. Cann,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,	

Noes, 2.

Tellers,
Mr. W. W. Davis,
Mr. Sawers.

Agreed to.

The Temporary Chairman, Mr. Fegan, left the Chair accordingly.

Committee resumed.

18—

Question

No. 2.

SAME BILL.

Same resolution.

Resolution again proposed.

Mr. McLean moved to leave out the words "to regulate, restrict, and legalise Sunday trading ;
"to make other provisions with respect to the sale of liquor on Good Friday and Christmas
"Day ; and"

And the Committee continuing to sit after Midnight,—

FRIDAY, 21 APRIL, 1899, A.M.

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

Committee divided.

Ayes, 25.

Mr. Byrne,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Garland,
Mr. W. W. Davis,	Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Spruson,	Mr. Quinn,
Mr. Copeland,	Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Stevenson,
Mr. Wilson,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Barnes,	Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Barton,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.
Mr. Sawers,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Meagher,
Mr. Reid,	Mr. Sleath.
Mr. Hurley,	
Mr. David Davis,	

Noes, 25.

Mr. Hogue,	Mr. Lees,
Mr. Lee,	Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Cann,	Mr. O'Conor,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Nobbs,
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Price,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Morgan,
Mr. McLean,	Mr. Thomas Clarke,
Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Rigg.
Mr. Law,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Moore,
Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Cruickshank.
Mr. Spence,	
Mr. Thomas,	

The numbers being equal, the Temporary Chairman, Mr. Fegan, gave his vote with the *Noes*,
and declared the question to have passed in the *negative*.

No. 3.

SAME BILL.

Same resolution.

Question put,—That the Committee agree to the resolution as amended.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 35.

Mr. Lee,	Mr. David Davis,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Spruson,	Mr. O'Sullivan,	Mr. Price,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Quinn,	Mr. Garland.
Mr. Cann,	Mr. Lees,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Sleath,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. O'Conor,	Mr. McLean,	Mr. Watson.
Mr. Nobbs,	Mr. Watkins,	
Mr. Wilson,	Mr. Thomas Clarke,	
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Law,	
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Cotton,	
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Thomas Brown,	
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Spence,	

Noes, 12.

Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Copeland,
Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Moore,
Mr. Reid,
Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Sawers,
Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Stevenson.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Meagher.

Agreed to.

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

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1899.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 1.

REGISTER OF PUBLIC BILLS ORIGINATED IN THE ASSEMBLY DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF 1899.

Short Titles.	By whom initiated.	Originated in Committee of the Whole.	Message from Governor recommending provision for.	Ordered.	Presented and read 1 st .	Proceeded with under Standing Orders.	Read 2 nd and Committed.	Reported.	Report adopted.	Read 3 rd passed, and sent to Council for concurrence.	Agreed to by Council with Amendment.	Council's Amendments agreed to.	Assent.	Number of Act.	Remarks.
Australian Federation Enabling	Mr. Reid	13 Apl. a.m.	13 Apl. a.m.	13 Apl. a.m.	13 Apl.	13 Apl. 13 Apl.	13 Apl. 13 Apl.	13 Apl. 13 Apl.	13 Apl. 13 Apl.	13 Apl. 13 Apl.	20 Apl. 20 Apl.	20 Apl. 20 Apl.	20 Apl.	1899.	
Coal and Shale Mines Hours Regulation	Mr. Elden	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	20 Apl.	20 Apl.	20 Apl.	1899.	
Conciliation and Arbitration	Mr. Reid	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	21 Apl. a.m.	21 Apl. a.m.	21 Apl.	1899.	Stopped by prorogation.
Ordinance Lands Transfer	Mr. Reid	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	13 Apl.	21 Apl. a.m.	21 Apl. a.m.	21 Apl.	1899.	Pro forma Bill. Resolution amended in Committee of the Whole, and agreed to on motion of Mr. Cann. Bill not brought in.
Sunday Trading	Mr. Copeland	21 Apl. a.m.	21 Apl. a.m.	21 Apl. a.m.	21 Apl.	21 Apl.	21 Apl.	21 Apl.	21 Apl.	21 Apl.	21 Apl.	21 Apl.	21 Apl.	1899.	

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

No. 2.—REGISTER OF PRIVATE BILLS INTRODUCED UPON PETITION TO THE ASSEMBLY DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF 1899.

Short Title.	By whom and when Petition presented.	Remarks.
City and North Sydney Connection	Mr. McLean	Proceeded with under 409th Standing Order. Stopped by prorogation.

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

No. 3.—REGISTER OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE COUNCIL
DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF 1899.

None.

1899.
(SECOND SESSION.)

RECAPITULATION.

Number of Public Bills originated in the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY shown on Register No. 1	5			
Number of Private Bills do do shown on Register No. 2	1			
Number of Public Bills brought from the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, as shown on Register No. 3	0			
Number of Private Bills do do do				6
		Public.	Private.	Total.
Passed and assented to	2	.....	.....	2
<i>Pro forma</i> Bill	1	.....	.....	1
Stopped by prorogation	1	.....	1	2
Bill not brought in	1	.....	.....	1
				6

Legislative Assembly Offices,
Sydney, 21 April, 1899.

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

APPENDIX.

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

1.—PUBLIC BILLS.
Conciliation and Arbitration ; sent to Legislative Council.
2.—PRIVATE BILLS.
City and North Sydney Connection ; second reading.

1899.

(SECOND SESSION.)

—
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ALPHABETICAL REGISTERS

OF

ADDRESSES AND ORDERS FOR PAPERS,

AND OF

ADDRESSES

(NOT BEING FOR PAPERS).

SECOND SESSION, 1899.

1899.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REGISTER OF ADDRESSES AND ORDERS FOR PAPERS DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF 1899.

No. of Address or Order.	WHEN PASSED.		ON WHOSE MOTION.	PAPERS APPLIED FOR.		RETURN TO ADDRESS OR ORDER.	REGISTER NUMBER.	IF TO BE PRINTED.	
	No.	Date.		By Address.	By Order.			Date of Order.	When given to Clerk of Printing Branch.
1	4	1899. 18 April	Mr. Hughes	8	Men employed on Telephone Tunnel Works	.....	.....	.....	.....
3	5	" "	Dr. Ross	6	New Road at Burrawong Old Station, District of Molong	.....	.....	.....	.....
2	4	" "	Mr. Whittion	9	Ocean-street Cable Tramway	.....	.....	.....	.....

REGISTER OF ADDRESSES AND ORDERS FOR PAPERS DURING FORMER SESSIONS, SECOND SESSION OF 1899.

No. of Address or Order.	WHEN PASSED.		ON WHOSE MOTION.	PAPERS APPLIED FOR.		RETURN TO ADDRESS OR ORDER.	REGISTER NUMBER.	IF TO BE PRINTED.	
	No.	Date.		By Address.	By Order.			Date of Order.	When given to Clerk of Printing Branch.
1	13	1899. 29 March	Mr. Fegan	2	Dudley Colliery Explosion Inquiry	1899. 13 April	99/159	1899. 20 April	1899. 21 April
10	16	1893. 21 Sept.	Mr. Smith	10	Monthly Returns of Accidents (in part)	" "	99/153	" "	" "
16	16	" "	Mr. O'Sullivan	10	Special Purchase Application at Bega, by J. T. Ritchie and W. J. Lane	" "	99/173	" "	" "
41	54	" "		7		" "	99/159	" "	" "

REGISTER OF SEPARATE AND JOINT ADDRESSES (NOT BEING FOR PAPERS) TO THE GOVERNOR, DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF 1899.

SUBJECT OF ADDRESS.	ORIGINATED IN THE ASSEMBLY.			WHEN PASSED OR AGREED TO.			WHEN AND HOW ANSWERED.			REMARKS.	
	VOTES.			VOTES.			VOTES.				
	No.	Date.	On whose Motion.	No.	Date.	Entry.	No.	Date.	By whom and how.		
1. The Lieutenant-Governor's Opening Speech	1	1899. 11 April	Mr. McLean	2	1899. 13 April. a.m.	5	1899. 13 April	3	1899. 13 April	1	His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.
				8		1					

Legislative Assembly Office,
Sydney, 21st April, 1899.

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

1899.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES APPOINTED DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF 1899.

No. OF COMMITTEE.	DESIGNATION OF COMMITTEE.	WHEN AND HOW APPOINTED.	MEMBERS.	CHAIRMAN.	No. OF MEETINGS.		No. OF WITNESSES EXAMINED.	WHEN REPORTED.
					Called.	Held.		
1	The Lieutenant-Governor's Opening Speech.	11 April, 1899. Votes No. 1. Entry 8 (On motion of Mr. McLean.)	Mr. Archer, Mr. Archd. Campbell, Mr. Moore, Mr. Garland, Dr. Graham, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. McCourt, Mr. Barton, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Barton, Mr. Neild, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Neild, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Levien, Mr. Reid, Mr. Gornuly, Mr. Watson, Mr. Hayes, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Dick, Mr. Archd. Thomson, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Crick, Mr. Moore, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. McLean.....	1	1	.....	1899. 11 April.
2	Standing Orders ¹	13 April, 1899, a.m. Votes No. 2. Entry 9 (On motion of Mr. Reid.)	Mr. Archer, Mr. Archd. Campbell, Mr. Moore, Mr. Garland, Dr. Graham, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. McCourt, Mr. Barton, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Barton, Mr. Neild, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Neild, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Levien, Mr. Reid, Mr. Gornuly, Mr. Watson, Mr. Hayes, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Dick, Mr. Archd. Thomson, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Crick, Mr. Moore, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Macdonald,	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3	Library ²	13 April, 1899, a.m. Votes No. 2. Entry 10 (On motion of Mr. Reid.)	Mr. Archer, Mr. Archd. Campbell, Mr. Moore, Mr. Garland, Dr. Graham, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. McCourt, Mr. Barton, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Barton, Mr. Neild, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Neild, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Levien, Mr. Reid, Mr. Gornuly, Mr. Watson, Mr. Hayes, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Dick, Mr. Archd. Thomson, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Crick, Mr. Moore, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Macdonald,	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4	Refreshment ³	13 April, 1899, a.m. Votes No. 2. Entry 11 (On motion of Mr. Reid.)	Mr. Archer, Mr. Archd. Campbell, Mr. Moore, Mr. Garland, Dr. Graham, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. McCourt, Mr. Barton, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Barton, Mr. Neild, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Neild, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Levien, Mr. Reid, Mr. Gornuly, Mr. Watson, Mr. Hayes, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Dick, Mr. Archd. Thomson, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Crick, Mr. Moore, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Macdonald,	.....	2	None..	.....	.....
5	Printing ⁴	13 April, 1899, a.m. Votes No. 2. Entry 12 (On motion of Mr. Reid.)	Mr. Archer, Mr. Archd. Campbell, Mr. Moore, Mr. Garland, Dr. Graham, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. McCourt, Mr. Barton, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Barton, Mr. Neild, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Neild, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Levien, Mr. Reid, Mr. Gornuly, Mr. Watson, Mr. Hayes, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Dick, Mr. Archd. Thomson, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Crick, Mr. Moore, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. Gornuly.....	2	1	.....	21 April, a.m.
6	Elections and Qualifications.....	11 April, 1899. Votes No. 1. Entry 4 (By Mr. Speaker's Warrant.)	Mr. Archer, Mr. Archd. Campbell, Mr. Moore, Mr. Garland, Dr. Graham, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. McCourt, Mr. Barton, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Barton, Mr. Neild, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Reid, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Neild, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Levien, Mr. Reid, Mr. Gornuly, Mr. Watson, Mr. Hayes, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Dick, Mr. Archd. Thomson, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Crick, Mr. Moore, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Macdonald,	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

¹ Confers on subjects of mutual concernment with a similar Committee of the Legislative Council. ² and ³ These Committees act in conjunction with similar Committees of the Legislative Council. ⁴ Leave given to sit during the sittings of the House, 20 April, 1899.

Legislative Assembly Office,
Sydney, 21st April, 1899.

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

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 13th April, 1899, a.m., Votes No. 2, Entry 12, have agreed to report to your Honorable House in relation to the Papers referred to them as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Notification	of resumption under Public Works Act of 1888 of land for the supply of water to Kiama.	.....	Mr. Young	1899. 12 April	Not to be printed.	
Do	of resumption under the Public Works Act of 1888 of land for the construction of the Pyrmont Bridge.	.....	"	12 "	"	
Do	of resumption under the Public Works Act of 1888 of land for a Bridge over Dubwood Creek.	.....	"	12 "	"	
Amended Rates and Regulation	under the Electric Telegraph Act .....	.....	Mr. Parkes	12 "	"	
Return to Order	" Dudley Colliery Explosion Inquiry "	.....	Mr. Cook	13 "	To be printed.	
By-laws	Metropolitan Drainage—Double Bay Creek Stormwater Drain .....	.....	Mr. Young	13 "	Not to be printed.	
Fifteenth General Report	of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works .....	.....	Mr. Brunker	13 "	To be printed	Already in print.
Return (in part) to Order	" Monthly Returns of Accidents "	.....	"	13 "	Not to be printed.	
By-law	of the Sydney Hospital .....	.....	"	13 "	"	
Do	of the Municipal District of Coonamble .....	.....	"	13 "	"	
By-laws	of the Borough of Ashfield .....	.....	"	13 "	"	
By-law	of the Borough of Young .....	.....	"	13 "	"	
Abstract	of Crown Lands authorised to be dedicated to Public Purposes in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	"	13 "	"	
Return to Order	" Special Purchase Application at Bega by J. T. Ritchie and W. J. Lane."	.....	Mr. O'Sullivan	13 "	"	
By-laws and Rules	of the Australian Museum .....	.....	Mr. Hogue	18 "	"	
Report	of the Carpenterian Reformatory for the year 1898 .....	.....	"	18 "	To be printed	Already in print.
Amended By-laws	of the University of Sydney .....	.....	"	18 "	Not to be printed.	
Third Report	of the Royal Commission on Public Charities - Subsidised Benevolent Institutions, &c.	.....	Mr. Brunker	18 "	To be printed	Already in print.
Proclamations	respecting the disease known as Tick Fever or Texas Fever .....	.....	Mr. Cook	18 "	Not to be printed.	
Regulations	under the Imported Stock Acts, 1871-1896 .....	.....	"	18 "	"	
Do	under the Pastures and Stock Protection Act, 1898 .....	.....	"	18 "	"	
Proclamation	prohibiting, for a period of two years from the 21st March, 1899, the importation of any swine from New Zealand.	.....	"	18 "	"	

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Minute	Copy of, by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Executive Council, authorising the transfer of an amount from one head of service to another.	.....	Mr. Spenker	1899. 20 April	Not to be printed.	
Notification.....	of resumption, under the Public Works Act of 1888, of land in connection with the construction of a bridge over the Nepean River at Camden.	.....	Mr. Young	20 "	"	
Return (<i>in part</i>) to Order Report.....	"Monthly Returns of Accidents" of the Public Service Board, in connection with appointment of a Deputy Coroner for the City of Sydney.	Mr. Smith	Mr. Lee	20 "	"	
Do	on the Working of the Factories and Shops Act during the year 1898.	.....	Mr. Hogue	20 "	To be printed	Already in print.
By-laws	of the Borough of Walsend, under the Nuisances Prevention Act, 1897.	.....	Mr. Reid	20 "	Not to be printed.	
Statement	of Trust Moneys Deposit Account from 1st April, 1898, to 31st March, 1899.	.....	" .....	20 "	To be printed	Already in print.
Do	of Payments from Treasurer's Advance Account, February, 1899.....	.....	" .....	20 "	"	
Do	do do March, 1899.....	.....	" .....	20 "	"	
By-laws	of the Borough of Parramatta under the Public Health Act, 1896 .....	.....	" .....	20 "	Not to be printed.	
Do	of the Municipal District of Warren, under the Public Health Act of 1896.	.....	" .....	20 "	"	
Amended Regulations	under the Volunteer Force Regulation Act of 1867 .....	.....	" .....	20 "	"	
Regulations	under the Public Service Act of 1895—Nursing Staff of the Const Hospital.	.....	" .....	20 "	"	
Do	under the Public Service Act of 1895—Punt and Ferry Service, Department of Public Works.	.....	" .....	20 "	"	
Notification	of resumption under the Public Works Act of 1888, of land for a Station-master's house at Brunxton.	.....	" .....	20 "	"	
Return.....	respecting the employment of Mr. A. A. W. Conolly in the Government Architect's Department.	.....	" .....	20 "	"	
Regulations	under the Advances to Settlers Act, 1899.....	.....	Mr. Carruthers.....	20 "	"	
Abstract	of Crown Lands authorised to be dedicated to Public Purposes in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	20 "	"	
Do	of Crown Lands reserved from sale for the preservation of Water Supply or other Public Purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 108th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	20 "	"	
Do	of alterations of designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	20 "	"	
Do	Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 4th and 101st sections of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	20 "	"	
Result	of the submission of the Australasian Federal Constitution to the electors of New South Wales, on 3rd June, 1898.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	20 "	To be printed	Already in print.

No. 1 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 20th April, 1899.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1899.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION ENABLING ACT, 1895, AND AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION ENABLING ACT AMENDMENT ACT, 1897.

(RETURN OF VOTES POLLED AT ELECTION, 3 JUNE, 1898.)

Printed under No. 1 Report from Printing Committee, 20 April, 1899.

DETAILS OF VOTING.

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Albury	Albury	625	252	...	...	...
	Bowna	99	4	...	...	...
	Bungowannah	36	6	...	...	...
	Burrumbuttock... ..	36	4	...	...	...
	Gerogery	53	2	...	...	...
	Howlong	84	12	...	...	...
	Jindera	64	...	...	...	...
	Moorwatha	56	3	...	...	...
	Total... ..	1,053	283	6	770	...
Alma	Eyre-street, Alma	43	65	...	...	...
	Mica-street South, Broken Hill	96	209	...	...	...
	Patton-street, Alma	109	112	...	...	...
	Proprietary Mine	78	102	...	...	...
	Thomas-street South, Broken Hill	23	27	...	...	...
	Total... ..	349	515	15	...	166
Annandale	Annandale Council Chambers... ..	384	361	...	...	...
	Glebe Town Hall	271	248	...	...	...
	Total... ..	655	609	4	46	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Argyle	Bannaby	8	25	...	...	...
	Big Hill ... ..	...	23	...	...	...
	Binda	11	13	...	...	...
	Bolong	1	27	...	...	...
	Crookwell	78	142	...	...	...
	Golspie	19	39	...	...	...
	Greenwich Park	2	30	...	...	...
	Gurrundah	13	5	...	...	...
	Kenmore Bridge	59	99	...	...	...
	Kialla	6	46	...	...	...
	Laggan	8	38	...	...	...
	Marulan	23	41	...	...	...
	Mummell	2	53	...	...	...
	Parkesburne	8	35	...	...	...
	Taralga	53	122	...	...	...
	Tarlow	15	18	...	...	...
	Towrang	13	15	...	...	...
Wombeyan Caves	1	15	...	...	...
Woodhouselee	6	29	...	...	...
	Total... ..	326	815	10	...	489
Armidale	Aberfoyle	10	10	...	...	...
	Armidale	306	323	...	...	...
	Black Mountain	15	40	...	...	...
	Booroolong	3	7	...	...	...
	Dumaresq	11	44	...	...	...
	Guy Fawkes	11	16	...	...	...
	Hillgrove	230	65	...	...	...
	Metz	71	20	...	...	...
	Puddledock	8	8	...	...	...
	Rockvale	19	10	...	...	...
	Thalgarrah	20	7	...	...	...
	Wollomumbi	18	19	...	...	...
	Total... ..	722	574	12	148	...
Ashburnham	Bunbury	3	14	...	...	...
	Carrawobbity	6	3	...	...	...
	Cook's Myall	15	2	...	...	...
	Eugowra	22	43	...	...	...
	Forbes	363	337	...	...	...
	Goobang	11	14	...	...	...
	Kamandra	16	8	...	...	...
	Parkes	273	207	...	...	...
	Parkesborough	9	24	...	...	...
Tichborne Lead	23	20	...	...	...
	Total... ..	741	672	9	69	...
Ashfield	Ashfield Hall, late School of Arts, Ashfield	421	447	...	...	...
	Congregational School-hall, Croydon Hall, Carlton Crescent, Summer Hill	70	103	...	...	...
		311	313	...	...	...
	Total... ..	802	863	4	...	61
Ballina	Alstonville	70	38	...	...	...
	Ballina	197	71	...	...	...
	Brooklet	26	3	...	...	...
	East Coraki	20	10	...	...	...
	German Creek	34	3	...	...	...
	Pearce's Creek	7	9	...	...	...
	Rous	47	33	...	...	...
	Tintenbar	53	18	...	...	...
	Wardell	91	25	...	...	...
	Woodburn	23	6	...	...	...
	Total... ..	568	216	10	352	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Balmain North	Oddfellows' Hall, Balmain	770	766	1	4	...
Balmain South	St. Thomas' Schoolroom, corner of Darling-st. and Western Road	584	423	...	...	...
	Central Hall, Darling-street and Birch- grove Road	277	328	...	...	...
	Total	861	751	...	110	...
Barwon (The)	Angledool	45	17	...	...	...
	Bangate Old Station	5	10	...	...	...
	Boorah Tank	6	8	...	...	...
	Booroomba	27	5	...	...	...
	Brewarrina	116	45	...	...	...
	Bundabulla	7	4	...	...	...
	Carinda	34	26	...	...	...
	Charlton	7	1	...	...	...
	Collarendabri	37	9	...	...	...
	Cumbora Springs	4	7	...	...	...
	Curribrie	2	2	...	...	...
	Fairfield	3	10	...	...	...
	Flemington	4	...	...	...	...
	Goodooga	55	41	...	...	...
	Grawin (The)	12	2	...	...	...
	Gundabloui	10	...	...	...	...
	Lissington	10	4	...	...	...
	Lower Marra Creek	32	1	...	...	...
	Milroy	7	10	...	...	...
	Mogil Mogil	11	...	...	...	...
	Moongulla	12	2	...	...	...
	Tatala	19	24	...	...	...
	Upper Marra Creek	4	7	...	...	...
	Walgett	97	89	...	...	...
	Willawillingbah	12	3	...	...	...
	Willie Station	1	5	...	...	...
	Total	579	332	7	247	...
Bathurst	Bathurst	863	417	...	...	...
	Evans Plains	11	11	...	...	...
	Kelso	47	27	...	...	...
	Orton Park	14	17	...	...	...
	Total	935	472	7	463	...
Bega	Bega	265	177	...	...	...
	Bermagui	27	13	...	...	...
	Brogo	8	12	...	...	...
	Brickyards near Tathra	13	11	...	...	...
	Candelo	111	18	...	...	...
	Cobargo	116	23	...	...	...
	Colombo	55	22	...	...	...
	Mogilla	21	...	...	...	...
	Numbugga	13	5	...	...	...
	Quamma	10	20	...	...	...
	Tanja	20	4	...	...	...
	Tuross River and Reedy Creek Junction	4	1	...	...	...
	Wolumla	67	8	...	...	...
	Yourie	5	1	...	...	...
	Total	735	315	6	420	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Bingara	Barraba	38	69	...	...	...
	Ben Lomond	11	22	...	...	...
	Bingara	46	73	...	...	...
	Boggy Camp	18	25	...	...	...
	Bundarra	41	29	...	...	...
	Cobbadah	7	11	...	...	...
	Crow Mountain... ..	17	6	...	...	...
	Guyra	18	27	...	...	...
	Gulf Creek ... ..	...	5	...	...	...
	Horton River	1	23	...	...	...
	Manilla	52	111	...	...	...
	Pallal	5	6	...	...	...
	Tenderden	10	14	...	...	...
	Tingha	29	44	...	...	...
	Upper Bingara	6	14	...	...	...
	Upper Manilla	6	25	...	...	...
	Wandsworth	14	21	...	...	...
	Woods' Reef	7	13	...	...	...
	Yarrowyck	3	9	...	...	...
	Total... ..	329	547	14	...	218
Boorowa	Binalong	27	54	...	...	...
	Boorowa	76	74	...	...	...
	Breakfast Creek... ..	1	9	...	...	...
	Frogmore	5	56	...	...	...
	Gunning Flat	18	4	...	...	...
	Jerringoman	4	17	...	...	...
	Harden	66	47	...	...	...
	Kalangan	6	4	...	...	...
	Mewburn	4	27	...	...	...
	Murrumburrah	123	62	...	...	...
	McMahon's Reef	23	8	...	...	...
	Rye Park at Redman's Creek... ..	14	33	...	...	...
	Wallendbeen	38	30	...	...	...
Wombat	7	34	...	...	...
	Total... ..	412	459	9	...	47
Botany	Banks Meadow	69	67	...	...	...
	Botany School of Arts	133	91	...	...	...
	Botany Road, near McEvoy-street	219	231	...	...	...
	North Botany Town Hall	175	198	...	...	...
	Total	596	587	10	9	...
Bourke	Barrington	24	5	...	...	...
	Bourke	350	144	...	...	...
	Dunlop	24	2	...	...	...
	Eangonia	29	13	...	...	...
	Ford's Bridge	17	12	...	...	...
	Grass Hut	12	1	...	...	...
	Gumbalie	6	...	...	...	...
	Hungerford	5	1	...	...	...
	Pera	15	11	...	...	...
	Seventy-five-mile Bore	5	...	...	...	...
	Tinapagee	7	...	...	...	...
	Toorale Station	4	1	...	...	...
	Wanaaring	31	10	...	...	...
	Yantabulla	13	3	...	...	...
Youngarignia	2	6	...	...	...
	Total... ..	544	209	7	335	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Bowral	Balmoral... ..	6	16	...	...	...
	Barber's Creek	6	21	...	...	...
	Bargo	2	21	...	...	...
	Berrima	10	32	...	...	...
	Bowral	85	193	...	...	...
	Bundanoon	21	24	...	...	...
	Joadja	5	20	...	...	...
	Mittagong	55	104	...	...	...
	Moss Vale	112	94	...	...	...
	Sutton Forest	20	39	...	...	...
	Wingello	8	24	...	...	...
Yarrunga	9	4	...	...	...
	Total	339	592	5	...	253
Braidwood	Araluen	33	53	...	...	...
	Braidwood	81	124	...	...	...
	Bungonia	18	41	...	...	...
	Elrington	14	51	...	...	...
	Jinglemoney	11	5	...	...	...
	Krawaree	9	18	...	...	...
	Manar	6	7	...	...	...
	Marlowe	13	8	...	...	...
	Mongarlowe	28	13	...	...	...
	Near Welcome Reefs	6	7	...	...	...
	Nerriga	17	16	...	...	...
	Reedsdale	8	10	...	...	...
	Tarago	10	69	...	...	...
	Tiranna	6	28	...	...	...
Windellama	8	39	...	...	...
	Total	268	489	11	...	221
Broken Hill	Argent-street	493	490	...	...	...
	Oxide-street	54	48	...	...	...
	Total	547	538	12	9	...
Burwood	In or near Town Hall, Five Dock	42	64	...	...	...
	Near Gas-works, Mortlake	65	42	...	...	...
	Near south boundary Municipality of Concord	67	80	...	...	...
	North side of Railway Line	37	54	...	...	...
	South side of Railway Line	385	333	...	...	...
	Total	596	573	2	23	...
Camden	Appin	9	33	...	...	...
	Brigelly	8	10	...	...	...
	Brownlow Hill	25	22	...	...	...
	Burratorang	3	13	...	...	...
	Camden	107	103	...	...	...
	Campbelltown	84	120	...	...	...
	Cox's River	3	10	...	...	...
	Cross Roads	10	23	...	...	...
	Ingleburn	44	19	...	...	...
	Menangle	37	39	...	...	...
	Minto	12	26	...	...	...
	Narellan... ..	23	34	...	...	...
	Paddy's Swamp... ..	15	3	...	...	...
	Picton	86	131	...	...	...
	Strathfield on Cox's River	1	6	...	...	...
	The Oaks	31	61	...	...	...
	Thirlmere	22	26	...	...	...
	Upper Burratorang	5	29	...	...	...
Westbrook	12	24	...	...	...
Wilton	5	21	...	...	...
	Total	542	755	10	...	218

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Canterbury...	Bankstown	21	40	...	...	...
	Cabramatta	21	32	...	...	...
	Canterbury	126	178	...	...	...
	Enfield	123	166	...	...	...
	Liverpool	187	147	...	...	...
	St. John's Park	11	29	...	...	...
	South Bankstown	4	27	...	...	...
	Strathfield	139	185	...	...	...
	Total... ..	632	804	6	...	172
The Clarence	Angowrie	12	27	...	...	...
	Brushgrove	27	30	...	...	...
	Chatsworth Island	25	42	...	...	...
	Harwood	32	18	...	...	...
	Iluka	5	10	...	...	...
	Lawrence	55	43	...	...	...
	Macleay	106	75	...	...	...
	Murrayville	13	4	...	...	...
	Palmer Island	25	17	...	...	...
	Southgate	13	7	...	...	...
	Tynedale	17	15	...	...	...
	Ulmarra	88	36	...	...	...
Upper Coldstream	11	7	...	...	...
Yamba	6	21	...	...	...
	Total... ..	435	352	13	83	...
Cobar	Barnato	2	...	...	...	...
	Billagoe	35	18	...	...	...
	Buddabadah	4	2	...	...	...
	Byerock	20	15	...	...	...
	Canonba	5	1	...	...	...
	Cobar	194	292	...	...	...
	Compadore	5	4	...	...	...
	Coolabah	49	7	...	...	...
	Curraweena	7	...	...	...	...
	Girilambone	40	21	...	...	...
	Girilambone Copper Mine	34	16	...	...	...
	Gongolgon	4	...	...	...	...
	Gundabooka	6	...	...	...	...
	Hermidale	5	3	...	...	...
	Louth	34	13	...	...	...
	Monkey	7	1	...	...	...
	Mount Boppy	18	14	...	...	...
	Nyngan	160	66	...	...	...
	Tankarooka	6	...	...	...	...
	The Meadows	5	7	...	...	...
Wrightville	51	61	...	...	...
Wuttagoona	4	2	...	...	...
	Total... ..	695	543	15	152	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Condoublin ...	Allectown ...	30	43	...	...	...
	Badjerribong ...	7	36	...	...	...
	Bobadah ...	25	39	...	...	...
	Bogan Gate ...	16	13	...	...	...
	Buddabadah ...	3	1	...	...	...
	Bulgandramine ...	12	3	...	...	...
	Bullock Creek ...	13	3	...	...	...
	Carlisle Diggings ...	4	5	...	...	...
	Condoublin ...	67	122	...	...	...
	Coradgery ...	9	...	...	...	...
	Craiglee, near Nevertire ...	5	3	...	...	...
	Dandaloo ...	11	12	...	...	...
	Dandaloo Road ...	6	4	...	...	...
	Fifield ...	29	7	...	...	...
	Lansdales ...	28	4	...	...	...
	Mingelo ...	9	13	...	...	...
	McPhail ...	39	25	...	...	...
	Peak Hill ...	132	40	...	...	...
	Platina ...	26	15	...	...	...
	Tinda Tank ...	21	12	...	...	...
	Tomingley Reefs ...	37	7	...	...	...
Trundle Lagoon ...	58	5	...	...	...
Wallanbillan ...	13	1	...	...	...
Wheatacre (Kiacatoo) ...	8	...	...	...	...
	Total ...	608	413	9	195	...
Coonamble ...	Balladoran ...	7	5	...	...	...
	Bennett's Flat ...	5	4	...	...	...
	Box Ridge ...	8	7	...	...	...
	Buckinguy ...	7	3	...	...	...
	Bullagreen ...	7	6	...	...	...
	Bundemar ...	...	8	...	...	...
	Bourbah ...	1	16	...	...	...
	Calga ...	9	3	...	...	...
	Carrabear ...	22	23	...	...	...
	Collio ...	10	9	...	...	...
	Coonamble ...	101	175	...	...	...
	Ellengerar ...	2	1	...	...	...
	Galargambone ...	3	40	...	...	...
	Gilgandra ...	27	17	...	...	...
	Gradgery ...	4	1	...	...	...
	Merri Merri ...	2	...	...	...	...
	Mount Harris ...	2	7	...	...	...
	Nevertire ...	26	25	...	...	...
	Quilbone... ...	1	4	...	...	...
	Tenandra ...	6	2	...	...	...
Trabile ...	6	8	...	...	...
Tooraweenah ...	9	9	...	...	...
Warren ...	121	98	...	...	...
Weetalibah ...	7	4	...	...	...
Wingadee ...	11	5	...	...	...
	Total...	404	480	7	...	76
Cowra ...	Back Creek, at crossing of Grenfell Road ...	14	12	...	...	...
	Burnt Yards ...	11	7	...	...	...
	Canowindra ...	58	34	...	...	...
	Carcoar ...	33	50	...	...	...
	Cowra ...	163	155	...	...	...
	Cowra to Canowindra Road at Walleroo Hall ...	7	3	...	...	...
	Cowra to Goolagong Road at Walsh's... ...	15	4	...	...	...
	Cowra to Young Road at Dennis Cass' ...	8	8	...	...	...
	Gully Swamp ...	34	75	...	...	...
	Lumpy Swamp ...	8	29	...	...	...
	Lyndhurst ...	55	22	...	...	...
	Mandurama ...	17	38	...	...	...
	Morongla Creek ...	10	8	...	...	...
	Mount Macdonald ...	72	21	...	...	...
	Wolli ...	7	14	...	...	...
	Woodstock ...	54	24	...	...	...
	Total ...	566	504	11	62	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Darlington	Abererombie-street	676	769	7	...	93
Deniliquin	Barham Crossing	45	...	...	...	...
	Barratta	21	1	...	...	...
	Boooroban	35	1	...	...	...
	Conargo	27	2	...	...	...
	Deniliquin	380	48	...	...	...
	Mathoura	129	4	...	...	...
	Moama	235	9	...	...	...
	Moolpa	16	...	...	...	...
	Mooney Valley	12	...	...	...	...
	Moulamein	82	1	...	...	...
	Murray Downs	21	...	...	...	...
	Stoney Crossing	11	...	...	...	...
	Tulla	14	...	...	...	...
	Tuppall	18	1	...	...	...
Wambo... ..	58	1	...	...	...
Wanganilla	35	3	...	...	...
	Total... ..	1,139	71	5	1,068	...
Dubbo	Belarbagil	13	18	...	...	...
	Beni	3	5	...	...	...
	Brocklehurst	2	13	...	...	...
	Bundemar	1	10	...	...	...
	Bunglegumbie	1	12	...	...	...
	Coalbaggie	4	1	...	...	...
	Dubbo	312	319	...	...	...
	Eschol	1	15	...	...	...
	Midway ... ..	...	3	...	...	...
	Minore	6	9	...	...	...
	Murrumbidgee Railway Station	12	41	...	...	...
	Narromine	51	89	...	...	...
	Obley Road, near the "Williamsdale Hotel"	2	9	...	...	...
	Timbrebongie	10	5	...	...	...
Trangie	48	36	...	...	...
Weemabah ... ..	...	11	...	...	...
	Total... ..	466	596	10	...	130
Durham	Allynbrook	11	17	...	...	...
	Bandon Grove	35	10	...	...	...
	Brookfield	11	15	...	...	...
	Clarence Town	44	58	...	...	...
	Dungog	161	37	...	...	...
	Eccleston	10	11	...	...	...
	Gresford	35	31	...	...	...
	Hinton	44	54	...	...	...
	Lamb's Creek	19	8	...	...	...
	Largs	79	50	...	...	...
	Lostock	4	17	...	...	...
	Paterson	45	39	...	...	...
	Seaham	19	9	...	...	...
	Underbank	26	4	...	...	...
Vacy	20	18	...	...	...
Wangat	15	5	...	...	...
	Total... ..	578	383	13	195	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Eden-Bombala	Bibbenluke	13	5	...	...	...
	Bombala	221	61	...	...	...
	Bondi	5	2	...	...	...
	Burragate	14	7	...	...	...
	Cathcart	45	7	...	...	...
	Corrowong	19	6	...	...	...
	Craigie	38	4	...	...	...
	Delegete... ..	128	10	...	...	...
	Eden	27	27	...	...	...
	Holt's Flat	27	5	...	...	...
	Kiah River	16	...	...	...	...
	Lochiel	18	8	...	...	...
	Merimbula	21	7	...	...	...
	Mila	10	6	...	...	...
	Panbula	88	27	...	...	...
	Pericoe	12	...	...	...	...
	Pipeclay Creek	31	19	...	...	...
	Rocky Hall	24	6	...	...	...
Timbery Range	22	4	...	...	...
Towamba	25	6	...	...	...
Wyndham	44	16	...	...	...
	Total... ..	843	233	4	610	...
Glebe	The Offices of the Sydney Omnibus Co., Broadway, Glebe.....	710	668	5	42	...
Glen Innes	Bald Nob	7	4	...	...	...
	Ben Lomond, Head Station	6	1	...	...	...
	Clarevaux	9	3	...	...	...
	Dundee	26	17	...	...	...
	Emmaville	83	38	...	...	...
	Glencoe	40	10	...	...	...
	Glen Elgin	13	1	...	...	...
	Glen Innes	229	155	...	...	...
	Guyra	13	22	...	...	...
	Kookabookra	10	13	...	...	...
	Oban	6	6	...	...	...
	Red Range	18	14	...	...	...
	Strathbogie	3	6	...	...	...
	Tent Hill	29	6	...	...	...
Waterloo	11	3	...	...	...
Wellingrove	6	8	...	...	...
	Total... ..	509	307	7	202	...
Gloucester	Barrington	23	12	...	...	...
	Booral	20	8	...	...	...
	Bulladelah	41	11	...	...	...
	Bungwall Flat	9	23	...	...	...
	Clarkson's Crossing	21	19	...	...	...
	Cooloongolook	1	24	...	...	...
	Copeland	24	7	...	...	...
	Curracabark	2	...	...	...	...
	Forster	8	31	...	...	...
	Glenrock	13	3	...	...	...
	Gloucester	11	3	...	...	...
	Kauthi	11	1	...	...	...
	Kramback	25	10	...	...	...
	Limeburner's Creek	18	4	...	...	...
	Miller's Forest	48	17	...	...	...
	Monkerai	19	6	...	...	...
	Nelson's Bay	17	5	...	...	...
	Nelson's Plains	10	11	...	...	...
	Rawdon Vale	9	...	...	...	...
	Raymond Terrace	131	59	...	...	...
	Sandy Creek	2	1	...	...	...
Stroud	26	38	...	...	...
Tea Gardens	14	4	...	...	...
Tuncurry	14	9	...	...	...
Wards River	3	18	...	...	...
William Town	29	8	...	...	...
	Total... ..	549	332	7	217	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Goulburn	East Grove	11	37	...	...	...
	Goulburn	303	469	...	...	...
	North Goulburn	44	114	...	...	...
	West Goulburn... ..	76	113	...	...	...
	Total	434	733	5	...	299
Grafton	Alumy Creek	17	1	...	...	...
	Burragan	39	6	...	...	...
	Cangi	2	4	...	...	...
	Carr's Creek	14	5	...	...	...
	Chambigne	12	4	...	...	...
	Copmanhurst	53	5	...	...	...
	Grafton	266	172	...	...	...
	Lionsville	9	9	...	...	...
	Newbold... ..	6	2	...	...	...
	Newton Boyd ... ..	...	5	...	...	...
	Nymbodia	16	4	...	...	...
	Ramornie	35	4	...	...	...
	Seelands	13	6	...	...	...
South Grafton	109	34	...	...	...
Total... ..	591	261	3	330	...	
Granville	Auburn Council Chambers	165	187	...	...	...
	Granville School of Arts	264	308	...	...	...
	Merrylands	28	46	...	...	...
	The New Town Hall, Rookwood	109	148	...	...	...
Total... ..	566	689	4	...	123	
Grenfell	Barnedman	25	35	...	...	...
	Bena	35	2	...	...	...
	Bimbi, or Sandy Creek... ..	22	5	...	...	...
	Blink Bonnie	7	4	...	...	...
	Bumbaldry	2	7	...	...	...
	Bygalore Station	2	1	...	...	...
	Carrigaball	6	2	...	...	...
	Eulong	3	19	...	...	...
	Gooloogong	26	4	...	...	...
	Grenfell	128	218	...	...	...
	Humbug	2	...	...	...	...
	Kildary	18	...	...	...	...
	Marsden... ..	13	14	...	...	...
	Milby West	16	3	...	...	...
	Moonbie... ..	9	2	...	...	...
	Morangorell	4	3	...	...	...
	North Yalgogrin	19	12	...	...	...
	Ooma	7	4	...	...	...
	Piney Range	12	9	...	...	...
	Pinnacle Reefs	34	10	...	...	...
	Reefton	29	3	...	...	...
	South Yalgogrin	4	2	...	...	...
	Thuddungra	8	2	...	...	...
	Tomanbil	8	8	...	...	...
	Tyagong Creek	8	4	...	...	...
	Ungarie	4	8	...	...	...
	Wallandry ... ..	...	3	...	...	...
Waroo	25	5	...	...	...
West Wyalong	196	174	...	...	...
Wylong	97	77	...	...	...
Total... ..	769	640	15	129	...	

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Gundagai	Adelong Crossing	26	10	...	...	...
	Bethungra	19	17	...	...	...
	Bongongolong	25	11	...	...	...
	Clarendon	25	9	...	...	...
	Coolac	18	19	...	...	...
	Cootamundra	208	148	...	...	...
	Gobarralong South	15	14	...	...	...
	Gundagai	145	107	...	...	...
	Illabo	15	14	...	...	...
	Jugiong	38	14	...	...	...
	Muttama	27	9	...	...	...
Nangus	16	3	...	...	...
	Total	577	375	...	202	...
Gunnedah	Apple-tree Flat	1	2	...	...	...
	Baradine	2	30	...	...	...
	Biamble	9	3	...	...	...
	Binnaway	15	3	...	...	...
	Boggabri	80	16	...	...	...
	Bulgaldi	1	8	...	...	...
	Bundella	27	10	...	...	...
	Carrol	12	15	...	...	...
	Coolah	13	12	...	...	...
	Coonabarabran	26	45	...	...	...
	Curlewis	24	6	...	...	...
	Goran Lake	3	...	...	...	...
	Gunnedah	177	71	...	...	...
	Kirbin ... ..	...	8	...	...	...
	Mullaly	13	8	...	...	...
	Rocky Glen	8	9	...	...	...
Tamba Springs	18	9	...	...	...
Weetalaba	10	1	...	...	...
Wharkton	1	19	...	...	...
Yarraman Creek	7	4	...	...	...
	Total	447	279	10	168	...
Hartley	Blackheath	35	33	...	...	...
	Hartley Vale	32	27	...	...	...
	Jenolan Caves	9	16	...	...	...
	Katoomba	47	93	...	...	...
	Lithgow	208	328	...	...	...
	Lowther	10	8	...	...	...
	Megalong	3	10	...	...	...
	Mount Victoria	32	23	...	...	...
	Shooters Hill	3	5	...	...	...
Wallerawang	17	74	...	...	...
	Total	396	617	13	...	221
The Hastings and The Macleay..	Beechwood	51	9	...	...	...
	Bellbrook	22	6	...	...	...
	Ellenborough	4	11	...	...	...
	Five Day Creek	12	7	...	...	...
	Frederickton	33	17	...	...	...
	Gannon's Creek	7	3	...	...	...
	Gladstone	55	60	...	...	...
	Green Hill	26	23	...	...	...
	Hickey's Creek	31	4	...	...	...
	Moorparrah	7	8	...	...	...
	Port Macquarie	70	53	...	...	...
	Rawdon Island	31	3	...	...	...
	Rollands Plains	22	7	...	...	...
	Sherwood	17	10	...	...	...
	Skillion Flat	30	6	...	...	...
Telegraph Point	16	7	...	...	...
Wauchope	26	11	...	...	...
West Kempsey	150	85	...	...	...
Yarras	3	2	...	...	...
	Total	613	332	6	281	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
The Hawkesbury ...	Central Colo ...	4	21	...	...	...
	Comleroy Road ...	10	19	...	...	...
	Enfield ...	13	55	...	...	...
	Forrester ...	4	18	...	...	...
	Gentleman's Halt ...	5	...	...	...	...
	Kurrajong Heights ...	8	23	...	...	...
	McGrath's Hill ...	8	13	...	...	...
	Mouth of Colo ...	16	16	...	...	...
	North Kurrajong ...	12	52	...	...	...
	Pitt Town ...	10	94	...	...	...
	Portland Head ...	7	11	...	...	...
	Richmond ...	49	172	...	...	...
	Riverstone ...	36	129	...	...	...
	Rous Hill ...	1	13	...	...	...
	Sackville Reach ...	11	42	...	...	...
	The Vineyard ...	13	11	...	...	...
	Upper Colo ...	2	15	...	...	...
	Wilberforce ...	5	110	...	...	...
Windsor ...	97	221	...	...	...
Wiseman's Ferry ...	16	23	...	...	...
	Total ...	327	1,058	5	...	731
Hay ...	Currathool ...	78	7	...	...	...
	Darlington Point ...	60	5	...	...	...
	Gunbar ...	52	8	...	...	...
	Hay ...	389	121	...	...	...
	Maude ...	28	6	...	...	...
	Mount Elliott ...	24	1	...	...	...
	Mount Ida ...	22	1	...	...	...
	One Tree ...	9	2	...	...	...
	Whitton ...	79	25	...	...	...
	Total ...	741	176	8	565	...
The Hume ...	Book Book ...	14	7	...	...	...
	Carnsdale ...	21	...	...	...	...
	Cherry Hill ...	13	...	...	...	...
	Cookardinia ...	34	14	...	...	...
	Culcairn ...	62	17	...	...	...
	Dora Dora ...	25	...	...	...	...
	Germanton ...	160	15	...	...	...
	Henty ...	50	4	...	...	...
	Jingellic ...	21	2	...	...	...
	Khancoban ...	20	...	...	...	...
	Little Billabong ...	24	2	...	...	...
	Lockhart ...	42	7	...	...	...
	Mittagong ...	24	2	...	...	...
	Ournie ...	15	1	...	...	...
	Pleasant Hills ...	36	2	...	...	...
	Pulletop ...	9	...	...	...	...
	Rosewood ...	17	2	...	...	...
	Sandy Creek ...	7	2	...	...	...
	The Rock ...	36	10	...	...	...
	Tooma ...	16	2	...	...	...
Tumbarumba ...	110	40	...	...	...
Walbundry ...	46	17	...	...	...
Walla Walla ...	33	9	...	...	...
Woomargama ...	30	3	...	...	...
Yarrara ...	24	...	...	...	...
Yerong Creek ...	49	11	...	...	...
	Total ...	938	169	2	769	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Illawarra	Albion Park	45	85	...	...	...
	Avondale	2	13	...	...	...
	Brownsville	20	30	...	...	...
	Dapto	36	64	...	...	...
	Dunmore	22	11	...	...	...
	Marshall Mount	2	16	...	...	...
	Mount Kembla	18	80	...	...	...
	Shellharbour	24	32	...	...	...
	Tongarra	14	10	...	...	...
	Unanderra	28	54	...	...	...
	Woodstock	13	17	...	...	...
Wollongong	257	135	...	...	...
	Total... ..	481	547	9	...	66
Inverell	Ashford	13	14	...	...	...
	Bonshaw	7	8	...	...	...
	Elsmore	36	19	...	...	...
	Goomoorah	31	17	...	...	...
	Graman	14	23	...	...	...
	Inverell	229	170	...	...	...
	King's Plains	2	4	...	...	...
	Kangaroo Camp	3	10	...	...	...
	Little Plain	10	18	...	...	...
	Maybole ... ..	...	6	...	...	...
	Prairie Park	8	8	...	...	...
	Reedy Creek	5	9	...	...	...
	Stannifer	16	11	...	...	...
	Swamp Oak	9	1	...	...	...
	Swan Vale	15	7	...	...	...
Wallangra	22	12	...	...	...
Yetman	7	11	...	...	...
	Total... ..	427	348	10	79	...
Kahibah	Adamstown	102	156	...	...	...
	Belmont	13	3	...	...	...
	Burwood (old Racecourse)	59	81	...	...	...
	Charlestown	33	34	...	...	...
	Dudley	16	39	...	...	...
	Merewether	170	157	...	...	...
	New Lambton	46	116	...	...	...
		Total... ..	439	586	8	...	147
Kiama	Broughton Village	15	22	...	...	...
	Burrawang	43	18	...	...	...
	East Kangaloon... ..	6	41	...	...	...
	Gerringong	66	49	...	...	...
	Jamberoo	37	49	...	...	...
	Kangaroo Valley	88	85	...	...	...
	Kiama	119	138	...	...	...
	Robertson	68	36	...	...	...
	Woodhill	9	26	...	...	...
	Total... ..	451	464	12	...	13

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Ycs.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
The Lachlan	Boolbadah	6	...	...	...	...
	Booligal	59	3	...	...	...
	Cargellico	33	24	...	...	...
	Cugong	12	1	...	...	...
	Culparlin	19	...	...	...	...
	Eremeran	7	...	...	...	...
	Euabalong	31	12	...	...	...
	Gilgunnia Gold-field	25	1	...	...	...
	Hillston	186	21	...	...	...
	Ivanhoe	14	1	...	...	...
	Malonga	7	...	...	...	...
	Marowie Creek	14	...	...	...	...
	Mossgiel	55	2	...	...	...
	Mount Hope	22	19	...	...	...
	Nymagee	43	49	...	...	...
	Roto	15	3	...	...	...
	South Mount Hope	14	7	...	...	...
	Trida Station	15	...	...	...	...
	Whealbah	27	...	...	...	...
	Willanthy	11	2	...	...	...
	Total	615	145	10	470	...
Leichhardt	Leichhardt Town Hall	574	733	...	...	...
	Near Callan Park	108	117	...	...	...
	Total	682	850	3	...	168
Lismore	Boxhill	22	9	...	...	...
	Chilcott's Grass	13	6	...	...	...
	Clunes	29	6	...	...	...
	Corndale	8	3	...	...	...
	Dunoon	35	8	...	...	...
	Eureka	20	2	...	...	...
	Goolmangar	10	...	...	...	...
	Gundurimba	29	4	...	...	...
	Keerrong	6	8	...	...	...
	Lismore	343	92	...	...	...
	Nimbin	8	2	...	...	...
	Rosehill	13	4	...	...	...
	Wyrallah	82	3	...	...	...
	Total	618	147	3	471	...
Macquarie	Box Ridge	8	7	...	...	...
	Brewongle	17	11	...	...	...
	Campbell's River Lagoon	1	2	...	...	...
	Charlton, at Campbell's River	7	7	...	...	...
	Cullen Bullen	6	24	...	...	...
	Dark Corner	10	4	...	...	...
	Edith	4	4	...	...	...
	Frying-pan	6	4	...	...	...
	Glanmirc	4	5	...	...	...
	Hampton	4	4	...	...	...
	Hazelgrove	4	8	...	...	...
	Hillsbury	1	6	...	...	...
	Kelloshiel	29	5	...	...	...
	Limekilns	8	12	...	...	...
	Meadow Flat	2	24	...	...	...
	Mutton Falls	5	7	...	...	...
	Oberon	29	55	...	...	...
	O'Connell	13	58	...	...	...
	Palmer's Oaky	4	6	...	...	...
	Peel	17	5	...	...	...
	Portland	17	6	...	...	...
	Rydal	5	36	...	...	...
	Sofala	31	46	...	...	...
	Sunny Corner	102	42	...	...	...
	Tarana	13	30	...	...	...
	Wattle Flat	55	50	...	...	...
	Winburndale Rivulet, at the junction of Cheshire Creek	2	9	...	...	...
	Total	404	477	11	...	73

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Maitland, East	East Maitland	181	159	...	...	...
	Minmi	123	123	...	...	...
	Morpeth	65	141	...	...	...
	Mulbring	12	40	...	...	...
	Oakvale	13	10	...	...	...
	Tarro	10	17	...	...	...
	Total	404	490	7	...	86
Maitland, West	Bishop's Bridge	21	13	...	...	...
	Cessnock	40	12	...	...	...
	Lochinvar	16	42	...	...	...
	Pokolbin	9	23	...	...	...
	Rothbury	4	13	...	...	...
	West Maitland	771	267	...	...	...
Total	861	370	5	491	...	
Monaro	Adaminaby	68	23	...	...	...
	Berridale	43	3	...	...	...
	Bredbo	14	6	...	...	...
	Buckley's Crossing	24	18	...	...	...
	Cooma	280	61	...	...	...
	Cowra Creek	11	27	...	...	...
	Jindabyne	21	31	...	...	...
	Kiandra	25	...	...	...	...
	Kybean	8	1	...	...	...
	Little Plain	13	7	...	...	...
	Micaligo	17	6	...	...	...
	Myalla	14	2	...	...	...
	Nimmitabel	43	2	...	...	...
	Rhine Falls	15	8	...	...	...
Umaralla	17	10	...	...	...
Total	613	205	4	408	...	
The Manning	Cedar Party Creek	7	15	...	...	...
	Coopernook	40	43	...	...	...
	Croki	24	53	...	...	...
	Cundletown	36	58	...	...	...
	Harrington	18	25	...	...	...
	Holey Flat	12	27	...	...	...
	Kendall	13	22	...	...	...
	Kimbriki	14	11	...	...	...
	Laurieton	32	43	...	...	...
	Marlee	15	30	...	...	...
	Oxley Island	12	21	...	...	...
	Taree	74	100	...	...	...
	Tinonee	22	37	...	...	...
	Tyrie	5	2	...	...	...
	Upper Landsdown	11	15	...	...	...
	Wherrol Creek	7	3	...	...	...
Wingham	74	74	...	...	...
Woodside	30	4	...	...	...
Total	446	583	12	...	137	
Marrickville	Excelsior Hall, Marrickville Road	333	505	...	...	...
	Livingstone Road, near New Canter- bury Road	174	211	...	...	...
	Renwick-street, The Warren	53	130	...	...	...
	Enmore Road, near Juliet-street	184	164	...	...	...
	Wardell Road, near Marrickville Road	78	97	...	...	...
Total	822	1,107	4	...	285	

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Ycs.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Molong	Barragun	14	9	...	...	...
	Boomey	3	3	...	...	...
	Borenore	13	15	...	...	...
	Bowan Park	6	19	...	...	...
	Buckimbah	7	14	...	...	...
	Cargo	34	51	...	...	...
	Cheese-man's Creek	10	8	...	...	...
	Coffee Hills	5	12	...	...	...
	Cudal	14	48	...	...	...
	Cumnock	41	30	...	...	...
	Eugowra	13	29	...	...	...
	Garra	7	29	...	...	...
	Lockwood	11	22	...	...	...
	Manildra	18	36	...	...	...
	Molong	64	100	...	...	...
	Murga	1	5	...	...	...
	Native Dog Creek	3	2	...	...	...
	Nyrang Creek	13	7	...	...	...
	Obley	10	12	...	...	...
	Red Hill	2	7	...	...	...
Rocky Ponds	9	12	...	...	...
Toogong	4	18	...	...	...
Wambaugalong	1	4	...	...	...
Yullundry	3	5	...	...	...
	Total...	305	497	4	...	191
Moree	Ashley	8	7	...	...	...
	Benarba	10	4	...	...	...
	Blairmore	1	6	...	...	...
	Boggabilla	23	16	...	...	...
	Colleymongle	2	2	...	...	...
	Dolgelly	12	5	...	...	...
	Garah	8	9	...	...	...
	Gil Gil Station	1	2	...	...	...
	Kunopia	12	6	...	...	...
	Moree	12	14	...	...	...
	Moree	100	111	...	...	...
	Mungindi	33	21	...	...	...
	New Gunyerwarildi	11	6	...	...	...
	Pallamallawa	13	21	...	...	...
	Terry-hie-hie	2	18	...	...	...
	Tycannah	4	2	...	...	...
Warialda	36	83	...	...	...
	Total...	288	333	4	...	45
Moruya	Bateman's Bay	13	20	...	...	...
	Bodalla	24	44	...	...	...
	Brooman	7	2	...	...	...
	Conjola	18	10	...	...	...
	Currowan	6	6	...	...	...
	Deua River	4	3	...	...	...
	Milton	133	87	...	...	...
	Mogo	25	29	...	...	...
	Morton	12	11	...	...	...
	Moruya	121	93	...	...	...
	Mount Dromadary Mines	8	8	...	...	...
	Narooma	4	19	...	...	...
	Nelligen	22	32	...	...	...
	Nerrigundah	27	18	...	...	...
	Punkalla	11	6	...	...	...
	Termeil	14	11	...	...	...
Tilba Tilba	12	52	...	...	...
Ulladulla	9	23	...	...	...
	Total...	470	474	2	...	4

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Mudgee	Apple-tree Flat	12	24	...	...	...
	Collingwood	13	6	...	...	...
	Cullenbone	34	10	...	...	...
	Gulgong... ..	126	102	...	...	...
	Hargraves	52	36	...	...	...
	Home Rule	18	30	...	...	...
	Linburn	6	17	...	...	...
	Merinda	15	32	...	...	...
	Mudgee	336	251	...	...	...
	Patterson's Lower Grattai	11	6	...	...	...
	Pipeclay Creek	18	10	...	...	...
	Stony Creek	19	27	...	...	...
	Two-mile Flat	20	9	...	...	...
	Upper Meroo	13	12	...	...	...
	Windeyer	10	43	...	...	...
	Total... ..	703	615	6	88	...
The Murray	Berrigan... ..	196	8	...	...	...
	Brookong	21	1	...	...	...
	Corowa	228	44	...	...	...
	Daysdale	45	4	...	...	...
	Finlay	96	5	...	...	...
	Jerilderie	125	10	...	...	...
	Lovesdale	21	1	...	...	...
	Mahonga	17	...	...	...	...
	Morundah	47	2	...	...	...
	Mulwala... ..	127	9	...	...	...
	Narrunga	31	2	...	...	...
	Old Gorge	16	1	...	...	...
	Oaklands	17	...	...	...	...
	Savernake	45	3	...	...	...
	Summerglen	19	...	...	...	...
	Tocumwal	97	4	...	...	...
	Urana	83	5	...	...	...
Whitlands	39	...	...	...	...
	Total... ..	1,270	99	16	1,171	...
Murrumbidgee (The) ...	Barellan	13	3	...	...	...
	Broken Dam	24	9	...	...	...
	Colinrudy	30	2	...	...	...
	Coolamon	121	48	...	...	...
	Ganmain	41	18	...	...	...
	Grong Grong	38	29	...	...	...
	Junee	168	184	...	...	...
	Junee Rcefs	21	18	...	...	...
	Methul	29	5	...	...	...
	Narrandera	266	108	...	...	...
	North Berry Jerry	17	14	...	...	...
	Sebastopol	22	3	...	...	...
	Trickett	15	1	...	...	...
	Warri	19	...	...	...	...
	Total... ..	824	442	6	382	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Narrabri	Avondale	15	7	...	...	...
	Baan Baa	9	9	...	...	...
	Boggy Creek	4	13	...	...	...
	Boolcarrol	8	5	...	...	...
	Bucklebone	21	10	...	...	...
	Bullarora	4	3	...	...	...
	Bulyeroi... ..	24	17	...	...	...
	Burren	22	23	...	...	...
	Come-by-Chance	35	12	...	...	...
	Cuttabri	8	5	...	...	...
	Eula Creek	13	16	...	...	...
	Galathera	3	6	...	...	...
	Goangra	9	8	...	...	...
	Kerrimngby	15	23	...	...	...
	Merribien	2	12	...	...	...
	Murcadool	3	3	...	...	...
	Myall Vale	5	5	...	...	...
	Narrabri... ..	218	224	...	...	...
	Narrabri West	27	92	...	...	...
	Nowley	9	9	...	...	...
Pilliga	27	17	...	...	...
Rocky Ford	11	2	...	...	...
Wee Waa	79	42	...	...	...
	Total	571	563	9	8	...
Nepean, The	Bringelly	15	23	...	...	...
	Castlereagh	8	55	...	...	...
	Emu	27	53	...	...	...
	Hoxton Park	4	21	...	...	...
	Lawson	8	51	...	...	...
	Llandillo	4	8	...	...	...
	Luddenham	14	40	...	...	...
	Mount Druitt	13	16	...	...	...
	Mulgoa	10	30	...	...	...
	Penrith	126	293	...	...	...
	Springwood	27	54	...	...	...
	St. Mary's	81	75	...	...	...
	Wentworth Falls	8	13	...	...	...
	Total	345	732	8	...	387
Newcastle East	Council Chambers (Stockton)... ..	141	121	...	...	...
	Council Chambers, Watts-street, New- castle	60	42	...	...	...
	Old Court House, Hunter-street, New- castle	439	411	...	...	...
	Total	640	574	1	66	...
Newcastle West	Brunker Road, Adamstown	45	53	...	...	...
	Darby-street, Newcastle	129	117	...	...	...
	Honeysuckle Point	285	181	...	...	...
	Junction... ..	35	48	...	...	...
	Total	494	399	4	95	...
Newtown—Camperdown Division.	King-street, Newtown	126	102	...	...	...
	Police Station, Newtown	391	406	...	...	...
	Town Hall, Camperdown	195	132	...	...	...
	Total	712	640	4	72	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Newtown—Erskine Division	Oddfellows' Hall, Wilson-street, New- town	144	175	...	...	...
	St. George's Hall	116	177	...	...	...
	Town Hall, Erskineville	238	239	...	...	...
	Total	498	641	3	...	143
Newtown—St. Peters Divi- sion.	Cook's River, near the Dam	49	94	...	...	...
	Oddfellows' Hall, Enmore Road	338	337	...	...	...
	Town Hall, St. Peters	142	249	...	...	...
	Total	529	730	7	...	201
Northumberland	Catherine Hill Bay	24	25	...	...	...
	Cooranbong	12	62	...	...	...
	Dora Creek	9	17	...	...	...
	Ellalong	20	3	...	...	...
	Gosford	30	132	...	...	...
	Howe's Valley ... ..	...	9	...	...	...
	Jiliby Jiliby	8	19	...	...	...
	Kincumber	2	36	...	...	...
	Laguna	9	11	...	...	...
	Mangrove Creek	6	12	...	...	...
	Millfield	14	8	...	...	...
	Ourimbah	7	49	...	...	...
	Port Erina	5	34	...	...	...
	Putty ... ..	...	7	...	...	...
	St. Albans	3	89	...	...	...
	Swansea	6	9	...	...	...
	Toronto	18	30	...	...	...
	Wamberal	6	16	...	...	...
	Wiseman's Ferry	5	18	...	...	...
	Wollombi	29	30	...	...	...
	Woy Woy	5	42	...	...	...
Wyee	8	20	...	...	...
Wyong	22	80	...	...	...
Yarranalong	25	20	...	...	...
Total	273	778	5	...	505	
Orange	Byng	9	8	...	...	...
	Cadia	12	15	...	...	...
	East Orange	27	36	...	...	...
	Forest Reefs	19	27	...	...	...
	Lewis Ponds	12	15	...	...	...
	Lucknow	76	96	...	...	...
	Mullion Creek, on Ironbarks Road	32	28	...	...	...
	Ophir	5	9	...	...	...
	Orange	466	327	...	...	...
	Spring Hill	37	27	...	...	...
	Spring Terrace	10	27	...	...	...
Total	705	615	19	90	...	
Paddington	Paddington Town Hall	594	551	...	...	...
	St. George's Hall, Glenmore Road	170	207	...	...	...
	Total	764	758	2	6	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Parramatta... ..	Court-house, Parramatta	223	303	...	...	...
	Near the Broken Back Bridge	66	93	...	...	...
	Prospect and Sherwood	9	23	...	...	...
	Town Hall, Parramatta	266	313	...	...	...
	Total... ..	564	732	2	...	168
Petersham	Brighton and Palace Streets	94	96	...	...	...
	Near Lewisham Station	240	291	...	...	...
	Near Stanmore Station	127	176	...	...	...
	Petersham Town Hall	273	279	...	...	...
	Total... ..	734	842	4	...	108
Queanbeyan	Bredalbane	3	10	...	...	...
	Brindabella	3	2	...	...	...
	Bungendore	27	88	...	...	...
	Canberra	25	20	...	...	...
	Captain's Flat	99	61	...	...	...
	Collector	26	31	...	...	...
	Currawang	20	25	...	...	...
	Duck Flat	4	4	...	...	...
	Gininderra	29	28	...	...	...
	Gudgenby	6	3	...	...	...
	Gundaroo	2	44	...	...	...
	Hoskington	14	8	...	...	...
	Lake Bathurst	1	12	...	...	...
	Lanyon	17	18	...	...	...
	Ledgerston	2	6	...	...	...
	Micaligo	24	9	...	...	...
	Molonglo	16	1	...	...	...
	Queanbeyan	133	65	...	...	...
	Sutton	9	24	...	...	...
	Urayarra	8	16	...	...	...
Williamsdale	8	13	...	...	...
Yarra	4	19	...	...	...
Total... ..	480	507	3	...	27	
Quirindi	Black Creek	16	...	...	...	...
	Bowling Alley Point	13	41	...	...	...
	Breeza	18	15	...	...	...
	Currabubula	20	40	...	...	...
	Doughboy Hollow	7	11	...	...	...
	Glasston... ..	11	1	...	...	...
	Goonoo Goonoo	9	11	...	...	...
	Hanging Rock	4	21	...	...	...
	Lower Dungowan	3	25	...	...	...
	Nundle	19	57	...	...	...
	Pine Ridge	10	8	...	...	...
	Quipolly	8	13	...	...	...
	Quirindi... ..	151	87	...	...	...
	Spring Ridge	10	10	...	...	...
	Upper Dungowan	6	8	...	...	...
	Wallabadah	22	49	...	...	...
	Werris Creek	20	31	...	...	...
	Willow Tree	9	17	...	...	...
Yarraman	6	15	...	...	...
Total... ..	362	460	8	...	98	

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Raleigh	Argent's Hill	2	21	...	...	...
	Barrieton	11	8	...	...	...
	Bellingen	66	53	...	...	...
	Bellingen Heads	17	15	...	...	...
	Bowra	46	46	...	...	...
	Clybuca	4	12	...	...	...
	Coff's Harbour	30	4	...	...	...
	Coramba...	26	12	...	...	...
	Corindi Station	1	9	...	...	...
	Dalmorton	1	11	...	...	...
	Dorrigo	5	...	...	...	...
	Fernmount	22	18	...	...	...
	Glenreagh	3	2	...	...	...
	Jerseyville	30	46	...	...	...
	Kinchela...	6	29	...	...	...
	Lower Bucca	12	4	...	...	...
	Macksville	11	40	...	...	...
	Nambucca Heads	32	28	...	...	...
	Never Never	6	12	...	...	...
	Raleigh	13	16	...	...	...
	Sherwood	10	0	...	...	...
	Smith Town	16	25	...	...	...
	Stuart's Point	4	14	...	...	...
	Taylor's Arm	2	15	...	...	...
	The Junction	24	8	...	...	...
	Tyringham	5	2	...	...	...
	Unkya	5	23	...	...	...
Woogoolga	17	20	...	...	...
	Total...	427	493	5	...	66
Randwick	Arden-street, near Macpherson-street...	45	68	...	...	...
	Coogee	24	25	...	...	...
	Green's Road, near Oxford-street	158	132	...	...	...
	Oxford-street, near Reservoir	155	170	...	...	...
	Town Hall, Randwick	276	280	...	...	...
	Total...	658	675	2	...	17
Redfern	Redfern Town Hall	706	643	3	63	...
The Richmond	Broadwater	71	11	...	...	...
	Bungawalbin	6	13	...	...	...
	Busby's Flat	6	2	...	...	...
	Casino	189	74	...	...	...
	Coraki	84	18	...	...	...
	Myrtle Creck	15	1	...	...	...
	Newpark	23	4	...	...	...
	Riley's Hill	15	12	...	...	...
	Swan Bay	15	3	...	...	...
	Tabulam	14	1	...	...	...
	Tatham	79	13	...	...	...
	The Risk	7	2	...	...	...
	Tooloom Goldfields	11	1	...	...	...
Woodburn South	48	8	...	...	...
	Total...	583	163	10	420	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Robertson	Aberdeen	53	52	...	...	...
	Apple-tree Flat... ..	13	2	...	...	...
	Belltrees... ..	38	1	...	...	...
	Blanford... ..	43	18	...	...	...
	Bunnam	33	7	...	...	...
	Denman	40	32	...	...	...
	Ellerston... ..	25	3	...	...	...
	Gundy	30	9	...	...	...
	Kyuga	24	9	...	...	...
	Liddell (Chain of Ponds)	...	12	...	...	...
	Main Camp	30	25	...	...	...
	Moonan	23	1	...	...	...
	Murrurundi	56	72	...	...	...
	Musclebrook	141	161	...	...	...
	Muscle Creek	16	5	...	...	...
	Scone	108	110	...	...	...
	Stewart's Brook... ..	13	27	...	...	...
	Weldun	25	15	...	...	...
	Whissonsett	10	5	...	...	...
	Wingen	42	20	...	...	...
Wybong... ..	14	16	...	...	...
	Total... ..	777	602	13	175	...
Bydo	Beecroft... ..	10	40	...	...	...
	Drummoyne Council Chambers	172	128	...	...	...
	Dundas	40	86	...	...	...
	East Carlingford	27	38	...	...	...
	Gladesville	84	71	...	...	...
	Hunter's Hill	135	140	...	...	...
	Marsfield	21	58	...	...	...
	North Ryde	11	43	...	...	...
	Rydalmere	30	63	...	...	...
	Ryde	99	126	...	...	...
	Total... ..	629	793	9	...	164
Rylstone	Baerami	9	2	...	...	...
	Birriwa	8	12	...	...	...
	Botobolar	10	6	...	...	...
	Bylong	4	8	...	...	...
	Capertee... ..	20	14	...	...	...
	Cassilis	34	16	...	...	...
	Collaroy Station	19	7	...	...	...
	Crudine Post Office	6	10	...	...	...
	Cudgegong	18	5	...	...	...
	Dungaree	14	29	...	...	...
	Genowlan	58	17	...	...	...
	Giant's Creek	7	8	...	...	...
	Glen Alice	13	1	...	...	...
	Green Hills	3	8	...	...	...
	Gungal	11	6	...	...	...
	Ilford	18	24	...	...	...
	Kerrabee	3	5	...	...	...
	Leadville	33	3	...	...	...
	Merriwa... ..	104	20	...	...	...
	Narrango	2	13	...	...	...
	Pyramul... ..	17	5	...	...	...
	Rylstone... ..	69	57	...	...	...
	Stubbo	2	4	...	...	...
	Tallawang	22	4	...	...	...
	Urabry	8	10	...	...	...
	Ulan	4	3	...	...	...
Wollar	31	16	...	...	...
	Total... ..	547	313	6	234	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Sherbrooke	Arcadia	5	25	...	...	...
	Baulkham Hills... ..	19	39	...	...	...
	Blacktown	16	42	...	...	...
	Castle Hill	14	23	...	...	...
	Dural	15	33	...	...	...
	Eastern Creek	13	15	...	...	...
	Fairfield	35	60	...	...	...
	Galston	6	36	...	...	...
	Glenorie... ..	11	29	...	...	...
	Holroyd	32	28	...	...	...
	Kellyville	8	20	...	...	...
	Kenthurst	5	21	...	...	...
	Pennant Hills, near Thompson's corner	6	14	...	...	...
	Prospect	11	38	...	...	...
	Rooty Hill	38	50	...	...	...
	Rouse Hill	7	5	...	...	...
	Seven Hills	14	24	...	...	...
	Smithfield	47	60	...	...	...
	Toongabbie	12	35	...	...	...
Wetheril Park	9	20	...	...	...
	Total... ..	323	617	5	...	294
The Shoalhaven	Berry	115	140	...	...	...
	Bomaderry	14	28	...	...	...
	Burrier	10	7	...	...	...
	Cambewarra	23	40	...	...	...
	Coolangatta	37	15	...	...	...
	Greenwell Point	20	18	...	...	...
	Huskieson	6	2	...	...	...
	Nowra	194	196	...	...	...
	Numba	14	11	...	...	...
	Sassafras	3	6	...	...	...
	Terara	8	16	...	...	...
	Tomerong	26	16	...	...	...
	Yalwal	24	14	...	...	...
	Total... ..	494	509	9	...	15
Singleton	Belford	10	16	...	...	...
	Branxton	45	60	...	...	...
	Broke	15	20	...	...	...
	Bulga	27	3	...	...	...
	Camberwell	28	11	...	...	...
	Elderslie... ..	3	14	...	...	...
	Glendon... ..	30	8	...	...	...
	Glendon Brook... ..	24	18	...	...	...
	Goorangoola	13	4	...	...	...
	Greta	67	63	...	...	...
	Jerry's Plains	14	14	...	...	...
	Mitchell's Flat	12	20	...	...	...
	Singleton	313	198	...	...	...
	St. Clair	8	9	...	...	...
	Warkworth	28	4	...	...	...
Westbrook	9	4	...	...	...
	Total... ..	646	466	9	180	...
St. George	Arncliffe... ..	93	165	...	...	...
	Bexley	48	66	...	...	...
	Carlton	25	51	...	...	...
	Hurstville Council Chambers	144	259	...	...	...
	Kogarah School of Arts	154	248	...	...	...
	Oatley	15	26	...	...	...
	Rockdale Town Hall	198	297	...	...	...
	Total... ..	677	1,112	5	...	435

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
St. Leonards	Milson's Point	256	323	...	...	...
	Walker-street	423	518	...	...	...
	Total... ..	679	841	4	...	162
Sturt	Day Dream	4	0	...	...	...
	Iodide-street	169	202	...	...	...
	Lanc-street	47	78	...	...	...
	Pinnacles	11	...	...	...	...
	Rockwell	6	...	...	...	...
	Silverton	28	10	...	...	...
	Stephen's Creek	7	...	...	...	...
	Thackaringa	18	6	...	...	...
	Torrowangee	4	2	...	...	...
Total... ..	294	298	8	...	4	
Sydney—Belmore Division	Independent Order of Oddfellows' Temple, 138, Elizabeth-street	469	456	1	13	...
Sydney—Bligh Division ...	Presbyterian School-hall, in Palmer-street	525	476	3	49	...
Sydney—Cook Division ...	Crown-street, between Little Devonshire and Cleveland Streets	504	440	...	64	...
Sydney—Denison Division	Harris-street, near William Henry Street	300	437	3	...	137
Sydney—Fitzroy Division...	Dowling-street, corner of Fitzroy Avenue	635	815	9	...	180
Sydney—Flinders Division	School-room, Foveaux-street, between Crown and Bourke Streets	504	462	4	42	...
Sydney—Gipps Division ...	Federation Hall, corner of Charlotte-place and Harrington-street ..	417	748	6	...	331
Sydney—King Division ...	Protestant Hall, Castlereagh-street, near Bathurst-street	757	631	...	126	...
Sydney—Lang Division ...	Old Masonic Hall, Clarence-street, Sydney	394	493	4	...	99
Sydney—Phillip Division ...	Exhibition Building, Prince Alfred Park	536	517	2	19	...
Sydney—Pymont Division	Elders' Hall, Union-street, Pymont ...	289	532	1	...	243
Tamworth	Attunga	35	33	...	...	...
	Moonbi	30	46	...	...	...
	Niangala	6	13	...	...	...
	Rywang	17	12	...	...	...
	Somerton	8	17	...	...	...
	Tamworth	256	324	...	...	...
	West Tamworth	26	100	...	...	...
Winton	18	11	...	...	...
Total... ..	396	556	4	...	160	

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Tenterfield ...	Acacia Creek ...	28	1	...	...	...
	Bolivia ...	10	3	...	...	...
	Boonoo Boonoo ...	4	11	...	...	...
	Clifton Gate ...	2	1	...	...	...
	Deepwater ...	60	3	...	...	...
	Drake ...	91	27	...	...	...
	Long Gully ...	3	13	...	...	...
	Maryland ...	20	6	...	...	...
	Mole Tableland ...	3	19	...	...	...
	Nine-mile ...	21	16	...	...	...
	Pretty Gully ...	14	11	...	...	...
	Rivertree ...	21	1	...	...	...
	Sandy Flat ...	5	17	...	...	...
	Sandy Hill ...	1	3	...	...	...
	Tenterfield ...	220	121	...	...	...
	The Gulf... ..	3	4	...	...	...
	Timbarra ...	10	3	...	...	...
Upper Tooloom ...	13	4	...	...	...
West Tabulam ...	9	...	...	...	...
White Swamp ...	4	10	...	...	...
Wilson's Downfall ...	29	11	...	...	...
	Total ...	571	285	8	286	...
Tumut ...	Adelong ...	157	198	...	...	...
	Argalong, Sandy Creek ...	16	3	...	...	...
	Batlow ...	43	21	...	...	...
	Brungle ...	40	2	...	...	...
	Humula ...	35	14	...	...	...
	Laurel Hill ...	18	5	...	...	...
	Mount Adrah ...	12	5	...	...	...
	Tomorroma ...	12	3	...	...	...
	Tumut ...	256	128	...	...	...
	Upper Tarcutta ...	44	5	...	...	...
Yarrangobilly ...	7	2	...	...	...
	Total ...	640	386	10	254	...
The Tweed ...	Burringbar ...	37	1	...	...	...
	Byron Bay ...	79	9	...	...	...
	Byron Creek ...	38	1	...	...	...
	Coorabell Creek ...	11	5	...	...	...
	Cudgen Scrub ...	53	11	...	...	...
	Mullumbimby ...	47	14	...	...	...
	Murwillumbah ...	224	64	...	...	...
	Tumbulgum ...	59	2	...	...	...
	Tweed Heads ...	8	25	...	...	...
	Upper Pocket ...	16	...	...	...	...
	Total ...	572	132	3	440	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Uralla-Walcha	Balala	27	4	...	...	...
	Bendemeer	4	38	...	...	...
	Castle Doyle	1	10	...	...	...
	Cooplacurripa	2	3	...	...	...
	Emore	1	10	...	...	...
	Glen Morrison Diggings	9	6	...	...	...
	Green Valley	3	6	...	...	...
	Invergowrie	12	12	...	...	...
	Kelly's Plains	4	17	...	...	...
	Kentucky	7	11	...	...	...
	Kingstown	11	5	...	...	...
	Nowendoc	4	4	...	...	...
	Rockwood	3	3	...	...	...
	Salisbury Plains	8	4	...	...	...
	St. Leonards' Creek	6	1	...	...	...
	Tia Diggings	13	22	...	...	...
	Uralla	185	117	...	...	...
Walcha	66	62	...	...	...
Walcha Road	9	17	...	...	...
Yarrowitch	7	1	...	...	...
	Total	332	353	3	...	21
Wagga Wagga	Alfredtown	15	4	...	...	...
	Borambula	13	6	...	...	...
	Cottee	44	4	...	...	...
	Cross Roads	19	1	...	...	...
	Downside	13	5	...	...	...
	Jackson's Waterhole	25	4	...	...	...
	Kockibitoo	21	4	...	...	...
	Uranquinty	12	9	...	...	...
	Wagga Wagga	483	192	...	...	...
	Wallacetown	8	6	...	...	...
	Total	653	235	4	418	...
Wallsend	Cardiff	20	6	...	...	...
	Cockle Creek	17	13	...	...	...
	Plattsburg	223	172	...	...	...
	Teralba	37	45	...	...	...
	Wallsend	144	243	...	...	...
	West Wallsend... ..	51	138	...	...	...
	Total	492	617	7	...	125
Waratah	Hamilton	227	240	...	...	...
	Hexham	17	24	...	...	...
	Jesmond	39	48	...	...	...
	Lambton... ..	147	197	...	...	...
	Mosquito Island	5	6	...	...	...
	North Waratah... ..	65	36	...	...	...
	Waratah... ..	143	84	...	...	...
	Total	643	635	16	8	...

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Warringah	Greendale	12	23	...	...	...
	Manly	217	220	...	...	...
	Mosman Bay	163	249	...	...	...
	Narrabeen	7	10	...	...	...
	Neutral Bay	142	173	...	...	...
	Pittwater	15	8	...	...	...
	Total... ..	556	683	4	...	127
Waterloo	Alexandria Town Hall	334	436	...	...	...
	Waterloo Town Hall	261	263	...	...	...
	Total... ..	595	699	3	...	104
Waverley	Corner of Albion and Leichhardt Streets	94	123	...	...	...
	Grafton-street	119	93	...	...	...
	Hall or Booth, Ebley-street	359	299	...	...	...
	Waverley Council Chambers	181	217	...	...	...
	Total... ..	753	732	4	21	...
Wellington	Baker's Swamp	13	10	...	...	...
	Ballimore	7	11	...	...	...
	Burnwood	1	4	...	...	...
	Burrondong	14	15	...	...	...
	Cobborah	13	23	...	...	...
	Comobella	11	12	...	...	...
	Cudgebegong	3	9	...	...	...
	Curra Creek	5	13	...	...	...
	Dripstone	5	8	...	...	...
	Ganoo	4	2	...	...	...
	Geurie	10	30	...	...	...
	Gollan	4	17	...	...	...
	Goolma Creek	33	10	...	...	...
	Hill End... ..	43	76	...	...	...
	Maryvale	8	22	...	...	...
	Mendooran	2	11	...	...	...
	Mitchell's Creek	24	57	...	...	...
	Mumbil	16	21	...	...	...
	Murragundy ... ..	...	6	...	...	...
	Neurea	7	14	...	...	...
	Ponto	6	18	...	...	...
	Sally's Flat	10	3	...	...	...
	Sandy Creek	2	17	...	...	...
	Spicer's Creek	8	21	...	...	...
	Stuart Town	67	84	...	...	...
	Suntop	9	11	...	...	...
	Tambaroora	20	9	...	...	...
	Tuckland	11	16	...	...	...
	Upper Pyramul... ..	8	...	...	...	...
	Warne	14	28	...	...	...
	Wellington	129	171	...	...	...
	Woolloman	13	3	...	...	...
Total... ..	520	752	19	...	232	

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Wentworth...	Arumpc ...	3	...	...	...	...
	Balranald ...	141	10	...	...	...
	Buckalow ...	2	...	...	...	...
	Clare ...	21	1	...	...	...
	Conargie... ..	18	1	...	...	...
	Cuthero ...	11	3	...	...	...
	Euston ...	37	1	...	...	...
	Gol Gol ...	7	3	...	...	...
	Hatfield ...	13	1	...	...	...
	Homesbush ...	12	...	...	...	...
	Karpa Kora ...	7	...	...	...	...
	Lake Victoria ...	8	...	...	...	...
	Mallee Cliffs ...	4	...	...	...	...
	Menindie ...	49	19	...	...	...
	Moorna ...	9	...	...	...	...
	Mount Manara ...	2	...	...	...	...
	Oxley ...	36	1	...	...	...
	Para East ...	16	1	...	...	...
	Pooncaira ...	27	6	...	...	...
	Popiltah ...	8	...	...	...	...
	Tareena ...	17	...	...	...	...
The Junction, Euston and Balranald Roads ...	12	...	...	...	...
Tolarno ...	17	2	...	...	...
Wakool Junction ...	7	...	...	...	...
Wentworth ...	98	14	...	...	...
	Total...	582	63	3	519	...
West Macquarie ...	Barry ...	16	8	...	...	...
	Bigga ...	2	30	...	...	...
	Blayney ...	82	92	...	...	...
	Blanket Flat ...	4	4	...	...	...
	Brown's Creek ...	11	3	...	...	...
	Burrage ...	25	12	...	...	...
	Caloola ...	10	10	...	...	...
	Fitzgerald's Valley ...	5	5	...	...	...
	Hobby's Yards ...	16	7	...	...	...
	Judge Creek ...	6	2	...	...	...
	Junction Point ...	3	11	...	...	...
	King's Plains ...	...	13	...	...	...
	Lagoon on Campbell's River ...	9	9	...	...	...
	Milthorpe ...	45	50	...	...	...
	Mount David ...	12	21	...	...	...
	Neville ...	8	19	...	...	...
	Newbridge ...	37	27	...	...	...
	Peelwood ...	3	28	...	...	...
	Perth ...	28	35	...	...	...
	Porter's Retreat... ..	8	8	...	...	...
Rockley ...	24	32	...	...	...
Swatchfield ...	4	5	...	...	...
Trunkey Creek ...	65	10	...	...	...
Tuena ...	25	14	...	...	...
Vittoria ...	16	9	...	...	...
	Total...	464	464	7	...	...
Wickham ...	Carrington ...	129	175	...	...	...
	Islington ...	65	118	...	...	...
	Tighe's Hill ...	57	82	...	...	...
	Wickham ...	321	277	...	...	...
	Total...	572	652	6	...	80

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Wilcannia	Corona	3	...	...	...	...
	Cultowa	3	...	...	...	...
	Elsinora	9	1	...	...	...
	Fort Otway ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
	Goorimpa	6	2	...	...	...
	Llangawirra ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
	Milparinka	17	5	...	...	...
	Momba	12	5	...	...	...
	Mount Brown	7	8	...	...	...
	Near Victoria Hotel (Pearce's)	7	1	...	...	...
	Noonthorungee	2	1	...	...	...
	Tibooburra	54	17	...	...	...
	Tilpa	12	18	...	...	...
	Warratta West, or "The Albert"	7	...	...	...	...
	Warri Warri	6	1	...	...	...
	Weinteriga	8	2	...	...	...
	White Cliffs	142	182	...	...	...
	Wilcannia	170	31	...	...	...
	Yancannia	9	1	...	...	...
	Yandarlo	11	1	...	...	...
Yantara	5	1	...	...	...
	Total... ..	462	277	7	185	...
Willoughby... ..	Gordon	45	89	...	...	...
	Hawkesbury Railway Station ...	2	27	...	...	...
	Hornsby Junction	55	111	...	...	...
	Longueville	43	34	...	...	...
	North Sydney (near Tran Terminus)...	323	337	...	...	...
	Pennant Hills	4	28	...	...	...
	Thornleigh	20	50	...	...	...
	Turramurra	33	99	...	...	...
	Willoughby	153	178	...	...	...
	Total... ..	678	1,053	9	...	375
Woollahra	Council Chambers, Woollahra... ..	119	138	...	...	...
	Double Bay	19	54	...	...	...
	New South Head Road, near Ocean- street	131	178	...	...	...
	Oddfellows' Hall, Queen-street	246	207	...	...	...
	Watson's Bay	36	59	...	...	...
	Total	551	636	1	...	85
Woronora	Balgownie	21	79	...	...	...
	Bellambi... ..	13	31	...	...	...
	Bulli	68	143	...	...	...
	Clifton	45	47	...	...	...
	Corrimal... ..	14	82	...	...	...
	Helensburgh	73	123	...	...	...
	Keira Village	22	82	...	...	...
	Miranda	8	39	...	...	...
	Para Meadow	14	29	...	...	...
	Sutherland	37	56	...	...	...
	Thirroul	10	42	...	...	...
	Woonona	28	124	...	...	...
	Total... ..	353	877	11	...	524

Electorate.	Polling-place.	Yes.	No.	In- formal.	Majority.	
					For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Yass	Bevandale	5	24	...	...	...
	Bookham	10	18	...	...	...
	Booth's Farm	4	30	...	...	...
	Bowning... ..	27	11	...	...	...
	Coodra Vale	8	6	...	...	...
	Dalton	20	84	...	...	...
	Grabben Gullen	30	50	...	...	...
	Greenfield Farm	16	3	...	...	...
	Gunning... ..	42	108	...	...	...
	Micalong	2	4	...	...	...
	Morumbateman	28	49	...	...	...
	Narrawa	3	31	...	...	...
	Tanmangaroo	16	8	...	...	...
	Waroo	15	13	...	...	...
Yass	187	113	...	...	...
	Total... ..	413	552	...	...	139
Young	Bendick Murrell	13	21	...	...	...
	Creighton's Creek	21	6	...	...	...
	Grogan	11	8	...	...	...
	Koorawatha	11	15	...	...	...
	Marengo... ..	30	56	...	...	...
	Monteagle	23	44	...	...	...
	Narraburrah	15	3	...	...	...
	Spring Dale	32	4	...	...	...
	Stockinbingal	23	41	...	...	...
	Temora	283	76	...	...	...
	Temora Road	4	2	...	...	...
	Thuddungra	15	7	...	...	...
	Tubbal	16	10	...	...	...
Young	257	298	...	...	...
	Total... ..	754	591	8	163	...

SUMMARY OF VOTING, FRIDAY, 3RD JUNE, 1898.

Electorate.	Yes.	No.	Informal.	Majority.	
				For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Albury	1,053	283	6	770	.....
Alma	349	515	15	.....	166
Annandale	655	609	4	46	.....
Argyle	326	815	10	.....	489
Armidale	722	574	12	148	.....
Ashburnham	741	672	9	69	.....
Ashfield... ..	802	863	4	.....	61
Ballina	568	216	10	352	.....
Balmain North... ..	770	766	1	4	.....
Balmain South... ..	861	751	.....	110	.....
Barwon, The	579	332	7	247	.....
Bathurst	935	472	7	463	.....
Bega	735	315	6	420	.....
Bingara	329	547	14	.....	218
Boorowa	412	459	9	.....	47
Botany	596	587	10	9	.....
Bourke	544	209	7	335	.....
Bowral	339	592	5	.....	253
Braidwood	268	489	11	.....	221
Broken Hill	547	538	12	9	.....
Burwood	596	573	2	23	.....
Camden	542	755	10	.....	213
Canterbury	632	804	6	.....	172
Clarence, The	435	352	13	83	.....
Cobar	695	543	15	152	.....
Condoumlin	608	413	9	195	.....
Coonamble	404	480	7	.....	76
Cowra	566	504	11	62	.....
Darlington	676	769	7	.....	93
Deniliquin	1,139	71	5	1,068	.....
Dubbo	466	596	10	.....	130
Durham... ..	578	383	13	195	.....
Eden-Bombala	843	233	4	610	.....
Glebe	710	668	5	42	.....
Glen Innes	509	307	7	202	.....
Gloucester	549	332	7	217	.....
Goulburn	434	733	5	.....	299
Grafton... ..	591	261	3	330	.....
Granville	566	689	4	.....	123
Grenfell	769	640	15	129	.....
Gundagai	577	375	.....	202	.....
Gunnedah	447	279	10	163	.....
Hartley... ..	396	617	13	.....	221
Hastings, The, and The Macleay	613	332	6	281	.....
Hawkesbury, The	327	1,058	5	.....	731
Hay	741	176	8	565	.....
Hume, The	938	169	2	769	.....
Ilawarra	481	547	9	.....	66
Inverell	427	348	10	79	.....
Kahibah	439	586	8	.....	147
Kiama	451	464	12	.....	13
Lachlan, The	615	145	10	470	.....
Leichhardt	682	850	3	.....	168
Lismore... ..	618	147	3	471	.....
Macquarie	404	477	11	.....	73
Maitland (East)	404	490	7	.....	86
Maitland (West)	861	370	5	491	.....
Manaro	613	205	4	408	.....
Manning, The	446	583	12	.....	137
Marrickville	822	1,107	4	.....	285
Molong	306	497	4	.....	191
Moree	288	333	4	.....	45
Moruya	470	474	2	.....	4
Mudgee... ..	708	615	6	88	.....
Murray, The	1,270	99	16	1,171	.....
Murrumbidgee, The	824	442	6	382	.....
Narrabri	571	563	9	8	.....
Nepean, The	345	732	8	.....	387
Newcastle (East)	640	574	1	66	.....
Newcastle (West)	494	399	4	95	.....
Newtown—Camperdown Division	712	640	4	72	.....

SUMMARY OF VOTING, &c.—*continued.*

Electorate.	Ycs.	No.	Informal.	Majority.	
				For the Bill.	Against the Bill.
Newtown—Erskine Division	498	641	3	.....	143
Newtown—St. Peter's Division	529	730	7	.....	201
Northumberland	273	778	5	.....	505
Orange	705	615	19	90	.....
Paddington	764	758	2	6	.....
Parramatta	564	732	2	.....	168
Petersham	734	842	4	.....	108
Queanbeyan	480	507	3	.....	27
Quirindi	362	460	8	.....	98
Raleigh	427	493	5	.....	66
Randwick	658	675	2	.....	17
Redfern... ..	706	643	3	63	.....
Richmond, The... ..	583	163	10	420	.....
Robertson	777	602	13	175	.....
Ryde	629	793	9	.....	164
Rylstone	547	313	6	234	.....
Sherbrooke	323	617	5	.....	294
Shoalhaven, The	494	509	9	.....	15
Singleton	646	466	9	180	.....
St. George	677	1,112	5	.....	435
St. Leonards	679	841	4	.....	162
Sturt]	294	298	8	.....	4
Sydney—Belmore Division	469	456	1	13	.....
Sydney—Bligh Division	525	476	3	49	.....
Sydney—Cook Division	504	440	.....	64	.....
Sydney—Denison Division	300	437	3	.....	137
Sydney—Fitzroy Division	635	815	9	.....	180
Sydney—Flinders Division	504	462	4	42	.....
Sydney—Gipps Division	417	748	6	.....	331
Sydney—King Division	757	631	.....	126	.....
Sydney—Lang Division	394	493	4	.....	99
Sydney—Phillip Division	536	517	2	19	.....
Sydney—Pymont Division	289	532	1	.....	243
Tamworth	396	556	4	.....	160
Tenterfield	571	285	8	286	.....
Tumut	640	386	10	254	.....
Tweed, The	572	132	3	440	.....
Uralla—Walcha... ..	332	353	3	.....	21
Wagga Wagga... ..	653	235	4	418	.....
Wallsend	492	617	7	.....	125
Waratah	613	635	16	8	.....
Warringah	556	683	4	.....	127
Waterloo	595	699	3	.....	104
Waverley	753	732	4	21	.....
Wellington	520	752	19	.....	232
Wentworth	582	63	3	519	.....
West Macquarie	464	464	7	.....	.....
Wickham	572	652	6	.....	80
Wilcannia	462	277	7	185	.....
Willoughby	678	1,053	9	.....	375
Woollahra	551	636	1	.....	85
Woronora	353	877	11	.....	524
Yass	413	552	.....	.....	139
Young	754	591	8	163	.....
				15,851	10,484
				10,484	
Total	71,595	66,228	834	5,367	.....

CRICHELL WALKER,

Chief Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 20th June, 1898.Principal Under Secretary,
Returning Officer for the Colony.

1899.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

TREASURER'S ADVANCE ACCOUNT.

(STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS FROM, MADE DURING FEBRUARY, 1899.)

Printed under No. 1 Report from Printing Committee, 20 April, 1899.

STATEMENT of Payments from the Treasurer's Advance Account during the month of February, 1899, submitted for the approval of the Honorable the Treasurer.

Head of Service.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Advances on account of Mauritius Government	90 1 1
Do Hong Kong Government	16 7 11
Do Sierra Leone Government	4 16 8
Moruya River Improvements (Loans)	445 13 2
Late Sir Henry Parkes Family Grant	41 13 4
Pensions to Inspectors of Stock	47 17 4
Mercantile Marine Pensions... ..	2 4 0
Analytical Branch, Medical Adviser—Salaries	3 18 4
Petty Sessions—Salaries	8 6 8
Registrar-General—Salaries... ..	0 11 8
Contribution towards Formation and Maintenance of Meteorological Station, Mount Kosciusko	100 0 0
Kuring-gai Chaso—Special Grant for Improvements, &c.	250 0 0
Painting Centennial Park Gates and Railings	8 5 10
Lunacy—Salaries	1 5 0
Refund of Civil Service Superannuation Deductions payable to Officers who have voluntarily resigned from the Service... ..	108 7 0
Towards Cost of Defence Scheme	0 2 10
Fisheries Commission—Salaries	4 3 4
Attorney-General—Salaries... ..	20 16 8
Military Secretary—Salaries	8 6 8
Painting Railings, Public Parks	2,586 13 3
Board of Health—Salaries	6 5 0
Macleay River Improvements (Loans)	49 10 2
District Court—Salaries	4 3 4
Bellinger River Improvements (Loans)	8 1 2
Gratuity to John Jackson, Roads Branch, Public Works Department... ..	80 0 0
To pay interest on the Uninvested Funds at the credit of the Civil Service Super- annuation Account	13 15 10
Wilcannia Municipal Council—Special Grant	255 14 2
Compensation to R. B. Taylor for land resumed at Tuggerah Lakes	20 17 2
Agent-General—Salaries	115 0 0
Compensation for Improvements, and for the withdrawal of about 1,300 acres from the leasehold area of Wirchilleba Pastoral Holding for extension to Gilgunnia Tem- porary Common	267 3 2
Gratuity to the widow of the late Captain H. Bastian	75 0 0
Expenses in connection with the Conference of Premiers held at Melbourne in con- nection with the Federal Enabling Bill	109 4 0
City Night Refuge and Reformatory, Francis-street—Special Grant	50 0 0
Proportion payable to Government of Western Australia for expenses of Maintenance of Garrison at Albany	556 5 5
Total	£ 5,360 10 2

The Treasury, New South Wales,
18th April, 1899.

J. VERNON,
Accountant.

Approved,—
G. H. REID,
Treasurer.

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1899.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

TREASURER'S ADVANCE ACCOUNT.

(STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS MADE FROM, DURING MARCH, 1899.)

Printed under No. 1 Report from Printing Committee, 20 April, 1899.

STATEMENT of Payments from the Treasurer's Advance Account during the month of March, 1899, submitted for the approval of the Honorable the Treasurer.

Head of Service.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Advances on account of Mauritius Government	122 9 8
Do Hong Kong Government	16 7 11
Do Sierra Leone Government	4 16 8
Do British Guiana Government	33 5 8
Moruya River—Improvements (Loans)	522 14 2
Late Sir Henry Parkes—Family Grant	41 13 4
Pensions to Inspectors of Stock	47 17 4
Metropolitan Charities Association—Special Grant	250 0 0
Analytical Branch—Medical Adviser—Salaries	3 13 3
Petty Sessions—Salaries	16 13 4
Registrar-General—Salaries... ..	1 3 4
Imported Stock	785 9 9
Fisheries Commission—Salaries	8 6 8
Lunacy—Salaries	2 10 0
Attorney-General—Salaries	41 13 4
Military Secretary—Salaries	16 13 4
Painting Railings—Public Parks	661 2 3
Board of Health—Salaries	41 13 4
Macleay River—Improvements (Loans)	1,433 2 6
District Courts—Salaries	8 6 8
Bellinger River—Improvements (Loans)	63 7 0
Reorganisation of the Public Service	420 16 6
Maintenance of Deserted Children, Paupers taken care of for protection, &c....	938 5 5
Refund of Civil Service Superannuation Deductions payable to Officers who have voluntarily resigned from the Service... ..	44 12 7
Compensation for value of Land taken by the Government for Lower Avenue Road and Bay View Road, Mosman's Bay	1,630 0 0
Prothonotary—Salaries	41 13 4
Legal Expenses, Treasury Department	20 7 0
Expenses in connection with the Immigration Restriction Act	12 10 0
Clearing Scrub, Randwick Rifle Range	46 1 7
Management of, and Expenses in connection with the Payment of half-yearly Dividends for Inscribed Stock by the Bank of England	20 18 11
Distribution of Seed Wheat to distressed farmers... ..	11 10 0
Total	£ 7,309 14 10

The Treasury, New South Wales,
18th April, 1899.

J. VERNON,
Accountant.

Approved,—
G. H. REID,
Treasurer.

1899.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

TRUST MONEYS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.

(FROM 1st APRIL, 1898, TO 31st MARCH, 1899.)

Printed under No. 1 Report from Printing Committee, 20 April, 1899.

TRUST MONEYS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.

(From 1st April, 1898, to 31st March, 1899.)

THE Treasurer of New South Wales in account with the Trust Moneys Deposit Accounts, under the Act
20 Victoria No. 11, from 1st April, 1898, to 31st March, 1899.

Receipts.	Amount.	Payments.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance, 31st March, 1898	250 5 8	By L. T. Lloyd.....	30 10 0
L. T. Lloyd	30 10 0	W. H. Palmer.....	111 8 1
W. H. Palmer	137 5 9	Balance on 31st March, 1899	276 3 4
	£418 1 5		£418 1 5

The Treasury, New South Wales,
10th April, 1899.

JOHN VERNON,
Accountant.

1899.
(SECOND SESSION.)

—
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS.

FIFTEENTH GENERAL REPORT

TOGETHER WITH

RETURNS GIVING A RECORD OF THE COMMITTEE'S
INQUIRIES

AND

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

Presented to Parliament in accordance with the provisions of the Public Works Act,
51 Vic. No. 37.

Printed under No. 1 Report from Printing Committee, 20 April, 1899.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPEGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Honorable WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT, Vice-Chairman.

The Honorable PATRICK LINDESAY CRAWFORD SHEPHERD.

The Honorable ANDREW GARRAN, LL.D.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

JOHN PERRY, Esquire, Chairman.

WILLIAM THOMAS DICK, Esquire.

JOHN CHRISTIAN WATSON, Esquire.

ROBERT HENRY LEVIEN, Esquire.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

FIFTEENTH GENERAL REPORT.

To His Excellency the Honourable SIR FREDERICK MATTHEW DARLEY,
Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael
and Saint George, Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony of New South
Wales and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, appointed during the first session of the present Parliament, under the Public Works Act of 1888, 51 Vic. No. 37, the Public Works Act Amendment Act of 1889, 52 Vic. No. 26, the Public Works (Committees' Remuneration) Act of 1889, 53 Vic. No. 11, and the Public Works Acts Further Amendment Act of 1897, 61 Vic. No. 6, have the honor to submit the following General Report, containing a statement of proceedings since the date of the last Report, 17th February, 1899:—

In that Report, after giving a list of the works referred to them by the Legislative Assembly, it was stated that the Committee had completed their inquiry as to the expediency of constructing Water Supply Works for the Borough of Wollongong, and that the inquiry respecting the proposed erection of Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney, was practically in the same position, while the inquiry with reference to the proposed erection of Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge and Young Streets, Sydney, was in progress. Since then the Committee's Reports upon the first two mentioned proposals have been laid before Parliament.

Synopsis of the
Committee's
last Report.

With regard to the proposed Water Supply Works for the Borough of Wollongong, the Committee recommended the carrying out of the larger of two schemes before them, by which, not only is Wollongong to be supplied, but provision is made for an extension of the works to Port Kembla on the south, and towards Bulli on the north, the cost of the whole scheme to be £25,211.

Water Supply
Works for
Wollongong.

The proposal for the erection of public offices on land with frontages to Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney, the estimated cost of which was £14,810, the Committee negatived, and, in its place, recommended the erection of a building at a cost not to exceed £16,000. They found that while it was proposed to provide accommodation for the Inspector-General of Police, the Comptroller-General of Prisons, the Public Service Board, and the Auditor-General, the two latter can with little inconvenience remain in the premises they at present occupy, in addition to which it is considered advisable, owing to the peculiar nature of the operations connected with the departments of the Inspector-General of Police and Comptroller-General of Prisons, to keep those branches of the Public Service apart from others. The only inconvenience of any consequence experienced by the Public Service Board in its present offices is the want of a waiting-room for female witnesses at inquiries, and the only apparent difficulty of importance in the premises occupied by the Audit Office is the absence of proper means for the safe custody of records. The Committee had no hesitation in recommending that the improved accommodation required by the Inspector-General of Police should be provided. A comparatively small building with a fairly large yard-space attached would be sufficient for this purpose; but, in view of the value of the site, such a building it was thought would

Erection of
Public Offices,
Phillip and
Hunter
Streets,
Sydney.

scarcely

scarcely be suitable, and, as the Prisons Department, which is closely associated with that of the Police, is at present in rented and somewhat confined premises, and may with advantage be removed, the Committee considered that the building to be erected should be sufficiently large to accommodate both departments.

Erection of
Public Offices,
Phillip,
Bridge, and
Young
Streets,
Sydney.

The inquiry relating to the proposal for the erection of Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets—these offices being intended for the accommodation of the Departments of Mines and Agriculture and Public Instruction and Labour—is not yet complete. With the object of ascertaining the extent to which the present public buildings are utilised, and whether they can be made to provide for more than they now accommodate, the Committee have visited and inspected them, and in connection with a proposal that the basement of the new offices shall be occupied by the Museum of the Department of Mines and Agriculture, and the question whether, in view of the other public museums in Sydney, such a museum is necessary, they have visited the Museum in the Domain, the Australian Museum, and the Technical College, Ultimo. The Committee are also taking steps to ascertain whether, by the addition of another storey to the present Lands Office building, the Department of Mines and Agriculture may not, to the convenience of the public, remain where it now is; and whether, by some additions to the building now occupied by the Department of Public Instruction and Labour, the requirements of that Department may not be adequately met for some years to come. These efforts on the part of the Committee to learn whether the necessities of the Departments concerned in this inquiry can be provided for by some comparatively inexpensive improvements of their present quarters has somewhat prolonged the investigation, but the Committee hope to be able to report on the subject to the Legislative Assembly during the approaching Parliamentary session.

Inquiries in
progress.

Three other inquiries are in progress: those relating to the Railway from Dubbo to Coonamble, the Railway from Cobar to Wilcannia, and the Locks and Weirs on the River Darling, between Bourke and Menindie. These are being carried on as expeditiously as possible; but, as it is necessary that in each case a Sectional Committee should visit the districts concerned, for the purposes of inspection and the taking of local evidence, it is not probable that the Committee will be able to report in these cases to the Legislative Assembly during the coming session.

Expert
evidence on
alternative
lines of
railway.

In relation to the inquiry as to the expediency of constructing a line of railway from Dubbo to Coonamble, the Committee, in the course of their investigation, have found themselves hampered by the want of expert information respecting the traffic prospects in connection with alternative routes, and it was decided to communicate with the Right Honorable the Premier and Minister for Railways on the subject. It was pointed out that perhaps the best manner in which this information could be obtained was to send a responsible officer of the Traffic Branch of the Railway Department into the districts to make inquiry, and afterwards to report to the Committee; and a request was preferred that the Chief Traffic Manager, or some other officer competent for the duty, should be instructed to do this. In reply to their representations, the Committee have been informed that, with regard to the proposed Railway from Dubbo to Coonamble, the Railway Commissioners will deal with the alternative routes similarly to projected new lines, and make a personal inspection and subsequent report. The Committee trust that this departure from what has hitherto been the practice in inquiries relating to proposed railways will form a precedent for all future cases, as, in order that they should be in the position to arrive at a right conclusion, it is essential that such information should be before them.

Present
position of
matters
before the
Committee.

The position, at the present date, of the various matters referred to the Committee for inquiry and report, is as follows:—

INQUIRIES COMPLETED AND REPORTED UPON.

	Estimated cost.
Water Supply Works for the Borough of Wollongong	£24,711
or, as recommended by the Committee	25,211
Public Offices, Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney ...	44,810
or, as recommended by the Committee	16,000

WORKS

WORKS RESPECTING WHICH THE INQUIRIES ARE IN PROGRESS.

	Estimated cost.
Public Offices, Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney	£97,000
Railway from Dubbo to Coonamble	207,285
Railway from Cobar to Wilcannia	497,000
Locks and Weirs on the River Darling, between Bourke and Menindie	530,000

WORKS NOT YET INQUIRED INTO.

	Estimated cost.
Railway from Grenfell to Wyalong	£142,293
Penitentiary and Prison for Females, Randwick ...	118,000

Appended to this Report are the returns usually published with the Committee's General Reports, which contain a record of the inquiries by the several Committees appointed under the Public Works Act and the Amending Acts, and also a copy of the present Committee's Minutes of Proceedings. Appended
returns and
minutes.

JOHN PERRY,
Chairman.

Office of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,
Sydney, 7th April, 1899.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

RECORD OF INQUIRIES.

List of Proposed Public Works inquired into by the several Committees, with the results of their inquiries, from 27 August, 1888, the date of the first sitting of the first Committee appointed under the Act, to 7 April, 1899.

Date of Inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in excess of that proposed.	Amount in reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
		£	£	£	£	
1888. 4 Sept. to 22 Oct.	Improvements to the Circular Quay.	120,000	125,000	5,000		The Committee recommended an alteration in the plan of these improvements, by which the total estimated cost would be increased to £125,000.
26 Sept. to 22 Oct.	Storage reservoir at Potts' Hill, and second line of pipes to Crown-street.	120,000	285,000			Recommended as proposed.
13 Sept. to 22 Oct.	New Central Police Court	165,000				
4 Oct. to 22 Oct.	Drainage works, Manly...	48,000	48,000			Recommended as proposed.
10 Oct. to 22 Oct.	Drainage works, North Shore.	34,114	22,000		12,114	The Committee recommended the adoption of a modified plan of these drainage works, by which the total estimated cost would not exceed £22,000.
31 Aug. to 22 Oct.	Harbour improvements at Newcastle.	77,062	107,000	29,938		The Committee recommended the adoption of the complete scheme proposed in relation to this work, and the estimated cost of which, as shown by the evidence, is £107,000.
19 Sept. to 22 Oct.	Wharfage accommodation, Woolloomooloo Bay.	112,000	112,000			Recommended as proposed.
16 Nov. to 1889. 11 Jan.	Bridge at the Spit, Middle Harbour.	42,000			42,000	The Committee were of opinion that the proposed expenditure was not justified either by the requirements in connection with the wharfage accommodation of the port, or by the nature of the proposal if regarded as a scheme for the improvement of a very valuable Government property.
1888. 7 Dec. to 1889. 27 Aug.	Drainage works for the Western Suburbs.	62,000			62,000	The Committee decided that the proposed expenditure was not justified by the evidence, and that a steam-punt would meet the requirements of the district in the vicinity of the proposed work for some years to come.
26 June to 30 Sept.	Improvements to the entrance of the Richmond River.	830,304	830,304			Recommended as proposed.
9 Oct. to 11 Dec.	Railway to connect North Shore Railway with Port Jackson, at Milson's Point.*	326,000	326,000			The Committee recommended that the proposed works be carried out in a certain order, so that the results from the works first constructed might be ascertained before others were proceeded with.
29 Aug. to 12 Dec.	Railway from Culcairn to Corowa.	262,000			262,000	The Committee considered, for various reasons stated in their report on the subject, that the work as proposed should not be carried out.
22 Aug. to 19 Dec.	Railway from Goulburn to Crookwell.	197,300 (or £4,184 per mile.)	164,500 (or £3,500 per mile.)		32,800	The Committee were of opinion that this line should be constructed at a cost not exceeding £3,500 per mile.
1890. 22 Jan. to 6 Feb. 1889.	Dredge and plant for Sydney Harbour.	198,300 (or £5,984 per mile.)	148,500 (or £4,500 per mile.)		49,800	The Committee considered that the cost of this railway should not exceed £4,500 per mile, and that a saving should also be effected by utilizing a certain portion of the present main line instead of taking the proposed railway through a part of the city of Goulburn.
25 Sept. to 1890. 18 Feb.	Railway from Nyngan to Cobarr.	30,000			30,000	The evidence showed that this class of dredge was not required
14 Jan. to 11 Feb.	Offices for the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.	207,360	207,360			The Committee recommended the construction of this railway as part of a line which should be extended to Wilcannia and Broken Hill.
14 Jan. to 6 Feb.	Reticulation of the Western Suburbs Drainage Scheme.	50,000	50,000			Recommended as proposed.
14 Jan. to 11 Feb.	Extension of Sydney Water Supply to Southern Suburbs — Hurstville and Rockdale.	713,592	713,592			Recommended as proposed.
19 Nov. to 2 April.	Railway from Marrickville to the Burwood Road.	66,000			66,000	This expenditure was rendered unnecessary by reason of a temporary water-supply scheme being sufficient to meet requirements for some years.
	Carried forward.....£	90,250	90,250			Recommended as proposed.
		3,751,292	3,229,506	34,938	556,714	

LIST of Proposed Public Works inquired into by the Committee, &c.—continued.

Date of inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government.	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in excess of that proposed.	Amount in reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
	Brought forward ...£	£ 3,751,282	£ 3,229,506	£ 34,938	£ 556,714	
1890. 23 Oct. to 24 April.	Improvements to the entrance of the Clarence River.	580,900	211,900	.....	369,000	In this case the Committee recommended the construction of only a portion of the works proposed, as they were of opinion that when this portion had been constructed it might be found that the remainder would not be required.
31 Oct. to 15 April. 4 Dec. to 24 April.	Breakwater at Byron Bay.	241,723	241,723	.....	.....	The original estimate for this work was £162,000; the increase was due to a difficulty in obtaining stone.
	Railway from Kiama to Nowra.	381,390	381,390	.....	.....	In this case there was an original estimate of £441,663. The reduction was due to an amended estimate made by the Acting Engineer-in-Chief for Railways since the railway was referred to the Committee.
12 Nov. to 24 April.	Railway from Grafton to the Tweed.*	1,728,100	800,000	.....	928,100	The Committee recommended that this railway should be constructed from Lismore to Murwillumbah, instead of from Grafton to Murwillumbah, the Committee's recommendation involving a length of about 60½ miles as compared with 140 miles 76 chains, the length of the line as referred to them by the Legislative Assembly.
15 Jan. to 24 April.	Railway from Cootamundra to Temora.	138,000 (or £3,656 per mile.)	125,400 (or £3,300 per mile.)	.....	12,600	The Committee considered that the cost of constructing this railway should not exceed £3,300 per mile.
23 Jan. to 24 April.	Railway from Moss Vale to Robertson.	84,900	.....	.....	84,900	The Committee negatived this proposal because they considered another route, described in their report, was preferable.
23 Jan. to 25 Mar.	Railway from Mudgee to Gulgong.	109,330	.....	.....	109,330	The Committee decided against this work, on the ground that any extension of the Mudgee Railway should form part of a more comprehensive proposal, the consideration of which should be deferred until after the suggestion for the connection of the Northern and Western systems, by a line between Dubbo and Werris Creek, has been dealt with.
12 Feb. to 24 April.	Bridge over Tarban Creek, Parramatta River.	26,000	.....	.....	26,000	The Committee considered this bridge to be unnecessary.
20 Feb. to 15 April.	Bridge over the Hunter River, at Jerry's Plains.	20,000	.....	.....	20,000	The Committee considered that a less expensive bridge would be sufficient to meet requirements.
25 Feb. to 24 April.	Bridge to connect Bullock Island with the mainland at Newcastle.	33,000	.....	.....	33,000	The Committee considered that this proposed expenditure was premature, pending certain reclamation works.
12 Feb. to 21 May.	Iron Bridge at Cowra ...	26,537	26,537	.....	.....	The original proposal represented an expenditure of £69,971, which amount was afterwards reduced to £26,537, as the result of a revision of the system of bridge-building in the Colony.
22 Jan. to 21 May.	Railway from Molong to Parkes and Forbes.	433,000	433,000	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
28 May to 8 July.	Hospital for the Insane upon the Kenmore Estate, near Goulburn.*	120,000	.....	.....	120,000	This proposed work, after being partly considered, was withdrawn from the Committee by resolution of the Assembly.
28 May to 21 Aug.	Railway to connect the North Shore Railway with the deep waters of Port Jackson, at Milson's Point.* (Second Reference.)	231,156	231,156	.....	.....	This proposal was before the Committee on a previous occasion (estimated cost, £262,000), when it was negatived; but having been referred to the Committee for further consideration, and circumstances appearing in the second inquiry which justified the construction of the railway, the Committee approved of the proposed work.
10 Dec. to 13 May, 1891.	Hospital Buildings, Macquarie-street.	140,000	56,000	.....	84,000	In this case, two sets of plans for the buildings were submitted to the Committee, one representing a design that was estimated to cost £140,000, and the other a design to cost £56,000, and the Committee approved of the latter.
1891. 11 Feb. to 25 Mar.	College for the Training of Teachers of Public Schools.	37,500	37,500	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
1 Feb. to 21 April.	Extension of the Kiama to Nowra Railway into the town of Nowra.	75,000	75,000	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
24 Feb. to 14 May.	Railway from Cobar to Cockburn.	1,168,000	1,018,000	.....	150,000	The Committee recommended the construction of this railway as far as Broken Hill only, which would reduce the proposed expenditure by £150,000.
22 Jan., 1890, to 19 May, 1891.	Cable Tramway from King-st., via William-street, to Ocean-street.	80,000	80,000	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
25 Nov., 1890, to 3 June, 1891.	Cable Tramway through George, Pitt, and Harris Streets, Sydney.	120,000	.....	.....	120,000	The Committee considered that it was not expedient at present, for reasons stated in their report, that this tramway should be constructed.
	Carried forward	£ 9,525,818	£ 6,947,112	£ 34,938	£ 2,613,644	

List of Proposed Public Works inquired into by the Committee, &c.—*continued.*

Date of Inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government.	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in excess of that proposed.	Amount in reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
		£	£	£	£	
1892. 5 May to 2 June.	Brought forward .. £ Improvements at Darling Island.	9,525,818 142,000	6,947,112	34,938	2,613,644 142,000	The Committee considered that the proposed works might be postponed for the present without inconvenience, and that a more suitable design might be submitted.
7 June to 12 July.	Stormwater sewers discharging into Johnstone's Bay.	51,352	51,352	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
15 June to 4 Aug.	Reservoir at Centennial Park for Sydney Water Supply.	83,000	83,000	.....	.....	Recommended with an alteration of site.
14 July to 24 Aug.	Water Supply for Wollongong and the surrounding districts.	66,000	30,000	.....	36,000	The Committee found that the Water Supply proposed for the surrounding districts was not needed, and that the estimate of cost for supplying Wollongong might be reduced to £30,000.
23 July to 24 Aug.	Second pipe-line from Walka to Buttai, for Hunter River District Water Supply.	50,000	50,000	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
26 July to 9 Aug.	Sewerage works at Cottage Creek.	25,000	13,000	.....	12,000	The amount of £25,000 provided for a covered sewer; but the Committee found that a cover was not necessary at present, and that by constructing an open sewer the cost could be reduced by £12,000.
21 April, 1891, to 27 May, 1892.	Railway from Glen Innes to Inverell.*	427,400	.....	.....	427,400	The evidence in this case showed that the estimated cost of constructing the railway was excessive, and indicated the probability of a serious annual loss in the working of the line. In addition to this, the Committee were not as fully informed as desirable with regard to connecting Inverell not only with the Great Northern Railway but with the coast, a matter of considerable importance in the inquiry.
31 May to 18 Aug.	Railway from Jerilderie to Deniliquin.	148,000	.....	.....	148,000	The Committee were of opinion that the consideration of this proposed work should be postponed until it should be determined by Parliament as a matter of public policy to purchase the Deniliquin to Moama Railway.
12 July to 24 Aug.	Lunatic Asylum at Kenmore, near Goulburn.* (Second Reference.)	150,000	150,000	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
14 June to 28 Sept.	Railway from Grafton to Lismore.*	662,000 (or £8,000 per mile.)	108,000 (or £6,000 per mile.)	.....	554,000	The Committee decided that, for the present, only the Lismore to Casino section of the proposed railway should be constructed, that the cost should not exceed £6,000 per mile, and that the betterment principle be applied to the land to be served by the proposed line.
10 July to 26 Oct.	Railway from Eden to Bega.	564,000 (or £15,350 per mile.)	.....	.....	564,000	The Committee considered that the present resources of the district did not warrant the construction of such an expensive line, but they were of opinion that a cheaply constructed railway might be favorably considered.
22 June to 4 Oct.	Sewerage Works for Parramatta.*	75,926	.....	.....	75,926	The Committee were of opinion that the sewage farm included in the scheme was too small for the purpose, and that the sewage should be dealt with by precipitation and filtration or other effective modern process at a proposed pumping station at Clay Cliff Creek.
12 Oct. to 21 Dec.	Water Supply for Tamworth.	22,500	22,500	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed, with a provision as to the quantity of water obtainable, and the resumption of land surrounding the well in the drift forming the source of supply.
14 Sept. to 16 Nov.	Water Supply for Lithgow.	15,000	15,000	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
15 Sept. to 16 Nov.	Water Supply for Armidale.	43,500	43,500	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
17 Nov. to 10 Jan. 1893.	Railway from Glen Innes to Inverell.* (Second Reference.)	421,400 (or £7,975 per mile.)	369,862 (or £7,000 per mile.)	.....	51,538	The Committee considered it expedient this railway should be constructed, provided that the cost did not exceed £7,000 per mile, that special local rates were charged until the railway paid working expenses and interest on cost of construction, and that the betterment principle was applied to the land served by the railway.
14 Feb. to 8 Mar.	Waterworks for the town of Junee.	45,000	45,000	.....	.....	The Committee recommended that these works should be carried out, conditionally upon the Railway Commissioners undertaking to enter into an agreement for a period of not less than ten years to pay a minimum of £1,900 per annum for water supplied for railway purposes at Junee and Bethungra.
14 Nov., 1893, to 11 Jan., 1894.	Railway from Narrabri to Moree.	153,000	153,000	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed, with the condition that the work be not undertaken until a Betterment Act is passed.
	Carried forward.....£	12,670,896	8,081,326	34,938	4,624,508	

LIST of Proposed Public Works inquired into by the Committee, &c.—*continued.*

Date of Inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government.	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in excess of that proposed.	Amount in reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
		£	£	£	£	
1894. 7 Feb. to 22 Mar.	Brought forward ... Sewerage Works for Parramatta.* (Second reference.)	12,670,896 75,926	8,081,326	34,938	4,624,508 75,926	The Committee decided that it was not expedient the proposed works should be carried out, for the reasons that the scheme had not been adequately considered, and that, according to the evidence, Parramatta was neither willing nor able to pay the rate necessary to provide the interest on the expenditure, and did not want the proposed works.
6 Mar. to 16 April.	Deviation to avoid the Lithgow Zigzag.	181,072	.....	.....	181,072	The Committee were of opinion that as the professional evidence, as well as much of the evidence generally, indicated that the proposed deviation was not a matter of urgency it was not expedient the work should be carried out.
9 April, to 22 May.	Railway from Temora to Wyalong.*	104,430	.....	.....	104,430	The Committee were of opinion that the decision upon the proposal should be deferred for six months.
11 April, to 20 June.	Removal of Pymont and Glebe Island Bridges.*	296,500	.....	.....	296,500	The Committee recommended that when renewal becomes necessary the existing bridges at Darling Harbour and Glebe Island should be replaced by timber structures of a kind specified in their report, which report, however, in consequence of the sudden dissolution of Parliament was not presented to the Legislative Assembly.
3 Oct. to 14 Nov.	Removal of Pymont and Glebe Island Bridges.* (Second reference.)	296,500	82,500	.....	214,000	The Committee recommended that the Pymont Bridge be replaced by a timber bridge with steel span, to cost £82,500, and decided that the Glebe Island Bridge did not at present require renewal.
19 Dec. to 27 Feb., 1895.	Railway from Jerilderie to Berrigan.	43,543	43,543	.....	.....	The construction of this railway was recommended, with the condition that the estimated cost, £2,000 per mile, should include goods and grain sheds, engineering charges, and all contingencies.
7 Mar. to 10 May.	Railway from Parkes to Condobolin.	127,000	127,000	.....	.....	In this inquiry the Committee, while considering it expedient the railway should be constructed, resolved that the cost should not exceed £2,100 per mile, including the cost of land resumptions.
17 May to 28 June.	Railway from Temora to Wyalong.* (Second reference.)	92,000	.....	.....	92,000	The Committee, in deciding against this proposed work, were of opinion that at the present time there is no justification for its construction, and the prospects of Wyalong's future are not such as to lead them to conclude that the line should be built in anticipation of what may be the condition of the gold-field and the district some years hence.
20 Mar. to 7 May.	Harbour Improvements at Newcastle.	141,000	141,000	.....	.....	In this inquiry the Committee recommended a modification of the works proposed by the Department and an additional work, the cost of the works as recommended by the Committee being about the same as that of the works proposed by the Department.
26 June, to July.	Tramway from Woolwich to the Field of Mars Common.	19,300	.....	.....	19,300	This proposed work was referred to the Fifth Committee who, at the termination of their existence, had inquired partly into it. A motion in the Legislative Assembly to refer the proposal to the Sixth Committee was, however, negatived on 11 December, 1895.
12 Dec. to 14 Dec.	Deviation at Locksley, Great Western Railway.	47,500	47,500	.....	.....	The Committee considered this work to be an urgent and necessary one, and recommended that it be carried out without delay.
17 Dec. to 24 Jan. 1896.	Water Supply for the Town of Tamworth.	32,824	32,824	.....	.....	The Committee recommended that this work be carried out, with the proviso that the capacity of the storage reservoir be increased from 35,000,000 to 50,000,000 gallons.
18 Mar. to 8 May.	Electric Tramway from Circular Quay, Sydney, to the Redfern Railway Station; and also along Harris-st. to the inter- section of John-street.	130,500	130,500	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
1 Jan. to 10 Mar.	Erection of Buildings at Rookwood for Infirm and Destitute Persons.	118,285	62,900	.....	55,385	The Committee decided that it was not expedient the proposed works should be carried out, deeming it inadvisable, for reasons stated in their Report, to concentrate the infirm and destitute at Rookwood. The Government estimate for the proposed buildings was £108,350 without, and £118,285 with, provision for sewage. The Committee recommended that the inmates of the Parramatta Asylums be removed, the healthy patients being housed at Rookwood and Liverpool, provision for the chronic and acute sick to be made on Crown lands near Campbelltown.
	Carried forward.....£	14,377,276	8,749,093	34,938	5,663,121	

LIST of Proposed Public Works inquired into by the Committee, &c.—*continued.*

Date of inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government.	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in excess of that proposed.	Amount in reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
		£	£	£	£	
1896.	Brought forward.....	14,377,276	8,749,093	34,938	5,663,121	
9 Jan. to 17 July.	Additions to the Treasury Buildings.	21,500	21,500	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
20 Feb. to 1 Oct.	Railway from Tamworth to Manilla.	72,150	71,875	.....	275	The Committee's recommendation provided for an amended route, the cost of the railway not to exceed £2,500 per mile.
21 April, to 20 May.	Railway from Nevertire to Warren.	32,730	32,730	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
12 May, to 31 July.	Construction of Locks and Weirs on the River Darling.	121,100	.....	.....	121,100	The Committee negated this proposed work.
5 June, to 19 Aug.	Railway from Berrigan to Finley.	27,250	27,250	.....	.....	The Committee recommended that this proposed railway should be constructed, the cost not to exceed £2,000 per mile.
16 June to 24 July.	Improvement of Cook's River.	36,400	15,000	.....	21,400	As recommended by the Committee the construction of the proposed works would involve an expenditure of £15,000—a reduction on the Departmental estimate of £21,400—which, in the opinion of the Committee, would meet the requirements of the case.
1 Sept. 1896. to April, 1897.	Railway from Moree to Inverell.	279,500	279,500	.....	.....	The Committee resolved that it was expedient this railway should be constructed as proposed.
23 Oct. 1896, to 10 Feb., 1897.	Construction of a Deep-water Harbour at Port Kembla.	440,000	230,000	.....	240,000	The Departmental estimate of cost provided for the construction of two breakwaters, known respectively as the northern and eastern, and the necessary equipment of the port for coal-shipping and general commercial purposes. The Committee were of opinion, however, that the proposed harbour would be rendered sufficiently secure to meet present requirements if the eastern breakwater only were carried out, and the estimated cost reduced by £240,000.
5 Aug. to 10 Dec., 1896.	Railway from Condobolin to Broken Hill.	955,063	.....	.....	955,063	The Committee, while having regard to the various aspects of this proposed work, and considering also that the annual loss on the working of the railway would amount to £60,000, were of opinion that it should not, at present, be proceeded with.
11 Feb., 1897, to 13 April.	*Sewerage Works for Parramatta. (Third Reference.)	60,000	60,000	.....	.....	This work was passed by the Committee with the provision that the cost should not exceed the Departmental estimate, and that the carrying out of the work should be subject to a guarantee (by the Municipal Council of Parramatta) of the annual payment required to cover maintenance and interest, and redemption of the principal outlay.
1897. 4 May to 8 June.	Duplicate Main from Prospect to Potts' Hill.	109,317	109,317	.....	.....	The Committee recommended the amended scheme submitted by the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works, by which the sides of the canal between Prospect and the Pipe Head Basin would be raised, the canal strengthened, and the 6-foot pipe-line between the Basin and Potts' Hill Reservoir duplicated.
14 April to 6 Dec.	New Houses of Parliament.	533,484	15,000	.....	518,484	The Committee recommended the adoption of the scheme submitted by the Government Architect, providing for alterations to the present Parliamentary Buildings, at a cost not exceeding £15,000.
16 June to 15 Sept.	New Bridge at Glebe Island.	89,100	89,100	.....	.....	The Committee recommended that there be substituted for the existing structure a stone causeway, with a central, steel swing-span.
13 July to 25 Aug.	Railway from Redfern to St. James' Road.	650,000	650,000	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
31 Aug. to 7 Dec.	Railway from Condobolin to Euabalong.	108,225	.....	.....	108,225	The Committee negated this proposed work, but recommended, in connection with any proposal for a railway towards Hillston, that a survey be made for a line from Koorawatha, with a view to its consideration in conjunction with existing surveys.
16 Sept. to 25 Nov.	Railway from The Rock to Green's Gully.	67,000	67,000	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
5 Sept. to 18 Nov.	Railway from Coolamon to Ariah.	91,307	.....	.....	91,307	The Committee negated this proposal.
	Carried forward.....	18,071,402	10,387,365	34,938	7,718,975	

Date of Inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government.	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in excess of that proposed.	Amount in reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
		£	£	£	£	
	Brought forward.....	18,071,402	10,387,365	34,938	7,718,975	
1897. 20 Dec. to 1 April, 1898.	Railway from Koora- watha to Grenfell.	89,250	89,250	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
1898. 5 Jan. to 13 April, 1897.	Railway from the Terminus of the Rose Hill Rail- way to Dural.	57,000	.....	.....	57,000	The Committee negated this proposal.
1897. 14 Dec. to 29 April, 1898.	Railway from Warren to Coonamble.	150,000	.....	.....	150,000	The Committee negated this proposal, but recommended that a survey be made of a route from Dubbo to Coonamble.
1898. 15 Mar. to 26 April, 1897.	Harbour Works at Tweed River.	43,600	43,600	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
1897. 19 Oct. to 23 June, 1898.	Railway from Narrabri to Pilliga.	128,650	.....	.....	128,650	The Committee negated this proposal, but suggested a route from Narrabri to Eurie Eurie, which could, if necessary, be extended on to Walgett.
1897. 1 Oct. to 22 June, 1898.	Railway from Byrock to Brewarrina.	146,350	146,350	.....	.....	The Committee recommended that the railway should be carried out, provided that it be made legally binding upon the Crown lessees in the district served to pay, until the railway shall become self-supporting, one farthing per acre rent additional to their present or ordinary assessment, such additional rent to be credited to the Railway Commissioners.
9 Mar. to 24 June.	Railway from Woolabra to Collarenebri.	207,798	.....	.....	207,798	The Committee negated this proposal, but suggested a route by which a railway would go from Narrabri towards Eurie Eurie, and, at a point about 315 miles from Newcastle, proceed in a north-westerly direction to Collarenebri.
22 Feb. to 6 July.	Railway from Maitland to Taree.	982,283	.....	.....	982,283	The Committee negated this proposal.
30 Mar. to 6 July.	Harbour Works at Bellin- ger River.	36,000	36,000	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
8 Feb. to 5 July.	Harbour Works at Mac- leay River.	95,000	95,000	.....	.....	Recommended as proposed.
27 April to 29 June.	Harbour Works at Hast- ings River.	46,500	13,915	.....	32,585	The Committee recommended that for the present the southern training-wall only, estimated to cost £13,915, should be carried out.
22 Mar. to 1 July.	Harbour Works at Man- ning River.	100,000	100,000	.....	.....	The Committee recommended the construction of the proposed work, with some slight modifications.
14 April to 7 July, 1899.	Harbour Works at Nam- buca River.	72,500	49,393	.....	23,107	Recommended with modifications.
25 Jan. to 2 Mar.	Water Supply Works for the Borough of Wol- longong.	25,211	25,211	.....	.....	The Committee recommended the larger of the two schemes submitted, providing for an extension to Port Kembla on the south, and Bulli on the north.
18 Jan. to 23 Mar.	Public Offices, Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney.	44,810	16,000	.....	28,810	The Committee recommended a modification of the Government proposal, providing for a building containing a basement, ground-floor, and first-floor, at a cost not exceeding £16,000.
		£ 20,296,354	11,002,084	34,938	9,329,208	

* Works marked with an asterisk have been referred to the Committee more than once, and allowing for these repeated references, and for the expenditure recommended in two instances in excess of that proposed, the actual saving effected amounts to £7,003,988.

WORKS RESPECTING WHICH THE INQUIRIES ARE PROCEEDING.

Public Offices, Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney	£97,000
Railway from Dubbo to Coonamble.....	207,285
Railway from Cobar to Wilcannia	497,000
Locks and Weirs on the River Darling, between Bourke and Menindie ..	530,000

WORKS RESPECTING WHICH THE INQUIRIES HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMMENCED.

Railway from Grenfell to Wyalong.....	£142,293
Penitentiary and Prison for Females, Randwick	118,000

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

RETURN SHOWING THE COURSE OF THE COMMITTEES' INQUIRIES FROM THE REFERENCE OF THE WORKS TO THE ULTIMATE ACTION RESPECTING THEM.

FIRST COMMITTEE—FROM 12 JUNE, 1888, TO 22 OCTOBER, 1888.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Honorable JOHN LACKY, Chairman.
 The Honorable GEORGE CAMPBELL.
 The Honorable FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHRY.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

JOSEPH PALMER ABBOTT, Esquire, Vice-Chairman.
 JAMES NIXON BRUNKER, Esquire.*
 HENRY COPELAND, Esquire.
 ALEXANDER KETHEL, Esquire.

* James Nixon Brunker, Esquire, by reason of his accepting the office of Minister for Lands, did not take his seat as a member of the Committee.

Proposed Work.	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Wharfage Accommodation, Woolloomooloo Bay.	1888. 23 July	1888. 19 September .....	.....	.....	1888. Inquiry completed by Second Committee.	See Second Committee.	See Second Committee.	See Second Committee.
Improvements to the Circular Quay.	23 "	4 " .....	.....	.....	22 October	The Committee recommended an alteration in the plan of these improvements, by which the estimated total cost would be increased from £120,000 to £125,000.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—11 April, 1889—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—24 April, 1889—Bill read third time; 30 April, 1889—Assent reported.
Storage Reservoir at Potts' Hill	23 "	26 " .....	.....	.....	22 "	Recommended as proposed.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—17 May, 1889—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—30 May, 1889—Bill read third time; 5 June, 1889—Assent reported.

FIRST COMMITTEE—continued.

Proposed Work	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Second Pipe between Potts Hill and Crown-street.	1888. 23 July.....	1888. 26 September	.....	.....	22 October ...	Recommended as proposed.	Passed (Sydney Water Supply (Partial Reduplication) Bill).	Legislative Assembly—24 July, 1889—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—17 Sept., 1889—Bill read third time; 30 Sept., 1889—Assent reported.
Dredge and Plant for Sydney Harbour.	23 ,,	Dealt with by Third Committee.	.....	.....	.....	See Third Committee.	See Third Committee.	See Third Committee.
Improvements to the Entrance of the Richmond River.	23 ,, .....	,, ,, .....	.....	.....	.....	,, ,, .....	,, ,, .....	,, ,, .....
Bridge at the Spit, Middle Harbour.	23 ,,	Dealt with by Second Committee.	.....	.....	.....	See Second Committee.	See Second Committee.	See Second Committee.
New Central Police Court	23 ,,	13 September	.....	.....	22 October ...	Recommended as proposed.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—15 May, 1889—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—23 May, 1889—Bill read third time; 30 May, 1889—Assent reported.
Improvements to the Entrance of the Clarence River.	23 ,,	Dealt with by Third Committee.	.....	.....	.....	See Third Committee.	See Third Committee.	See Third Committee.
Drainage Works, Manly	23 ,,	4 October	.....	.....	22 October ...	The Committee recommended the adoption of a modified plan of these drainage works, by which the estimated total cost would not exceed £22,000, or £12,114 less than the original estimate.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—23 May, 1889—Bill read third time; 3 Sept., 1889—Bill finally passed. Legislative Council—20 June, 1889—Bill read third time; 12 Sept., 1889—Assent reported.
Drainage Works, North Shore	23 ,,	10 ,, .....	.....	.....	22 ,,	The Committee recommended the adoption of the complete scheme proposed in relation to this work, the estimated cost of which, as shown by the evidence, was £107,000.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—17 April, 1889—Bill read third time; 15 May, 1889—Bill finally passed. Legislative Council—9 May, 1889—Bill read third time; 22 May, 1889—Assent reported.
Drainage Works for the Western Suburbs.	23 ,,	Dealt with by Second and Third Committees.	.....	.....	.....	See Third Committee.	See Third Committee.	See Third Committee.
Harbour Improvements at Newcastle.	23 ,,	31 August	.....	.....	22 October ...	Recommended as proposed.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—11 April, 1889—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—24 April, 1889—Bill read third time 30 April, 1889—Assent reported.

SECOND COMMITTEE—FROM 24 OCTOBER, 1888, TO 19 JANUARY, 1889.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Honorable JOHN LACKEY, Chairman.
 The Honorable GEORGE CAMPBELL.
 The Honorable WILLIAM HENRY SUTOR.
 The Honorable JAMES WATSON.
 The Honorable FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHRY.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

JOSEPH PALMER ABBOTT, Esquire, Vice-Chairman.
 HENRY COPELAND, Esquire.
 JACOB GARRARD, Esquire.
 ALEXANDER KEITHEL, Esquire.
 SIDNEY SMITH, Esquire.
 THOMAS MICHAEL SLATTERY, Esquire.
 JOHN RENDELL STREET, Esquire.
 DANIEL O'CONNOR, Esquire.

Proposed Work.	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Wharfrage Accommodation, Woolloomooloo Bay.	1888: 23 July	1888: 19 September	.....	.....	1889: 10 January ...	The Committee were of opinion that the proposed expenditure was not justified either by the wharfrage accommodation of the port, or by the nature of the proposal if regarded as a scheme for the improvement of a very valuable Government property. See Third Committee.	Not dealt with.	.....
Dredge and Plant for Sydney Harbour.	23 ,,	Dealt with by Third Committee.	.....	.....	.....	See Third Committee.	See Third Committee.	.....
Improvements to the Entrance of the Richmond River.	23 ,, .....	,, ,,	.....	.....	.....	,, ,,	,, ,,	.....
Bridge at the Spit, Middle Harbour.	23 ,,	16 November	.....	.....	11 January ...	The Committee decided that the proposed expenditure was not justified by the evidence, and that a steam-punt would meet the requirements of the district in the vicinity of the proposed work for some years to come. See Third Committee.	Not dealt with.	.....
Improvements to the Entrance of the Clarence River.	23 ,,	Dealt with by Third Committee.	.....	.....	.....	See Third Committee.	See Third Committee.	.....
Drainage Works for the Western Suburbs.	23 ,,	7 December	.....	.....	Inquiry completed by Third Committee.	,, ,,	,, ,,	.....

THIRD COMMITTEE—FROM 7 JUNE, 1889, TO 6 JUNE, 1891.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

- * The Honorable JOHN LACKEY, Chairman.
- The Honorable ANDREW GARRAN.
- * The Honorable JAMES WATSON.

- The Honorable FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHRY.
- The Honorable WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.
- * The Honorable GEORGE HENRY COX.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

- * JOSEPH PALMER ABBOTT, Esquire, Chairman.
- * JACOB GARRARD, Esquire, Vice-Chairman.
- HENRY COPELAND, Esquire.
- JAMES EBENEZER TONKIN, Esquire.
- WILLIAM SPRINGTHORPE DOWELL, Esquire.
- * JAMES PATRICK GARVAN, Esquire.

- * JOHN SUTHERLAND, Esquire.
- EDWARD WILLIAM O'SULLIVAN, Esquire.
- * JOHN HURLEY, Esquire.
- * CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esquire.
- * WILLIAM MCCOURT, Esquire.

* Shortly after the first meeting of the third Committee, John Sutherland, Esquire, died, and his place was filled by the appointment of Charles Alfred Lee, Esquire. Subsequently the Honorable James Watson resigned his seat on the Committee, and the Honorable George Henry Cox was appointed in his place. On 22nd October, 1890, Mr. Joseph Palmer Abbott, having been appointed Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, resigned his position as Chairman and member of the Committee. The Honorable John Lackey, who at that time was Vice-Chairman of the Committee, was appointed Chairman in Mr. Abbott's place, and Mr. Jacob Garrard was chosen as Vice-Chairman. Mr. William McCourt was appointed a member of the Committee on 16th July, 1890, in the place of Mr. John Hurley, whose seat became vacant by reason of his resignation from the Legislative Assembly; and Mr. James Patrick Garvan was appointed a member on the 6th November, 1890, in the room of Mr. Joseph Palmer Abbott.

Proposed Work.	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Dates of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Dredge and Plant for Sydney Harbour.	23 July, 1888	22 Jan., 1890	.....	.....	6 Feb., 1890	The evidence showed that this class of dredge was not required.	Not dealt with.	.....
Improvements to the Entrance of the Richmond River.	23 "	26 June, 1889	.....	.....	30 Sept., 1889	The Committee recommended that the proposed works should be carried out in a certain order, so that the results from the works first constructed might be ascertained before others were proceeded with.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—23 July, 1890—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—28 Aug., 1890—Bill read third time; 3 Sept., 1890—Assent reported.
Improvements to the Entrance of the Clarence River.	23 "	23 Oct., "	14 Nov., 1889	28 Jan., 1890	2 April, 1890	In this case the Committee recommended the construction of only a portion of the works proposed, as they were of opinion that when this portion had been constructed it might be found that the remainder would not be required. Recommended as proposed.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—23 July, 1890—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—17 Sept., 1890—Bill read third time; 1 Oct., 1890—Assent reported.
Drainage Works for the Western Suburbs.	23 "	7 Dec., 1888	.....	.....	27 Aug., 1889	Recommended as proposed.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—26 Sept., 1889—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—26 Sept., 1889—Bill read third time; 30 Sept., 1889—Assent reported.

THIRD COMMITTEE—continued.

Proposed Work.	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Railway from Goulburn to Crookwell.	31 July, 1889	22 Aug., 1889	29 Aug., 1889	17 Sept., 1889	19 Dec., 1889	The Committee considered that the cost of this railway should not exceed £4,500 per mile, and that a saving should also be effected by utilizing a certain portion of the present main line instead of taking the proposed railway through a part of the city of Goulburn.	Negated by the Legislative Council.	Legislative Assembly—25 Sept., 1895—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—12 Nov., 1895—Second reading resolved in the negative.
Railway from Nyngan to Cobarr	1 Aug., "	25 Sept., "	24 Sept., "	31 Oct., "	18 Feb., 1890	The Committee recommended the construction of this railway as part of a line which should be extended to Wilcannia and Broken Hill.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—10 July, 1890—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—17 July, 1890—Bill read third time; 23 July, 1890—Assent reported.
Railway from Kiama to Nowra	1 "	4 Dec., "	14 Jan., 1890	30 Jan., 1890	22 April, "	In this case there was an original estimate of £441,663. The amount recommended by the Committee was £381,390. The reduction was due to an amended estimate made by the Acting Engineer-in-Chief for Railways after the railway was referred to the Committee.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—10 July, 1890—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—7 Aug., 1890—Bill read third time; 13 Aug., 1890—Assent reported.
Railway from Marrickville to the Burwood Road.	1 "	19 Nov., "	"	"	2 "	Recommended as proposed.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—11 Dec., 1890—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—18 Dec., 1890—Bill read third time; 19 May, 1891—Assent reported.
Railway from Culcairn to Corowa.	6 "	29 Aug., "	29 Aug., 1889	11 Sept., 1889	12 Dec., 1889	The Committee were of opinion that this line should be constructed at a cost not exceeding £3,500 per mile.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—10 July, 1890—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—31 July, 1890—Bill read third time; 6 Aug., 1890—Assent reported.
Breakwater at Byron Bay	6 "	31 Oct., "	14 Nov., "	28 Jan., 1890	15 April, 1890	The original estimate for this work was £162,000. The estimate placed before the Committee, which they adopted in their recommendation, was £241,723. The increase was due to a difficulty in obtaining stone.	Negated by the Legislative Council.	Legislative Assembly—17 July, 1890—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—15 Oct., 1890—Bill negatived in Council on motion, "That it be read the second time this day six months."
Railway to connect North Shore Railway with Port Jackson, at Milson's Point.	7 "	9 "	"	"	11 Dec., 1889	The Committee considered, for various reasons stated in their report on the subject, that the work as proposed should not be carried out.	See second reference.	See second reference.
Railway from Grafton to the Tweed.	27 Sept., "	12 Nov., "	14 Nov., "	28 Jan., "	15 April, 1890	The Committee recommended that this railway should be constructed from Lismore to Murwillumbah, instead of from Grafton to Murwillumbah, the Committee's recommendation involving a length of about 60½ miles as compared with 140 miles 76 chains, the length of the line as referred to them by the Legislative Assembly.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—17 July, 1890—Bill (Lismore to the Tweed Railway Bill) read third time. Legislative Council—10 Sept., 1890—Bill read third time; 24 Sept., 1890—Assent reported.
Railway from Cootamundra to Memora.	27 "	15 Jan., 1890	16 Jan., 1890	11 Feb., "	23 "	The Committee considered that the cost of constructing this railway should not exceed £3,300 per mile.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—23 July, 1890—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—17 Sept., 1890—Bill read third time; 1 Oct., 1890—Assent reported.

THIRD COMMITTEE—continued.

Proposed Work.	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Railway from Mudgee to Gulgong.	27 Sept., 1889	23 Jan., 1890	12 Mar., 1890	26 Mar., 1890	6 May, 1890	The Committee decided against this work on the ground that any extension of the Mudgee Railway should form part of a more comprehensive proposal, the consideration of which should be deferred until after the suggestion for the connection of the Northern and Western systems, by a line between Dubbo and Werris Creek, had been dealt with.	Not dealt with.	
Railway from Moss Vale to Robertson.	1 Oct., "	23 "	30 Jan., "	12 Feb., "	29 April, "	The Committee negatived this proposal because they considered another route, described in their report, was preferable.	" "	
Railway from Molong to Parkes and Forbes.	1 "	22 "	12 Feb., "	19 Mar., "	21 May, "	Recommended as proposed.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—23 July, 1890—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—21 Aug., 1890—Bill read third time; 27 Aug., 1890—Assent reported.
Bridge over Tarban Creek, Parramatta River.	1 "	12 Feb., "	.....	.....	15 April, "	The Committee considered this bridge to be unnecessary.	Not dealt with.	
Bridge over the Hunter River, at Jerry's Plains.	1 "	20 "	4 Mar., "	11 Mar., "	15 "	The Committee considered that a less expensive bridge would be sufficient to meet requirements.	" "	
Bridge to connect Bullock Island with the Mainland at Newcastle.	1 "	25 "	4 "	11 "	29 "	The Committee considered that this proposed expenditure was premature, pending the carrying out of certain reclamation works.	" "	
Iron Bridge at Cowra.	1 "	12 "	18 Feb., "	19 "	21 May, "	The original proposal represented an expenditure of £69,971, which amount was afterwards reduced to £26,537, as the result of a revision of the system of bridge-building in the Colony, and the construction of the bridge at the reduced cost was recommended by the Committee.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—23 July, 1890—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—21 Aug., 1890—Bill read third time; 27 Aug., 1890—Assent reported.
Hospital for the Insane upon the Kennmore Estate, near Goulburn.	1 "	28 May, "	.....	.....	Inquiry not completed.	This proposed work, after being partly considered, was withdrawn from the Committee by resolution of the Assembly.	Rescinded.	Legislative Assembly—2 July, 1890—Resolution passed rescinding previous resolution referring proposed work to the Committee.
Offices for Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.	1 "	14 Jan., "	.....	.....	11 Feb., 1890	Recommended as proposed.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—7 Nov., 1890—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—20 Nov., 1890—Bill read third time; 27 Nov., 1890—Assent reported.
Reticalation of Western Suburbs Drainage Scheme.	1 "	14 "	.....	.....	6 "	" "	"	Legislative Assembly—23 July, 1890—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—24 Sept., 1890—Bill read third time; 8 Oct., 1890—Assent reported.

THIRD COMMITTEE—continued.

Proposed Work.	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Extension of Sydney Water Supply to Southern Suburbs—Hurstville, Rockdale.	1 Oct., 1880	14 Jan., 1890	.....	.....	11 Feb., 1890	This expenditure was rendered unnecessary by reason of a temporary water-supply scheme being sufficient to meet requirements for some years. Recommended as proposed.	Not dealt with.	..... Legislative Assembly—8 March, 1892—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—10 March, 1892—Bill read third time; 17 March, 1892—Assent reported.
Cable Tramway from King-street, viz William-street, to Ocean-street.	1 " "	22 " "	.....	.....	2 June, 1891	Recommended as proposed.	Passed.	.....
Cable Tramway through George, Pitt, and Harris Streets, Sydney	1 " "	25 Nov. "	.....	.....	4 " "	The Committee considered that it was not expedient, for reasons stated in their report, that this tramway should be constructed.	Not dealt with.	.....
Railway to connect North Shore Railway with the deep waters of Port Jackson, at Milson's Point (second reference).	8 May, 1890	28 May, "	.....	.....	21 Aug., 1890	This proposal was before the Committee on a previous occasion when it was negatived; but having been referred to the Committee for further consideration, and circumstances appearing in the second inquiry which justified the construction of the railway, the Committee approved of the proposed work.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—12 Nov., 1890—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—20 Nov., 1890—Bill read third time; 27 Nov., 1890—Assent reported.
College for the Training of Teachers of Public Schools.	21 Nov., "	11 Feb., 1891	.....	.....	19 Mar., 1891	Recommended as proposed.	Not dealt with.	.....
Hospital Buildings, Macquarie-street.	3 Dec., "	10 Dec., 1890	.....	.....	12 May, "	In this case two sets of plans for the buildings were submitted to the Committee, one representing a design that was estimated to cost £140,000, and the other a design to cost £56,000, and the Committee approved of the latter.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—9 March, 1892—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—17 March, 1892—Bill read third time; 29 March, 1892—Assent reported.
Railway from Cobar to Cocksburn.	19 " "	24 Feb., 1891	.....	.....	14 " "	The Committee recommended the construction of this railway as far as Broken Hill only, thereby reducing the proposed expenditure (£1,168,000) by £150,000. See Fourth Committee.	.....	Legislative Assembly—25 June, 1895—Motion to go into Committee to bring in a Bill: 27 June 1895—Motion to withdraw item from Loan Estimates.
Railway from Glen Innes to Inverell.	19 " "	21 April, "	23 April, 1891	2 June, 1891	See Fourth Committee.	Recommended as proposed.	See Fourth Committee.	.....
Extension of the Kiama to Nowra Railway into the town of Nowra.	19 " "	19 Feb., "	.....	.....	21 April, 1891	Recommended as proposed.	Not dealt with.	.....

FOURTH COMMITTEE—FROM 31 MARCH, 1892, TO 25 JUNE, 1894.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Honorable WILLIAM HENRY SUTOR, Vice-Chairman. * The Honorable ANDREW GARRAN, LL.D.
 The Honorable JAMES HOSKINS. The Honorable JOHN DAYLES, C.M.G.
 The Honorable FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHREY. * The Honorable WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

JACOB GARRARD, Esquire, Chairman. JOHN CASH NEILD, Esquire.
 THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esquire. EDWARD WILLIAM O'SULLIVAN, Esquire.
 WILLIAM CIANDOS WALL, Esquire. CHARLES COLINS, Esquire.
 WILLIAM MCCOURT, Esquire. HENRY DAWSON, Esquire.

* The Honorable Andrew Garran, LL.D., on 5th October, 1892, resigned his seat as a member of the Committee, and on 12th October, 1892, the Honorable William Joseph Trickett was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Proposed Work.	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Improvements at Darling Island	29 Mar., 1892	5 May, 1892	.....	.....	2 June, 1892	The Committee considered that the proposed works might be postponed for the present without inconvenience, and that a more suitable design might be submitted.	Not dealt with.	.....
Water Supply for Tamworth...	29 "	12 Oct, "	12 Oct, 1892	15 Nov., 1892	21 Dec, "	Recommended as proposed with a provision as to the quantity of water obtainable, and the resumption of land surrounding the wall in the drift forming the source of supply.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—29 May, 1894—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—31 May, 1894—Bill read third time; 5 June, 1894—Assent reported.
Storm-water Sewers discharging into Johnstone's Bay.	29 "	7 June, "	.....	.....	12 July, "	Recommended as proposed.	"	Legislative Assembly—7 June, 1894—Bill read second time and passed through all stages; 7 Aug., 1894—Assent reported.
Reservoir at Centennial Park for Sydney Water Supply.	29 "	15 "	.....	.....	.....	Recommended with an alteration of site.	"	Legislative Council—7 June, 1894—Bill read second time and passed through all stages; 7 Aug., 1894—Assent reported.
Water Supply for Wollongong and the Surrounding Districts.	29 "	14 July, "	.....	.....	4 Aug, "	The Committee found that the Water Supply proposed for the surrounding districts was not needed, and that the estimate of cost for supplying Wollongong might be reduced to £30,000.	Not dealt with.	Legislative Assembly—20 Dec, 1894—Bill read third time; 26 Feb., 1895—Assent reported.
Second Pipe-line from Walka to Buttal, for Hunter River District Water Supply.	29 "	23 "	.....	.....	16 "	Recommended as proposed.	"	Legislative Assembly—2 Oct, 1895—Bill read third time; Legislative Council—12 Nov., 1895—Bill read third time; 9 Nov., 1895—Assent reported.
Sewerage Works at Cottage Creek.	29 "	25 "	.....	.....	9 "	The estimated cost of this work was £25,000, which provided for a covered sewer; but the Committee found that a cover was not necessary, and that by constructing an open sewer the cost could be reduced by £12,000.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—2 May, 1895—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—30 May, 1895—Bill read third time; 25 June, 1895—Assent reported.
Water Supply for Lithgow.	29 "	14 Sept, "	22 Oct, "	24 Oct, "	16 Nov, "	Recommended as proposed.	"	Legislative Assembly—5 April, 1894—Bill read third time; Legislative Council—13 April, 1894—Bill read third time; 1 May, 1894—Assent reported.
Sewerage Works for Parramatta	29 "	22 June, "	.....	.....	4 Oct, "	The construction of this work the Committee did not recommend, as they were of opinion that the sewerage farm included in the scheme was too small for the purpose, and that the sewerage should be dealt with by precipitation and filtration, or other effective modern process, at a proposed pumping station at Clay Cliff Creek.	See second reference.	See second reference.

FOURTH COMMITTEE—continued.

Proposed Work.	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee's minutes were appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Water Supply for Armidale ...	29 Mar., 1892	15 Sept., 1892	12 Oct., 1892	20 Oct., 1892	16 Nov., 1892	Recommended as proposed.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—22 May, 1894—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—31 May, 1894—Bill read third time; 5 June, 1894—Assent reported.
Railway from Eden to Bega ...	29 "	10 July, "	11 Aug., "	7 Sept., "	26 Oct., "	The Committee considered that the resources of the district did not warrant the construction of such an expensive line, but they were of opinion that a cheaply constructed railway might be favourably considered.	Not dealt with.	
Railway from Grafton to Lismore.	29 "	14 June, "	15 June, "	10 Aug., "	28 Sept., "	The Committee decided that, for the present, only the Lismore to Casino section of the proposed railway should be constructed, that the cost should not exceed £6,000 per mile, and that the betterment principle be applied to the land to be served by the proposed line.	"	
Railway from Glen Innes to Inverell.	29 "	6 April, "	23 April, 1891 (See Third Committee.)	2 June, 1891 (See Third Committee.)	27 May, "	The evidence in this case, which was partly inquired into by the Third Committee and partly by the Fourth Committee, showed that the estimated cost of constructing the railway was excessive, and indicated the probability of a serious annual loss in the working of the line. In addition to this, the Committee were not as fully informed as desirable with regard to connecting Inverell not only with the Great Northern Railway but with the coast, a matter of considerable importance in the inquiry. The Committee therefore did not recommend that the railway should be constructed.	See second reference.	
Railway from Jerilderie to Deniliquin.	29 "	31 May, "	2 June, 1892	23 June, 1892	18 Aug., "	The Committee were of opinion that the consideration of this proposed work should be postponed until it should be determined by Parliament as a matter of public policy to purchase the Deniliquin to Moama Railway.	Not dealt with.	
Lunatic Asylum at Kenmore, near Goulburn (second reference).	31 "	12 July, "	.....	.....	24 "	Recommended as proposed.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—18 October 1894—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—1 November, 1894—Bill read third time; 14 November, 1894—Assent reported.
Railway from Glen Innes to Inverell (second reference).	27 Oct., "	17 Nov., "	23 Nov., "	13 Dec., "	10 Jan., 1893	The Committee considered it expedient this railway should be constructed, provided that the cost did not exceed £7,000 per mile, that special local rates were charged until the railway paid working expenses and interest on cost of construction, and that the betterment principle was applied to the land served by the railway.	Negatived.	Legislative Assembly—18 April, 1894—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—7 June 1894—Bill negatived on motion for second reading.
Waterworks for the town of Junee.	2 Feb., 1893	14 Feb., 1893	15 Feb., 1893	29 Feb., 1893	14 Mar., "	The Committee recommended that the proposed works should be carried out, conditionally on the Railway Commissioners entering into an agreement for a period of not less than ten years to pay a minimum of £1,000 per annum for water supplied for railway purposes at Junee and Bethungra.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—4 April, 1894—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—18 April, 1894—Bill read third time; 1 May, 1894—Assent reported.

FOURTH COMMITTEE—continued.

Proposed Work.	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Railway from Narrabri to Moree.	1 Nov., 1893	14 Nov., 1893	15 Nov., 1893	5 Dec., 1893	12 Jan., 1894	Recommended as proposed, with the condition that the work be not undertaken until a Betterment Act is passed.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—20 March, 1895—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—4 April, 1895—Bill read third time; April—Assent reported.
Sewerage Works for Parramatta (second reference).	1 Feb., 1894	7 Feb., 1894	.....	.....	22 Mar., "	The Committee decided that it was not expedient the proposed works should be carried out, for the reasons that the scheme had not been adequately considered, and that, according to the evidence, Parramatta was neither willing nor able to pay the rate necessary to provide the interest on the expenditure, and did not want the proposed works. The Committee were of opinion that as the professional evidence, as well as much of the evidence generally, indicated that the proposed deviation was not a matter of urgency, it was not expedient the work should be carried out.	See Sixth Committee.	.....
Deviation to avoid the Lithgow Zigzag.	25 Jan., "	6 Mar., "	.....	.....	16 April, "	The Committee were of opinion that owing to the uncertainty of the permanence of the Wyalong goldfield, the decision upon the proposed railway should be deferred for six months.	Not dealt with.	.....
Railway from Temora to Wyalong.	29 Mar., "	9 April, "	9 April, 1894	24 April, 1894	28 May, "	The Committee negatived the Departmental scheme, but recommended that when renewal becomes necessary the existing bridges at Darling Harbour and Glebe Island should be replaced by timber structures of a kind specified in their report, which report, however, in consequence of the sudden dissolution of Parliament was not presented to the Legislative Assembly.	See Fifth Committee.	.....
Removal of Pyrmont and Glebe Island Bridges.	25 Jan., "	11 ", "	.....	.....	25 June, "	.....	" "	.....

FIFTH COMMITTEE—FROM 19 SEPTEMBER, 1894, TO 5 JULY, 1895, TO 17 JUNE, 1898.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Honorable FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHREY, Vice-Chairman.
The Honorable WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.

The Honorable JAMES HOSKINS.
The Honorable JOHN DAVIES, C.M.G.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

* VARNEY PARKES, Esquire, Chairman.
* THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esquire, Chairman.
JAMES HAYES, Esquire.
ROBERT HENRY LEVIEN, Esquire.

JOHN MOORE CHANTER, Esquire.
CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esquire.
JAMES GORMLY, Esquire.
EDMUND WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, Esquire.

* On 15th November, 1894, Varney Parkes, Esquire, resigned his seat on the Committee, and on 20th November, 1894, Thomas Thomson Ewing, Esquire, was elected Chairman.

Proposed Work.	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Removal of Pyrmont and Glebe Island Bridges (second reference).	27 Sept., 1894	3 Oct., 1894	.....	.....	21 Nov., 1894	The Committee recommended that the Pyrmont Bridge be replaced by a timber bridge, with steel span, to cost £82,500; the Glebe Island Bridge, they decided, did not at present require renewal.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—6 October, 1897—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—17 November, 1897—Bill read third time; 2 December, 1897—Assent reported.
Railway from Jerilderie to Berri-rigan.	18 Dec., "	19 Dec., "	8 Jan., 1895	22 Jan., 1895	28 Feb., 1895	The construction of this railway was recommended, with the condition that the estimated cost, £2,000 per mile, should include goods and grain sheds, engineering charges, and all contingencies.	"	Legislative Assembly—7 May, 1895—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—12 June, 1895—Bill read third time; 25 June, 1895—Assent reported.
Railway from Parkes to Con-dobolin.	6 Mar., 1895	7 Mar., 1895	"	3 April, "	21 May, "	In this inquiry the Committee, while considering it expedient the railway should be constructed, resolved that the cost should not exceed £2,100 per mile, including the cost of land resumption.	"	Legislative Assembly—27 June, 1895—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—3 July, 1895—Bill read third time; 14 August, 1895—Assent reported.
Railway from Temora to Wyalong (second reference).	7 "	17 May "	5 June, "	19 June, "	27 June, "	The Committee negatived this proposed work, being of opinion that at the present time there is no justification for the construction of this railway, and that the prospects of Wyalong's future are not such as to lead them to conclude that the line should be built in anticipation of what may be the condition of the gold-field and the district some years hence.	Not dealt with.	.....
Harbour Improvements at Newcastle.	14 "	20 Mar. "	28 Mar., "	9 April, "	16 May, "	In this inquiry the Committee recommended a modification of the works proposed by the Department and an additional work, the cost of the works as recommended by the Committee being about the same as that of the works proposed by the Department.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—17 September, 1895—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—6 November, 1895—Bill read third time; 13 November, 1895—Assent reported.
Tramway from Woolwich to the Field of Mars Common.	20 June, "	25 June "	.....	.....	Inquiry not completed.	.....	Withdrawn.	Motion to refer work to Sixth Committee negatived—11 December, 1895.

SIXTH COMMITTEE—FROM 11 DECEMBER, 1895, TO 8 JULY, 1896.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Honorable FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHREY, Vice-Chairman. The Honorable JAMES HOSKINS.
 *The Honorable JOHN DAVIES, C.M.G. The Honorable CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.
 The Honorable WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT. *The Honorable DANIEL O'CONNOR.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esquire, Chairman. *ANGUS CAMERON, Esquire.
 HENRY CLARKE, Esquire. THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esquire.
 CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esquire. GEORGE BLACK, Esquire.
 JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esquire. FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WEIGHT, Esquire.
 *FRANK FARNELL, Esquire.

* Since the appointment of the Committee, vacancies were caused by the decease of the Honorable John Davies, C.M.G., and Angus Cameron, Esquire. These were subsequently filled by the appointment of the Honorable Daniel O'Connor, and Frank Farnell, Esquire.

Proposed Work.	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Deviation at Locksley, Great Western Railway.	11 Dec., 1895	12 Dec., 1895	13 Dec., 1895	14 Dec., 1895	17 Dec., 1895	Recommended as proposed	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—17 December, 1895—Bill passed through all its stages. Legislative Council—18 December, 1895—Bill passed through all its stages.
Water Supply for the Town of Tamworth.	11 Dec., 1895	17 Dec., 1895	8 Jan., 1896	16 Jan., 1896	30 Jan., 1896	The Committee recommended that the proposed work should be carried out, with the proviso that the capacity of the storage reservoir be increased from 35,000,000 to 50,000,000 gallons.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—27 October, 1896—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—4 November, 1896—Bill read third time; 11 November, 1896—Assent reported.
Electric Tramway from Circular Quay, Sydney, to the Redfern Railway Station; and also along Harris-street to the intersection of John-street.	11 Dec., 1895	18 Mar., 1896	.....	.....	8 May, 1896	Recommended as proposed	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—2 September, 1896—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—10 September, 1896—Bill read third time; 16 September, 1896—Assent reported.

SIXTH COMMITTEE—continued.

Proposed Work	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Erection of Buildings at Rookwood for Infirm and Destitute Persons.	11 Dec., 1895	21 Jan., 1896	.....	.....	13 Mar., 1896	In this case the Committee deemed it inexpedient that the proposed buildings should be erected, but they recommended that the inmates of the Asylums in Macquarie, George, and Harris Streets, Parramatta, be removed as speedily as possible, and that the healthy destitute be housed at Rookwood and Liverpool; and further that suitable accommodation be provided near Campbelltown on available Crown lands for the chronic and acute sick.	Not dealt with.	.....
Additions to the Treasury Building.	18 " "	9 " "	.....	.....	17 July, "	Recommended as proposed	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—2 September, 1896—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—16 September, 1896—Bill read third time; 22 September, 1896—Assent reported.
Construction of Locks and Weirs on the River Darling.	19 " "	12 May, "	15 June, 1896	7 July, 1896	31 " "	Negated	Not dealt with.	.....
Railway from Tamworth to Manilla.	11 " "	20 Feb., "	17 Mar., "	31 Mar., " *19 June, "	1 Oct., "	.....	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—4 November, 1896—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—11 November, 1896—Bill read third time; 13 November, 1896—Assent reported.
Railway from Nevertine to Warren.	11 " "	21 April, "	6 May, "	14 May, "	20 May, "	Recommended as proposed	"	Legislative Assembly—13 August, 1896—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—27 August, 1896—Bill read third time; 9 September, 1896—Assent reported.
Railway from Berrigan to Finley.	28 May, 1896	5 June, "	14 July, "	28 July, "	19 Aug., "	The Committee recommended that this work should be carried out, with the proviso that the cost should not exceed £2,000 per mile.	"	Legislative Assembly—27 October, 1896—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—4 November, 1896—Bill read third time; 11 November, 1896—Assent reported.
Improvement of Cook's River..	28 " "	16 " "	.....	.....	24 July, "	As recommended by the Committee the construction of the proposed works would involve an expenditure of £15,000, a reduction on the Departmental estimate of £25,000, and which, in their opinion, would meet the requirements of the case.	"	Legislative Assembly—27 May, 1897—Committee agree to Council's amendments, resolution reported and agreed to. Legislative Council—25 May, 1897—Bill read third time; 9 June, 1897—Assent reported.

* Supplementary Report.

SIXTH COMMITTEE—continued.

Proposed Work.	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Railway from Moree to Inverell	25 Aug., 1896	1 Sept., 1896	29 Sept., 1896	15 Oct., 1896	21 April, 1897	The Committee resolved that it was expedient this railway should be carried out.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—11 August, 1897—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—21 October, 1897—Bill read third time; 27 October, 1897—Assent reported.
Construction of a Deep-water Harbour at Port Kembla.	20 Oct., "	28 Oct., "	13 Jan., 1897	25 Jan., 1897	10 Feb., "	The Committee were of opinion that the proposed harbour would be rendered sufficiently secure to meet present requirements if the eastern breakwater only were carried out, and the estimated cost reduced by £240,000.	"	Legislative Assembly—2 December, 1897—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—20 December, 1898—Bill read third time; 21 February, 1899—Assent reported.
Railway from Condobolin to Broken Hill.	1 July, "	5 Aug., "	19 Aug., 1896	15 Oct., 1896	10 Dec., 1896	The Committee, while having regard to the various aspects of this proposed work, and considering also that the annual loss on the working of the railway would amount to £60,000, were of opinion that it should not, at present, be proceeded with.	Not dealt with	
Sewerage Works for Parramatta (third reference).	10 Nov., "	11 Feb., 1897			13 April, 1897	This work was passed by the Committee with the provision that the cost should not exceed the Departmental estimate, and that the carrying out of the work should be subject to a guarantee (by the Municipal Council of Parramatta) of the annual payment required to cover maintenance and interest and redemption of the principal outlay.	"	
New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.	"	14 April, "			6 Dec., "	The Committee recommended the adoption of the scheme submitted by the Government Architect, providing for alterations to the present Parliamentary Buildings, at a cost not exceeding £15,000.	"	
Duplicate Main from Prospect to Potts' Hill.	11 Nov., "				8 June, "	The Committee recommended the amended scheme submitted by the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works, by which the sides of the canal between Prospect and the Pipe Head Basin would be raised, the canal strengthened, and the 6-foot pipeline between the Basin and Potts' Hill Reservoir duplicated.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—1 December, 1897—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—7 December, 1897—Bill read third time; 21 June, 1898—Assent reported.
New Bridge at Glebe Island ...	9 June, 1897	16 June, 1897			15 Sept., 1897	The Committee recommended that there be substituted for the existing structure a stone causeway with a central steel swing-span.	"	Legislative Assembly—2 December, 1897—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—9 December, 1897—Bill read third time; 21 June, 1898—Assent reported.
Railway from Redfern to St. James' Road.	30 "	13 July, "			25 Aug., "	Recommended as proposed.	Not dealt with	
Railway from Condobolin to Eubalong.	5 Aug., "	31 Aug., "	17 Sept., 1897	26 Oct., 1897	7 Dec., "	The Committee negatived this proposed work.	"	
Railway from Narrabri to Pilliga.	5 "	19 Oct., "	22 April, 1898	19 May, 1898	23 June, 1898	The Committee negatived this proposal, but suggested a route from Narrabri by way of Eurie Eurie, which could, if necessary, be extended on to Walgett.	"	

SIXTH COMMITTEE—continued.

Proposed Work.	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Railway from Byrock to Brewarrina.	5 Aug., 1897	1 Oct., 1897	11 Feb., 1898	5 April, 1898	22 June, 1898	Recommended conditionally.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—8 December, 1898—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—21 December, 1898—Bill read third time; 21 February, 1899—Assent reported.
Railway from The Rock to Green's Gullyah.	5 " "	16 Sept., "	7 Oct., "	26 Oct., 1897	25 Nov., 1897	Recommended as proposed.	"	Legislative Assembly—7 December, 1898—Bill passed through its remaining stages. Legislative Council—22 December, 1898—Bill read third time; 21 February, 1899—Assent reported.
Railway from Coolamon to Armid.	5 " "	23 " "	7 " "	26 " "	18 " "	The Committee negatived this proposed work.	Not dealt with	"
Railway from Warren to Coonamble.	9 Dec., "	14 Dec., "	14 Mar., "	21 April, 1898	29 April, 1898	The Committee negatived the proposal for a railway from Warren to Coonamble, but recommended that a survey be made of a route from Dubbo to Coonamble.	"	"
Railway from Koorawatha to Grenfell.	9 " "	20 Dec., 1897	11 Feb., "	10 Mar., "	1 " "	Recommended as proposed.	Passed.	Legislative Assembly—8 December, 1898—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—21 December, 1898—Bill read third time; 21 February, 1899—Assent reported.
Railway from Woolabra to Col-larandabri.	9 " "	9 Mar., 1898	22 April, "	19 May, "	24 June, "	The Committee negatived this proposal, but suggested a route from Narrabri towards Eurie Eurie, which would proceed from a point 315 miles from Newcastle to Collarandabri.	Not dealt with	"
Railway from Maitland to Tavee.	9 " "	22 Feb., "	*14 June, "	"	6 July, "	The Committee negatived this proposal.	"	"
Railway from the Terminus of the Rosehill Railway to Durai.	9 " "	5 Jan., "	"	"	13 April, "	The Committee negatived this proposed work.	"	"
Harbour Works at Tweed River.	9 " "	15 Mar., "	22 Mar., 1898	2 April, 1898	26 " "	Recommended as proposed.	Negatived	Legislative Assembly—7 December, 1898—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—21 December, 1898—Second reading negatived.
Harbour Works at Bellinger River.	9 " "	30 " "	12 May, "	7 June, "	6 July, "	"	"	Legislative Assembly—7 December, 1898—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—15 December, 1898—Second reading negatived.
Harbour Works at Namucca River.	9 " "	14 April, "	12 " "	7 " "	7 " "	"	"	Legislative Assembly—7 December, 1898—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—8 December, 1898—Bill read first time.†
Harbour Works at Macleay River.	9 " "	8 Feb., "	12 " "	7 " "	5 " "	"	"	Legislative Assembly—7 December, 1898—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—8 December, 1898—Bill read first time.†
Harbour Works at Hastings River.	9 " "	27 April, "	*14 June, "	"	29 June, 1898	The Committee recommended a portion of these works only.	"	Legislative Assembly—7 December, 1898—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—8 December, 1898—Bill read first time.†
Harbour Works at Manning River.	9 " "	22 Mar., "	*14 " "	"	1 July, "	Recommended with slight modifications.	"	Legislative Assembly—7 December, 1898—Bill read third time. Legislative Council—8 December, 1898—Bill read first time.†
Weirs on the River Darling between Bourke and Wilcannia.	9 " "	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

* In this instance, the main Committee visited the district, but subsequently resolved themselves into a Sectional Committee. † Further procedure stopped by the prorogation of Parliament.

SEVENTH COMMITTEE—FROM 30 NOVEMBER, 1898 (STILL IN OFFICE).

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Honorable WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT, Vice-Chairman, The Honorable PATRICK LINDSAY CRAWFORD SHEPHERD,
The Honorable ANDREW GARRAN, LL.D.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

JOHN PERRY, Esquire, Chairman, JOHN CHRISTIAN WATSON, Esquire,
WILLIAM THOMAS DICK, Esquire, ROBERT HENRY LEVIEU, Esquire.

Proposed Work.	Date of reference to Committee.	Date upon which inquiry was opened.	Date upon which Sectional Committee was appointed.	Date of Sectional Committee's Report.	Date of Committee's Report.	Statement of Committee's recommendation.	How dealt with by Parliament.	Date of Parliamentary action.
Public Offices, Phillip & Hunter Streets, Sydney.	22 Dec., 1898	18 Jan., 1899	.....	.....	28 Mar., 1899	The Committee recommended a modification of the Government proposal by which there would be erected a building containing a basement, ground-floor, and first-floor, the cost not to exceed £16,000.	Not dealt with	.....
Water Supply Works for the Borough of Wollongong.	22 " "	25 " "	.....	.....	2 " "	The Committee recommended the larger of two schemes submitted, providing for an extension to Port Kembla on the south, and towards Bulli on the north.	.....	.....
Public Offices, Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney.	22 " "	2 Feb. "	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Railway from Dubbo to Coonamble.	22 " "	9 Mar., "	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Railway from Cobar to Wilcannia.	22 " "	15 " "	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Railway from Grenfell to Wyalong.	22 " "	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Locks and Weirs on the River Darling, between Bourke and Menindie.	22 " "	15 " "	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Penitentiary and Prison for Females, Randwick.	22 " "	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd, |	The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D., |	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
	John Christian Watson, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The following account was passed for payment:—

Charles Lync, expenses as Secretary, accompanying Committee in their inquiry respecting the proposed Water Supply Works for the Borough of Wollongong	£ s. d. 6 0 0
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The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney.

Thomas Bailey Clegg, Clerk-in-charge, Department of Labour and Industry, and Duncan Clarke M'Lachlan, Under Secretary, Department of Mines and Agriculture, were sworn, and examined.

The Committee adjourned at 5 minutes past 4, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, the following day.

WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd, |	The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D., |	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
	John Christian Watson, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee further considered the expediency of constructing Water Supply Works for the Borough of Wollongong.

Cecil West Darley, Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works, Department of Public Works, was sworn, and further examined.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney.

Edward Fisher Pittman, A.R.S.M., Government Geologist, and Chief Mining Surveyor, and George William Card, A.R.S.M., Curator and Mineralogist, Department of Mines, were sworn, and examined.

The Committee adjourned at 4 o'clock, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Thursday, the following day.

THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd, |	The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D., |	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
	John Christian Watson, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee further considered the expediency of constructing Water Supply Works for the Borough of Wollongong.

Mr. Trickett moved,—“That the Committee proceed to consider the evidence on the proposed Water Supply Works for the Borough of Wollongong, with a view to reporting on the subject to the Legislative Assembly.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson, and passed.

Mr. Trickett moved,—“That, in the opinion of the Committee, it is expedient that the proposed Water Supply Works for the Borough of Wollongong, as referred to the Committee by the Legislative Assembly, be carried out (such works to provide for extension to Port Kembla on the south, and towards Bulli on the north), at a cost of £25,211.”

The motion was seconded by Dr. Garran, and passed.

The

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young-streets, Sydney.

Newton Morris, LL.D., Superintendent of Technical Education, Department of Public Instruction, was sworn, and examined.

The Committee adjourned at 4 o'clock, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, 28 February.

TUESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Secretary read the following correspondence:—

Letter from the Hon. Secretary, Temora Farmers' Union, with reference to the Committee's inquiry respecting the proposed Railway from Grenfell to Wyalong.

The correspondence was received.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney.

Richard Teece, General Manager, Australian Mutual Provident Society, was sworn, and examined.

The Committee proceeded to consider their Report to the Legislative Assembly on the proposed Water Supply Works for the Borough of Wollongong.

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed.

Clause 3—Estimated Cost—was postponed.

Clauses 4 to 6 were passed.

The further consideration of the Report was adjourned.

The Committee adjourned at 4 o'clock, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, the following day.

WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney.

John Williamson Manson, Architect, and Robert Etheridge, Curator of the Australian Museum, were sworn, and examined.

The Committee further considered their Report to the Legislative Assembly on the proposed Water Supply Works for the Borough of Wollongong.

Clauses 7 to 9 were passed.

The further consideration of the Report was adjourned.

The Committee adjourned at 4 o'clock, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Thursday, the following day.

THURSDAY, 2 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney.

Edward William Knox, General Manager, Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, was sworn, and examined.

The Committee further considered their Report to the Legislative Assembly on the proposed Water Supply Works for the Borough of Wollongong.

The remaining clauses of the Report (including postponed clause 3—Estimated Cost) were passed, the Report was adopted, and the Chairman was authorised to sign it for presentation to the Legislative Assembly.

The Committee adjourned at 20 minutes past 4, until half-past 2 o'clock p.m. on Friday, the following day.

FRIDAY,

FRIDAY, 3 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	|	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,		John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,		Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney.

Frederick Bickell Guthrie, F.G.S., Chemist, and Alexander Bruce, Chief Inspector of Stock, Department of Mines and Agriculture, were sworn, and examined.

The Committee adjourned at 4 o'clock, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, 7 March.

TUESDAY, 7 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	|	The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,		William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
		John Christian Watson, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Secretary read the following correspondence:—

Letters from Mr. Richard Teece, General Manager, Australian Mutual Provident Society, and Mr. J. W. Manson, Architect, with reference to their evidence in the Committee's inquiry respecting the proposed Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney. The correspondence was received.

The following account was passed for payment:—

Robertson and Lincoln (<i>Wollongong Argus</i>)—Advertising	...	...	...	...	s. d.
					10 0

In pursuance of their inquiry respecting the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney, the Committee then proceeded on a visit of inspection.

Evidence having been given before the Committee of the inconvenience arising from branches of Departments being located in separate buildings, they visited the Commissariat Stores, Circular Quay, where they inspected the rooms occupied by the Agricultural Chemist, the Fruit Expert, the Dairy Expert, and the Entomologist of the Department of Mines and Agriculture, and generally acquainted themselves with the nature of the accommodation available in the building.

Then, in order to ascertain, in connection with the proposal that the basement of the new offices should be occupied by the Museum of the Department of Mines and Agriculture, whether, in the proposed Museum, there will be an unnecessary duplication of specimens, and whether, instead of having several museums of the same character in Sydney, one institution of the kind would be sufficient,—the Committee visited the Technological Museum in the Domain, the Australian Museum, and the Technical College, Ultimo.

The Committee adjourned at half past 4, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, the following day.

WEDNESDAY, 8 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	|	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,		John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,		Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney.

Denison Samuel King Miller, Accountant, Bank of New South Wales, and Walter Wilson Froggatt, Entomologist, Department of Mines and Agriculture, were sworn, and examined.

Duncan Clark McLachlan, Under Secretary, Department of Mines and Agriculture, was sworn and further examined.

The Committee adjourned at a quarter past 4, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Thursday, the following day.

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, 9 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read; and confirmed.

The Committee proceeded to consider the expediency of constructing a line of Railway from Dubbo to Coonamble.

Henry Deane, Engineer-in-Chief, Railway Construction Branch, Department of Public Works, was sworn, and examined.

The Committee adjourned at 5 minutes past 4, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Friday, the following day.

FRIDAY, 10 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The following account was passed for payment:—

W. R. Lundin, steel embossing die	£ s. d.
	2 10 0

The Committee further considered the expediency of constructing a line of Railway from Dubbo to Coonamble.

Henry Deane, Engineer-in-Chief, Railway Construction Branch, Department of Public Works, was sworn, and further examined.

Hugh McLachlan, Secretary to the Railway Commissioners, was sworn, and examined.

The Committee adjourned at 4 o'clock, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, 14 March.

TUESDAY, 14 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Secretary read the following correspondence:—

Letter from the Deputy Postmaster-General, stating the cost of the conveyance of mails between Coonamble and the Great Western Railway.

Letter from the Hon. G. H. Cox, M.L.C., expressing a desire to give evidence in the Committee's inquiry respecting the proposed Railway from Dubbo to Coonamble.

The correspondence was received.

The Committee further considered the proposed Railway from Dubbo to Coonamble.

John Harper, Chief Traffic Manager, Department of Railways, was sworn, and examined.

The Committee deliberated upon the necessity of having before them expert evidence as to the probable traffic returns from the construction of the alternative lines, Mudgee to Coonamble and Warren to Coonamble, and generally as to the nature of the districts through which those lines, if constructed, would run, and it was decided to communicate with the Right Honorable the Premier and Minister for Railways, requesting him to have the Chief Traffic Manager of the Department of Railways, or some other officer competent for the duty, instructed to visit the districts and obtain this information for the Committee.

The Committee adjourned at 5 minutes past 4, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, the following day.

WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee proceeded to consider the expediency of constructing a line of Railway from Cobar to Wilcannia.

Robert R. P. Hickson, Under Secretary and Commissioner for Roads, Department of Public Works, was sworn, and examined.

The Committee proceeded to consider the expediency of constructing Locks and Weirs on the River Darling between Bourke and Menindie.

Robert R. P. Hickson, Under Secretary and Commissioner for Roads, and Cecil West Darley, Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works, Department of Public Works, were sworn, and examined.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney.

Mr. Levien gave notice that he would move, at the next meeting of the Committee,—“That the Committee proceed to consider the evidence on the proposed erection of Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney, with a view to reporting on the subject to the Legislative Assembly.”

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney.

Mr. Levien gave notice that he would move, at the next meeting of the Committee,—“That the Committee proceed to consider the evidence on the proposed erection of Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney, with a view to reporting on the subject to the Legislative Assembly.”

The Committee adjourned at 5 minutes past 4, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Thursday, the following day.

THURSDAY, 16 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney.

Walter Liberty Vernon, Government Architect, and Edmund Walcott Fosbery, Inspector-General of Police, were sworn, and further examined.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney.

Walter Liberty Vernon, Government Architect, and Duncan Clark McLachlan, Under Secretary, Department of Mines and Agriculture, were sworn, and further examined.

Mr. Levien moved,—“That the Committee proceed to consider the evidence on the proposed erection of Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney, with a view to reporting on the subject to the Legislative Assembly.”

The motion was seconded by Mr. Dick, and passed.

Mr. Levien gave notice that he would move, at the next meeting of the Committee,—“That, in the opinion of the Committee, it is not expedient the proposed erection of Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney, at a cost of £14,810, as referred to the Committee by the Legislative Assembly, be carried out; but the Committee recommend the erection of a building containing a basement, ground floor, and first floor, as shown on the plan submitted by the Government Architect, at a cost not exceeding £16,000.”

Mr. Levien's notice of motion to consider the evidence on the proposed erection of Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney, was postponed.

The Committee adjourned at a quarter past 4, until 12 o'clock noon on Tuesday, 21 March.

TUESDAY, 21 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 12 o'clock noon.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee, in continuation of their inquiry respecting the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney, and the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney, then proceeded on a visit of inspection to the offices occupied by the Department of Public Instruction and Labour, the Public Service Board, the Inspector-General of Police, and the Department of Audit.

On returning, the Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney.

Walter Liberty Vernon, Government Architect, was sworn, and further examined.

The Committee adjourned at a quarter to 4, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, the following day.

WEDNESDAY,

WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney.

Tannatt William Edgeworth David, Professor of Geology and Mineralogy, University of Sydney, was sworn, and examined.

The Committee further considered the expediency of constructing a line of Railway from Dubbo to Coonamble.

The Honorable George Henry Cox, M.L.C., was sworn, and examined.

The Committee adjourned at 4 o'clock, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Thursday, the following day.

THURSDAY, 23 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Secretary read the following correspondence:—

Letter from Mr. J. H. Maiden, Director of the Botanic Gardens, expressing a desire to give evidence in the Committee's inquiry respecting the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney.

The correspondence was received.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney.

Mr. Levien having (*with consent*) amended his notice of motion, moved,—“That, in the opinion of the Committee, it is not expedient the proposed erection of Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney, at a cost of £44,810, as referred to the Committee by the Legislative Assembly, be carried out; but the Committee recommend the erection of a building containing a basement, ground floor, and first floor, at a cost not exceeding £16,000.”

Mr. Trickett seconded the motion.

Dr. Garran moved,—“That the motion be amended by the omission of the word ‘not’ before the word ‘expedient.’”

The amendment was seconded by Mr. Watson, and negatived on the following division upon the question,—“That the word proposed to be omitted stand part of the question.”

Ayes, 4.	Noes, 3.
Mr. Perry,	Dr. Garran,
Mr. Shepherd,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Trickett,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Levien,	

The motion was passed on the following division:—

Ayes, 4.	Noes, 3.
Mr. Perry,	Dr. Garran,
Mr. Shepherd,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Trickett,	Mr. Watson.
Mr. Levien,	

The Committee adjourned at 4 o'clock, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Friday, the following day.

FRIDAY, 24 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee further considered the expediency of constructing Locks and Weirs on the River Darling, between Bourke and Menindie.

Cecil West Darley, Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works, Department of Public Works, was sworn, and further examined.

The Committee adjourned at 4 o'clock, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, 28 March.

TUESDAY, 28 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee proceeded to consider their Report to the Legislative Assembly on the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney.

The various clauses of the Report were passed, and the Report was adopted on the following division.

Ayes, 4.	Noes, 3.
Mr. Perry.	Dr. Garran,
Mr. Shepherd,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Trickett,	Mr. Watson.
Mr. Levien,	

The Chairman was authorised to sign the Report for presentation to the Legislative Assembly.

The Committee adjourned at 4 o'clock, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, the following day.

WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney.

Archibald Liversidge, Professor of Chemistry, University of Sydney, was sworn, and examined.

Duncan Clark McLachlan, Under Secretary, Department of Mines and Agriculture, was sworn, and further examined.

The Committee adjourned at 25 minutes to 4, until a quarter to 11 o'clock a.m. on Thursday, the following day.

THURSDAY, 30 MARCH, 1899.

The Committee met at 10.45 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting Public Offices on land with frontages to Phillip, Bridge, and Young Streets, Sydney.

Joseph Henry Maiden, Director of the Botanic Gardens, was sworn, and examined.

The Committee further considered the expediency of constructing a line of Railway from Cobar to Wilcannia.

Hugh McLachlan, Secretary to the Railway Commissioners, was sworn, and examined.

The Committee adjourned at 25 minutes to 1 p.m., until 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, 4 April.

TUESDAY, 4 APRIL, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee further considered the expediency of constructing a line of Railway from Cobar to Wilcannia.

Henry Deane, Engineer-in-Chief, Railway Construction Branch, Department of Public Works, was sworn, and examined.

The Committee adjourned at 10 minutes past 4, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, the following day.

WEDNESDAY,

WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
John Christian Watson, Esq.	

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Committee further considered the expediency of constructing a line of Railway from Cobar to Wilcannia.

Henry Deane, Engineer-in-Chief, Railway Construction Branch, Department of Public Works, and John Harper, Chief Traffic Manager, Department of Railways, were sworn, and examined.

The Committee adjourned at 4 o'clock, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Thursday, the following day.

THURSDAY, 6 APRIL, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Secretary read the following correspondence :—

Letter from the Under Secretary for Finance and Trade, stating, with reference to the Committee's request for expert information respecting the traffic prospects of alternative lines of railway, that, in relation to the proposed Railway from Dubbo to Coonamble, the Railway Commissioners would deal with alternative routes similarly to projected new lines, and make a personal inspection and subsequent report.

The correspondence was received.

The Committee further considered the expediency of constructing a line of Railway from Cobar to Wilcannia.

Henry Deane, Engineer-in-Chief, Railway Construction Branch, Department of Public Works, and John Harper, Chief Traffic Manager, Department of Railways, were sworn, and further examined.

The Committee adjourned at 4 o'clock, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Friday, the following day.

FRIDAY, 7 APRIL, 1899.

The Committee met at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

John Perry, Esq., Chairman.

The Hon. Patrick Lindesay Crawford Shepherd.,	William Thomas Dick, Esq.,
The Hon. Andrew Garran, LL.D.,	John Christian Watson, Esq.,
The Hon. William Joseph Trickett,	Robert Henry Levien, Esq.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

The Secretary read the following correspondence :—

Letter from the Secretary of the Railway League, Lake Cudgellico, asking that the Sectional Committee to be appointed for the purpose of taking evidence respecting the proposed Railway from Grenfell to Wyalong should visit Ungarie.

Memorandum from Mr. H. Deane, Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction, with reference to the proposed Railway from Cobar to Wilcannia.

The correspondence was received.

The Committee proceeded to consider their Fifteenth General Report to His Excellency the Governor.

The Report was adopted, and the Chairman was authorised to sign it for presentation to His Excellency the Governor.

The Committee further considered the expediency of constructing a line of Railway from Cobar to Wilcannia.

John Harper, Chief Traffic Manager, Department of Railways, was sworn, and further examined.

Richard Slatb, Esq., M.P., was sworn, and examined.

The Committee adjourned at 10 minutes past 4, until 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, 11th April.

1899.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

DUDLEY COLLIERY EXPLOSION INQUIRY.
(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 1 Report from Printing Committee, 20 April, 1899.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 29th March, 1899, That there be laid upon the Table of this House the evidence taken at the Dudley Colliery Explosion Inquiry.

(*Mr. Fegan.*)

APPENDIX B.

Court of Investigation held by C. G. Wade, Esq. (Barrister-at-Law and a Justice of the Peace), at the Court-house, Newcastle, on August 15th, 16th, 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 29th, 30th, 31st, and September 1st, 2nd, 12th, 13th, 1898.

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Evidence of Witnesses.

THE Hon. A. Brown for the mine-owners; Mr. W. Baker for the manager; Mr. Curley for the Colliery Employees' Federation and the relatives of some of the deceased; Mr. Atkinson, Chief Inspector of Collieries, appears on behalf of the Mines Department.

The Commissioner announces that the evidence of the following witnesses, taken at the Coroner's inquest, will be taken as portion of the evidence in this inquiry, viz.:—Robert Sutherland, Charles Croker, Leslie Parsons, Sidney Robert Young, Peter Fletcher, Gilbert Edward, George Callender, Adam Purcell.

This deponent, *Thomas Crisp*, on his oath, states:—I am a duly qualified medical practitioner residing at Dudley; I recently examined five dead bodies; on the 16th July I examined the body of George Cook; decomposition was not particularly marked; there was no fracture; he had intensely pink lips and tongue; the body was not burnt at all; the body was covered with coal-dust; I did not examine the coal-dust to see whether it had been burnt or not; the cause of death had been carbon monoxide; on the 23rd July last, I examined the body of Arthur Dunn; it was covered with pieces of coal; the body was very much decomposed, and there were two large holes on the right side of the chest; there was no hole in the shirt he wore; the holes in the chest were the result of decomposition, I should say; as far as I could see, his lips, tongue, and nails were pink; I should say carbon monoxide had been the cause of death in his case; the next body I examined was that of Cyrus Price on the 24th July last; the body was very much decayed; there was no fracture of the long bones; the chest was smashed in and flattened, the result of violence, such as a fall of stone on the body; that fall might have occurred after death; I attribute his death to carbon monoxide; the next body I examined was that of Thomas Young, on the 28th July last; it was very much decomposed and the muscles wasted; it had pink nails, tongue, and lips; there was no hair on his face, but no visible sign of burning; the hair of his head was short and appeared to have been singed; most probably the hair had fallen from his face as a result of decomposition; the appearance of his face was quite consistent with the result of decomposition, assuming he had been dead for four or four and a half months; there were no fractures; I should say the cause of his death was carbon monoxide poisoning; the next body I examined was that of George Hindmarsh, on 4th August instant and also on the 5th instant; the body was very much decomposed; he had no boots on; the whole body was wasted as well as being decomposed; the chest was flattened in; both bones of the left leg between the ankle and knee were broken about 3 inches above the ankle-joint; the hand and half the ulna of the left arm were missing; there was no hair on his head nor his face; there were no visible signs of burns; the body was so much wasted that the skin on the front of the spine was lying on the spine; the whole body was covered with coal, some pieces of which were a quarter of an inch square; on none of the bodies was there what is termed fine coal-dust; Young's nose was also flattened; his death was due to carbon monoxide; his nails were pink; the tongue was so much decomposed that I could not judge its colour; the lips were the same colour as the tongue, what I should term livid; that colour is the same as an ordinary dead body would present after five months; the wasting of the bodies that I have spoken of would be due to decomposition; I made no tests to satisfy myself as to the cause of death in any of the cases; I think it would have been useless after such a lapse of time; my opinion is that the fracture of Hindmarsh's arm was *post-mortem*; there would be really nothing to make one convinced that the fracture was *post-mortem*, but the indications pointed to that; the bones were thoroughly rotten, and the marrow in the bone of the arm rotten; if the fracture had taken place half an hour before death or half an hour after death the appearance of that broken limb would have been the same; it is more likely that the fracture was caused after death, because a very slight force would have been sufficient to have caused the fracture, considering the decomposed state of the body; one per cent. of carbon monoxide in the atmosphere would cause unconsciousness, and a man would die in three minutes with that quantity in the air; three per cent. would cause instant death; I cannot say what percentage of the gas in the lungs would cause death; in all these cases I attribute death to carbon monoxide poisoning rather than to anything else; carbon monoxide is not absorbed after death; the only case in which I noticed distinct signs of burning was Young's.

By Mr. Atkinson: I examined all the bodies to see whether they were burnt; that was one of the most particular points in my examination; with the exception of Young none of them were burnt as far as I could see; the decomposed state of the bodies would prevent my seeing if they were burnt even if they had been burnt; that applies equally to the other four bodies; if there was any difference Hindmarsh's was the most decomposed body of the five.

By Mr. Curley: The fact of the skin being burnt would not hasten decomposition as the bodies were covered; if they had been exposed the fact of being burnt might have hastened decomposition; I have attended many cases of burning, in some of which the burns sustained had resulted in death; the burns would not hasten decomposition; the pink appearance of the nails was the same in each of the five bodies; it was more marked in the case of Cooke; I have had no previous experience of examining bodies of men who had died from carbon monoxide poisoning; I knew Young personally; when I saw him last he wore a beard; I last saw him alive on the 15th March last; I have not made any particular study of the question of poisoning by carbon monoxide; there was no other medical man present when I examined these five bodies; I do not think burning had anything to do with the cause of death in any of the five cases; if death had been caused by explosion I should have expected to have found fractures of the bones; there was a fracture in Hindmarsh's case, but I do not attribute that to the explosion but am of opinion it was *post-mortem*; it looked to me as if the fracture had been caused by a blow from some blunt instrument, such as a pick or shovel; it may have been caused by a fall of coal; if it had been caused by the implement of a rescuer I should have expected to have found the detached portion close to the body.

By Mr. Baker: Hindmarsh's body was clothed in a pair of trousers, socks, and a flannel under-shirt; there might have been another shirt on the body; Young wore boots, trousers, and a flannel or shirt; he had no coat or vest on; I found no marks of burning about Hindmarsh's clothing.

By Mr. Brown: I only found signs of burning about Young; I carefully examined the other bodies for signs of burns, but found none; I particularly looked for signs of burning; the only signs of burning about Young were on the few patches of hair left on the body; one per cent. of carbon monoxide in the air would make a man unconscious in less than a minute; if there were less of the poisonous gas in the air a man would last much longer; I have read of several cases of men under the influence

influence of this gas divesting themselves of their clothes and lying down in different places in order to get more air; men have been known to travel some distance while under the influence of this gas; the effect of the gas in some cases is to intoxicate people breathing it, and to cause them to imagine a state of things which really does not exist; it is possible to dilute the carbon monoxide with such a quantity of air as to make it innocuous.

By Commissioner: I cannot state what quantity of air would render the gas innocuous; if the boots had been taken off under the circumstances described by me, I would have expected to have found them somewhere near the body; I cannot say definitely that the fracture of Hindmarsh's arm was not caused by a fall of coal shortly after death; such a fall would produce such a result; if the fall had taken place before death and caused the fracture the appearances would be much the same; after five months it is almost impossible to say whether the fracture took place before or after death; supposing a man sustained injuries sufficient in themselves to bring about death in a short time, but before that time he inhaled carbon monoxide and died from that, the symptoms of death from the poison would be the same; I am almost positive in every case death was due to the poisonous gas; the flattening of the chest in the cases of Price and Hindmarsh would indicate violence; a fall of roof on the chest and arm, producing such injuries as I saw, might have caused death in those cases.

By Mr. Curley: I have been unable to find out how long after death it is possible to detect carbon monoxide in a body.

T. CRISP, M.B., M.R.C.S.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 15th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

This deponent, *Matthew Arthur*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am an engine-driver, employed at the Government engine-sheds; in March last I was employed at the Dudley Colliery driving the fan; I received my instructions there from Mr. Humphreys, the manager, and Mr. Robson, the engineer; Mr. Robson was my immediate superior; the fire was never allowed to go out; the fan worked from 6 a.m. on Monday, and worked continuously till Friday night at 12 o'clock; if the pit were working on Monday, the fan would be started on the Sunday night about 8.30, and would work till 4 p.m. on the Monday; it would start again at 9 p.m. on the Monday, and work till 4 p.m. next day; whenever the pit was working, that was the time the fan would work; it stopped at 4 p.m. on Saturday until 8.30 on the Sunday; Mr. Robson instructed me as to the working of the fan; I did not receive instructions every day as to what time to start or stop it; I received my instructions for the whole week on the Sunday night; the fire was banked up on the Saturday evening; the number of revolutions of the fan were fixed by Robson's instructions; they were that when the pit was working the revolutions were to be forty-five to the minute, and when the pit was not working, and the shiftmen in, forty revolutions to the minute; we timed the revolutions by means of our watches; the number was taken by the driver in charge of the fan; it was timed in the same way at night; it was a large fan; my instructions were to start the fan an hour or an hour and a half before the men went into the pit; that applies both to night and day work; we kept a "report book" in connection with the fan; we only entered the condition of the fan and boilers in it; that book was kept by the instructions of Mr. Humphreys; I remember the explosion at the mine in March last; I was on the day-shift then; I knocked off work at 7 a.m. on the previous Saturday; I saw Mr. Robson on the night of the 20th March last; he told me to start the fan as soon before 6 o'clock on the Monday morning as we could; on the morning of the 21st of March I got up steam and started the fan at 6 o'clock; the first I knew of the explosion was the smoke coming out of the fan shaft; the top of the shaft was blown off; the fan was not injured to my knowledge; I looked at it, and noticed no injury to it; the fan was kept continuously working till 12 noon the following Friday; the fan was going at forty to forty-two revolutions to the minute on the morning of the explosion; that was kept up till I received instructions from Mr. Humphreys to slow her down; that was the same day as the explosion, but I cannot say at what time; I was fan-driver for two years, and the practice with regard to stopping and starting it had always been the same; it had always been the practice to stop it at the end of the week, and in the afternoon.

By Mr. Atkinson: I did not record the time of starting the fan in the report book; Purcell did not record the times of starting either; I never registered the water-gauge in connection with the fan; I know what the water-gauge is for; I do not understand what an inch of water-gauge means; I could count the strokes of the fan by counting the strokes of the engine without going outside to see the fan; there were two engines in the one engine-house; only one engine was required to drive the fan.

By Mr. Curley: I had not been to the fan between the Saturday morning when I knocked off and the Monday morning; I went to the fires on the Sunday morning between 10 and 12 o'clock; I reached the pit between 4.30 a.m. and 5 a.m. on the Monday; that was my usual time for getting there; I was not late there on the Monday morning; I told Mr. Humble I was late that morning; that was after the explosion; I may have told him I was late in starting the fan that morning; neither the manager nor underground manager used to come over to see whether the fan was working in the morning; nobody spoke to me on the morning of the explosion; I did not see either Mr. Humphreys or Hindmarsh there before the explosion; Mr. Robson gave me my instructions as to starting the fan on the Sunday nights when the pit was working.

By Mr. Baker: I am quite certain I started the fan at 6 a.m. on the day of the explosion; the explosion did not take place till 9 a.m., and the fan was going at from forty to forty-two revolutions per minute all that time; my instructions were to go up to forty-five revolutions; for some two or three weeks before the explosion Mr. Humphreys came to me at the fan every day and took the number of revolutions of the fan; the number was from forty to forty-five per minute; it was my practice to time the number of revolutions by my watch every day; the first I knew of the explosion was the smoke coming up the shaft.

By Commissioner: It was not part of my duty to look after the water-gauge; it was the duty of Mr. Humphreys and Robson the engineer.

MATTHEW ARTHUR.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 15th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

This

This deponent, *Thomas Robson*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am employed at the Dudley Colliery as engineer; my duties were above ground; Mr. Humphreys was my superior; the practice at the mine was to stop the fan from Saturday till Monday morning, and from 4 p.m. till 9 p.m. every other day; that was when the pit was not working; it was the duty of the fan-driver, Arthur, to look after the water-gauge in the fan engine-room; it was his duty to make an entry in some book with regard to it; the book was kept in the fan-house; I do not think I gave him instructions about it; he got his instructions from the office; I showed him how to read it; he never told me he did not understand it; Mr. Humphreys was in charge above ground on the morning of the explosion, and Hindmarsh below: I was not at the fan that morning before the explosion; the water-gauge is used for registering the pressure of air; it could have been done without well enough.

By Mr. Atkinson: My duties sometimes take me underground; I had not been underground on the morning of the explosion; the fan was not damaged at all by the explosion; the top of the fan shaft was lifted off.

By Mr. Curley: I gave Arthur no particular instructions that particular week-end; the fan-drivers had a general order as to when to stop the fan and start it; those instructions came from the manager.

By Mr. Baker: I conveyed the manager's instructions to the fan-drivers; Arthur has always been a careful boy in the performance of his duties; I saw him on the Sunday before the explosion; the fan was started at 9 p.m. on Sunday when the pit was working, and at 6 a.m. on Monday when not working; when the pit was to work on the Monday morning the fan was started at 9 p.m. on Sunday; the fan-driver could reckon the revolutions of the fan by his watch without seeing the water-gauge.

By Mr. Curley: I went to the mine at 7.15 a.m. on the 21st March—the date of the explosion. Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 15th day of

August, 1898, before me,—
C. G. WADE.

THOMAS ROBSON.

Court adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow.
Court-house, Newcastle, 15th August, 1898.

Inquiry resumed at 10 a.m. this 16th August, 1898.

A plan of the Colliery workings is put in and marked "A."

This deponent, *William Williams*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a deputy employed at the Dudley Colliery; in March last I was a shiftman; I have been engaged in mining for twenty years, both in this country and in the old country; I have been at Dudley since it was a colliery—about six years ago; I worked in Bob's heading, and in the first and second right-hand districts; that was when I was cutting coal; I have been in Nigger's heading on other occasions; when I was not cutting coal I was shiftman; I have met with small portions of gas in the mine on a few occasions extending over a period of eighteen months back; there may have been a little more gas accumulating in Bob's heading than in other parts of the mine; that is only my opinion; I have worked with a safety-lamp on special occasions; that was on the left hand of the pit bottom; that was about five or six months ago; it was in the first left—what is known as behind the pump (*witness marks in blue pencil about the place he refers to*); I worked there on the whole for three days; it was a bord leading to an old cross-cut, and gas or water was expected to be met with, and we shiftmen were sent there occasionally with a safety-lamp to tap it; I met with no gas there although I tested for it; two other men worked there also; I used the safety-lamp on no other occasion before the explosion; there were only two places in the mine in which I met with gas, and then only in small quantities; one was in the front heading of the second right hand (*witness marks about the spot on plan*); that was about eighteen months ago; I was driving the headings at the time; the gas showed after firing a shot—very shortly after firing; I waited some short time—about a minute—before going back to the face; on going back to the face, having the lamp too close to the roof, the gas lit up for a few inches; I took off my cap and put it out; on another occasion I met with gas in Bob's heading (*witness marks about spot on plan*); that was during the week prior to the explosion; the gas lit up there after firing a shot in the same manner as on the other occasion described by me; there was bratticing in both these places; both the flareups were in the face; the bratticing may have been 3 or 4 or 5 yards from the face at the time; in the heading in the second right hand the bratticing would be not more than 2 or 3 yards from the face, as close as we could get it and be able to work; at different times the gas would light at the drill-holes; in drilling the hole before the shot was fired the lamp would be taken too close to it and the gas would light up from the hole; after a few minutes the gas disappears; the coal was always giving off a certain amount of gas; the gas lit up three or four times in the second right heading; I put it out with my cap on each occasion; it always lit up under the same circumstances—after a shot; Hindmarsh's body was found in the bord next to that in Bob's heading in which I saw the gas light up; I told the deputy about the flareup in Bob's heading, but made no formal report of it; I did not intend that he should take any action on it; it was Thomas Hetherington I told of it; that was shortly after the gas had lit up; he came into the bord shortly after, and I told him of it; I went on working; there was nothing required to be done in the bord on account of the gas; when I was shiftman in March last I used to go down to work at 10.30 p.m.; the deputy went down about 10 p.m. with a safety-lamp; we generally waited in the cabin till the deputy came back to us (*cabin pointed out on plan*); there was a book kept in the cabin; there was also a deputy's bord; that was further out from the cabin, on the shaft side of the first left; when the deputy came back to us he would send the men to the different parts of the pit, or give instructions as to what work was to be done in the night; the men who were cutting coal were sent to their parts of the mine, and the water-balers were employed for one, two, or three hours in work on the main road, after which they would go to their various bords to bale out; the deputy would examine the places where the men had to work and the surrounding parts of the mine, but not the whole of the mine, before the men went to work; I know the two men Salt and Green; I have heard something about gas having been seen in their bords; I put some brattice up in them under instructions from Hetherington, the deputy; the brattice may have been about 6 yards from the face, not more, when I went into the bord; I took it to within a yard of the face; I think that was at the beginning of the week, prior to the explosion; the bord was No. 91; I last worked in the pit on the Friday night prior to the explosion; I was in Nigger's heading; I was laying a road up one of the bords and setting a few props in the main heading; I was making

making a turn in the bord I have marked with blue dots and setting props along the heading to a point marked with a blue cross; I went up the heading to within two bords of where Green's body was found; I was not in any other bord that night nor the following morning; I had been in other bords in Nigger's heading within a fortnight previous to that; my duties took me into most of the bords in that heading, but I cannot say how many or which; there was bratticing in all of them except that in which I laid the road; that part of the pit had been standing for some time—certainly for four or five months; I do not remember seeing any cross props in front of any of the bords, but there were cross props inside the bords from the turn; I went inside those under instructions from the deputies; I carried a naked light on those occasions, I knew those fences meant that nobody was to go into those bords except under instructions from an official; I knew it meant danger to go inside those fences; they were taken off sometimes under instructions from the officials; during the fortnight prior to the explosion I took down some of those fences under instructions from the officials; the deputy had been in before me; I crossed some of the fences with a naked light; on the night of 18th March last the ventilation was very satisfactory in my opinion; rails were laid to the bottom of the heading where I was putting the turn that night; a man named John Grant was with me that night; I finally left the mine on the morning of the 19th March last.

By Mr. Atkinson: I have seen a great portion of the pit since the explosion; before the pit was closed down I saw part of the left hand behind the pump; since the pit was re-opened I have only been on the main road on the left-hand side; on the right-hand side I have travelled along the road where the fires have been, and into some of the headings there, and into the narrow bord which leads to the fan shaft; I have been up the two headings back and front in the second right; I have been in the top bords on the right-hand side, also in both headings, and in the bords to the left from the fan pit; I have been along the first gannin bord from the left but not into any of the bords to the left of the first gannin bord; since I have occupied the position of deputy I have examined for gas in different parts of the mine; I have not met with gas in any place where ventilation has been restored; I have met with some in places where ventilation has not been restored; that is in the two main headings on the second right hand; I have met with the gas about 3 yards from the face of each heading; at that time the ventilation had been deranged by the bratticing being knocked down; the gas showed a flame on the lamp but did not explode; I would not describe the gas as very sharp; I have only seen gas since in those two headings; I have examined the face of other places for the purpose of finding gas; I have not been in Bob's heading since the pit was re-opened; from what I have seen of the pit I think that the coal-dust had a great deal to do with the explosion; I have seen coke-dust on the skips since the re-opening; I noticed it on the flats in the second right hand; there were two skips of coal standing there, and it was on that coal that I noticed it; I noticed it more particularly on the sides of the skips; I had never been down a pit after an explosion before; when I was a miner at Dudley I would see the mark in the bord to show it had been examined and the date; as a deputy I think it important that I should mark the date of examination in a place where the men had to follow.

By Mr. Curley: The cabin was the general place for the shiftmen to wait for the deputy, but a deputy might tell the men to go further in to meet him; they would go as far as the crosscut; the regular practice was to meet him at the cabin; the men would understand that as the station, unless otherwise instructed; the coal-getters were not always working in the same place; when they were working in Bob's heading he would tell them to go to the flat to meet him; that flat was about the narrow bord; I never saw a danger-board placed at that flat; I have gone there myself; I worked a little on the second right-hand side of the mine as a shiftman; I used to wait for the deputy at the cabin or at one of the flats (*flats marked with letter "F" by witness on plan*); I never saw any danger-boards at either of those places; it was nothing for the men to take exception to that they should light up the gas at times; I might have said at the Coroner's inquest that the men used to light up the gas for fun at times; I had no special conversation with Young or Hetherington about gas in the mine; when I was told by the deputy to put the bratticing in the bord, he told me he had seen gas there; that was the only place in the mine to which I was sent to brattice up on account of gas having been found there; when I was sent inside the danger props I did not ask the deputy to remove the props before I passed them.

By Mr. Baker: I know that Dudley was always considered a well ventilated mine; all the bords in the mine were well bratticed to my knowledge; as far as I knew the ventilation reached all the bords in the mine; none of the miners ever complained, to my knowledge, of any want of ventilation; there were about 100 bords in the mine; there were two men to each bord; except in the instance I have spoken of, I heard no complaint of gas in the mine from the men; I am quite satisfied that any complaint from the men would be attended to; the deputies were good officers; the ventilation in some parts of the mine was so strong that one could not keep a naked light burning.

By Commissioner: I allowed a minute to elapse after the shot had been fired before going to the face; that was not sufficient time to allow after the shot firing; I admit it was wrong on my part to do so; I took the risk of meeting with gas on that occasion; I did not consider I ran much risk in going back so soon, as over 200 shots had been fired in three months, and only three had flared up after the firing of the shot; I took the "off chance" in the matter; if I had waited a little longer probably what little gas there was would have dissipated; when I went past the cross-rails, at the instance of the deputy, I was aware he had examined the places he sent me to; I did not see him examine them, but he told me he had.

By Mr. Baker: I did not consider the gas I met with in the mine during the six years I was there at all dangerous to life; it was always put out with the cap.

By Commissioner: Part of the Dudley mine was dry and part wet; Nigger's heading was dry; Bob's heading had a little water in it; Nigger's heading was dusty, but not Bob's heading; I am not sure that the bord I was sent to brattice up was No. 91.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 16th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

This deponent, *John Grant*, on his oath, states:—I am a deputy employed at the Dudley Colliery; before the explosion I was employed there as a miner and shiftman; I have been employed at the colliery about six years; I was there soon after the colliery started; before the explosion I had been in the pit on the night of the 18th March last, leaving on the morning of the 19th March; I was working in Nigger's heading;

heading; I was with Williams; I did not go past the bord next to that in which we were laying the turn; two nights in the previous week I had been working with Williams in Bob's heading; I was working at the place marked by Williams with the cross on the plan; I saw a little gas in that bord; we fired a shot, and the gas flared up a little afterwards at our caps when we were getting the judd down from the roof; Williams threw a little small coal at it and put it out; it was nothing; I have seen a little gas on other occasions, not often; the brattice was pretty well up to the face in the bord in which I saw the gas I have spoken of; it may have been within 3 or 4 yards off the face; I have never received instructions to report the presence of inflammable gas when found; I knew it was my duty to do so; I have looked at the special rules of the colliery, but cannot remember whether there was any rule to that effect among them; I did not know definitely, as a miner, that I had to report the presence of gas in the mine; I knew it was a practice to report the presence of gas; I did not report the gas in Bob's heading; I do not remember whether I have reported the presence of gas in the mine or not; I may have seen bigger flare-ups than that in Bob's heading; I did not report them; I did not consider the explosions of gas I saw serious enough to report them; I did not give any heed to the explosions I saw.

By Mr. Atkinson: I know now that it is my duty to report any gas I may find; I have been of the opinion that the small explosions I have seen were of little importance; I cannot say what I consider a sufficiently dangerous amount of gas to report; if I had a bord 30 yards up, and met with gas 15 yards up, I would think that of sufficient importance to report; if I found gas within 5 yards of the face, I would consider that sufficiently important to report; I am aware that a very small quantity of gas in a dry mine like Dudley would cause disastrous results; I now appreciate the importance of reporting any quantity of gas found in the mine, large or small; I was on the night-shift before the explosion, and used to go down about 11 p.m.; I generally met the deputy so far back on his way to the shaft; I had only been working there for about a week before the explosion, after an absence of about twelve months; during that week Hetherington was the deputy for the night-shift; when I met the deputy he was usually carrying a safety-lamp; I do not remember his saying anything to me; if there was nothing wrong he would not say anything to the men when he met them; two nights that week I was cutting coal in Bob's heading; I have been supplied with a copy of the special rules of the colliery; I have read them; I have read them partly since the explosion, but not all; I consider it the duty of every miner to make himself acquainted with those rules; during the latter part of the shift—after seeing the deputy with the safety-lamp—he generally carried a naked light.

By Mr. Curley: I have worked in two mines where gas was given off before coming to this country; one was at Framwellgate Moor, in the county of Durham; we used safety-lamps there; I do not know what the depth of that shaft was; I think it was a little deeper than Dudley; when we met with the gas in Dudley, Williams did not make any remark to me that it should be reported, if my memory serves me right; I know it is part of a miner's duty to report the presence of gas in the mine when it was serious enough to report; I never regarded the gas in Dudley as serious enough to report; besides Bob's headings, I have seen gas in other parts of Dudley; I think it was in the second right-hand heading of the main heading; it flared up on that occasion; that was at the face; I can only remember seeing the gas after the firing of the shot, and we were going in to cut the judd; sometimes we would put our lamps down as we went in, other times we would carry them in our caps and approach the face carefully and slowly; we had not always to put our lamps down, as we only occasionally met a blower; we put our lamps down for fear we would get our faces singed; we used to put down our lamps if we thought there was room behind the judd for gas to accumulate that might singe us; I knew there was a blower there on one occasion; we could hear the gas hissing from the coal; I never reported any of these discoveries of gas.

By Mr. Baker: If there is any gas about at all, I expect to find it at the headings; all the bords in which I worked were well bratticed, and I had always plenty of ventilation; I said at the coroner's inquest that Dudley enjoyed the confidence of the miners as the best ventilated colliery in the district; I have never heard any complaints from any of the men as to want of ventilation or accumulation of gas; as far as I could judge, the deputies always set things right if any complaint were made.

By Mr. Brown: Very often the "hissing noise" of the gas is a very mild soft noise; the word "blower" was a very strong one to use in the connection.

By Commissioner: The noise made by a blower would vary according to the amount of the gas and the pressure; it was two years ago that I saw the gas in Dudley on other occasions than that in Bob's heading. After firing the shot in Bob's heading—when I saw the gas there—I waited about a minute before going to the face again; I did not think there was a possibility of gas being accumulated behind the judd in Bob's heading on that occasion; there is always a possibility of gas accumulating behind judd under such circumstances; we waited a few minutes, and not only a minute, after firing the shot before going to the face again; we waited those few minutes to give the smoke time to get out; most of the smoke had got out when we went back.

JOHN GRANT.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 16th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

This deponent, *Alfred Green*, on his oath, states:—I am a shiftman employed at Dudley Colliery, and was so employed at the time of the explosion; just before the explosion I was mate with a man named Salt; we were working in the bottom bord of Bob's heading; we were working in that bord for some time; I saw gas there on one occasion about nine or ten days before the explosion (*witness marks bord on plan marked "O"*); we were both at work; we saw the gas after firing the shot; portion of the coal stood up on the rib and the gas lit up there (*Mr. Atkinson explains that the bord in which this occurred is not shown on the plan put in and not holed*); the bord was about 30 yards up at the time; shortly after firing the shot we went up to the face again; we went to take down the coal that was hanging and the gas lit; it went out very quickly; we asked the deputy Hetherington for some canvas and he sent the witness Williams with some which was put up in the bord at once; the brattice was 14 or 15 feet from the face at the time. He brought it to within about 5 feet of the face; about five months prior to that I had seen gas in bord 54 in Noble's heading (*bord marked "O" on plan*); we had fired a shot there and as we were taking the coal down from the roof the gas lit; we were close up to the face in both Bob's heading and Noble's heading when the gas fired; the brattice was about 10 or 12 feet.

feet from the face when the gas lit in Noble's heading; it was wet in that particular bord in Bob's heading; those are the only two occasions to speak of that I have come across gas in the mine; I have come across gas at other times in less quantities—not more than four or five times at the most; the gas lit up on those occasions, but went out again of its own accord.

By Mr. Atkinson: I have always reported gas to the deputy whether I have found it in large or small quantities; I know it is my duty to do so under the special rules; I have a copy of those rules and have read a good part of them; I was working in the night-shift before the explosion; I cannot say whether the deputy made a report in his book of his examination before we went to our places; I did not know that as a worker I had the right to see his report before I went to my working place; he examined the places and told us they were all right and we went to our work; it was not the custom of the men to ask to see the report of the deputy before they went to their work; the deputy was always carrying a safety-lamp when I met him on going in; when he came round during the shift he had a safety-lamp also; I have seen the deputies with a tallow lamp during the shift, but it was never lighted, and he was carrying a lighted safety-lamp.

By Mr. Curley: When the gas exploded in Bob's heading my mate was holding his lamp up to see if the coal was hanging; in Noble's heading the lamp was 7 or 8 inches from the roof when the gas lit; I was working night-shift between four and five months before the explosion; when we went down the mine to meet the deputy we waited on a little flat for him before going to the working places; there was a deputy's board at the pit bottom to show whether the mine was all right or not; there was no board at this flat; the flare-up in Bob's heading was not much; I consider a small quantity of gas in a mine a serious matter; I used to go down to my work at 10 p.m.; it took me from thirty to forty minutes to reach my working place.

By Mr. Baker: All the bords in which I worked were well bratticed, and there was plenty ventilation; seeing that, I did not consider there was any danger at all from the small quantity of gas I saw in some of them.

By Commissioner: The presence of coal-dust in the mine would increase the danger from the presence of gas in the mine.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 16th day of }
August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

ALFRED GREEN.

This deponent, *Thomas Durham*, on his oath, states:—I am a miner at Dudley Colliery; I am in charge of a shift there now; in March last I was a miner there; I have seen a little gas in the mine; that was when I was a deputy there before the explosion; I have seen gas there—in the right-hand side of the narrow bords beyond the second right; I saw it with the safety-lamp going my rounds as a deputy; I saw a little in different places; it was nothing to speak of; it was a Davy lamp I used; I do not know what percentage of gas it would show; the bords were bratticed where I saw the gas; when I was deputy for the night-shift I used to meet some of the men at the pit bottom, and some further in; I used to have different stations for them; they were all on the main intake on the main road.

By Mr. Atkinson: I know the general rule referring to the stations; the station where I signed my report was at the pit bottom; all the men had to pass that to get to their places; that was the station fixed in accordance with the general rule 4; when the pit was working I always met the men at the bottom of the pit; the other stations were for the night-shift men—the water balers; I have worked in collieries in the county of Durham, in England; I worked at St. Helen's in that county; there were deputies at every flat in that colliery.

By Mr. Curley: I was not a deputy before Hetherington was appointed; I was last employed at Dudley as a deputy about March, 1897; I had no men working on the left-hand side of the mine then; the water balers, and sometimes a couple of shiftmen, were all I had employed on the night-shift then; I examined only the places where they had to work, and not the whole of the mine before they started their work; I made my general examination of the mine after 3 o'clock in the morning; I have seen gas in the "straight-up" and in the second right hand, and in the back heading adjoining the second right hand; the first right hand was worked out; I never had occasion to go into that part; I never went in there; I saw only a very little gas in the left-hand side of the mine; that was in Bob's heading; it showed on the lamp; when it showed on the lamp like that I put more canvas up and cleaned it out; I have put up cross rails till I had time to go back again.

By Commissioner: When I saw the gas the brattices was about 10 feet from the face; I put on 6 feet more when I saw the gas; It was a bord in which the men were working.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 16th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

THOMAS DURHAM.

This deponent, *John Thwaites*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a miner, with 36 years' experience; I have worked at Dudley a little over two years; I have seen gas in that pit—a very little; I saw it on two occasions; the first was in bord 96, on the second left hand; that was in Nigger's heading district; it was in the second left hand in the bord next to McNamara's; when we had been out for some time and had gone in again with our lamps the gas lit up in one corner; we had been working in the bord and gone out for about half an hour; it was at the face that the gas lit up; there was bratticing in the bord about 4 or 5 yards from the face; I think it must have been bord 76, and not 96, I was working in at the time; the gas was close to the roof; I have seen gas on another occasion about three months before the explosion; that was in 24 board on the right hand (*spot marked with letter "T"*); that was caused by somebody closing the air regulator; that was about the third bord from ours; that man was prosecuted for a breach of the Act; I felt it close and warm in the bord before the gas lit for a couple of hours; I made no inquiries as to the cause of the warmth; about 9 o'clock Hindmarsh came in and asked us what the air was like; we told him we had felt it close and warm; he told us that some man had closed the ventilator and cut the air off; he said he had sent the man home and work like that would have to be stopped.

By

By Mr. Atkinson : I had a copy of the special rules and read them ; I knew it was part of my duty to report any gas I met with, and always did so ; I reported the gas in 76 bord.

By Mr. Curley : It was between 8 and 9 o'clock that the gas fired on the second occasion ; I cannot remember whether the mine had been working the previous day ; I cannot say in what part of the week it was.

By Mr. Baker : I worked in the mine for two years and only saw gas there on the two occasions ; all the bords I worked in were well bratticed, and had a good supply of air ; on one occasion Mr. Humphreys, the manager, came into one of the bords and said the bratticing would have to be taken closer to the face ; I said there was plenty air there, but he said that did not matter, it would have to be taken up to the face ; in all my experience I have never worked in a better ventilated colliery.

By Mr. Brown : During the two years I was at Dudley the places were ballotted for seven or eight times ; I was pretty well all over the mine during the two years I was there, except in the first left ; at the Stockton inquiry I acted as one of the assessors ; all the officials at Dudley were capable and intelligent men, willing to do anything in their power to make everything go smoothly and correctly.

By Commissioner : After seeing the gas in 76 bord the brattice was carried to within a couple of yards of the face.

JOHN THWAITES.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 16th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

This deponent, *Thomas Platten*, on his oath, states :—I am a deputy fireman at the Burwood Colliery ; I have worked in the Dudley pit ; I was there when it first started ; there was a bit of gas in the mine then ; we worked with Davy lamps till we had a communication between the two shafts and then we worked with naked lights ; I was a deputy at Dudley over five years ago ; I came across gas then in making my examination as a deputy ; I found gas there on the left-hand side of the mine ; I found gas in the headings in the first left and in the rise bords beyond the second left : I also found gas in the narrow bords marked " P " on the plan above the second left ; that was before the men went in to work ; I used to go down at 2 a.m., and commence my examination as soon as I went down ; there was bratticing in the bords in which I found gas ; very often the brattice was disarranged when I saw the gas in the bord ; sometimes the canvas doors would get worn and torn when the skip was going through them ; the brattice would not get disarranged when nobody was working ; I could not say how long the fan had been going when I found the gas ; it was supposed to be going before I went down ; it would be at least half-an-hour after I went down that I found the gas ; I went down the pit after the explosion the same evening ; I went along the first left hand ; I saw some bark burning on the floor and extinguished it ; I did not notice any props there at the time ; there was some smoke there ; when I noticed the gas in the mine I replaced the brattice at once ; I had to put on fresh brattice, renew the canvas doors that had been displaced ; I do not remember ever taking the brattice nearer the face on any of those occasions ; the gas showed sometimes a half-inch on the lamp, sometimes an inch.

By Mr. Atkinson : I said at the Coroner's inquest that I never experienced any danger from these small accumulations of gas ; if I saw one yard of gas in the bord I would look upon it as dangerous ; there may not have been a large quantity of gas in the mine on the morning of the explosion ; it may have started in a small way and gathered force as it went by reason of the coal-dust ; I attribute most of the damage caused by the explosion to the force of coal-dust ; I now consider that a small accumulation of gas in a mine is dangerous.

By Mr. Curley : It generally took me four hours to complete my examination of the mine ; I examined every working place in the colliery ; when the brattice was disarranged I found these accumulations of gas even with the fan going ; I had no experience of the mine for five years prior to the explosion ; I have no knowledge of the condition of the mine at the date of the explosion ; as a mine is developed the gas has a tendency to drain out.

By Commissioner : I cannot give any decided opinion as to whether the stoppage of the fan for 48 hours would tend to cause an accumulation of gas at the time I was deputy.

By Mr. Baker : I did not see any dangerous accumulation of gas in Dudley while I was there, because the air supply was so good that it would take off the small quantity of gas I saw there ; the officials all attended to any request of the men.

By Mr. Brown : I have not read a great deal of literature on coal-mining operations.

By Commissioner : I know that if coal-dust is present in a mine it requires less gas to cause an explosion than if there were no coal-dust.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 16th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

THOMAS PLATTON.

This deponent, *Richard Dryden*, on his oath, states :—I am a miner employed at Dudley Colliery ; I have been employed there for five years ; on one or two occasions I have come across gas in the mine ; that was in bord 87 in Kate's heading close to the intake air-way ; that was about fifteen months ago ; it was after firing a shot ; the shot lit the gas ; I only saw the gas under those circumstances on the one occasion ; I know there was a little gas in the mine.

By Mr. Atkinson : I had a copy of the special rules and knew it was duty to report any gas that I came across ; I would not report any slight indication of gas that I saw.

By Commissioner : I did not report the gas I saw at the drill-hole of which I have spoken.

By Mr. Curley : Young and Hetherington were the deputies at the mine at the time I speak of ; they told us that we had to report anything wrong ; I did not report the gas I saw because I thought it was of no consequence ; it was such a slight matter ; Kate's heading is not far from Nigger's heading ; my lamp was placed on the prop on the roadside when I was drilling the shot-hole ; I worked in Kate's heading

heading the straight on narrow bord and the first and second right; the whole shift worked with a mate; my brother worked with me at this particular time; I have never heard him speak of seeing gas in the mine when I have been away from it; the brattice was taken from 6 to 9 feet from the face.

By Mr. Baker: It would be impossible to work with the brattice less than 6 feet from the face.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 16th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

R. C. DRYDEN.

This deponent, *Richard Parker*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a miner employed at Dudley Colliery; I have worked there for seven years, off and on; I have seen gas in the mine; I have seen less during the last two years than formerly; it gave off a good deal in the early days; I saw gas in 34 bord in the second right hand three weeks before the explosion; I had just drilled a hole, and was about to light it, when I saw the flash of the gas; I was stooping down at the time to light the fuse, and I had my lamp in my hand; I knocked the gas out with my cap; the brattice was within 5 or 6 feet of the face; I reported it to the deputy—Hetherington, I think—and he put 3 feet more canvas on; I reported it the next morning, and he put up the brattice soon after I had told him; he had been round on examination when I saw him; that was about 11 a.m. when I saw the gas; Hetherington had been round on his examination when I saw the gas; I saw gas in that bord on another occasion; in the early days of the mine I had seen gas in the crosscut; the bord in which I saw the gas was 22 feet up.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 16th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

RICHARD PARKER.

This deponent, *William Ward*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a miner employed at Dudley; I was working there before the explosion; I was mates with Parker; I have seen gas in the mine on two occasions; I saw it in No. 33 bord, second right hand, a few days before the explosion; Parker was with me at the time; Parker was lighting a fuse at the time the gas lit up; about fourteen days before that I saw gas in the same bord; it lit up in the same way as the fuse was being lighted; there was not much of a flame from the gas; Parker put it out with his hat; it was reported, and more canvas was put in to bring the bratticing closer to the face; on the other occasion the gas was reported and more brattice was put in the bord; it was the place of the deputy to put up the brattice; he used to put it up when it was asked for, and also whenever it was required.

By Mr. Atkinson: I have a copy of the special rules of the colliery, and have read them; prior to the explosion I always worked with a naked light.

By Mr. Curley: I have worked in the mine since the explosion in the labour work; I was present when Hindmarsh's body was found; it was lying flat on the back; there was a fall 2½ feet or 3 feet thick on top of him; I was present while this was removed from the body; it was done with the greatest care to prevent any injury to the body; the whole body was covered; it might have happened that one of the tools used in removing the fall touched the body; the right arm was extended above his head, and the left lying by his side; the body was lying close to the rail with one arm on the rail; the body was very much decomposed; I examined the body and face; I could not recognise any of his features; I could not say whether the lips were pink or not; everything was black to me; there was a boot in his right hand, and the other boot close to it; the part of the mine in which the body was found was Bob's heading; the left hand was missing; we searched for it; the hand was missing from the wrist, and only the bone of the left arm was left, the flesh having decomposed from it; there was a pair of drawers on the body, and a portion of one leg of his trousers; he had portion of a shirt or flannel on; I did not notice any lamp about; Henwood, Tonkin, John Jackson, and Robertson were with me at the time the body was found; the wrist-bone of the left arm had the appearance of having been crushed; I did not notice any signs of burning on the body or clothing; I did not notice anything about there that would indicate to me that there had been fire there; I was not present at the finding of any of the other bodies; I saw the bodies of Cooke and Dunn after they had been found; they showed no signs of burning; Cooke had all his working clothes on; Cooke's body was not so much decomposed as Hindmarsh's, and Dunn's was about the same as Hindmarsh's; I could not say whether any of them had died from carbon monoxide poisoning, or from burns, from what I saw; I saw the bodies of Humphreys, Haddon, and McDougall, that were recovered among the first lot.

By Commissioner: I saw no signs of Hindmarsh's cap or hat; we took the fall from his body with our hands and shovels; it consisted of iron-stone and shale; we cleared a space of six feet all round the body; there was no fall under the body; it was lying on the floor; we looked carefully for the missing hand; the head was lying away from the main road; a little more has been cleared there since the day we found the body.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 16th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

WILLIAM WARD.

This deponent, *John Sumner*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a miner employed at Dudley; in January last, I was working near Nigger's heading, driving through to Kate's heading; I was also in the three bords marked "S" in Nigger's heading; we went in there to get some timber; there were two props crosswise at the entrance to one of the bords I went into; such props are put up as a sign of danger at times; that was the third bord from the face; I went in a yard or so past the cross-rails; I took a prop out of that bord; I saw some bratticing there; It went as far as I went into the bord; the cross-rails were about 8 yards in; I went pretty well to the face of the other two bords; there was bratticing in both of those; I had a naked light at the time; I have met with a little gas in the gannin bord in Bob's heading (marked "S" on plan); I had the light on my cap, and when I stood up the gas flared; I got it out as quickly as I could by throwing a shovel of small coal at it; there was bratticing there to within 2 or 3 yards of the face; I had been at work then about six hours; I do not think I had

fired a shot before that; I had taken some coal from the roof about half an hour before that; if the air current had been blowing on the face it should have blown the gas away; I did not report that gas; I did not know of the rule with regard to reporting gas.

By Mr. Curley: I was getting coal at that particular time; I had never found gas there before that; I was working with John Jones; he never said anything to me about having found gas in my absence; I did not tell the deputy next day about the gas.

By Mr. Baker: I did not consider the small quantity of gas that I saw of any consequence.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 16th day }
of August, 1898, before me.—

JOHN SUMNER.

C. G. WADE.

Court adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow.

Court-house, Newcastle, 16th August, 1898.

Inquiry resumed at 10 a.m. this 17th day of August, 1898, Court-house, Newcastle.

This deponent, *Charles Sumner*, on his oath, states as follows:—I am a wheeler employed at the Dudley Colliery; I am a brother of the witness John Sumner; I have been employed at Dudley for over two years; about June, 1897, I was employed at Nigger's heading as a wheeler; I was working there for six months; I knocked off work there about the end of June, 1897; I never saw any gas there; the bords were well bratticed up to the face; I have seen gas in the second right-hand heading; I only saw it on one occasion; a shot had been fired and the rib was standing, and the miners went back to the face as soon as the shot was fired; that would be about dinner-time; the gas lit up and they put it out; that was the only time I saw gas light in the mine; I was in Nigger's heading last October filling slack; the pit was not working then; I was in all the bords in the heading right up to the face; I saw cross-rails in one bord, the third or fourth from the bottom on the left-hand side going down; the cross timber was on the turn of the bord; I went into the bord right up to the face past the cross-rails; I had no idea what they meant; the placing of the cross-rails in a bord sometimes means one is not to go into the bord; they mean danger of some kind; I went in because the deputy went in and said all the places were safe; I did not see him examine the places.

By Mr. Atkinson: We waited on the main road outside the cross-cut door while he went in and examined the places; he said nothing about the fence being in one of the bords; he just told us that all the places were safe; that was Deputy Young; I am employed at the pit bottom at Dudley Colliery now; I have had a copy of the special rules, but have not read them.

By Mr. Curley: I expect it is a part of my duty to make myself acquainted with the special rules; I have worked in Bob's heading; I saw no gas there; a man named Flavel was working with me there; I have never heard him say he saw gas there; on some occasions we waited on the flat for the deputy in Bob's heading.

By Mr. Baker: We take no notice of the cross-rails in the bord unless there is a board up also marked "No road"; the cross-rails are sometimes put up to keep the horses out of the bords; in any dangerous place there was a board across the head of the bord, and also the board with "No road" on it; the fact of seeing the cross-rails alone did not indicate danger to me.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 17th day }
of August, 1898, before me.—

C. SUMNER.

C. G. WADE.

This deponent, *John Binney*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a blacksmith employed at Dudley Colliery; I was formerly employed there as a miner; I first worked there in 1891, and worked for about nine months; I went back there again as a miner in 1893, and worked till 1896, when I came to the surface, and have worked there since; after the communication had been made between the two shafts, I was working in the first left behind the pump; I came across no gas there; it was pretty close to the down-cast; the fan was not at work at that time; I afterwards worked in the second left; I think I have been pretty well all over the pit during the time I was working there; I never came across any gas the whole time I was there; I was employed in getting coal for the engine; I was cutting the coal myself; the pit was not working then; at that time the overman was working with me; he used to examine the places with a safety-lamp while I remained in the heading in the main in-take; I never accompanied him on any of these inspections; I do not remember saying at the Coroner's inquest that I sometimes accompanied him on his inspections; I remember saying I went down the pit with him sometimes.

By Mr. Atkinson: I worked in the pit for about nine months before the connection was made between the shafts; I used a safety-lamp then; during that time all the men used safety-lamps; I suppose they used them because there was no connection between the shafts, and they expected to find gas there; I myself have never seen gas in Dudley; I never considered it my duty to look for it; I know that before the connection was made the deputy sometimes found gas in the mine.

By Mr. Curley: I only worked in the one bord in the second left; my brother was the overman at the time; I never heard him say he had seen any gas there; the overman used to examine the bord we had to work in before we went to work in it; he did not examine any other bords.

By Mr. Baker: I have seen the manager, Mr. Humphreys, in the pit; he used to be down every day when I was working there; I saw him make one examination with a safety-lamp; that was before the crosscut was holed.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 17th day }
of August, 1898, before me.—

JOHN BINNEY.

C. G. WADE.

This deponent, *James Fletcher*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a miner employed at Dudley; I have been there for four years; I first worked in the second right; I came across a little gas there; I was there for three months; the gas lit after a shot had been fired; a little of the roof would hang, and the gas accumulate behind it; it would light at the roof; we used to wait about a couple of minutes after firing the shot before going back to the face; there would be very little smoke about at the time; there was good air there which drove it out; the brattice was about 6 feet from the face; the gas lit more than once

once in that heading; I then worked in the second left; I was in the heading; I saw a little gas there at different times but of no consequence; I saw it under the same circumstances after a shot had been fired, and we had gone back to the face; this was all before the pit closed down in 1893; after the pit was opened again I worked in the first left at the pit bottom; I saw a little gas there after a shot had been fired; I know a man named Harrison; I was working two bords away from him in the second right; I would be about 50 yards away from him; in the quarter before the pit exploded I spoke to Hindmarsh, and he told me that Harrison had sent for him, as he had been burnt; I changed places with Harrison afterwards.

By Mr. Atkinson: I remember giving evidence at the Coroner's inquest, and saying "in every place I worked I came across a little gas"; I never came across what I considered a dangerous quantity of gas; I have a copy of the special rules, and have looked at them often; I generally reported the gas that I saw; I did not do so every time I saw it; I know I should have reported it every time I saw it.

By Mr. Curley: My brother worked with me when I was changed with Harrison; I saw a little gas in that bord after a shot had been fired; I reported it to Hindmarsh; when I went into Harrison's place the brattice was within 5 or 6 feet of the face; before the pit closed down in 1893 the brattice used to be 3 or 4 yards from the face in the places where I worked; since then it has been brought up to within 5 or 6 feet of the face; I never saw gas light up in my place when I went into it first thing in the morning.

By Mr. Brown: I saw Harrison the day after he said he had been burnt; he was not burnt at all; it is not an unusual thing for miners to change places after the cavil.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 17th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

his
JAMES X FLETCHER.
mark.

This deponent, *Thomas Horsfield*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a miner employed at Dudley Colliery; I was not working there at the time of the explosion; I first went there in May, 1896, and remained there till August, 1897; I worked in the first right, the second right, and Nigger's heading; I worked in bords 7 and 20 in the first right and 53 and 49 in the second right, and bord 87 in Nigger's heading; I did not see any sign of gas in any place I worked in; I have heard it said that there was gas in the mine; I heard that during the eighteen months I worked there.

By Mr. Atkinson: I have worked in the pit since the explosion, in the second right straight along the main road and in the crosscut; I did not clean up any bricks between the pit bottom and the crosscut; I cleaned up along the second right-hand in the back return; I was cleaning up the water-gutters; I came across no bricks there; I came across some pieces of door in the crosscut; I could not form any idea where that door had come from.

By Mr. Curley: The brattice was within 3 or 4 yards of the face in the places in which I worked; my brother worked with me; he has not worked at Dudley so long as myself.

By Mr. Baker: I worked in Nigger's heading; the bords there were bratticed.

By Commissioner: I only worked in one bord in Nigger's heading.

By Mr. Baker: The bords I had to pass were bratticed, but I could not tell how far up.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 17th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

THOMAS HORSMFIELD.

This deponent, *William Teasdale*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a miner, and was employed at Dudley Colliery for about twelve months before the explosion; I first worked in bord 88 in Nigger's heading; I worked in that place for two months; I next worked in the second right-hand in bord 10; I then worked in bord 67 in the second left, and in bord 42 in the second right; I never saw any gas the whole time I was in the place.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 17th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

his
WILLIAM X TEASDALE.
mark.

This deponent, *William McDougall*, on his oath, states:—I have been a miner at Dudley on and off for about five years; in the early part of 1897 I was working in No. 91 bord in Nigger's heading; I worked there about six weeks (*bord marked "M" on plan*); I saw no gas there; I left Dudley for between ten and eleven months; when I went back I worked in the second right bord, No. 39; I saw traces of gas there; it lit when I was drilling a hole; I was standing alongside the hole, which was about breast high; I saw it when I was cleaning out the hole; the gas went out as soon as it lit; it was just a flash, and then out again; that happened once or twice with me in that bord; I worked in no other place after that; I was there at the time of the explosion; I know where Harrison worked; he worked with me at the time of the explosion.

By Mr. Atkinson: I lost a son in the explosion; as far as I could see his body was not burnt; I examined his body pretty carefully, and could see no traces of burns; I am working in the mine now; I have not been up as far as the main narrow bords, past the second right-hand heading; I have not worked in the crosscut since the explosion; I have worked at the pit bottom along the main road in the first right and the second right since the explosion, but have seen nothing to show me where the explosion came from; I have not thought much about the matter.

By Mr. Curley: I have not heard a great deal about the gas in the Dudley Colliery; I worked with Harrison for six weeks; as far as I know, he is a truthful man; in 1893 the places in the mine were bratticed, but there were no brattice doors; the bratticing at that time was, as a rule, from 3 to 5 yards from the face; just prior to the explosion it was kept up to within at most 2 yards of the face; it was kept up to within 2 or 3 yards of the face latterly; understanding that the fan had been idle for forty-eight hours before the morning of the explosion, I consider it should have been started earlier on that morning.

By Mr. Baker: If all conditions were favourable, I should say that three hour's work of the fan would be ample to clear the mine out; I consider Dudley one of the best ventilated mines in the district; the ventilation has always reached every place in which I have worked.

By

By Commissioner : When I said I had not heard a great deal about the gas in Dudley, I meant I had not heard about it at all.

By Mr. Baker : I have been cleaning up just opposite the crosscut ; I found no remains of a door there.

By Mr. Curley : Prior to the 1896 Act I never saw any bord in a mine bratticed up besides Dudley ; I took it that the brattice was put up in Dudley to make the places cooler ; I did not think it had been put up in consequence of the presence of gas in the mine ; I never saw any gas there before the 1896 Act.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 17th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

W. McDOUGALL.

This deponent, *Joseph Allanson*, on his oath, saith as follows :—I am a miner, and was employed at Dudley for more than nine months prior to the explosion ; I first worked in the second left ; I think it was bord No. 94 ; I saw no gas there ; I next worked in the first left ; I saw a very little gas there ; that was after firing the shot ; when I returned to the face again, the gas was alight ; I suppose the shot lit it ; I put it out ; it only happened once there ; the same thing happened in the second right afterwards ; I saw the gas on going in first thing in the morning ; I had my lamp in my hand, and was looking in the corner with it ; I had the lamp near the roof, and about a foot from the face ; the brattice was about two yards from the face ; I reported this last flare-up to Mr. Humphreys, the manager's father ; he could not do anything, as the bratticing could not be taken any closer to the face ; that was about October last ; my brother was working with me.

By Mr. Atkinson : When the gas lit up at my lamp in bord 14, the bord was in 10 or 12 yards ; I did not see any gas later in the day ; sometimes my brother, sometimes I, drilled the holes for the shots ; we generally had our lamps in our caps when drilling ; I do not remember the gas ever lighting at my lamp at the drill-hole.

By Mr. Baker : I continued to work on all day after seeing the gas in the bord in the morning ; I did not consider it dangerous.

By Commissioner : I had no special reason for reporting the gas to Humphreys ; he came into the bord as usual, and I reported it ; I know I was bound to report it under the rules ; that was why I reported it.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 17th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

his
JOSEPH X ALLANSON.
mark.

This deponent, *John Bell*, on his oath, saith as follows :—I am a miner, and for about fifteen months before the explosion was employed at Dudley Colliery ; I first worked in the first left hand, in a bord numbered something near 100 ; I saw no gas there ; it was bratticed ; I next worked in 44 bord on the right-hand side, the second right ; I saw a small flash or two of gas there, but nothing to speak of ; a trifle accumulated up in the corner against the roof ; it lit at my lamp ; I went to work in the corner, and the lamp got too close to the roof ; I had been at work some time then ; it happened some time in the forenoon ; the brattice was within three or four yards of the face at the time ; I did not report it, but cannot say whether my mate did or not ; the deputy came in ; he did nothing to the face or brattice ; I did not speak to him about the gas ; I next worked in bord 50, in the second right ; I cannot remember whether I saw any gas there or not ; I may have seen a small quantity, but cannot remember ; I next worked in 26 bord, in the second right hand ; I saw no gas there ; I next worked in bord 57, second right ; I saw gas there one morning when we first went in, and before we started work ; the gas flared in the roof, which was uneven, and with holes in it ; I think the gas was in one of those holes ; my lamp lit the gas ; it was in my cap ; my mate reported this gas, and Hindmarsh came round ; my mate spoke to him, telling him there had been a flare-up ; he put more canvas on ; the brattice was 9 or 10 feet from the face when the gas lit up ; he put it up to within about 4 feet of the face ; I next worked in bord 47, same district ; I do not remember seeing any gas there ; I then worked in bord 94, first left hand ; I saw a small flash of gas there once ; it had accumulated in the corner of the bord ; it fired at my lamp ; it was about the middle of the day ; the brattice was not further than 6 or 8 feet from the face there ; I cannot say now if I reported that or not ; nothing was done to the brattice that day ; a door was put on in the heading, close to the bord I have last spoken of ; that was before the gas lit up ; we were not more than 3 or 4 yards from the heading when the door was put up ; we were 8 or 10 yards in when the gas lit up.

By Mr. Atkinson : It was a full canvas door that was put in the heading ; I do not know the reason for that ; most of the doors I saw at Dudley were full doors ; I had a copy of the special rules when I was working at Dudley ; I generally reported any gas that I saw, but sometimes did not report small flashes ; I know there was a special rule making it incumbent on me to report any amount of gas ; my mate used to report it when I did not.

By Mr. Curley : Bord 44, second right, was in between 15 and 20 yards when I saw the flash I have described ; in bord 57 we were over 30 yards in when the gas lit ; I know there was gas in most of the places at Dudley, but I never called it any, it was so small.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 17th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

JOHN BELL.

This deponent, *Charles Banfield*, on his oath, saith as follows :—I am a miner working at Dudley ; I worked before the explosion for about eighteen months ; I first worked in the first left hand behind the pump ; my brother was my mate ; I saw no gas there ; I then went to 91 bord in the same heading on the backs ; I saw no gas there ; I then went to 86 bord in the crosscut ; I saw no gas there ; I then worked in 29 bord second right hand ; I saw no gas there ; I next worked in No. 8 first right hand ; I saw no gas there ; I left the colliery then, returning to it about a couple of months before the explosion ; I worked in No. 91 bord in the first left hand on the face ; I saw a little gas in that bord ; I had fired a shot

shot, and on my returning to the face the gas flared slightly; the smoke had not quite cleared at the time; I brushed it out with my hat; I reported it to Mr. Hindmarsh, the overman; he came round and put some more canvas on; before the gas lit the canvas was about 6 yards from the face; he brought it up to within about 2 yards of the face; I was about 15 yards in the bord at the time; I could not say how long the canvas had been as it was at the time of the gas lighting; we were driving every day.

By Mr. Atkinson: I did not consider that gas dangerous; I have read the special rules of the Dudley Colliery and know it is part of my duty to report any gas; since the explosion I have worked in the second right hand in the crosscut and in Nigger's heading; in the second right I saw some bricks that had been blown out, but could not say where they had come from; I saw nothing in the crosscut to lead me to form any opinion as to the direction of the explosion nor in Nigger's heading.

By Mr. Curley: I know the question of check inspection was raised in the lodge in January last by a man named Reynolds; I do not know what his reasons for doing so were; I cannot remember what he said in putting his motion before the meeting; the motion was not seconded as far as I can remember; I do not consider check inspectors necessary, as there was plenty of good air there.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle this 17th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

CHARLES BANFIELD.

This deponent, *Richard Tyson*, on his oath, states:—I am a miner employed at Dudley; I was working there for between six and seven weeks immediately prior to the explosion; I had been working there for about six months two years before that; during the last six or seven weeks before the explosion I was working in the first left hand in the first working bord; I saw no gas there; I knew a man named Reynolds who was working in the next bord to mine; I heard no sound of an explosion nor any disturbance in his bord while I was working near him.

By Mr. Curley: I saw gas in no part of the mine at any time; I had an impression that a little gas was given off in the mine; there was brattice in every part of the mine I was in, even two years ago; I understood that was for ventilating purposes; I have worked in other mines in the district, but before the 1896 Act I never saw brattice in the bords as they were at Dudley.

By Mr. Brown: The other pits in which I worked were ventilated simply by cut-throughs; I have worked in the Glebe, Borehole, and other pits here.

By Mr. Curley: I noticed cut-throughs in Dudley the same as in the other collieries.

By Commissioner: At Dudley, before the cut-throughs were made and before the 1896 Act, the bords were bratticed; in the other mines the bords were not bratticed before the cut-throughs were made—before 1896.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 17th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

R. TYSON.

This deponent, *William Ritson Harrison*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a miner working at the Newcastle Colliery; I was employed at Dudley from October last till the time of the disaster; I first worked in the first right-hand heading; there was no gas there; I next worked in second right-hand heading, No. 36; I saw gas there; I saw gas there the first day I took my tools in there; the overman was changing the canvas and called my attention to the gas; I did not go right in; the canvas was partly down in the heading; he said to me, "Keep back, there's gas there—don't go in with your light"; I had a naked light; he had a naked light also, which was on the ground while he was working; that happened on a Saturday; I went to work there on the following Monday, but saw no gas there that day; a couple of days afterwards I saw gas there; I had been holing two hours before and put my lamp on my head when the gas lit; I was about 4 yards from the face at the time; the light was close up to the roof; the gas flared up round my shoulders and I dropped down in the middle of the road; my shoulders were slightly singed; I went in again and threw some small coal at the flame and put it out; I had been working about two hours then; the wheeler, Gill, reported the matter to the overman, who came very quickly; he told me to keep back, and found my lamp for me; he then examined my place and said the gas would not light anywhere; he had a naked light with him; he went to within 3 feet of the face with it; I saw nor heard no indications of gas there after that; I used to hear it buzzing in the leading places some time after that water and gas mixed; I changed places with Fletcher after a few days; I went to No. 39 bord then, three bords away; I saw no gas there.

By Mr. Atkinson: I remember giving evidence at the Coroner's inquest; I said then the gas flared back for 10 or 12 yards along the heading; I was about 4 yards from the face; the heading was in about 15 yards from the last stentin; the flame went back nearly to the stentin; the gas just burned quietly along the roof; the shale was broken all along, and I think the gas came out of the broken shale; there was no gas when I went in in the morning; the place was bratticed to within 4 feet of the face; I saw no gas in that place after that day.

By Mr. Curley: The under-manager did not say where the gas was coming from when he warned me about it; I was not very careful in keeping my light down when I went in in the morning until the gas lit up, and then I became more careful; I saw the mark and date of examination every morning when I went in; I am certain it was there on the morning the gas flared up; the gas ran back and into a blue flame, which hung right in the face; it also ran along the heading; the current of air was very strong there; I do not think there had been a good deal of gas accumulating there; I think it had been lodged in the cracks in the roof.

By Mr. Brown: I was not off work for ten minutes in consequence of the singeing.

By Commissioner: I do nothing when I hear a blower hissing; it is a customary thing, and I only keep my light away from it.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 17th day }
of August, 1898, before me— }
C. G. WADE.

WILLIAM RITSON HARRISON.

This

This deponent, *Albert Gill*, on his oath, states: I was employed at Dudley as a wheeler for some time prior to the explosion; I know the witness Harrison; I remember being in the second right hand one day when the gas flared up; there was a skip in the heading which Harrison was filling; it was between 2 and 3 yards from the face; I was 4 or 5 yards off; a bit of gas lit up the heading when Harrison was topping his skip; the flame was just over the top of the skip; the flame was between 4 and 5 yards long; it ran down the heading from the face; Harrison dropped down beside the skip; I went out for the underground manager; I did not go back till he came out and told me it was all right.

By Mr. Curley: I was working in Dudley for about four months before the explosion; I was in no other part of the mine but the second right hand; I never saw gas at any other time.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 17th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

his
ALBERT × GILL.
mark

This deponent, *Edward Weir*, on his oath, states: I am a miner working at the Scapit Colliery; I was formerly employed at Dudley in the middle of January last; I was working with a man named Reynolds; I worked with him for about ten weeks before the explosion; I worked in bord 97, first left hand; I came across a little gas there; I was working in the face, and I think the gas came from a blower; it exploded in front of my face and did not go past my face; the bord was in about 30 yards; the brattice was from 6 to 7 yards from the face at the time; I reported the matter to Mr. Humphreys, who put canvas on across the heading; I cannot say how far the canvas hung down; it made a great difference in the air; a good while after that I saw another flare of gas in that bord when I was working at the face; it flared up along the roof for about 18 inches or 2 feet; that was about a month before the explosion; there was no report went about that, but my mate told Deputy Hetherington about it; I was last in the mine on the Friday or Saturday before the explosion—I think the Friday; everything was all right the day before I knocked off; on one occasion after firing a shot the gas lit up; the air in the mine when I went down first thing in the morning was quite clear; we worked from about 7.20 a.m. till about 1.30 p.m.; about the end of the work the air would become close and muggy; I blame the smoke and the working of the pit for that; the air remained muggy till we knocked off at 3 p.m.

By Mr. Curley: I only saw gas in the mine twice; I only said I had seen it twice; I saw gas before I asked Humphreys to put up the canvas door; it was when the gas flashed right in front of my eyes that the flare was 18 inches or 2 feet long; that was also the occasion on which I knocked it out with my cap; I have never said that the gas lit up and flashed in my face on one occasion as I was going into the bord; such a thing never happened; I remember Reynolds having a dispute with Hetherington about the canvas; Reynolds wanted a canvas door put up, and more bratticing; Hetherington said to him, "What did you do before you had the canvas?" I did not object to what Reynolds said; I thought the canvas was necessary; when Hetherington asked Reynolds what he did when he had no canvas, Reynolds replied, "We live in more enlightened days now"; Reynolds never told me that the flare-ups were getting too common in the mine.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 17th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

EDWARD WEIR.

Inquiry adjourned till 10 a.m. on Monday next, the 22nd August, 1898.
Court-house, Newcastle, 17th August, 1898.

Inquiry resumed at 10 a.m. this 22nd day of August, 1898, Court-house, Newcastle.

This deponent, *William Brown*, on his oath, states (*to the Commissioner*):—I am a miner employed at Dudley Colliery; I was working there till within about eighteen months before the explosion, and have been employed there since the re-opening after the explosion; I was employed chiefly on the roads before the explosion; I first worked on the first right hand since the explosion; I was present when Price's body was found, and Young's; Price's body was buried; after searching for some hours I came across the hind part of his body first; I went and reported it; the body was lying partly on its side; Price appeared to me to have been sitting when he was overcome; I went home after reporting the finding of the body, and was not present when the body was fully uncovered; Callender was with me at the time of finding it; I afterwards identified the body in the coffin; I did not notice any signs of violence about the body; it appeared to me to have wasted away; it was on a Sunday I found the body; Young's body was found on the following Thursday; Green and Fletcher were with me at the time; I first came across the right hand, which was stretched across his chest, on to his left shoulder; he was lying on his back, with the left hand at his side; there was a fall of 2 feet 6 inches on both his body and Price's; Young's body was found in the first open bord from the heading, in the second right; he had a shirt on, but only portion of his trousers; he had boots on; portion of his trousers seemed to have rotted away; there was no dampness there except that caused by the body; the head was the best-preserved part of the body; he had a short beard; we cleared about 2 feet all round the body to get the body out; I saw no sign of his cap or hat, or anything belonging to him; I have since been working principally in the crosscut; I have found several pieces of doors in my work; I found some at the bottom of the crosscut; I found the remains of a door at the spot marked "D" on the plan; the piece I saw was about 2 feet 6 inches large; a man named Horsfield showed it to me; there is not another new door at that point now; in the crosscut near the main road we found portion of another door while cleaning up; it was about 15 yards in from where it had stood; I found portions of stoppings in the back narrow bords; we came across the bricks there somewhat short of the second right hand; they were lying on the road; it is nearly all fall as far as we have cleared.

By Mr. Atkinson: I discovered the remains of a door between the two stentins of the second left heading; from the position I found it in I should say it had not been shifted much; I should say not more than 4 or 6 feet; from what I saw I should say it had come towards the crosscut; I was in the return between the end of the shaft and the crosscut; I saw a little door in the back narrow bord; I think it was in about the third stopping from the crosscut end; it may have been in the fourth; I am not certain; I think the door I found just off the main narrow bord, had been blown into the crosscut; between the crosscut end and the second right hand the stoppings had been blown from right to left; we came across
the

the bricks of the second left air-crossing, blown towards the pit shaft; I saw the large timbers which had been on the top of the air-crossing; they were lying against the pillar which divides the two narrow bords; they had evidently been blown towards the main narrow bord from left to right; the timbers of the second right-hand air-crossing seemed to me to have been blown in all directions; some of the timber we got 70 yards up the right-hand heading towards the air shaft in the in-take; I did not notice the bricks in the return; I had a knowledge of that air-crossing when it was built; I put it in myself; there was a good deal of stone packed in there to make the walls; the larger quantity was packed on the upcast shaft side; going from the second right along the narrow bords, the stoppings were blown into the return, towards the left; Price's body had no shirt on when it was found; I afterwards found it about 6 or 9 feet away from the body, towards the air-shaft; from what I have heard I should say that Price and Dunn were sitting down at the time of the explosion, waiting for another skip; they had just emptied one; we found different lots of tools in the crosscut; one man told me he had left his tools in a certain place in Nigger's heading, and we found them there where he had said; they were in the right-hand corner just going into Nigger's heading.

By Mr. Curley: There was plenty timber used in the mine to support the roof; there was plenty timber used in the crosscut; there was plenty used in the straight-up, and portion of it is standing now supporting the portion of the roof that has not fallen; it was strong timber and well set; there was plenty timber used in the headings, and it was well set; I have seen the falls in the two narrow bords, and in the crosscut where I have been working, since the explosion; they were well timbered; the fall in the back narrow bord extends nearly the whole length of it; in my opinion that has fallen since the explosion; I helped to prop the roof in the crosscut after the explosion, and before the pit was scaled down; that has since fallen; the bodies of Price and Dunn were found close to each other; we called that part the air-shaft narrow bord; when I left they were getting coal there; it was afterwards used for stowing dirt in; I cannot say whether they were old workings or not; they were not when I left eighteen months ago; the part between the first and second right hand were all workings when I went away eighteen months ago; at that time the workings in the first right hand had been finished; I was some years in that colliery; I only recollect meeting with gas when we were driving to make the connection between the two shafts; no lamp of any description has been found since the explosion by the exploring and cleaning parties; I was boss of my shift, and had instructions to look out for anything of that description; the mine was well ventilated in my opinion; in my opinion the explosion took place in the right-hand heading—in the return; between where Young's body was found, down to three to five bords down towards the air-shaft, the indications were burnt brattice cloths—burnt cinders on props; I could see nothing that would indicate the direction it took; it seems to have split in two opposite directions; the indications of force were greater there than anywhere, except at No. 3 overcast; there was a skip half capsized thrown up against two props; the props were standing; the props in the other part of the bord were blown out; Young's body was found within three or four bords of the skip; I think the force at the seat of an explosion would not be so great at the starting-point as afterwards; I have not made a careful search to find out the seat of the explosion and its force; I set a good deal of the timber in the mine; I found the roof good; I have come across no gas since I have been working in the mine after the re-opening; I have been into the face of the workings in my district to the right of the main narrow bord; everyone working there has been using safety-lamps.

By Mr. Baker: Young's body had on what appeared to be a blue flannel shirt—an inside shirt; that would be the shirt he wore in his inspections of the bords; I should say he had made his inspection and was coming away at the time of the explosion; part of his trousers was on that portion held by his belt.

By Commissioner: I had to clean up some of the timber in the main in-take when I went to work after the re-opening.

By Mr. Curley: The capsized skip was blown from the direction of where Young's body was found towards the air-shaft.

By Commissioner: It was the side of the skip that was resting against the props.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 22nd day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }

WILLIAM BROWN.

C. G. WADE.

This deponent, *George Callender*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—I am a miner employed at Dudley Colliery; I was employed there first about the beginning of this year; I was working then in the straight in narrow bord from the down-cast shaft; since the re-opening I have assisted in cleaning up the pit, and was present at the finding of Price's body, the body was buried, and we cleaned away the material on top of it; the head was lying outwards, face downwards; there was a prop underneath the chest; the legs were bent; one arm was extended, and the other lying on the body; there were pants, boots, and stockings on the body; I think he had no shirt on; the body was black; the clothes were dirty; they were sure to be so; they were not remarkably black; we cleared a space of 4 or 5 yards long and about 6 feet wide round the body; we found his shovel about 5 feet from the body; I saw no signs of a lamp or cap; the day before his body was found a coat and shirt were found close to where the body was found; since the re-opening I have been in the first left hand cleaning up, and in various parts of the mine.

By Mr. Atkinson: I saw the bodies of both Price and Young, but did not examine either of them for burns; I did not see what was in the pockets of either of them; I have not formed any idea as to where the explosion started.

By Mr. Curley: Young's body was found in the second right hand in the bords off the return; the roof was nearly all fallen there; there was a small portion standing near where the body was found, and the timber was standing under it; I did not help to clear round Young's body.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 22nd day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }

GEORGE CALLENDER.

C. G. WADE.

This deponent, *Samuel Fletcher*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—I am employed at Dudley Colliery, and have been for about two years; I have been working there since the unsealing of the pit; I was present when Young's body was found; I was filling dirt in the heading when Mr. Hinwood asked me to go up the second right; I went up there and found Young's body buried under about 2 feet of stone; it was lying in a bord off the return air-way, with the feet towards the air-way, and the head straight in; the body was on its back, with one arm on the chest and the other raised at his side; there were pants, vest, and shirt on the body, a belt and boots; there was a pipe in his trousers pocket and a tallow-pot on his belt; I did not see his cap; his face was too much decomposed to afford any means of identification; I knew Young well; he wore a beard of ordinary length from 4 to 6 inches long; there was no sign of beard when the body was found.

By Mr. Curley: I am a brother of the witness James Fletcher; I have noticed gas in the mine in small quantities after firing a shot; that was round the big turn in the second right; I was in a heading at the time; that was in the last quarter we worked up there; I saw a little blue light after the shot went off; I noticed it when we went back to the place; I knocked it out with my hat; that would be about 1 p.m. or 2 p.m.; I have never seen gas at any other time in the mine; I have worked with my brother always in the mine except for a fortnight at the start; I have never noticed the gas hissing; I know the witness Harrison; my brother and I exchanged places with him; that was in the same heading as I have been speaking of; I have never heard of gas being in that heading; Hindmarsh told us that a man up in the heading had got burnt; he never told me that there was gas in that heading; I never noticed any gas in that heading while drilling holes; I never heard Hetherington or Young speak of it; they were the deputies who examined the place at that time.

By Mr. Brown: It might have been the paper burning that I saw, and not gas at all.

By Commissioner: I was working in the second left with my brother; I never worked in the first left with my brother; I did not report the gas I saw; I saw a little bit of a blue flame in the heading after we had changed with Harrison; that is the gas I have spoken of; I did not see any gas in the second right while working with my brother, and before we changed with Harrison; my brother did not report the gas to Hindmarsh that I saw to my knowledge; that is the first I have heard of that.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 22nd day }
of August, 1898, before me— }
C. G. WADE.

his
SAMUEL × FLETCHER.
mark

This deponent, *Albion Mason*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—I am a deputy at the Dudley Colliery; I have been employed there off and on for about seven years; I have been at the head of some of the parties engaged in clearing up since the explosion; I was in charge of the party that found Hindmarsh's body; I saw the body unearthed; it was lying on its back, close against the left rail going along the heading; the left arm was leaning over the rail, and the right arm extended above the head; he had a boot in his right hand, and the other boot was lying close to it; there was a piece of canvas lying under him, and another piece on top of him; that canvas seemed to be in its natural condition; there was no sign of burning about it; each piece was about a yard long, and seemed to have been blown from a door; it was lying across his chest; it was not on his left arm at all; he had pants on; I saw nothing of a cap or lamp; the material lying on his body was half a foot of coal, then ironstone and shale on top of that; I saw one sleeper there, but no prop; we cleared a space of 9 or 10 feet round the body; we made careful search for his missing hand, but could find it nowhere; the top of the rail would be about an inch and a half above the level of the sleeper; I gave the men instructions to be very careful in digging about the bodies; the men did not dig straight down with their shovels; from what I saw of the work I do not think it was likely the hand was chopped off with a shovel in digging for the body; I saw the remains of a canvas door about 2 or 3 feet away from the feet of the body; those remains were not standing; I was also in the straight-up narrow bord, cleaning up the whole way; I did not come across any remains of stoppings or doors there; I found the remains of stoppings blown into the back narrow bord; they had been blown from the right hand to the left; that was beyond No. 3 overcast, which is at the entrance to the second right; I have also been round the second right-hand heading, and found great indications of force there; in three or four of the headings I found the props all covered with coke-dust on the inside; that would be in headings 1, 2, 3, and 4, from the second right-hand heading as far as the point marked "T" on the plan; in the fourth heading, I think, we found a skip all turned on one side; it seemed to be on two of its side-wheels, and resting against a prop; it was a prop of ordinary size; in all the headings going towards the main road we found coke-dust on the inside of the props—that is, the side nearest the face of the heading; that suggested to me that the flame had travelled down the headings.

By Mr. Atkinson: I have done some cleaning up in the straight-up narrow bord, beyond the second right-hand heading; I did not notice the stoppings on the right side of the narrow bord particularly; in some cases we found bricks among the stones in the main narrow bord; I did not notice that we found these directly opposite a stopping; I did not try to find out where those bricks had come from; I did not assist in putting in any of the brattice stoppings in the second left return; I thought it rather peculiar for Hindmarsh to be found with his boots off; I cannot account for it; at times a man will take off a new pair of boots if they are pinching him, or if small pieces of coal get into his boots he will take them off; in the majority of bords in the neighbourhood of where Hindmarsh's body was found the roof has only fallen for a portion of its length; we made careful search for a lamp or cap when we found his body; I have seen no gas in any part of the mine since it was re-opened; I have examined several places, but have seen none; I have not examined any of the bords which are not holed.

By Mr. Curley: Hindmarsh's body was found in a heading nearly opposite to a bord end; I had not a good knowledge of that part of the mine before the explosion; I had not been in it for more than six years prior to that time; I have not formed any opinion as to how that brattice cloth came there; I did not inquire whether a door had been there or not; the bord opposite which the body was found has not been cleared yet; I have not heard any opinion expressed as to where that brattice cloth had come from; the men working under me there were Jackson, Tomkins, Ward, and Robertson; that was the only brattice cloth we came across in going up there; I have not gone over any of the falls to examine for gas; I had instructions not to go further than I was sent.

By

By Mr. Baker: I have travelled round the headings where Hindmarsh's body was found; I have travelled round the right-hand headings, and have formed an opinion that the explosion originated in the right-hand side; coming along Star's heading on the left I saw indications of the fire having travelled in that direction; I should say the fire originated about where Young's body was found, and travelled to the left side of the pit; the fire travelled in over to where Hindmarsh's body was found; I have been mining about twenty-two years, and have had a good deal of experience; I consider I am competent to form an opinion as to the seat of the fire and which way it travelled.

By Commissioner: In Star's heading the brattice was off the props and some of the props were down; the cloth had been blown from right to left; on the right side of Star's heading I saw the coke all plastered up against the props; if there were bricks found blown from the stoppings in the main intake airway from left to right it would not alter my theory; I do not know that it would upset my theory or affect it in any way; I have formed no opinion as to where the fire crossed over from the right to the left side; I have seen indication in the stentins between the narrow bords both on the in-by and out-by sides of Star's heading; we found the stoppings of the narrow bord on the left side blown towards the left; I cannot form any definite opinion as to how the fire crossed from the right to the left side.

By Mr. Baker: I have done no clearing at No. 3 overcast on the return side.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 22nd day of }
August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

ALBION MASON.

This deponent, *Alexander Ross*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—I am manager of the Wallsend colliery; I have been so for eight years, and was formerly manager for twelve years to the Newcastle Company; I have had over thirty years' experience of coal mining altogether; I know the Dudley Pit very well; I had been down it several times before the explosion on behalf of Gardiner and Alcock, the owners of the property; my inspection was a quarterly one on their behalf, and was principally confined to the quantity of coal cut; I also inspected the manner of working; the bords were all well bratticed—that is, the working bords; there was a little gas given off at a few places; it was more prudent to have the artificial ventilation there; I went out to the mine on the 21st March last, the day of the explosion; I was not one of the committee of experts formed on that occasion; I first went down the pit about 3 p.m. that day; I made a few notes of anything particular I saw in the workings on that occasion; the object on the first visit of the experts was to see how far we could get along the main heading and narrow bords; I first noticed the skips in the box at the bottom of the pit very much blown about; we went to the first overcast and noticed that it had been blown out; that was in the first right heading; the brick wall on the left was standing intact, that on the right was partially blown out from the right hand into the main narrow bord; the bricks were blown out at right angles to the position in which they had stood to the narrow bord; I noticed three of the baulks across that overcast, two of which were driven from left to right, the third one resting on those two towards the shaft bottom some 13 feet from its natural position; the force affecting that had come from the in-by; the next stentin and the next to that in-by were blown out into the narrow bord; it was there I noticed the altered position of some full skips; there were 9 or 10 skips standing there full and about three of them had been driven from the road on which they had been standing to close to the rib; they had been driven to the right going in; the third stentin showed the same force coming from the left to the narrow bord; I also noticed three skips there driven into the rib; I there first noticed that a second force had come in from right to left driving the three skips right round and capsizing them; at the fourth stentin the bricks were lying in the narrow bord blown from left to right; then we got to the crosscut; there were skips standing opposite that; the pieces of the door that had stood there were blown into the main narrow bord; at the fifth and sixth stentins the bricks in the stoppings were blown out from the left to the right; we travelled that day about 330 yards when we had to retreat. (*The direction of the force referred to by this witness is shown by an arrow mark in blue on the plan.*) Finding that all the ventilation appliances had been blown out we decided to come on top and make arrangements to restore the ventilation; at 7 p.m. same day I went down with another party; we went along the same course putting in brattice, and about 8 p.m. found the first body at the end of the crosscut—that of Dorrity; it was lying on top of some loose stones; there was no fall at that exact spot; we then decided to brattice on the first left headings, and we continued doing that until 11 p.m., when we came on top; in the first left I noticed some considerable force had exerted itself and had driven the stoppings towards the shaft in the first, second, and third stentins; we found the bricks from these stoppings embedded in the opposite pillar coal; I went down a third time on the 22nd March last; I started at 6 o'clock and took the night shift; the previous party had completed the investigation right to the face of the left; we directed our attention to Nigger's heading; we put up 8 or 9 stoppings on the right going in; it was there we first found some indication of smoke; it being rather thick we decided to come back and make the stoppings tighter; after doing so we returned to Nigger's heading to see the result of more air; we found the smoke much reduced but a slight increase in the heat; by the smell we thought we located two bodies in that shaft; we returned to the surface about 1.30 a.m.; we went into the pit again about 2 a.m. and commenced at the shaft again to tighten the stoppings to get more air into Nigger's heading; we went into Nigger's heading, and Mr. Barr and I got within 50 yards of the face of that heading; there were falls all the way except two bridges; I saw some props there, some of which had indications of dust on them; I noticed there was a little bark there on fire but we soon put it out; my fifth visit was on the 24th March; I again came across indications of great force from the right hand; I found a train of 9 or 10 skips opposite the second cut-through from the first right-hand heading; a force from the right had blown the end of the train right round towards the shaft bottom; there had evidently been a canvas door there; at the third overcast we found the baulks very much knocked about, but I had not time to take their exact positions; we then directed our attention into the second right-hand heading; we commenced to brattice and renew all stoppings to right and left; it was during this shift that another body was found in the return of those headings; I think in the third stentin from the double walls; that was Mowbray; he was lying on the top of the old refuse, and had evidently been blown down with great force; he was facing outwards towards the shaft bottom; after sending his body out we continued erecting stoppings; I noticed the stoppings in the stentins had been blown from the return into the main heading—from right to left; when we got to the

left gannin bord I went about 25 yards into the bord, and there found the bodies of the two water-balers—Rudge and Jones; one was lying partially out towards the mouth of the bord, partly on his right side; the other was sitting on his knees resting his head on his hands and facing in the opposite direction; to my mind they had been sitting there; there was no indication of any force upon them; there was no sign of burning about them; the roof was not down in that bord; those bodies were sent to the surface and we all returned on top; the same party of managers went down again at 1 o'clock the same day; we commenced bratticing all bords and stentins to the right; we were anxious to find the horse, and while the men were bratticing, Barr, Thomas, and myself went round the face of that district and found the horse between 70 and 80 yards from where we had found the bodies of the balers; we found the bucket with which they had been baling, and also one of their caps floating on the water; there was no lamp in the cap; we traversed the face of all the bords to the left of the second right; there had not been a great deal of force there, as we found the brattice still standing in many of the bords; we came out to the main heading again and worked our way into the innermost stentin of those two headings; it was in trying to get to the face of those headings that we first found gas there; we bratticed every bord except the last six which were not connected and did not require it; we tried for gas in each of these six bords but found none; we then went into the return of the same headings by the innermost stentin, and then decided to go right out to the bottom of the upcast shaft by the return heading; we found that heading fallen to a very great extent; it was there we found the smoke close to the shaft bottom, and decided to come to the surface; from what I saw of the altered positions of the tubs, I have always thought there was a greater force from right to left than from left to right.

By Mr. Atkinson: The bricks from the stoppings between the first air-crossing and the crosscut were strewn about, if I remember rightly; I remember going into the first place to the right but not any distance in; I should say the remains of the door I saw at the crosscut had come from the crosscut towards the narrow bord—down the crosscut from left to right; I did not examine it closely to see whether it was the remains of the door; directions were given to clear the way both to right and left; I do not know where those pieces were put; I did not examine the second air-crossing; I remember seeing a tub at the first or second stentin past the double doors in the second right hand; I noticed it had been somewhat knocked about by some force; I concluded there had been great force at the second right-hand air-crossing; portion of it had been blown from right to left, but I did not notice whether any had been blown from left to right. The timbers lying there were a certain indication to me that there had been a greater force there than at the first overcast; the force was in an outward direction.

By Mr. Curley: The skips at the crosscut were standing on their road and had apparently not been affected at all; there was not sufficient room for the skips that had been moved to be blown over, so that their position was not a certain indication of the extent of the force acting on them; the first indication of gas I met with was on the in-by side of innermost cut-through of the second right-hand heading in the main intake; that was about 3 p.m. on the 24th March; the gas showed very freely in the lamp; I cannot say what distance it was in from the face of the heading; one of the party volunteered to go in without a lamp; he went in about 10 to 15 yards; our lamps were turned very low, and we could not see any great distance with them; we stood about 3 yards back from where we found the gas; we stood in the stentin, when M'Auliffe volunteered to go in; the place was 5 feet 6 inches or 6 feet high, and about 7 feet wide; I formed no opinion of the seat of the explosion from what I saw on my visits; from what I saw I formed the opinion that the greater force had come from the workings on the in-by side of Nigger's heading; I did not get as far in as where Hindmarsh's body has been since found; I form my opinion as to the strength and direction of the force from what I saw of the skips I have spoken of; I did not go into any of the bords in Nigger's heading; I saw gas in the return heading and in the first and second bords of the second right; there was gas in those bords 4 or 5 yards from the heading; I found gas in the in-by side of the stentin; I cannot say how far those bords were in; we had low lights, with which we could not see more than 10 or 15 yards; I took those bords to be 8 yards wide. The brattice in those bords was lying about and not standing; it was not absolutely destroyed, but was useless as it was.

By Mr. Brown: I have acquired my experience as a colliery manager in this Colony; I have had a little previous experience of gas explosions in mines; I frequently saw gas at Wallsend Colliery, and there was one explosion of the gas there; it was not of any great extent; one man lost his life through the burns he received on that occasion; that was about twenty-five years ago; I have heard of other slight explosions in the district where some of the men have been burnt; the Dudley was the first serious gas explosion I know of in this district; there were no particular difficulties to be met with in getting the coal and opening the mines in this district ten and twenty years ago; the coal was much nearer the surface, and there was less probability of gas; that applies to all the mines in the district; if anyone had told me twelve months ago that such an explosion would occur in this district I would not have believed it possible, especially with my knowledge of Dudley.

By Commissioner: It was supposed that the men were working with a door open on the occasion of the burning of the man twenty-five years ago; the places at the time were approaching the fault where the gas, if any, was most likely to be met with.

By Mr. Curley: The system throughout the district of working the collieries is bord and pillar system; the Dudley mine was worked on the same system; I know the fan at Dudley; I consider it efficient to work the mine; I do not call Dudley an extensive colliery.

By Commissioner: I found some brattice cloth on the skips opposite the left-hand crosscut; there was very little of it, just pieces which had apparently been burnt; I should say the derangement of the wall of the first overcast was the result of the force, and not caused by the falling of the baulks; when I spoke of the improbability of such an explosion, I meant, of course, if all the ventilating appliances were in good order and working properly.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 22nd day of }
August, 1893, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

ALEXANDER ROSS, J.P.

Inquiry adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow.
Court-house, Newcastle, 22nd August, 1893.

Inquiry resumed at 10 a.m. this 23rd day of August, 1898, Court-house, Newcastle.

This deponent, *Andrew Dickenson*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*) :—I am a miner employed at the Dudley Colliery; I was working there for about six weeks before the explosion; I have worked there since the re-opening of the pit; I have been engaged in cleaning up the mine; I was present at the finding of the bodies of Dunn and Hetherington; Dunn's body was covered with 2 feet 6 inches of stone; it was lying doubled up and partly on its side; the left hand was below his knee, and the right arm underneath the body; his head was resting on a prop; he had his boots, pants, and shirt on; I cannot say whether he was singed or not; his head was lying inwards; I saw nothing of his cap or lamp; we cleared for about a foot or 18 inches round the body; I saw no tools close to him; he was supposed to have been working in a stow-bord; the body was lying in-by the turn.

By Mr. Curley: This bord was in the second right hand; the body was lying on the left side of the turn.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 23rd day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }

ANDREW DICKENSON.

C. G. WADE.

This deponent, *Alfred Ashley Atkinson*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*) :—I am Chief Inspector of Collieries for this Colony; I have held that position since the 9th September last; I commenced my official duties practically on the 13th September last; I commenced to serve my time to the coal-mining in the year 1875; I served three years' apprenticeship at the Earl of Durham's colliery, in the county of Durham, in England; during that time I also attended the College of Physical Science in Newcastle, in England; in the middle of 1878 I went to India, and was manager of some collieries there for three years; I returned to England, and was engaged as assistant manager at Seaham Colliery, Lumley Colliery, and also Bolckow Vaughan Colliery, in Durham; after that I was manager for four years at New Brancepeth Colliery, and six years prior to coming out here I was manager at the Barrow Colliery, in Yorkshire; I met with gas in those collieries, and had experience of it; I have been down about five collieries after explosions; they were Trimdone Range, Tudhoe, Usworth, Albion, and Micklesfield collieries; gas played a part, more or less, in all those explosions; the Micklesfield was proved to have been caused by a naked light; I had not been down the Dudley pit before the explosion; I was out there on the day of the explosion, arriving there about 10 p.m.; I went down the pit about 11 p.m. that day; we went along the first left-hand headings; it was thought that the water-balers were possibly in that direction; the roof in the heading was very uneasy and likely to fall, and it was thought advisable to withdraw the men for a time; I saw no signs of fire-damp while I was there, nor of after-damp; the brick stoppings between the two headings had been blown towards the left, into the intake; I was down in the same district twice the next day; we tried to locate the position of the fire on that side; we went right round to the face of the heading; we saw a good deal of smoke going round by the face of the heading; the next day I was in the Nigger's heading district; the roads from the shaft up to the crosscut end had no falls on it, in consequence of the 2 ft. 6 in. of shale having been previously removed; from the crosscut right into the face of Nigger's heading the roof had nearly all fallen; in consequence of these falls there were very few evidences of force; near the face of Nigger's heading I examined the third bord from the face, and took some coke-dust from it; I afterwards examined that with a microscope, and ascertained it had been subject to heat; I have given evidence at the coroner's inquest that there was no brattice at all; I wish to qualify that now by saying that although the bord was not bratticed, speaking from a mining point of view, there had been brattice in the bord; I have samples of brattice which are burnt, which I obtained from that bord; I discovered that brattice after the pit had been unsealed; it was lying on the floor of the bord, at the foot of the props; I also saw some of the tacks in the props at the top; I saw the bodies of Green and Hetherington recovered; Green was lying just on the out-by side of a tub which I understand he had been engaged in taking into the workings; it was half full of rails; he was lying with his head across one rail; I forget whether his head was in-by or out-by; it is probable that he moved very little after the explosion; the body was under a fall; I saw no sign of his lamp; Hetherington's body was lying a little on the out-by side of the third bord; it was also under a fall; his head was in-by over, I think; his face was considerably blackened; I saw nothing of his lamp; Green's face was very much blackened also, as if it had been affected by coal dust; early on the morning of the 24th March I saw the bodies of McDougall and Haddon in the second right-hand turn, two stentins from the double doors; the force was very strongly marked towards the shaft; the first air-crossing was completely destroyed with the exception of the left side wall; I did not see the remains of the stoppings between the first air-crossing and the crosscut end, but the force as indicated by full tubs jammed up against the right side appeared to have come from the left; the tubs at the crosscut end also indicated the same direction of the force; they were jammed up against the right-hand side; inside the cabin the barometer was broken and the leaves of one of the report books were singed; in going from the crosscut to the second right hand I did not observe much; the air-crossing was destroyed, and I thought that the force had come from the left towards the right; I went to the face of the second right hand; in going along the main heading there were not many evidences of force, but the stoppings had been shoved over both ways, and I then thought that the greater force had been from the left; as we got further in the force seemed to die out; at the extreme end of where I got, which I think was about four stentins from the bord in which Rudge and Jones were found, I saw gas; I cannot say how much there was; we then travelled back and got out of the pit between 4 and 5 p.m.; the next day the pit was sealed down in consequence of the fires; the pit was unsealed on the 17th June last; I went down the pit on the 21st June last; the first day I travelled in as far as the double doors, and about two pillars below past the fan; I noticed that some of the stoppings which had been temporarily erected during the explorations had been knocked down by falls; we saw no signs of fire or fire-damp; the next day we examined in the first right-hand workings; we found nothing of note except a dead horse which was lying in the in-take; we also went through the first right workings by the first opening on the right side past the first air-crossing; I there saw the top of a tub which had been blown off a tram about 20 yards from left to right; the tram of the tub would be just through the canvas door of the opening; by the top of the tub I mean the box part of the tub; we then went to the fourth bord and found a heavy fall in the heading; I thought that fall had been probably caused by the fire; we got round about it by going a pillar higher up; Messrs. Dixon and Humble got round and Mr. Turnbull and I remained behind till they called us to
come

come on; we then saw the signs of smoke; that was subsequently dealt with, and there had evidently been a fire of some extent there, as the coal was burnt to a depth of 5 inches; that fire has been put out with water since; the fire was no doubt smouldering that day, although we saw no active flame; that would be the source from which the smoke came which we saw before the sealing of the pit; I tried for gas at that place but could not find any; since then I have been down about fourteen times, but cannot remember the route taken on each occasion; I have been practically all over the mine; I noticed that the left wall of the first air-crossing was up while the other wall was down; I think the explanation of that is that there was more stowing behind the left wall than the other; I think the force came down the in-take, and the weaker wall gave way; the force of an explosion of gas in a mine expands equally in every direction; in the crosscut I saw the two hinges of the door; it is difficult to explain the position of those hinges with the position of the remains of the door as given by Mr. Ross in his evidence; one hinge was 8 yards on the in-by side of the return narrow bord; in Nigger's heading, and going along that way, the force had evidently come down those bords from the left; I found just a trace of gas in the third bord and the bord next the face; it could not be observed with the ordinary safety-lamp; it requires a very good man to detect 2 per cent. of the gas with an ordinary safety-lamp; what I observed was about a quarter per cent.; my lamp will detect that quantity; in going up from Nigger's heading towards the second left at the top end there were evidences of coke-dust; in going along the second left there were also evidences of coke-dust; in both those headings I found a little gas also; the water edge was about 11 yards from the last stentin but one; we travelled round the face, and there was a little gas in that bord, which has been added to the plan No. 91, and marked "O"; there was also a little gas in the bord just opposite where Hindmarsh was found and in the face of the going bord; in the bord opposite to which Hindmarsh was found the brattice was in such a condition that burning could hardly be detected; it was impossible in the pit to detect any burning of it, but under the microscope I found small globules of coke; the bord was about 29 yards up, and half of that was down at least; in the last bord next the narrow bord there was a little burnt brattice; I found gas in the return narrow bord near the face and in the main second right-hand heading; I have marked those places on the plan with the letter "A"; I also found gas in the first going bord off the second right; the only place in which it could be detected with the ordinary lamp would be in the face of the second right-hand headings; in travelling along the return narrow bord and out by the main narrow bord there appeared to have been a little force, as a lot of the brattice was standing; in the stopping last but one near the face the bricks had just fallen over on either side; there appeared to have been little force in the second right; all around the faces the falls were much less extensive than in other parts; the ventilation had not been restored when I made any of these visits; on the right-hand side of the second right headings there was considerable evidence of flame and coke-dust about No. 21 bord; there was a good deal of coke-dust there, about an inch thick; in the bord in which Young was found there was evidence of flame, and in several of the bords from the fire towards the upcast; the stoppings along the second right-hand headings were rather miscading as to force, some having been knocked out and others left; the first and second had been blown over towards the left; the third and fourth had been left in; the fifth, where the double doors were, was blown towards the left, and the sixth was blown out; the seventh was left in, the eighth was blown out, the ninth was left in, and all the rest were blown out towards the left; the door which had been in the narrow bord where Dunn and Price were found had been blown towards the left; the stoppings between the narrow bords going in over were generally blown into the return, and the stoppings on the right side—especially the first one—had been blown to the right; the force at the second right-hand air-crossing appeared very difficult to understand; in my previous evidence I said that the force had been very strong from left to right, but there were no bricks in the right hand, while the bricks on the left-hand side are thrown a long distance into the return; I think this may be explained to some extent by the amount of stowing which supported the two walls; but by the position of the baulks of the crossing I think it is probable that the force had come from the left to the right; in going towards the shaft from the second right air-crossing the first door on the right had been blown into the return; the next opening was the second left air-crossing; the right-hand wall was not much disturbed but the bricks in the left-hand wall were blown down the return; the main timbers and the planking appeared to have been blown out-by; the next stopping was blown into the return, the next was left in, and the two next to the crosscut were blown into the return; the stoppings of the second left headings, particularly the second one, from the top of the crosscut, were blown towards the left; up the second left going bord there were a tub and two props which showed indications of force towards the left (*marked with blue arrow*); in the second right an end of a tub had been forced in-over, whilst a door further in had been blown out-over; at the top of the bord on the in-by side of where Young was found there was a tub jambed up against the side indicating a force in-over (*marked with a blue arrow*); from what I saw before and after the sealing of the pit, I think the explosion did not occur in Nigger's heading; as far as I can judge from the evidences of force, I should say it most likely happened in the second left, and would probably be caused by the light carried by Hindmarsh; the medical evidence is to the effect that his body bore no signs of burning, but there are signs of burning in the immediate vicinity of where the body was found; there are instances of explosions caused by naked lights in which the man who carried the light was not burnt; I attribute the explosion at Dudley to a naked light; in the absence of any shot firing and any underground fire there could be no other cause; the conditions under which Hindmarsh was found are very peculiar—such as being found with his boots off; he may have travelled some short distance after the explosion; being at the extreme end of the workings, and having regard to the position of the fan-shaft, he would be more likely to escape the after-damp than those who were in the field of the explosion; I cannot explain the finding of the brattice cloth above and under him unless he lost his reason, as men do sometimes under such conditions; assuming he was burnt by the flame in the first instance, he might have lived till the after-damp reached him eventually; if the explosion did not originate in the left I find it very difficult to say how it came over from the right; the force of an explosion is generally not very great where it starts; the fact of the bricks of the stoppings being blown both to left and right would only indicate that the explosion had gone along that road and had blown down the stoppings in both directions wherever they were weakest; after the explosion had gone along the first cut-through past the overcast—from left to right—it had gone along through the bords towards the second right and back again towards the main road; that is the only way I can account for the positions of the tubs as spoken of by Mr. Ross in his evidence yesterday; it is very difficult to explain how the skips at the third stentin were blown as they were as explained in his evidence; it may have been caused by a rebound

rebound of air or "back lash"; the evidence of contrary forces are not inconsistent with my theory that the explosion originated in the left part of the mine; I heard the evidence of Mason and Brown yesterday; I consider the evidence of Mason as to the indications of the direction of the force is not inconsistent with my theory; the most likely place for the force to have crossed from right to left—if it commenced on the right—was at the second right-hand air-crossing; certainly the bricks of that air-crossing show a force from right to left; that may be accounted for, as I have previously said, by the stowing supporting the walls; I think the evidence afforded by the large timbers of the crossing showed a force coming from left to right; from what I have seen of the mine I should say it was fairly dry and rather dusty; I think the coal-dust has been the main agent in carrying the explosion through the pit; in the presence of a shot fired or gas flame the coal-dust becomes more explosive; it requires a flame from gas or a shot to cause it to explode; leaving the coal-dust out of the question the flares-up described by the different witnesses would only cause a local explosion and would probably only affect the person in the immediate vicinity of the gas; those flares-up are dangerous to the individual; they often burn the man in their vicinity and sometimes cause death from the burns; if the fan were kept at work and the brattice kept well up to the face, and provided nothing happened to disarrange the brattice, the ventilating appliances of the mine were sufficient to carry off the gas as it was given off; having regard to the evidence I have heard in this inquiry, I should say the brattice should usually be kept to within 3 yards of the face; sometimes it might be necessary to take it nearer the face; but if so it becomes inconvenient to the workmen; assuming that the ventilating appliances were at work for the two hours the men were in the pit on the morning of the 21st March, from 7 to 9, and the brattices all in good order, I should say that was sufficient to have carried off any gas that was being given off in the mine in the ordinary way; if there had been any gas released by a fall it would be sufficient to carry it off, if the fall had taken place in the main intake or return airway, but if the fall had happened in an unholed bord, or in some of the back workings, I do not think the ventilation would have been sufficient to have carried the gas away; Hindmarsh would be in the air going into the second left; air that had travelled over the faces of the workings would be more likely to contain gas than air in the main intake; the only method of checking the spread of an explosion by the presence of coal-dust is by watering the dust or removing it; in firing a shot on a dusty road the dust should be watered before firing the shot; after-damp is generally said to contain 71 per cent. of nitrogen, 19½ per cent. of aqueous vapour, and 9½ per cent. of carbonic acid; there is sometimes some carbon monoxide, and sometimes some free oxygen found in it.

By Mr. Curley: The return air passed over Mowbray, Haddon, and McDougall; I heard Mr. Ross's evidence as to the gas he found in the second right hand on the 24th March; if that accumulated in 3½ days a certain quantity might accumulate in the same place in forty-eight hours with the fan idle, although the brattice was up; I went in and saw that gas on the 24th March; that would be between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.; I think I got three or four stentins beyond where Jones and Rudge were found; I did not go into any of the bords; I just saw the gas and went no further; it was in the main heading; the gas did not show freely at that point; I ascertained afterwards from the plan that that gas was about 50 yards back from the face; that indicated to me that a fair amount of fire-damp was given off in the mine; if all the stoppings were repaired and the bratticing put up, I do not think it would take long to remove that quantity of gas; that is, of course, if the ventilation were in its normal condition; I know the colliery was shut down from the Saturday morning till the Monday morning practically; I think that was inadvisable; the stopping of the fan for that period was not in compliance with the general rule as to ventilation under the Coal-mines Regulation Act; the Act casts upon the manager the daily supervision of the mine; I have looked over the Special Rules of the colliery; I have heard of the different places where the shiftmen used to stop in the mine; I heard Durham's evidence as to the places he visited and stopped, and putting the chalk marks up; Rules 11 and 12 of the Special Rules would depend upon General Rule 4, as to where the station was; I have heard it said generally that the station was at the bottom near the cabin, and that a report was fixed up there; I should say that if a station was fixed near the cabin at the bottom of the shaft which the men had to pass, it was not in accordance with General Rule 4 to establish any other stations on the in-by side of that; I heard one witness say it took him twenty minutes to reach his work from the top; I heard Platten say it took him from two to three hours to inspect the mine; I heard Durham speak of how he carried out his examination when he went down to night-shift; I heard him say he examined the places where the shiftmen had to work, and made his examination of the mine generally at 3 a.m.; I do not regard that as a thorough examination of the mine in accordance with the Act; I think that in a mine which gives off fire-damp, the man making the examination should travel in with the air and keep with the air till he arrives at the places where the men are going to their work; I have heard it stated that report was placed upon the board at the station before the men went to their places; I have heard it stated also that no such report was put up before the shiftmen went in; I do not think the shiftmen should have been allowed to go in on that Monday morning without a report being put up at the station; I know subclause 1 of General Rule 4 of the 1896 Act; I think that refers to all parts of the mine beyond the station; referring again to Durham's evidence, I do not think he carried out the law in accordance with that section; prior to the explosion I had an idea there was fire-damp in the Dudley mine; it had been mentioned in one of Mr. Humble's reports to me; I did not know of my own knowledge, I knew it only from that report; I do not remember seeing it mentioned in any report from Inspector Dixon; the fact of the fan not working was mentioned in one of Mr. Dixon's reports, and possibly in one of Mr. Humble's (*report of 6th December, 1897, by Mr. Dixon, put in and marked "B"*); I did not understand from that report that it was the practice for the fan to be idle while the pit was not working; I thought the fan might have been stopped for repairs or examination; the fan was going when I examined the mine since the re-opening, and did not find any gas; the fan was started about 3 p.m. on the 19th June; I got down about 4 p.m. on 21st June; the fan had been going night and day; there was thus considerable ventilation passing through the mine along the main roads; I suppose there must have been a certain quantity getting into some of the workings; the fan is running night and day at the present time; I issued a notice to the colliery proprietors of the district since the explosion; as far as I know that notice has been complied with; in several mines in England safety-lamps have been introduced in consequence of the giving off of gas; I have considered the question of safety-lamps in connection with the Dudley mine; I heard Harrison's evidence; he stated that when he first went into the second right heading he was warned about
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the gas in there; I heard his evidence about underground manager working there with his naked light on the floor; I think it would have been more prudent for him to have had a safety-lamp; a competent man such as he might have been able to do without any danger what he did, but it would have been prudent for him to have had a safety-lamp; I heard Harrison describe what occurred in the same place afterwards; having regard to all the evidence I have heard in Court respecting the giving off of gas, I should say it was advisable to work the Dudley mine with safety-lamps; in the light of all the evidence I have heard here, I should say that it would have been advisable to have worked the mine with safety-lamps; the notice produced is a copy of the notice I issued to the colliery proprietors (*Put in and marked "C"*); General Rule 9 applies to the strength of the safety-lamps to be used in a mine; I have seen a specimen of the safety-lamp used at Dudley for inspection purposes prior to the explosion; they are not the type of lamp recommended for use in mines; I would not regard it as a safe lamp to use in a mine like Dudley, where there was a high velocity and fire-damp was being given off; I looked for brattice in the bord in Nigger's heading, where I afterwards found it, but my examination before the sealing up was not a very careful one, and I could easily have missed it on that occasion; it was covered with coal when found after the opening; Mr. Jonathan Dixon was with me when I made the examination before the sealing up; he was looking generally to see what was in the bords; if any gas was being given off in the second right-hand headings on the morning of the 21st March the air would carry it over to where Haddon and the others were; I cannot explain the hand of Hindmarsh being missing from the body; I did not see the body.

By Mr. Baker: I recollect Mr. Turbull's evidence at the Coroner's inquest; he said it was a well-ventilated mine, and that the fan going at the rate of forty revolutions a minute would clear all gas out of the mine if the bratticing was in order, and there would be no danger to the men working in the mine if the fan worked for half an hour; I heard Mr. Barr, Mr. Croudace, and Mr. Ross say the same thing; I say the same thing myself; I cannot say that the ventilation did not reach every part of the mine before the explosion; I said in my evidence at the inquest that some of the most serious explosions in England had taken place when the fan was going at full speed and the collieries were in good working order; I also said that very often explosions could not be accounted for; in my opinion the Dudley explosion originated on the left-hand side; if 100 cubic feet of air per minute for each man, boy, and horse are being produced, I say it is not a compliance with the Act, because the air has to render harmless all noxious gases as well, and the 100 cubic feet per minute might not be sufficient to do that; if 12,000 to 15,000 cubic feet of air were passing over the part where Hindmarsh was supposed to be on the morning of the 21st March, I should think that would be sufficient to render harmless all noxious gases, provided the air was reaching all the parts of the mine.

By Mr. Brown: I sent out about 100 of the notices put in and marked "B"; the mining managers, as a rule, set their backs up against the notice; as far as I can ascertain they are now carrying out the instructions contained in the notice; I remember the Royal Commission that sat in England in 1886 on Accidents in Coal Mines; I remember the names of several of the gentlemen comprising that Commission; they were men of eminent ability in respect to coal-mining, and represented all classes of the coal-mining community; they made a very exhaustive examination of the question of safety-lights and their use in the mines; there are about 700,000 men employed in coal-mining in England, and the output of coal is about 200,000,000 of tons per annum; there are about 9,000 men employed in coal-mining in this Colony, and the annual output is about 4,000,000 of tons; I think the Commission did not make any recommendation with regard to the compulsory use of safety-lights in coal-mines; I have no doubt that the Commission declined to make any recommendation as to the use of safety-lamps in mines.

By Commissioner: Assuming the parts where gas accumulated in the mine were properly bratticed, the fan should have removed all accumulations of gas in the two hours prior to the explosion; it is difficult for me to say whether the gas I saw in the second right on the Thursday morning had accumulated since the explosion or not; if there was sufficient oxygen the probability is that the flame of the explosion would have consumed all the gas; that part of the mine is to the rise from both pits, and the tendency of the gas from all parts of the mine would be in that direction; the advantage of going round with the air on inspection would be that the man making the inspection would know what kind of air the men would have to inhale in their places; if all the provisions of Rule 4 were complied with in Dudley, and the brattice carried up to the faces in all the working-places, I still think it would be advisable to use safety-lamps there, as an unforeseen contingency might arise and cause danger; something might occur to disarrange the brattice and bring about a danger; if the brattice becomes disarranged, inflammable gas beyond the brattice would be likely to make the use of naked lights dangerous; if the brattice were too far from the face it might cause such an accumulation of gas as to render the use of a naked light dangerous; I have spoken of cases in England where explosions have occurred when the fan has been working at full speed; at Tudhoe, Usworth, West Stanley—all in the county of Durham—they were supposed to have been caused by the firing of shots; the explosion in Derbyshire was caused by a shot; Micklesfield, in Yorkshire, by a naked light; Albion, in South Wales, by firing a shot; I do not think the jury attributed any blame to anybody in the case of the naked light; assuming stations were established at the top of the crosscut and beyond the fan-shaft, I do not think there would be any danger in the men going to those with the air going with them, but having established a station they should not have gone beyond it; I know of several cases where a mine has been divided off into different districts and a station fixed in each part; provided the men are kept in the main in-take and there is no other station, I think it quite competent and advisable to have stations for different parts of the mine; I can see no objection to Haddon and McDougall working where they were in the main return, as there was a considerable current of air there; there was much less chance of danger there than near the faces; after-damp arises wherever there has been combustion, either of air with gas or air with coal-dust; it gets in the air-current, and the tendency would be to go towards the upcast shaft; even with the brattice well up and the ventilating appliances all in good working order, a firing of a shot might ignite a small quantity of gas liberated by the shot itself; that might even happen when the proper charge is used; where the men rush up to the face immediately after the firing of the shot, it is their own carelessness that causes the flare-up; from what I have heard in the evidence, I think we may expect small quantities of gas to be given off from the newly-exposed surface of the coal after the shot; if Hindmarsh was in the main return air-way the current of air there was sufficient to have rendered harmless anything that might have passed over him, provided he was not in an unholed place; it was possible for him to have ignited the gas at some unholed

unholed place and then to have travelled some distance afterwards ; it would depend upon the extent of the injuries he sustained at the time of the ignition ; an explosion in the first instance may be small, and then increased by coal-dust in the mine ; it is possible for his hand to have decomposed away from the arm and then decomposed away altogether ; I think if General Rule 12 is complied with there will be no danger from the shot firing ; the flare-up caused by a shot when the ventilating appliances are in good working order might cause injury to a miner ; the use of a safety-lamp in firing the shots would not prevent the flare-up which is caused by the shot itself ; putting aside the flares-up caused by the men rushing to the face so soon after the shots and those caused by the firing of the shot itself, we have two instances in which the gas ignited at the naked lights of the men in the roof ; regarding all that evidence, I still say it would be advisable to use the safety-lights at Dudley.

A. A. ATKINSON.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle this 23rd day)
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

Inquiry adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow.
Court-house, Newcastle, 23rd August, 1898.

Inquiry resumed at 10 a.m., this 24th day of August, 1898, Court-house, Newcastle.

This deponent, *John Dixon*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—I am an Inspector of Collieries, principally for this district ; I have been an inspector over sixteen years in this Colony ; my experience extends over every part of New South Wales, where there are coal or shale mines ; I have had over forty-five years' experience of coal-mining ; I have been connected with colliery works ever since I was 11 years of age, and have done everything that has to be done in a pit ; I had four years' experience in England, and forty-one years here ; I have been in pits several times after an explosion ; that was at Bulli ; one part of that district was particularly grassy ; I have known the Dudley mine since they began to sink ; I inspected it till the connection was made, when I ceased going there till August, 1897 ; the connection was made in June, 1891 ; safety-lamps were used there at the beginning under my advice ; the mine was giving off gas pretty freely in those days ; since August, 1897, I have made three inspections of the mine prior to the explosion ; the pit was bratticed before the connection was made ; I did not advise that ; I have not noticed gas being given off since I returned there in August last ; I was in Nigger's heading on the 27th January last ; I walked through there ; I had a naked light ; I did not go into any of the bords there ; on 1st December last I had examined the mine for gas with a safety-lamp ; I saw no gas on that occasion ; Hindmarsh, the overman, was with me on that occasion ; on 4th August, Hindmarsh found a slight trace of gas in the second right-hand heading ; the brattice was about 6 feet from the face, as well as I can remember ; I was down the pit an hour or two after the explosion had taken place ; I first went to the upcast shaft and saw smoke coming from it ; the fan was running at a very good speed ; I climbed up and smelt what was coming from the shaft ; I took it to be burning brattice cloth and bark ; I then went to the main shaft, and after the cage was got ready descended with Mr. Croudace and Mr. McGeachie ; before we left the fan-shaft orders were given to reduce the speed, thinking a fire was burning ; that was done, and when we got so far down the main shaft we met the smoke coming back on us from the pit ; the fan's speed was then increased, and an arrangement made to catch the wind and send it down the pit ; we then descended the shaft ; on reaching the bottom we had to make our way through an extensive coil of rope and a large quantity of water ; we got along the main road as far as the second stentin above the crosscut ; the air did not feel very nice there, even with the fan going ; there seemed to be heated air coming from the sides ; we turned back to the cross-cut and had a look in the crosscut end for a minute or two ; we decided that nothing further could be done at that time ; we returned to the surface, and engaged a gang of men to restore the ventilation up the main road ; at the bottom of the pit we saw baulks, skips, and other things showing evidences of force ; the pit bottom seemed to be pretty well choked in the front, and on one side ; some of the timber had fallen into the pit bottom, and had formed almost a fence at the pit bottom ; the force seemed to have come down the main road ; there was an empty skip there on top of a baulk, and jambed almost against the roof ; the skip was almost flattened out ; there seemed to have been a great force coming from the left hand out-by on to the main road ; I went down again the next morning with Mr. Atkinson and two others ; we explored the left hand headings with a view of getting at the fire during the morning ; in the afternoon I got a gang of men and had stoppings put in the main road to the crosscut end ; we directed the current of air into the crosscut and across the back narrow bord with a view to getting into Nigger's heading ; about 5 p.m. that day we got into Nigger's heading ; we found the body of Mr. Humphreys that afternoon (*spot marked 3 on plan*) ; I was not in any of the bords along Nigger's heading that time ; I saw signs of force at the crosscut end ; a set of loaded skips was standing on the road there ; the first skip was tipped on end out-by ; about the fourth skip back, there were two skips blown up against the rib on the right side ; they showed force coming from the crosscut ; on the out-by side of the crosscut, on the empty road, the body of a skip had been taken from the tram ; it was very much broken, some of the boards lying about in different places ; it looked to me as if the body of the skip had gone in-by ; at the first right hand heading end there was full skips standing, and there had been sufficient force there to turn it off the road ; I did not get above the cross-cut end that day ; the next day I went down the pit shortly before 6 p.m., and commenced to have stoppings put in above the crosscut end ; when we got up to the first intake of the first right full road, we found a train of loaded skips, several of which had been thrown right over on to the empty road, showing a force coming from right to left ; I got up to the overcast in the back heading, second left, and found it had been pitched out, the left hand brick wall having evidently been thrown out-by ; in my opinion, the force there had come from left to right ; I found some of the timber in the stentin to the right ; at the next overcast, some bricks appeared to have been blown on to the main road, evidently coming from the right hand side walls ; the brick wall on the left side had disappeared altogether ; the timber was lying across the road ; the bricks from the right wall were on the main road, showing a force coming from the right ; the timber was lying across the road, a little bit out-by ; it is very difficult to tell in what direction a force is exerted from the position of the timber ; if the timber fell on a hard bottom it would rebound, and might fall in any direction ; the baulks were 12 inches thick and 16 feet long, and fell a good distance ; the same night I was up the second right, and saw evidence of force having gone
up

up there; I was up the intake; the stentin stoppings had been blown into the intake; the greatest evidence of force up there was on the flat, where the head had been knocked out of a skip; the force seemed to travel in-by there towards the face of the heading; further along that heading I found several pieces of canvas, which had evidently been blown a long distance as they were all shredded; I also found a great amount of stringybark rolled into a heap like a football, showing it had travelled a long distance also; that showed a force coming from out-by; we worked our way up to where the double doors had been standing, and then into the back return of the second right; just as we got to the first bore in the back return, our attention was arrested by a peculiar smell; there was a fall of stone there, and we thought there was a body there; while we were busy at that fall, my brother went further up the return, and there came across the bodies of Haddon and McDougall; after they had been taken to the surface—about 5 a.m. on 24th March—I went back with the next shift, and was with them till the bodies of Rudge and Jones were found; it was nearly midday when we got to the surface with those bodies, and I did not go down the pit again till after the unsealing; I was next down the second day after the pit was reopened; our attention that day was principally directed to locating the fire on the right side; we found out the exact spot; I think I have been down the pit eighteen times since it was reopened, and think I have been round every place in the mine; I tested for gas everywhere I went, and only found traces of it in one place in the pit, that was in the front heading of the second right; I found it in a cavity where the shale had fallen; by the way the heading was rising I judged it wise not to go any further; I did not get to the face; I was using a Hepplewhite-Grey lamp which will show about 2 per cent. of gas; there was no brattice in that particular heading, nor in any of the other parts which I examined; generally speaking there were indications of force all over the pit; as far as I can see not a heading has escaped the force; my opinion is that the force came from right to left—I think the explosion began on the right; I cannot say whereabouts, but there is every indication to me that it began somewhere about where Young was found; from that bord there are indications that the force has gone two ways; there was a skip in the back return in-by side of where Young's body was found; it had been driven in-by showing a force going towards the face of the return heading; all the brattice cloth there indicated to me a force in the same direction; a skip which had been blown over against two props showed a force in the opposite direction at mouth of bord 23; in bords 19, 20, and 21 I noticed where the air had come in and swept everything movable right up to the face; my opinion is that the force swept along the working faces till it got to the neighbourhood of the fire, when it got into the main in-take and travelled that till it found a vent at the empty road in; everywhere we found a bridge of the roof there were indications of the fire having travelled towards the back return; at one spot marked on the plan there was indication of a flame on the rib; the rise side of the second right was free from any indication of flame; the fire could be traced from the second right overcast up to Star's heading; according to the stentin just at the out-by side of Star's heading it would appear to me that heated matter had gone up the main road; in that stentin there is evidence of a force from right to left; that is the third stentin beyond the second right; the dust there was rolled over to the in-by side of the rib, and was about 15 inches thick, and very smooth; within about 3 feet of the back return in the same stentin a small cone of dust had been built up on the right rib side of the stentin; the top part of the seam for about 2 feet from the roof appeared to have had its nature altered by heat; I could crumble it with my fingers; I think also there are indications of the force having gone into Star's heading at the top heading on the left; it had gone into Star's heading a little higher up than the third stentin; nearly every bord on the left of Star's heading gives indications of fire having gone in there, or heated matter; in the go-in board at the top end of the crosscut there is a skip which gives indications of the force having gone in there (*witness marks with red arrow direction of force*); near the skip there were two props, and the bark on them indicated a force from right to left; the force had travelled there from the direction of Star's heading towards the second left heading; that is the same skip as Mr. Atkinson spoke of yesterday; from there the force seems to me to have gone into Nigger's heading in several places; in the fourth bord of the crosscut there is very strong evidence of fire having been in there, having come down in a line almost with where Mr. Humphreys was found; in the innermost bord of Nigger's heading there are indications to show it came down there also; I found a length of brattice cloth there about 5 yards long lying against the out-by rib; from there it is my opinion the force has come down into the first left return, thence to the shaft; I believe a force went into the crosscut, and that a force came out of it; I believe the crosscut door was blown in over; it is difficult to denote the strength of the force in the narrow bords of the second right, as there was very little there for it to remove; it can only be denoted where there is something movable; the knocking down of the stoppings would not indicate to me a very great force; I have known a fall of roof to knock out stoppings; any rush of air will bring down a stopping; the fact of the bricks of the stopping being driven into the rib would indicate a great force; the stoppings in the return there were blown from right to left; I think the force had pretty well died out beyond the third stentin in the narrow bords, because a quantity of the canvas was hanging in them; my opinion is that just about where Cooke was found was the limit of the field of explosion; the force seems to have turned off the headings; it is the effort of the explosion to find a vent that caused the stoppings to be blown in different directions; it would not necessarily indicate the direction of the force; the fire seems to have licked the ribs of the bords on the side nearest which Hindmarsh was found; I saw the tub in the first cut-through spoken of by Mr. Atkinson; I also saw two dry casks there which had been blown along in the direction of the tub; that indicated a force going in there; the day after the explosion I went in there to look for traces of fire, but could not find any; I think the force there had been air filling a vacuum quite independent of the flame itself from the explosion; the explosion would travel right round the mine in a few seconds; I first saw traces of fire in No. 4 bord on the first right; I know the nature of the ventilating appliances at Dudley; assuming the brattice was well up to the face, and the provisions of Rule 1 were carried out, the ventilating appliances are sufficient to carry off any gas in ordinary working; I mean by that that a good face might be come to which would give off more than would be given off by the ordinary cells of coal in the working; a shot put into a face like that might light gas rather more than the ordinary; it is not difficult to dislodge the pockets of gas in the roof which have been spoken of; I have always thought that the system of ventilation in operation at Dudley was sufficient to carry off all impurities in the mine; I still think so; I had not heard of any instance of gas lighting there before the Coroner's inquest; having regard to that evidence, I think the current was sufficient to carry away the gas if it were properly

properly manipulated—that is, if more brattice were put up when gas was come across; I do not now think, after hearing the evidence at this inquiry, that the bratticing in the mine is sufficient; I mean by that that safety-lamps should be used; I would have held that view before the explosion if I had known of the flares-up that I have heard described here.

By Mr. Curley: I was not looked upon as the recognised inspector of the Dudley mine before the explosion; Mr. Humble was; prior to Mr. Atkinsons' arrival here I was doing the Chief Inspector's work for twelve months; I received reports from Mr. Humble respecting the Dudley mine; I cannot remember whether I received a report from him in which he said he had found gas there; I know nothing about Humble writing to the manager about it; I received a report, a copy of which is put in (*dated 31st October, 1896, and marked "D"*); in that report the working of the fan and the finding of small quantities of gas are spoken of; Mr. Humble and I talked the matter over, and I understood that the fan was kept going whenever the men were at work after that; I did not communicate with the manager of the mine about the matter myself; I left everything to Mr. Humble, who was quite capable of dealing with it; when the gas was being given off while the connection was being made I regarded it as a serious matter, and was there pretty often looking after it, but after the connection had been made I went right through with a "Living's Gas Indicator," and could not find a trace of gas; I should think the manager would be aware of the gas in the mine if Mr. Humble found it; I do not recollect ever having talked over the matter of the gas with Mr. Humphreys after the report; in my last three inspections I observed whether the rules were being carried out at Dudley; there had been prosecutions in connection with gas in the Durham Colliery; I have heard a man was burnt with gas there; I do not think it wise on the part of a manager to keep back any information he may have about gas in a mine, but I do not think it is his bounden duty to inform the inspector of the presence of gas in his mine; I examined the report-books of this colliery every time I inspected it, as far as I can remember; I cannot say whether I found any report about gas in any of them; I have heard Harrison's evidence about the gas and Hindmarsh warning him not to go into his place on account of gas; I have seen no report of that in any report-book. If I had known of the presence of gas in the mine, as I have heard it described here in evidence, I should have discussed the matter with the manager; I know the fan was stopped from the Saturday morning till the Monday morning, and the time at which it was started on the Monday morning; with everything in proper order in the mine on that morning that fan should have swept the whole of the mine in half an hour; if the full pit of men had been going in it was not a proper thing to have only started the fan on the Monday morning; it should in that case have been started the previous night; on that morning we have no evidence to show that any of the men except the balers had to go to the face; if the fan could have got hold of every particle of noxious gas in the mine that morning it would have swept it all out in the two hours it was working before the explosion; there is a mystery about the explosion which I cannot fathom; it is possible for a great deal to take place in a mine in forty-eight hours; it is not right to take everything for granted in connection with mining; the manager must have had confidence in his deputies, in his fan, and in the officers of the mine when the men went down that morning; I have heard of the method of inspection carried out by the deputies before the shiftmen went down; I cannot say what was done in that respect on the morning of the explosion; I think a thorough inspection of the places the men had to go to on that morning should have been made; if men were going to all places in the mine all the places should have been inspected before they went in; by "part of the mine" in the rule I understand the whole of the district in which a man has to go to work; from what I have heard of the evidence I cannot say whether Young carried out his duties properly on that morning; I know we found some of his dates in the bords, beginning at the narrow bords and working round to the right; that was wherever the water-balers had to be; the date was up there "21" on the face of the coal. I examined all the bords in that part; some of the bords were not marked, but he may have examined them; but as the men had not to go into them, had not marked them; I heard Platten say it took him three hours to examine the whole of the colliery when he was there; I understood it was Young's duty to examine the whole mine that morning; he was the examining deputy that week; I, as inspector, have pointed out to the managers the importance of carrying out the special rules; I cannot say whether I did so to Mr. Humphreys individually; I had knowledge of only one station in Dudley; that was the one at the pit bottom; I think Hindmarsh's hand is missing through someone inadvertently shovelling it away; when we found Young's body his hands and face were the colour of the material covering him and his hand could not be distinguished from the covering material; my impression was that the fall on Hindmarsh was the newest fall in the heading; there was no dust covering it; I know that careful search has been made for the missing hand since; if the explosion originated in the second right I would not have expected the flame to have run back to the face of the heading; the force had a clear course in the opposite direction; it was on the general intake air course of No. 5 district that Young's body was found; I reckon it was about there that the explosion originated.

By Commissioner: Young should not have had a naked light as examining deputy.

By Mr. Baker: The safety-lamp is usually put away after the examination is made; the general custom in this district has been to stop the fan from Saturday to Monday; I cannot say for certain, as I have not had anything to do with fan collieries; the ventilating furnaces are kept going at the week end; the gas was rather sharp at the time the connection was made at Dudley; we had a forcing-fan at the surface then, but the large fan was not at work then; I have known Mr. Humphreys for a number of years; I consider he thoroughly understands the working of the colliery; I had every confidence in him as a manager; I knew the deputies Young and Hetherington well; they were first-class officers and I had every confidence in them; before the explosion I did not see any necessity for safety-lamps to be used in the pit; I did not consider them necessary before the explosion; I never suggested the use of them before the explosion; after the connection had been made the mine was worked with the natural ventilation; there were from 15,000 to 17,600 feet of natural ventilation then for thirty-eight men; the men use their lamps to light the fuse to fire a shot; it is not usual for men to open their safety-lamps to light the fuse; it may be done, but it is not right; the usual practice is to heat a wire and then ignite the fuse; if the air-current reached every place in the mine on the morning of the 21st March the fan was working quite long enough to have carried away all noxious gases; the 100 feet of air provided for in the Act is only a minimum; it might not be sufficient for the men and to remove all gases and impurities as well; there must be an adequate supply of air to supply the men and to carry off all impurities

as well; as far as Dudley is concerned there is a much larger supply than provided for in the Act; the manager would have no knowledge of the gas in the mine unless it was reported to him by the deputy to whom it had been reported or by the men themselves.

By Commissioner: I attribute the initial explosion to gas, and to having been caused by a naked light; in my opinion there was some place in the mine which the fan had not reached that morning; that place may have been overlooked by the deputies; they may not have seen it, or it may have been caused by a fall after the inspection; about 2 ft. 6 in. of the roof was likely to fall at any time, as it was very soft material; it might fall from time to time without any special exciting cause, where the timber was old; where the timber was good, I would not expect the roof to fall without some special cause; the life of the timber would all depend upon what sort it was; Young's hair was singed and his beard pretty well burnt off; his hands and face were black; when we found him one hand was clenched tightly and the other open; the doctor did not clean the hands to examine the nails; I had personal knowledge of the Bulli explosion; I found the remains of the shot that had been fired; it had been fired in the gassy heading; they worked in the headings there with safety-lamps; in my opinion that brought about the mischief, for the men became careless about the gas, while using the safety-lamps, and used to brush the gas back from the headings; outside the headings they were using naked lights; if Young had no light but the safety, and that was intact, I would say that the gas did not fire at the point where he was found; there is a force where he was found which I cannot account for, if it did not fire there; I heard Mr. Atkinson's evidence about the first air-crossing where right wall had been blown out, and the left remained standing; I agree with Mr. Atkinson's opinion as to the cause of that; at the second air-crossing the force had come from right to left; the baulks are not any guide in my opinion as to the direction of the force; the props are the strongest evidence of the direction; I saw a tub on the flat on the second right forced in over, and a door on the main intake forced outwards; with the brattice right up to the face and the ventilating appliances all in good working order, and having regard to the evidence about the flares-up, the bratticing was the only means of rendering the mine safe for the workers; having regard to the evidence I have heard in this inquiry, I say now that it is necessary to use safety-lamps in the mine, in addition to bratticing right up to the face in order to ensure the safe working of the mine.

By Mr. Curley: In the Bulli case the return had been reported by the examining inspector to 'be in a very defective condition; I heard that a flare-up had taken place the previous night to the explosion.

By Commissioner: The system there was a bad one.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 24th day }
of August, 1898, before me,—

JOHN DIXON.

C. G. WADE.

This deponent, *William Humble*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—I am inspector of collieries for the Northern District; I have been an inspector for eight and a half years; I have had about twenty-nine years' experience of coal-mining—nine in this Colony, and twenty in the county of Durham; prior to the Dudley explosion, I had only experience of two very small explosions in pits; they were in the county of Durham; I have known the Dudley mine for seven years; I first visited it while they were making the connection between the two shafts; it was giving off between 3 and 4 per cent. of fire-damp then; that was not a large amount, but sufficiently so to render the use of safety-lamps necessary; bratticing was adopted then; since then I have noticed small quantities of gas in the leading or winning-places; the fan was working on some of those occasions; I have seen gas there before the fan was erected; I have seen gas there more than once since the fan was erected, but the fan was idle on the days when I saw the gas; the places were bratticed to within a few feet of the face when I saw the gas; on one occasion I found the brattice too far back from the face; I think that was in December, 1896; I wrote a letter to the manager about it (*copy of letter put in with other letters and reports, and all marked "D"*); I found out that the manager had paid the necessary attention to the request; after the explosion I first went down the pit about 7 p.m. on 21st March; after passing through the network of ropes and *debris* at the bottom of the pit, I went into the deputies' cabin, where I found the deputies' report-book and the report-book of the overman; the last report of a deputy was dated the 18th March, and had been made by Hetherington; there had been flame in that cabin, because one of the books was partly burnt; I noticed signs of great force having come out-by towards the shaft by the coal tubs, which had been blown about; just on the out-by side of the overcast there were some baulks which had been cut in to support the roof; these had been blown out-by one end of each; I agree with Messrs. Atkinson and Dixon as to the condition of the overcast, and as to the cause of it; the stopping in the first stentin leaving the overcast had not been touched; on the night of the 21st March, I travelled with others to beyond the crosscut end; we found at two points that the tubs had been blown off the rails from left to right; that would be at the second and third stentins from the overcast; a little beyond the entrance of the crosscut we found the after-damp rather too strong for us to penetrate; we returned and entered the crosscut and found Dorritty's body as shown on the plan; it was lying on its face head out-by, but no stone on it; I noticed one part of his arm had been burnt, the skin hanging off it; on the out-by side of the crosscut on the main road there was an empty coal tub which had been taken off its carriage and carried some 8 yards down towards the shaft; at the crosscut end there were several tubs blown from left to right, and pieces of canvas were mixed up with them; that canvas was charred; after getting Dorritty's body out we went to the surface; I carried the report-books and placed them in the office; I went down again about 11 p.m. same day with Mr. Atkinson and others; we went into the first left hand; on the morning of the 23rd March I was down again and went into Nigger's heading, and was there when the bodies of Green and Hetherington were found; on the 24th March, I went up the second right with Mr. Croudace; after passing the crosscut end I came across a drift of dust at the entrance of the second left heading which had been driven out of the heading out on to the main road from the left to the right; the second right-hand overcast was, as far as I could see then, completely destroyed; going along the second right heading I noticed a tub on the first flat which had had its end blown in towards the upcast shaft; I noticed nothing particular along there till we got to within about 40 yards from the face of the heading; we there found fire-damp, and retreated; I left the pit about 5 p.m., but in consequence of something that was reported by the shift coming out at 6 p.m., went back again; four others and myself went to the bottom of the fan-shaft, where we saw dense volumes of smoke; that

that proved the existence of another fire, and we have since found that fire; in the first left, the brick stopping had been blown right out from left to right, and the bricks were embedded in the opposite wall; that was the third stopping in the first left (*spot marked with arrow in blue pencil, showing direction of force*); I saw one evidence of force in the main haulage-road from right to left; that was at the second cut-through after passing the overcast; at the first cut-through there was evidence of a very strong force from left to right; a full tub had been carried right off its carriage and carried for a distance of 23 yards from left to right; that tub had been standing close to the intake; the coal in the tub had been scattered; I saw no signs of coke-dust or flame about that tub; I saw a considerable amount of dust, which I took to be coke-dust, sticking to some tubs that were on the main road, and had been driven from left to right through the stentins between the narrow bords; the force I saw evidence of as coming from right to left had turned three tubs right round; that was at the second cut-through to the right; the strongest indication of force in the second right was the tub I have spoken of; after the reopening of the pit I went down on the 21st June last with Mr. Atkinson; we went into the right-hand side along the road where I had seen the tub; I noticed a full tub there, of which I have previously spoken, driven up against the roof; we were also round by the fan-shaft that day; after leaving the right side we travelled along the first left hand, but found nothing particular there; I was down the next day, and we discovered then where the fire had been; we also travelled round the workings in the first right hand, and came across the dead horse; since then I have been down the mine sixteen or seventeen times; in a bord on the lower side of the cross-cut—the bord between the crosscut and Nigger's heading—I noticed signs of burning on the props; the bark was burnt and some of the wood; there had been flame also in a bord on the lower side of Nigger's heading; the roof had fallen very heavily; that is a little on the out-by side of where Humphrey's body was found—between his body and the main road; on the top of the fall in that bord the temperature was rather high, and kept up to 81 degrees and 83 degrees for a long time; passing along the crosscut there is a bord down which bricks have been blown for 20 yards in the direction of Nigger's heading (*bord marked with arrow and letter "H"*); they had come from a stopping close by between the two headings on the second left hand; we then went up the going bord on the second left, and found the props and tub as already described; I noticed the end of a prop near where Hindmarsh was found, and the bark had every indication of having been burnt (*direction of flame marked with blue arrow and letter "H"*); we went along Star's heading, and in the two bords next the narrow bords I noticed the brattice was burnt; the canvas had been blown down and portion of it burnt; some of the canvas had been blown into the roadway from left to right; in other places it seemed to have just fallen straight down; I saw burnt brattice in bords 74 and 75 in Star's heading; I did not see signs in bords 75 to 78 of the flame having licked the corners; the brattice in those bords is all down; the roof at the face is not down in those bords, but is down for some distance in some of them; the brattice is burnt only in the two bords I have mentioned—74 and 75; from there the force had gone up the back narrow bord towards the face, but it was only a feeble force; right from there on to the faces of the workings in the second right hand the force has been very small; at the second left-hand heading the overcast had been blown down towards the main road—from left to right; a force has passed up the front narrow bord right up the face, and has blown out the left-hand stoppings to the left, and the right-hand stoppings towards the right; the separation doors in the second right have been blown out-by along the main road; the door further along on the main road was blown about 3 yards out-by; generally speaking the stentin stoppings along there have been moved from right to left; coming from the face of the right-hand headings I saw extensive coking on some standing props in bord 21; the coke was on the side of the props further removed from the body of Young; the dust had been placed there by some very great force, and while in an incandescent state; my opinion of the cause of the explosion is that it was the ignition of a small quantity of fire-damp by a naked light; after comparing all the indications of force, and the direction of it, I have come to the conclusion that the explosion originated at Hindmarsh's light; it was certainly not in Nigger's heading; the overcast at the second right-hand heading shows signs now of a force coming from the right to the left; the bricks at the wall have been thrown right into the return to the left; if the flame had come from the shaft or towards the shaft, or down the second right-hand return, the bricks would have gone the same way; from what I saw of that overcast I should say the force originated in Bob's heading, and passed down across the second left heading; it appears to have split up there, part coming out at the second left-hand heading, and broken the overcast; another part has come down the crosscut, while still another part has passed down Nigger's heading into the first left hand, and thence away to the shaft by the pump; the force coming out of the crosscut and Nigger's heading, has crossed the main road into the first right through the first cut-through beyond the overcast; part of it has gone along the working-faces right on to 21 bord; another part of it has passed up the stow bord, and killed the two boys, Rudge and Jones; it was this force, I think, dying out, that displaced the stoppings between the two second right-hand headings; I have heard Mr. Dixon's evidence as to the direction of force in the working-faces in the second right; I saw the tub he spoke of, which indicates a force, coming from the direction of Young's body; the tub was resting against some props, with the wheels on one side, about 9 inches off the rails; the tub was a full one; I did not know before the explosion that there had been flares-up in the mine; the first I knew of them was when I heard the evidence about them at the Coroner's inquest; if what was said about them be true, I consider it was necessary for the safety of the mine to use safety-lamps, in addition to the bratticing (*the overman's book and deputies' report-book, put in evidence—latter marked "E," former "F"*); eliminating all the cases of carelessness on the part of the men, and the cases in which the flares-up were caused by the firing of the shot, I consider it is necessary for the safety of the mine that safety-lamps should be used in addition to the bratticing; in a dry dusty mine such as Dudley, extra precautions should be taken to prevent such an accident.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 24th day }
of August, 1898, before— }

C. G. WADE.

WILLIAM HUMBLE.

Inquiry adjourned till 10 a.m. on Monday next, the 29th August, 1898.
Court-house, Newcastle, 24th August, 1898.

Inquiry resumed at 10 a.m. this 29th day of August, 1898.

On adjourning on the 24th instant, the Commissioner stated that it would be necessary for further search to be made for the lamps of Young and Hindmarsh.

This deponent, *William Humble*, recalled, on his former oath, states (*to the Commissioner*):—On the 2nd May I saw gas exuding from the fan-shaft; that was after the sealing-down of the pit; I did not see any sign of bricks at the second cut-through below the second left-hand heading; the stopping was up, I think; the stopping next the second cut-through the stopping was up.

By Mr. Curley: I made my last inspection of the Dudley mine on the 7th October last—five months before the accident; I cannot say whether I was the recognised inspector of the mine at the time of the explosion; I know that Mr. Dixon inspected it after I had on the 7th October, but I had been inspector of it for five or six years before; there is no clear line drawn as to the definite inspector for each mine.

By Commissioner: I am inspector for the Northern District which includes the Dudley Colliery; I had inspected Dudley from 1892 till the 7th October last, but after that, I did not visit the mine at all until the explosion.

By Mr. Curley: I had a good knowledge of the workings of the mine from the inspections I had made; I had noticed gas in the mine several times; I had seen it in the main-going bord, the second right-hand heading, and in two or three places on the left-hand side, and in one place on the right-hand side; that was in some of the bords; in a narrow bord in the second left-hand heading; from what I saw I regarded brattice as absolutely necessary in the mine, even before the 1896 Act; I think the manager was fully aware of the existence of the gas in the mine; I have made many inquiries at the colliery with regard to the working of the special rules; I heard nothing about the inspections of the mine; I saw the deputies' books every time I went there and saw that a report had been made by them of their inspections; I may have asked the manager whether these inspections were carried out and how they were carried out; I believe I have done so.

By Mr. Baker: I cannot remember any particular conversation I had with the manager regarding the inspection of the mine by the deputies; we talked over matters in a general way.

By Mr. Curley: I have noticed in the report-books where gas had been found in the mine and recorded in the books; that was some months before I made my last inspection of the mine; I think that was in the early part of 1897; that was the last one I saw in the report-books; there are others prior to that; I do not recollect the impression those reports made upon me, but every time I saw them I made inquiries as to the length of time the gas had existed on each occasion, and each time I was told that the gas had been cleared out in a short time and before the men had gone to work; that was so in every case but one; that occasion was when the gas was found in the narrow bord in the second left—a bord which had been idle for some time; I have heard Durham's evidence as to the method of inspecting the mine; I know General Rule 4 of the Act and the subsection 1 of that section; by "part of a mine" I understand a district of a mine; at Dudley I should say that every place to the windward of any place in which a man is working should be examined before the man went to work; I consider the whole district should be examined where the men were working before they went to work; I think I satisfied myself on every inspection of mine that the rules were being properly carried out, and an inspection of the mine in accordance with the rules made before the men went to work; the manager has never told me of the gas lighting up at the shots in the mine; I have not noticed any report of that in the deputies' books; I saw the fan-man—Arthur—on the Thursday after the explosion; I may have seen him before but not to speak to; I asked him was he the fan-man on the Monday morning and he said, "Yes"; he told me the fan started at 6:30 that morning; Mr. Parton and another were present at the time; I forget the other's name; I think Arthur said he had been a little late in getting to his work on the Monday morning; I have heard Arthur say in evidence that the fan started a 6 o'clock that morning; I had notified the manager about the working of the fan while the men were in the mine; that was before the explosion some time; I had some discussion with him about the matter at the inspection in October, 1896; I mentioned it in my report of 31st October, 1896; I referred in that report to the ventilation being constantly produced when the men were in the mine; the manager told me he had been thinking of the same thing, and that it would be done for the future; I drew his attention to General Rule 1 of the Act; I do not consider it was a proper thing to keep the fan idle for forty-eight hours and then send the men in after it had been working for an hour or so; I was down the mine on the evening of the day of the explosion; I got about half-way down the first left heading that night; I was never down the second left-hand heading; I was down to the face of Nigger's heading; I noticed five or six evidences of a force from left to right in the left-hand side of the mine; I know those forces did shatter, but never heard the term "shattering force" applied to an explosion; there was considerable shattering—stoppings blown out, falls of roof, and removal of doors; those evidences that I saw confirm my belief that the explosion occurred on the left side of the mine; I saw a stopping, the bricks of which had been blown a considerable distance; that was in a bord between the crosscut and second left-hand headings; assuming Mr. Dixon's theory that the explosion occurred on the right-hand side of the mine and travelled up Star's heading be correct, I would have expected to have seen greater evidences of force in Star's heading; the signs of force there were slight; I saw brattice there, and also indications of flame; the brattice in the bords was blown down; there may have been greater force in the headings there; I cannot say in how many bords the brattice was consumed; it had been burnt in many of them, but not consumed; the burning was not extensive in any of them; I know that gas was located on the right side before the sealing-down; the position of the separation doors before the explosion was about as shown in the plan; they were shifted out towards the intake after the explosion, I cannot say how far; I did not look for these doors prior to the sealing-down; I found gas some considerable distance back from the face of the second-right heading on the 24th March last in the afternoon between 3 and 4 o'clock; the gas was nearly 40 yards back from the face; we found the gas right opposite the innermost bord on the left of the right heading; the face of the heading was certainly nearly 40 yards from that bord; that bord was about 8 or 10 yards in from the heading; there was no gas in that bord as far as I went in; I did not go to the face; I did not see the bords that Mr. Ross referred to, until after the reopening; I had heard that work was being carried on in the return, but did not know it until after the explosion; the position of the tubs in bord 23 I account for by a "back-lash"; it would not require a very great force to lift a full tub on its side in that way.

By

By Commissioner: It no doubt required a very great pressure to lift the tub in that way; there would be a large surface exposed by the tub to the pressure of the gas.

By Mr. Curley: The wooden covering of the upcast has been blown away by the force of the explosion; the large baulks upon which rested the pulley legs were plastered with mud on the under side; one of the fan-chamber doors was broken; soot and dirt had been blown out and carried a long distance from the fan; these were all evidences of the same kind of force as deposed to by the engineer and fan-driver; I should say a similar force came up the fan-shaft as up the downcast; the best evidence to my mind that the explosion occurred on the left side of the mine rather than on the right was the tub at the first cut-through from the overcast being thrown a distance of 23 yards from left to right; the next was the displacement of the full tubs at the flat on the crosscut end; the tub that had been driven 23 yards was a full tub; I would not expect the rush of air into the vacuum to exert a force of such strength.

By Commissioner: A vacuum would make itself felt to a very large extent in a small pit; the pressure on each square foot would be the same in a large or small pit; the effect therefore would be the same in a large or small pit.

By Mr. Curley: The force of the vacuum would depend on the size of the shaft; if the explosion had occurred on the right-hand side, I think the workings to the left of the second right would have been much more damaged; I was in a great number of the bords in that part of the mine; it is quite possible there was more than one explosion.

By Commissioner: If there were, the second would be caused by the first, and the third by the second.

By Mr. Curley: I am still of the opinion that the tubs driven from right to left that I have spoken of were so driven by a back lash; I consider my theory with regard to the occurrence of the explosion in the left side is just as consistent as Mr. Dixon's, having in view the position of the skip I have referred to; I had not made any inspection of the fan-chamber between the sealing down and the 2nd May, when I noticed the gas exuding there; I do not think Mr. Atkinson or Mr. Dixon had either.

By Mr. Brown: If I had ever expected to have found fire-damp it would have been on that occasion; I was not surprised at finding it; by a flare-up I mean the ignition of a very small quantity of gas at the roof; if there were a cubic foot of gas spread over the working-face of the place, and it ignited at the lamp of the miner it would light, and the flame would spread along the face and back till it burnt out; I would call that a flare-up; I would not call the lighting after a shot a flare-up; the majority of the flares-up deposed to here occurred after the firing of a shot or in drilling for a shot; an ordinary man would not fire more than two or three shots in a day; in Dudley there might be 200 shots in a day, probably less; it is not an unusual thing for a shot to cause such a flare-up in such coal as Dudley; I never received a complaint from any of the men at Dudley with regard to the gas; all I knew of the gas from any of the employees was what I saw in the deputies' books; I always satisfied myself as to the safety of the places in my inspections; there was nothing in the working or management to induce me to make any recommendation with regard to safety-lights prior to the explosion; I did not consider there was any necessity to use safety-lights in Dudley, judging from my inspections and apart from the explosion; that, of course, does not include the examination by the deputies with safety-lights; I heard Mr. Atkinson give an opinion as to the probability of Hindmarsh having walked to where he was found after the explosion; I think that is quite probable, even in such a small mine as Dudley; most cases of that sort have occurred in mines with a large extent of roadway; it was quite possible for Hindmarsh to have walked 20 or 30 yards after the explosion, and before the gas overcame him; there is evidence that the water-balers went much further; I think it quite possible for Hindmarsh to have caused the explosion, and then to have walked to where he was found; most cases of that kind have occurred in large collieries where men have walked into the danger; some of the 100 collieries under the jurisdiction of the Department have natural ventilation; referring to my report of the 31st October, 1896, I said therein that the fan ought to be at work whenever the men were in the mine; my opinion was that an adequate supply of air was to be constantly produced whenever the men were in the mine; the fan at Dudley, provided all the ventilating appliances were in good order, should send the air through the longest split in half an hour; prior to the explosion, some of the colliery fans in this district were stopped at the week-end, and on idle days others were kept going; I believe the gas at the face of the second-right heading was cleared out before 6 p.m. that day; after the reopening I found a little gas in the same place with my Hopplewhite-Gray lamp; it extended about 10 yards from the face; the brattice was not beyond the second cut-through at the time; since the unscaling of the mine I have accompanied Mr. Atkinson in most of his explorations of the mine; he was always anxious to find gas, and I was with him when he did find it; the lamp he used was a Hopplewhite-Gray, fitted with a hydrogen cylinder; outside that second right heading I have found very little gas in the mine since the unscaling; the gas I did find could have been found with an ordinary "Bonneted Cambrian" lamp.

By Mr. Baker: During my six years' inspection of the mine I had no fault to find with the deputies or manager outside the small matters referred to in my reports.

By Mr. Curley: The mines I referred to with only the natural ventilation are very small mines, and close to the surface; some of them have three and four shafts.

By Commissioner: Since hearing the evidence at the Coroner's inquest and at this inquiry I consider safety-lamps should be used at Dudley; the difference between what has been termed a "flare-up" and an explosion is only in the quantity of gas ignited; an explosion might cause loss of life, and danger to many people—a flare-up is generally not dangerous to the individual; putting aside the lighting of the gas from the shots, and the cases where it ignited from defective bratticing, the use of safety-lamps would prevent such ignitions of gas as when men went to work first thing in the morning; if the bratticing is in proper order, and all the ventilating appliances at work in accordance with the Act, the amount of gas given off in the mine would not necessitate the use of safety-lamps; the bratticing sometimes, however, gets out of order; a deputy going in to inspect, and travelling with the air, would have an opportunity of seeing the condition of the bratticing; I consider it was the duty of a deputy, in a mine like Dudley, to go with the air in his inspection rather than travelling by the shortest route to the working-places of the district; I differ from Mr. Dixon with regard to the force at the second cut-through; I say it was a secondary force, while he considers it was a primary force.

By

By Mr. Curley: Hetton was one of the mines where the fan was kept idle at the week-end, and on idle days; no inflammable gas was being given off there; I cannot say when the fan was stopped there, nor when it started again; another mine was Duckenfield; a little fire-damp was being given off there in the winning-places; the fan there stopped on the pay Friday night, stood idle during pay Saturday, and started on the Sunday morning; West Wallsend mine was another mine that kept the fan idle at week-end; fire-damp is given off there; I do not know when it stopped, but was informed that it started on the Sunday night; at Seaham and Wickham and Bullock Island Collieries the fans were kept going constantly before the explosion; gas is given off in the Seaham mine.

By Mr. Brown: On one occasion I found a great deal more gas in Seaham than ever I saw at Dudley; they do not use safety-lights at Seaham.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 29th day }
of August, 1898, before me.— }
C. G. WADE.

WILLIAM HUMBLE.

This deponent, *William Turnbull*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—I am manager of the A.A. Company's collieries; I have been engaged in coal-mining all my life; I have been a manager nearly forty years—about twenty-three with the A.A. Company; I was with the Hetton Coal Company in England for eight years; I was also at Seaham, the Marquis of Londonderry's colliery, about eight years, as manager; I have had experience of explosions in collieries; the first was when I was very young; I had experience of a very large explosion in the Hetton Colliery, and of another at Seaham Colliery; I was also in one at Talk of the Hill in Staffordshire, and at Brown Hill in Staffordshire; at another in Scotland; I have not had any experience of explosions in this Colony; since the opening of the pit at Dudley I have been acting for the owners in opening up the pit again; when I went down the pit first after the explosion I saw signs of a force from left to right, coming out of the first left at the stoppings, which were mostly blown to the right; I went up the first left, and into most of the bords on the left side of it, looking for the fire; I could not tell the direction of the force there, as everything was down; I then went with Mr. Atkinson into the second right; there the force had exerted itself in different ways, the stoppings in the stentins being blown some to right, and some to left; there had not been much of a force there; in the working-faces of the second right the timber had all been blown down; from the second fire there had been a force towards the fan-shaft; the bark on some of the props had been singed on the side nearer the fire; after the opening of the pit I was pretty well all round the mine; I cannot say where the explosion originated; it was caused by the ignition of gas at a naked light; there were indications of a force coming from the second fire towards the fan-shaft; it is impossible to say where the explosion originated, as there are indications of a force in the second right-hand heading, acting in two different directions (*witness marks with red arrows three bords in first right where props were seen with the bark singed, showing direction of flame by arrows*); in the bords between where Cooke was found and the main narrow bord the force was from right to left (*marked with red arrow*); it was a slight force; in the bords along the heading some of the brattice was thrown one way, some another; in Bob's heading the force was in the direction marked by the arrow; the force went up the fan-shaft 16 seconds before it went up the downcast; it might have come from the direction of where Hindmarsh's body was found direct to the fan-shaft; if it began on the second right and travelled to Nigger's heading, the dust there was so thick that the force there would be much greater than at the second right; I estimate the difference in the time of the explosion coming up the different shafts from what I was told by persons who saw the explosion; I saw the tub which has been spoken of inside the first cut-through; that could have been caused by the force coming from left to right and across the main haulage road; having regard to all the evidence given here as to the gas lighting at the men's lamps, and assuming the bratticing is in good order and kept well up to the face, and the ventilating appliances all in good working order, I should say safety-lamps should be used in Dudley, provided the coal could be got without firing shots; the fact that gas lights at the miners' lights from time to time is a danger to the miners; if you find gas and it lights up there ought to be safety-lamps.

By Mr. Atkinson: I was never able to satisfy myself as to the cause of any of the explosions I have had experience of; at Hetton the jury returned a verdict that the gas fired at the boiler flues; I was not of that opinion; I agree with some of the verdicts returned by juries in cases of explosions.

By Mr. Curley: I have made a careful inspection of the mine since the unsealing; in some of the bords the falls do not go the whole length of the bord, in others they do; There are lots of places in the mine which would act as reservoirs for the gas; the fire bord at Dudley, fallen as it is now, would be a very large reservoir for gas; the ventilation has been taken over the top of that bord since the unsealing, and it cannot form a source of danger to the mine now.

By Mr. Brown: The Act provides for air-holes for men; they might form reservoirs for gas; it depends upon how you work the mine; I would not describe Dudley as a gassy mine; I have been visiting it almost daily for five months and only saw gas there once; that was in the second right hand, and then it had to be worked out with the hand in order to light the gas; what I describe as a gassy mine is one that is giving off gas which it would be impossible for a man in the workings to get away from, and the fleetest racehorse in the world could not overtake it before the man would be closed off on each side from the returns; in a gassy mine in England all care is taken to prevent any danger from the gas; in one mine in England I had thirty-six officials doing nothing but looking after the gas; if the Dudley were my own private property, and I knew what I do of it, I would work it with naked lights.

By Commissioner: What I know of Dudley shows me there is very little gas given off there; I have been pretty well all round it after it had been closed down for ten or twelve weeks, and only found the gas in one place; I had not been down the pit before the explosion; when I say I would work it without safety-lamps, I speak from what I know of the mine myself; the gas would never light at a man's lamp if the brattice was properly put in; putting aside the lighting from the shots, I consider it an open question as to whether safety-lamps should be used or not; if I, as manager, thought there would be danger using naked lights, I should use safety-lamps; if I knew gas was being given off in a place, I would either cease working that place or use a safety-lamp to work it; the explosion, in my opinion, started

started in the neighbourhood of Young's body or in the neighbourhood of Dunn's body; the left hand side of the second right-hand headings is not dusty, and the coal-dust there would not help the explosion much; the left hand side of the mine is very dusty; there must have been some dust to have helped the force from the right-hand side; I cannot say on which side of the mine the explosion started; it might have started either where Price's body was found or where Hindmarsh's or Young's body was found.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 29th day }
of August, 1898, before me, — }

WILLIAM TURNBULL.

This deponent, *Alexander Ross*, recalled, on his former oath, states (*to Commissioner*) (*Sketch made by witness put in evidence and marked "E"*):—I have been over the colliery since I was last examined; I went down on the morning of the 26th instant with Mr. Humphreys and Mr. Richard Thomas; I did not go all over it; we requested Humphreys to take us in—by first at Nigger's heading, thence round the face into the second left headings, from there round the face into Bob's heading, from there into Star's heading, thence into the return of the main narrow bords; we travelled that course into the return into the second right headings, thence right along the intake of the second right to the face, from there into the return of the second right round the face of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th headings and into the going bord leading from the fan-shaft over to the place where the fire occurred, and thence out into the main intake of the narrow bords; where Hetherington's body was found I saw the burnt brattice cloth and also the sides of the props burnt—the face of the props outwards; we traversed the heading to the face and observed the coke-dust at the first pillar from Hetherington's bord, and also coke-dust in the face; we then went up the bord along the face, noticing as we went the charred face of the props (inwards) burnt; I noticed a bord down which the force had travelled; thence we travelled into the heading—second left; we went along the heading and through the first stentin to the face; turning along the heading we traversed up the second bord from the face and into the next three bords to Hindmarsh's heading; in all these bords the props were charred by flame from inwards out; we found the same indications of force coming along until we got into Bob's heading; when we got to the spot described as the place where Hindmarsh's body was found, I found a brattice cloth driven over from right to left; the next bord out on the right hand showed fire had gone down it from right to left, and the face of the props had been scarred with flame from the inside, the opposite side from which the force had come; at the going bord, about the middle of that district, we went down it, about two and a half pillars, in the direction of the second left heading, passing several props all flamed on the same side; we then came to a skip which was tipped up and had been driven there by some great force; from that we retraversed the same route into Bob's heading, and continued up the narrow bord into Star's heading; from there we travelled all along Star's heading and found in almost every bord to the right indications of force—props charred—indicating force towards the second left heading (*these bords marked with black pencil*); two bords on the left as we came out, which are nearest the return narrow bord, showed to me the displacement of the brattice cloth as having been driven from right to left; they had been driven from the props about 4 feet to the left rib (*bords marked with red arrow*); when we reached the narrow bord we went and saw the stentin—the in-by stentin from Star's heading—and judging from the coked nature of the dust on the floor there I concluded the flame had gone there from right to left (*marked with black arrow*); I searched the ribs opposite that stentin and found evidences of coked-dust sticking to the rib side; we next visited the next stentin outwards and found coke-dust there also; we went down the narrow bord to the heading leading from the return heading in which is the overcast; I am perfectly satisfied now that the bricks there had been driven from right to left; the next outward stentin I found a force had gone through from right to left and saw a door 15 yards away from its previous position (*marked with black cross*); we passed through there into the main intake of the second right headings and went up the fan-shaft narrow bord to the position of "Jones' door"; I found that considerable force had come down that bord from left to right; in that same narrow on the first pillar I found two charred props standing; they were charred on their face indicating the same force as the door; I then went into the main headings again and went as far as the next door; in that stentin I found the bricks surrounding the door had been driven right into the pillar opposite; I took some half bricks down 4 feet from the floor (*marked with black pencil*); the force was from the return into the intake; we then went to the face of the heading seeing no signs of gas; the same applies to the return heading, no gas there; we next went down the return heading and were shown the place where Young was found; I saw no indication of flame or force there however; I then went into the face of the second heading; I saw no indication of flame there; we went next to the third heading, and in the second bord in that heading we first found indications of force; a skip of coal had been left full not far from the line of heading; we found that tipped over not quite on its side; it would have fallen right over, but for two props against which it was leaning; a prop there showed indication of flame from the face towards the main narrow bords; we saw indications in five bords along that heading of flame; we went into No. 4 heading and there I saw a very peculiar coincidence of force; I saw the flame as having scorched the props towards the narrow bords and also towards the face; we went right along that fourth heading into the going bord, and all the props along there showed that the flame had travelled from in outwards towards the main narrow bord; we then travelled two pillars up the going bord and along the heading to the place where the fire had been; we found indications of the course of the flame all the way along; I judged that from the scorched nature of the small pieces of coal along there; there were no props there; we then went over the full the full length of the bord and along the heading to the next bord, down that bord and into the next until we came to heading, which I termed the second cut-through to the right; between the fire and the second cut-through I saw indications of flame all going in the same direction—towards the second cut-through; having satisfied myself that the force had gone out by the second cut-through, we retraced our steps and came back to the second heading; we travelled two pillar lengths to the first cut-through to the right thence out on to the main narrow bords; immediately opposite the going heading the heading had been overdriven into the pillar leaving a slight cavity there (*marked with a black cross*); we found some coke-dust in that small cavity, a clear indication that the force had come into that heading with great strength; all along that right rib leading into the narrow bord—at the first cut-through—the pillar had coke-dust upon it; the cause of the explosion in my opinion was a naked light coming into contact with the gas; from the examinations I have made and the evidence I have heard I am of opinion that

that the explosion started on the right-hand side of the mine ; I cannot say about what spot in the mine ; if the explosion had occurred near Hindmarsh's body, the indications of the direction of the force in Star's heading would not have been the same ; I saw a tub in the first cut-through standing off its wheels ; that could have been whirled from its position to where it was found by the force I have described ; between the first and second cut-throughs I saw signs of a flame going from the second to the first parallel to the main intake ; I did not consider it advisable for safety-lamps to be used in the mine from what I saw of it before the explosion ; I knew there was gas there, but never knew of it lighting ; taking into consideration what has occurred, and also the careful management of the Dudley mine, which I knew of my own knowledge, I consider it would be advisable for a time to use safety-lamps in the mine ; I would further like to qualify that opinion in this way : seeing Dudley is a very dusty mine, and that the dust has played such a prominent part in the explosion, I consider that if the dust were watered several times daily the greatest source of danger in the mine would be removed ; watering the dust would only prevent the explosion being universal and disastrous ; the question of protecting the individual would still have to be considered ; I cannot fix any length of time for which I consider the safety-lamps should be used ; putting aside the ignitions from firing, and the carelessness of the men, and also the element of the coal-dust, I consider the mine could be safely worked with naked lights.

By Mr. Atkinson : Going along from where Young was found, towards the narrow bords, I found indications of flame on the props on the side nearest the face of the bords ; I should say the flame had come out over ; it was the indication of flame I saw on that side ; I saw dust on the opposite side ; in going from Nigger's heading towards the second left, the indications of flame were towards the first left, and the dust on the opposite side of the props ; starting from the second left and going along the main narrow bords, I noticed the stoppings had been blown from the main intake into the return.

By Mr. Curley : I think the stoppings had been blown out between the first overcast and the first cut-through ; I think they had been blown from left to right ; I believe the force had come right round from the right-hand district through the left and down to the stoppings which it had blown from left to right ; my explanation of the course of the force is quite consistent with the fact of the stoppings in the narrow bords being blown from left to right ; I did not examine carefully for signs of force towards the fan-shaft ; I saw the bricks of the stopping near there blown down ; the force may have gone towards the fan-shaft and the bricks been carried in that direction ; I cannot say ; I heard Harrison's evidence as to the flare-up, and assuming that everything was in proper order and working properly on that occasion, I should say something better than a naked light should be used ; in such a case I would make an investigation into the circumstances, and, if I could not get a satisfactory explanation of the matter I would advise the use of a safety-lamp in such a place.

By Commissioner : The ordinary miner is exposed to greater danger than the person making the inspection, as the miner is exposed to the danger during the whole of his shift.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 29th day
of August, 1898, before me,—

ALEXANDER ROSS, JUN.

C. G. WADE.

Inquiry adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow.
Court-house, Newcastle, 29th August, 1898.

Inquiry resumed at 10 a.m. this day, Court-house, Newcastle, 30th August, 1898.

This deponent, *Richard Thomas*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*) :—I am manager of Messrs. Brown's collieries ; I have been so for eight years ; I have had about twenty-eight years' experience in mining—sixteen in England, and twelve in this Colony ; I was at one time manager of the Stockton Colliery here ; I was at the Dudley pit shortly after the explosion ; I first went along the main narrow bord to a little distance beyond the crosscut ; we went as far as the air would allow us, then returned to the shaft ; in looking into the various openings to the right and left we came across the body of Dorritty in the narrow bord near the crosscut ; we then made provision for a current of air into the first left hand and went in there by the pump ; we found a small smouldering fire in the second bord to the right ; we found evidences of very strong force in the first left on the right-hand side ; the stoppings were driven towards the shaft ; in one case the bricks of the stopping were driven into the pillar of coal from the return towards the intake side ; we went as far as about four stentins—the evidences of the force being all in the same direction ; I afterwards went to the second left with Mr. Atkinson ; I afterwards went into the Nigger's heading ; on the way from the shaft to the crosscut, I noticed the evidences of force from the left-hand towards the shaft with one exception where a considerable force had come out from the right-hand side ; that was at the first cut-through past No. 1 right-hand heading ; I noticed some skips there ; there was coke-dust on them, having come from the left side ; the force from right to left that I noticed had ploughed right through some skips, and had displaced them ; the next day we went right along to the second right hand ; going down there I noticed the strongest force was from the right-hand side ; the double doors had been blown out to the right towards the intake ; some of the stoppings had been blown out from the return towards the intake ; the remains of the stoppings were on the left-hand side of the heading ; in one case portion of the bricks was embedded on the other side ; that was somewhere about the second or third stentin below the double doors—somewhere about where Mowbray's body was found ; I noticed where a door about five stentins in by the double doors had been blown towards the shaft ; owing to the falls we did not notice much evidence of force from there to the face ; we went right to the face of the third bord, and found there a water-tub, a bucket, and a horse and a cap with a lamp fastened to it ; I saw the bodies of Rudge and Jones ; we went towards the face of No. 2 right-hand heading and examined the bords on our left side for gas, but although the brattice had been displaced in each of them we could find no trace of gas ; that was on the night of the 23rd March or morning of 24th March ; we found gas in both headings, and in the bords on the return side ; we tested three or four of them ; we went back to the upcast shaft, but could see no indications of force on account of the heavy falls ; we were proceeding towards the stow-bord when we saw immense volumes of smoke coming from the direction of the first right hand ; knowing that there, must be a fierce fire raging there, we at once proceeded to the surface and gave the alarm ; we decided to suspend operations, and next day the shaft was sealed down ; I was next down the pit on Friday last, the 26th instant, with the manager, the under manager, and Mr. Ross ; in going along Nigger's heading we noticed indications of flame on the bark of the props ; that flame had
come

come from the right hand—from the second left towards the first left; on coming to the second right hand the indications of force were still from the right hand; we crossed the face of the second left headings and into the narrow bord; the force was still in the same direction; I saw a tub there tipped against some props; in the back narrow bord I noticed a force coming from the right-hand side—the bricks in the stoppings were blown towards the return, and the coal-dust was slightly coked; in some of the bords in the neighbourhood of Hindmarsh's body I noticed some of the props had been displaced—blown from right to left—from the narrow bord towards the face; the canvas had been blown against the left rib in several bords in Star's heading (*bords marked with red arrow*); in the bords marked with black arrows the force was seen going towards the left, the props being charred and the dust coked in the direction of the second left headings; in the bord opposite Hindmarsh's body we saw gas; it was about 12 yards in the bord; indications of a force from right to left were noticed at the second right-hand overcast; I went up the back narrow bord towards the face and found the stoppings blown into the return; we came back to the door beyond the second right hand and noticed the bricks at the overcast blown into the return; I was not in the headings off the return main narrow bord; near the second left heading I saw a door blown into the return—the in-by side of the second left; from there I went into the second right; we went right to the face of the second right; we tested for gas in some of the back headings, but could find none; we went into the bord where Young's body was found; before getting to that bord we passed a skip at the entrance to No. 30 bord; it had been blown as if there had been a force towards the face of the heading—in the direction marked by the blue arrow; in the bord where Young's body was found the evidence of a force was in the direction towards the face of the workings (*direction marked by blue arrow*); from there to the seat of the fire the force seemed to be towards both shafts; in No. 23 bord a skip had been tilted over towards the shaft—upcast; the props were charred and frayed on the side further from the shaft; there was one noticeable exception where a prop had coke-dust on the other side; that would be opposite 22 bord; right along we noticed indications of a force in the same direction—out-by from the props—and parallel with the second right hand; we noticed that right up to the narrow bord where Price and Dunn were found; we did not travel the headings nearer to the second right headings; at the stow-bord the direction of force was still towards the fire; we travelled right across the seat of the fire and noticed indications of force in the same direction towards the main narrow bord; these were charred props, and in one or two cases singeing of the sides (*witness marks with black arrows pencil line the direction of the force from the face towards the fire, and from the fire towards the second cut-through, then back towards the first cut-through*); at the point where Price's body was found the flame seemed to have split and gone towards the fan-shaft; the bricks from the door near the point marked "A" had been driven about 50 yards towards the back second right; I traced the flame back to the first cut-through where I saw a tub; I could not say in what direction it had been blown; I cannot say where the explosion originated; I think the force spread itself from the face of the second right, partly to the fan-shaft and partly to the down-cast shaft; on the left side I think it spread itself over the workings, and passing down Nigger's heading into the first left; if the carriage of the tub at the first cut-through were found standing in the main intake, I should say that indicated a force from left to right; in the main narrow bords the more numerous indications of force were from left to right, but the indications at the first cut-through showed a force there as great as any coming from left to right; from all the indications, I believe that Rudge and Jones must have been alarmed at something at the face, and rushed from where they were working to a point about 70 yards away, where they were overtaken by a powerful force, and Rudge driven round against a prop; Jones had been thrown down with great force, as his wrists were fractured, and there was a severe abrasion under his chin, where he had fallen with his neck on the prop; Rudge's body was on the side of the prop towards the face, his face looking inwards; the prop was between his body and the intake; Jones had been thrown with his head towards the rib; their bodies were found about 20 or 25 yards from the main intake; there was a stopping blown out just opposite that bord; the road from where Rudge and Jones had been working to where their bodies were found was fairly easy to travel on; there were no falls between these two points; I saw the pillar in the second right, with the brick driven into it, on the 26th instant, with Mr. Ross; that was the same brick as I spoke of in the beginning of my evidence.

By Mr. Atkinson: I have not examined any of the stoppings between the two headings of the second left; I think the explosion passed through the main narrow bords, driving down the stentins on its way; when the bords in Star's heading were at work, the brattice would be on the left side; those I saw had been blown further to the left; in the headings on the right-hand side from where Young's body was found, towards the narrow bords, the dust was on the out-by side of the props and the indications of flame on the in-by side; I think the explosion came from the intake narrow bord to the return.

By Mr. Curley: It was between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m., on the 24th March last, that I noticed the gas in No. 2 right-hand heading; I cannot say how far from the face of the headings I noticed it; McAuliffe was with us at the time; he was in the front heading and I was in the back; I should say the gas extended about 11 yards from the face; we tried three bords there for gas, and found it in each of them; we went about 3 or 4 yards into the bords; I could not see the face of those bords from where I was standing; we could not see far just there; I was in advance of the air at the time; I was about 12 yards into the bord opposite which Hindmarsh's body was found; I do not know the length of that bord; Mr. Ross was in the bord with me, and noticed this gas also; from the point where we found the gas we could not see the face of the bord; we were on top of a fall; we were crouching under close to the roof; I noticed the tubs in the main intake on my first visit; they had been blown from left to right—some forward, some left to right; the force at the first stopping from the shaft bottom was outwards; that is between the crosscut and the first left on the right side; that is the exception I have spoken of to the general indications of the direction of the force there; I did not notice the bricks in connection with that stopping; the three skips forming the exception I have spoken of were blown outwards; they were not tipped over, but were separated from each other by a force coming from the right-hand side; they were spread out fan-shape; they were disconnected when we saw them; at the stopping beyond the crosscut, on the right-hand side, I did not notice the position of the tubs; if the explosion started in the right-hand side, and taking into consideration the evidences of force that I saw, I would have expected the flame to have escaped into the downcast shaft; from what I saw on the left-hand side of the mine, I say there has been a very extensive range of explosion on that side; I did not see any bricks blown from left to right on the right-hand side; I saw some blown from right to left there; I did not see any indications of a force from

left to right at any of the second right overcasts; we inspected the plan before we went down on the 26th instant, and decided upon the general route we would take; it was not explained to me where the carriage of the tub had been that we saw at the first cut-through; we were discussing whether it had come out of a working bord near there, or had been driven right in; when I tested for gas in the second right on the 26th instant, the brattice was well up to the face.

By Mr. Brown: I have had some experience of fiery mines in England; from what I knew of the Dudley before the explosion, I did not consider it a fiery mine; I do not know sufficient of it to express an opinion as to whether it should be worked with safety-lamps or not.

By Commissioner: I think great care should be exercised in working the Dudley mine, and that the coal-dust should be well watered; an otherwise practically harmless ignition of gas might be helped by the coal-dust, and thus cause a disastrous explosion; supposing the ventilating appliances are all in good order, and still there are ignitions of gas in the mine, I think safety-lamps should be used if there is sufficient gas to show a blue cap on the safety-lamp; it would be sufficient to limit the use of the safety-lamps to the district where gas is shown, if it has its own independent return.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 30th day }
of August, 1898, before me— }
C. G. WADE.

RICHD. THOMAS.

This deponent, *Alexander Ross*, recalled on his former oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—It was the stopping of the second and third stentins in from the overcast that I saw the remains of blown from left to right; I cannot recollect anything about the fourth stentin, of which I spoke in my evidence last week; I evidently meant the third stentin when I spoke of the fourth; I think the flame traversed either the return or intake of the second right into the main narrow bords; it may, perhaps, have travelled both the return and intake of the second right; I have been in as far as the bord in the third cut-through nearest the second right; I did not notice anything about it, as we were simply looking for bodies then; I do not think it possible for a flame to have blown out the second overcast, and got into the main narrow bords, and into the right-hand side; the explosion, as long as it had life in it, would travel against the air; in the second right the flame has split itself in two; I did not examine any of the second left headings immediately adjacent to the main narrow bord return; it was in the stentin in-by where Jones and Rudge were found, that I found the brick embedded in the pillar; if the explosion started in that locality, I would expect those stentins to have been blown in at once; if they were alarmed, as Mr. Thomas thinks, I think there was time for them to have reached where they were found before they were overtaken by after-damp; it is not likely they travelled that distance if the explosion started in that locality, and they were exposed to violence; if the tub at the first right cut-through were standing immediately in the cut-through, its position, as I saw it, would indicate a force from left to right; assuming that the force there came from left to right, I still think my opinion as to the seat of the explosion is consistent; the force may have come through the cut-through towards the first right headings, crossed them and gone up the shafts through the pick-rack heading; I saw considerable signs of force opposite the pick-rack heading; I saw indications of force at the wall in the shaft bottom; I have not actually examined between the first cut-through and the pick-rack; the force from left to right reached the first cut-through before the force from right to left.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 30th day }
of August, 1898, before me— }
C. G. WADE.

ALEXANDER ROSS, JUNR.

This deponent, *James Henwood*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—I am underground manager of the Dudley Colliery; I have been so since the 25th June last; I had had about thirty-three years' experience of mining before that—nine in Scotland, fourteen in Durham, and the remainder in this Colony; I have been in charge of the underground work at Dudley since the pit was unsealed; I was present at the finding of the five bodies since the unsealing; Cooke's body was found on the 16th July; it was lying face downwards, with the face out-by towards the main heading, just at the corner of a pillar, two pillars up from the main heading; the left arm was slightly extended towards the side of the coal, and the right arm slightly extended and bent towards the head; I saw no signs of burning or singeing about the body; about 20 yards on the out-by side there was his water tub, and his cap and lamp 15 yards further in-by than the water tub; I did not notice whether the lamp was burnt out or not; I examined the bodies of Price and Dunn, but not for signs of fire; I took the positions of the bodies; I made notes of the positions in which I found all the bodies; on 23rd July, Dunn's body was found in the stow-bord direct from the separation bords; it was lying in a doubled-up position on the right side, head and feet in-by, the left hand grasping the left shin, the right hand extended out-by, the back of head and neck flattened across a prop; that was 15 yards from the first heading past the fan-shaft pillar; Price's body was found on the 24th July in the same bord as Dunn's, 19½ yards from the first heading past the fan-shaft pillar; it was lying face down, chest flattened on a prop, the legs slightly inclined in-by, the right leg doubled under the left, the right arm extended out-by, head and body inclined towards the right side of the bord, the whole body was covered with stone; the prop was one of those used for supporting the roof; I should say the force had blown him and the prop down at the same time, and the roof had fallen on them subsequently; the only evidence of the direction of the force was the empty tub which had been blown out-by from them, being found 6½ yards on the out-by side of Dunn's body; that would be towards the fan-shaft; it was off the road, and had evidently been caught at the back and blown across the road at an angle; two shovels and, I believe, two picks were found in the immediate vicinity of the bodies; Dunn's shovel was found about 4 yards on the out-by side of his body; the other shovel was found between the bodies of Price and Dunn, but more to the left side of the bords than the bodies; I have not found the cap or lamp of either Dunn or Price; nothing has been done in that part since the finding of Price's body; on 28th July, the body of Young was found in the first open bord from the face of the second right back heading, 15 yards from the top end of the bord; it was lying on its back, with the right arm crossed over the body, the left arm doubled back over towards the head; the head and face were inclined towards the right side of the bord; the body was 6 feet from the right side of the bord; I did not take any particular notice whether there was any singeing of the body; there was some brattice cloth found

found entangled about his feet; there had been no brattice in that bord; there was a fall in that bord; his cap was afterwards found about 5 yards on the out-by side; no lamp was found; the cap was 5 yards nearer the main heading than the body; Hindmarsh's body was found on the 4th instant in the fourth heading from the second left main heading and the second bord from the going-bord; it was lying flat on the back between the rails; the head was in-by, and the left-arm parallel with the body; the hand had gone from the wrist; the right arm was extended slightly towards the left side of the head, and inclined towards the head; it was grasping a boot; the other boot was lying close by; he had no vest on; the left foot was dislocated at or fractured near the ankle-joint; his hair and whiskers were missing; I saw no brattice-cloth on top of the body, nor anywhere about there, at that time; I did not see the body actually recovered; there may have been brattice on it when found; some time after the body was recovered some brattice-cloth was found near his feet; he had on a shirt and trousers; I could not say whether it was an undershirt or an ordinary one; nothing was seen of his lamp or cap there; since the body was found two shifts have been working there cleaning up, but no search has been made there during the last week or ten days; I have been all over the pit since the unsealing, with the exception of the first right hand; I cannot say whether that has been explored at all or not; I have made observations at different times and different places with regard to the force; the stoppings between the two narrow bords are blown into the return between the crosscut and upwards; the first one past the crosscut is blown into the return; the second one is standing; the next two are blown in; I first took particular notice of them at least a fortnight after I became engaged at Dudley; there are no bricks opposite the sixth stentin; there were bricks opposite the others; the stentin is a yard or two past the entrance to the cross-cut in-by; the bricks were found scattered along the stentin into the back narrow bord; going along the second right main heading the first stopping on the right is blown into the intake; the next is blown into the intake; the next two are standing; the ninth stentin along that second right is also standing; all the others from that point up to the face are blown into the intake; taking the stoppings in the first going-bord, the first on the left side is standing; the right side one is blown in to the right; the next two headings are blown right and left respectively—the left to the left and the right to the right; that is the bord in which Cooke's body was found; the stoppings at the next heading in-by are blown right and left, respectively; there is no distinct force along the fourth heading; there has been an evident force along the working-faces, going from the main narrow bords towards the second right heading; the indications are canvas blown down; that is up to the point marked "H" on the plan; going up the second going-bord off the ninth stentin both stoppings are gone to the left in the first two headings; in the third heading the left side stopping has been blown to the left; the canvas door opposite has been left standing; that stopping was a canvas one; from the top of that going-bord to the point marked "H" there is nothing to indicate clearly which way the force has gone; there is no evidence of any flame in those going-bords; from the line of faces beginning at bord 42 to the top of the second going-bord the indication of a force is from bord 42 towards the second going-bord; canvas was blown in that direction; the force has not been very great along any of those faces; I have not been in the bords marked with a red arrow by Mr. Turnbull; taking the second right main heading on the right side, there is evidence of both force and fire going in the direction of the fan-shaft back to the stow-bord, then up that bord towards the fan-shaft; the door at the end of the shaft-pillar was blown out towards the return; the two separation doors were blown into the intake; the door on the main intake above the second going-bord was blown out over towards the fan-shaft; the door in the stentin just beyond that door in-by was blown out on to the intake; the door in the stentins, three stentins beyond the last mentioned, was blown into the intake; the headings from the stow-bord out towards the main narrow bord also give evidence of fire and force travelling towards the narrow bord; there is no evidence of any stopping at the right side of the bord, where Price and Dunn were found; props standing showed evidence of fire, and also coke-dust; the coke-dust showed on the side nearest the working-faces of the second right hand; on the opposite side, nearest the narrow bords, there was fine dust uncoked; in two cases I found coke-dust on the other side of the props; that was at the junction of the third and fourth headings; in one case and in the other the spot marked in blue by Mr. Dixon; facing up those headings towards the narrow bords in the second heading on the fan-shaft side of the fire the coke-dust was on the in-by side of the props going towards the narrow bords to a point marked with a black arrow; in going up the bord where the two black arrows are the coke-dust is on the side of the props nearest the fire; going down the left-hand side of the same heading the coke-dust is on the side of the props nearest the fan-shaft; that continued down to a spot marked with a black cross where there was an abundance of coke-dust; coming along that heading towards the fire-bord there is a prop with a recess about 18 inches from the top of the prop; there was coke-dust there on the in-by side of the prop, (*marked with black star*); there was also coke-dust on the in-by side of lid of the same prop; coming through the first opening from the first overcast there is a ledge jutting from the side on the left side coming in from the narrow bord, on which there is also a quantity of coke-dust; that is on the side of the ledge nearest the fire; in the headings next the seat of the fire, going towards the fan-shaft, there are signs of fire and force in the bords; in some bords the indications show a course from the fire, in others towards the fire; in the bords between the fan-shaft and the main narrow bord, the first and fourth from the second right return, there are evidences of fire and force going towards the return (*marked with black arrow*); continuing up the main narrow bord from No. 3 overcast the stoppings are gone right and left from the main intake; that is the case as far as we have gone in that direction; the fourth stopping above Star's heading seems to have collapsed bodily; the fifth stentin from Star's heading has fallen, and the sixth collapsed; the bricks from the first stopping on the right side in-by the second right we found blown 44 yards down the heading; the next three headings have fallen into the stentins, and there is no evidence of the stoppings; the first and second stentins below Star's heading bear evidences of the coal having been singed or burnt; the first stentin above Star's heading the stopping has come into the return, and the coal bears evidences of severe burning; on the side of the return opposite that stentin there is a considerable amount of coke-dust mixed with pulverised brick embedded in the side of the coal; then the coal along the return narrow bord from that point towards Star's heading also bears evidences of singeing; going along Star's heading the first two bords on the right are upstanding, and show evidences of fire and force going in from the main narrow bords to Star's heading; the canvas and props were blown from the right side of the bord towards the left; the first bord on the left side showed evidence of force and fire going down that bord from Star's heading to a certain distance; the other end of that bord showed evidence of fire and force having come up in the opposite direction (*bords marked with black arrow*); the props were burnt on the side nearest Star's heading, and there

there was coke-dust on the same side of the props; the dust was not particularly thick there; continuing along Star's heading the next six bords on the left side bear evidence of fire and force having come in from Star's heading; the bord next to the going bord has fallen close, and affords no evidence of any fire or force; the top of the going bord a portion of upstanding ground with six props under it shows abundant evidence of fire and coke-dust having gone down the going bord from Star's heading; continuing down the going bord in the fourth pillar from Star's heading there is a tub turned half on its side, and at an angle with the line of road (*marked with blue and red arrows*); near the tub are two props bearing signs of violent force; continuing down from the end of Star's heading there is no evidence of fire from Star's heading down to where Hindmarsh was found; everything has fallen so closely that no evidence could be found of any force; continuing from that point down along the line of face towards the second main left heading the props bear evidence of fire and coke-dust travelling in the direction from Star's heading towards the second left; the second pillar above the second left headings there are props which indicate fire and force from Star's heading; the signs of fire are on the side next to Star's heading; going down on to the second left back heading along the back heading to the last stentin but one; there is a prop there standing out through the fall burnt on the outside of the prop; going through that stentin into the intake heading there is a prop in the heading standing out through the fall, which is also burnt; the fire has evidently licked all round it; down the first open bord from the intake heading there is evidence of fire having gone from that heading towards Nigger's heading; at the bottom of that bord the tramway laid along that heading has been displaced some feet from its position towards Nigger's heading; there are evidences of force and fire in the second pillar from the left-hand heading right into Nigger's heading; in Nigger's heading a piece of coal projecting from the ordinary line of the pillar, about 4 feet thick, holds a considerable quantity of coke-dust; also, on the fourth bord from the main narrow bord, there is evidence of force going down towards Nigger's heading; I would not be positive about any flame having gone down there; there are evidences in the first left-hand of force and flame coming down on to the shaft crosscut; at the downcast shaft there is evidence of a force coming through the pump-drift, and also from the opposite side through the pick-rack; going along the intake of the second right-hand main heading towards the face the stoppings on the left-hand side of the intake were blown into the intake; in by the fan-shaft the stoppings that were blown down were blown from from right to left; those that were standing were very much shattered; I have found gas in the face of the two right-hand main headings since the unsealing; the ventilation had not been restored at the time; I found it 6 yards from the last open stentin, in towards the face of the heading; ventilation has since been restored, and I have tried for gas since, but have not found any; I also found a trace of gas in the last bord of the second left back heading; the ventilation had not been restored at the time; I also found gas in the last bord in the second heading from Star's heading (*marked "A" on plan*); ventilation had not been restored then, nor has it since; I first found gas there on 4th August; I have found gas there once since then; I saw signs of it about 12 yards back from the face; I found no gas anywhere else; the evidences I have seen of the explosion point to its having originated on the right-hand side of the mine; I think it started on the right hand and came along the headings to the right of the second right main heading towards the narrow bords, then into the main narrow bord at the first opening past the first overcast; I think it came through No. 3 overcast, through the stentins above and below Star's heading, along that heading down the going bord, and also along the working faces to the second left into Nigger's heading, and then down through into the first left, out at the pump chamber to the downcast shaft; when I first went into the pit everything had been cleaned up to a great extent between the downcast and the crosscut; I should say the tub found at the first cut-through had been whirled from the line of rails going through the opening, and driven by a very strong force into the cut-through; looking at the stentin opposite the cut-through, and the evidence of fire and force about there, I should say there had been a division of the force there; I account for the position of the carriage of that tub in that way; I do not think the tub was driven a great distance, but the carriage; the tub would have left the road at the turn to the left if impelled by such a force as must have been there.

By Mr. Atkinson: The force was more particularly marked between where Young's body was found and the second right main headings in the face of the second right headings; I noticed the deposit of coke-dust generally on the in-by side of the props and the dry dust on the other side; my opinion is that the force places the coke-dust on the sides in its passage; I did not see the position of the tubs that were on the full road between the first air-crossing and the crosscut end; I account for their position by a force coming along the main road; it is quite possible that if the force caught the skips at the end they would be driven over on to the right rib; the force may have come out at different points, and travelled along the main road till it became united again, tossing the tubs in all directions before it reunited.

By Commissioner: The stoppings from the second stentin in by the first overcast I found in the return of the main narrow bord.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 30th day }
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

JAS. HENWOOD.

Inquiry adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow.
Court-house, Newcastle, 30th August, 1898.

Inquiry resumed at 10 a.m. this 31st August, 1898, Court-house, Newcastle.

Deputies' Report-book—December, 1897, to March, 1898—*Exhibit F.*
Overman's Report-book—July, 1897, to March, 1898—*Exhibit G.*
Deputies' Report-book—June, 1891, to January, 1893—*Exhibit H.*
Deputies' Report-book—February, 1893, to October, 1896—*Exhibit I.*

This deponent, *James Henwood*, recalled, on his former oath, states (*to Mr. Atkinson*):—I do not remember having seen portions of two grease casks; I did not hear Mr. Dixon say those were found blown from the narrow bord in over—from left to right; I should account for that in the same way as I did for the position of the skip in my evidence yesterday; the same force that separated the top of the skip from the bottom would separate the tops of the casks from the bottom, and blow them to where they were found;

found; I consider that is consistent with my idea that the force went from right to left; I noticed what had taken place at the second left air-crossing; the position of the timbers I found there showed a force from left to right; I saw three balks there each about a foot in diameter, and about 12 feet long; it is quite possible that the initial force may have displaced that air-crossing, and a second force coming back may have placed the timbers in the position in which they were found; the secondary force would have a much greater effect upon them after the initial force had displaced them; the first stopping from the main narrow bord in the second left heading had been left intact; in one case the fact of the stopping being blown down a considerable distance from the old bord opposite the stentin, as marked on the plan by an arrow and letter "H," is positive evidence to me that the stopping was blown in a direction from Star's heading towards the downcast shaft; in other cases of those stoppings there are signs in the drift of dust which, in my opinion, indicate the same line of force; I saw signs of burning in the cut-through where the tub and casks were seen; and in the bord first to the right of the narrow bords on the left-hand side of the cut-through, there is evidence of fire coming down that bord towards the cut-through; the position of the skips at the second cut-through on the right-hand side may be accounted for by the fact that the second bord on the right of that entrance shows a force in an opposite direction to that in the bord which I have just spoken of; consequently, the force would come out of that same opening, and may be the force that shifts the tubs; I found indications of flame in the neighbourhood of where Hindmarsh's body was found; in the first bord, to the left side of the heading where Hindmarsh was found, a prop penetrating through the fall shows distinct signs of burning and coke-dust; the evidence of burning being on the side next the heading in which Hindmarsh was found and the coke-dust on the same side (*prop marked with blue arrow and letter "H"*); I have made an inspection of the places examined by the deputies; I traced the date 21st from the face of the narrow bord along to the second bord from the face of the second right-hand main heading; I did not observe it on either of the main headings nor on the right-hand side of the main heading; I have not looked for a date in the faces of the second left; in one case I looked for the 21st particularly, but could not find it; in some of the bords in Star's heading I think there will be found the date 18th; I am not positive as to that; in some places I have noticed that where the workings were wet there is no evidence of fire; the left-hand side of the second right main headings as an example; the workings there are damp generally.

By Commissioner: There are other portions to the right of the second right which are damp also; in the bord marked "water" in the headings to the right of the second right heading there is no sign of force, but in the bord next towards the fan-shaft the force can be traced going towards the second right return, and turning the corner towards the spot marked by Mr. Dixon in blue; I should say that generally the district to the right of the second right has been dry and dusty.

By Mr. Curley: I certainly think that the explosion occurred on the right-hand side of the second right-hand main headings; I did not see greater signs of explosive force there than elsewhere; I do not pretend to say where the explosion originated; I have made a careful examination of the whole mine, but this being my first experience after an explosion, I do not presume to give evidence as an expert as to the origin of the explosion; I will not say where the point of origin was; the first sign of force I saw was in the first going bord on the right side of the second right main headings (*marked with a star*); I have not made the subject of explosions a matter of particular study; I have read certain articles about them, and that is all; I cannot say that the separation doors would be blown out very soon after the commencement of the explosion, assuming the explosion started on the right side; those doors were blown right and left; I think there would have been sufficient air to have carried the explosion from right to left, as I have described it, even with those doors disarranged; I think the air would turn the other way, towards the downcast after the explosion; with the first local disarrangements on the right side it was possible for the explosion to have gone up the narrow bords to the entrance of Star's heading with the air; I think there would still be air to carry on the explosion as I have described it; the finding of the brattice about Young and Hindmarsh does not suggest anything particular to me; I have heard that Hindmarsh was the underground manager and Young the examining deputy; I have examined the bord in which Hindmarsh was found; I have done so twice; I found no body of gas there, but an indication; with a proper light for testing for gas there is sufficient inclination of the flame to swell, to denote the presence of gas, but no positive indication of the presence of gas; one of the features of the gas is to extend the flame; I was making an examination of that part of the pit at the time, and in that bord, as in all others I naturally tried for gas with the lamp; that bord is about 35 yards in; if gas was given off there it would be a likely place to contain gas; I was last there the early part of last week; I cannot account for Messrs. Thomas and Ross finding gas there when I did not.

By Commissioner: I attribute the swelling of the flame in the lamp in that bord more to a stagnant atmosphere than to gas; that inclination to swell indicates the presence of some percentage of gas there.

By Mr. Curley: I have made a close inspection of the main headings of the second right hand; assuming there was gas in the second right headings on the morning of the explosion, I cannot say whether the explosion would have consumed that gas or not; it may have been forced into the face of the headings or consumed by the explosion; I have not seen any coke-dust in those headings at the end of the second right; the gas I saw 6 yards on the in-by side of the last open stentin in the second right main heading; I saw in the roof where it had fallen; I found the gas in the cavity made by the fall; the ventilation had not been restored up to that point at the time, but to within a pillar of it; there was only a very moderate quantity of air travelling at the time; I cannot say what the fan revolutions were at the time; they are thirty-five now; I do not know the number of feet of air passing into the second right; the stoppings along the second right are all restored now, and the brattice carried right up to the face; the ventilation has not been restored on the left-hand side of the mine; it has been restored beyond the second right hand in the narrow bords; the deputy certainly sees that the fan is working before he goes down to make his inspection; I have given no instructions to him to that effect; I instructed him that the moment he enters the pit he must see that the ordinary quantity is travelling in the right direction; I have inspected every hole and corner of the mine, except the first right hand; that has been stoppings off with canvas and brick stoppings; I have not noticed any gas coming from that district; if anything came from there it would come from one of the three first bords on the right-hand side of the main narrow bord; they are examined every day; in the bord marked "A" and "O" there was sufficient gas found by me to show on the ordinary testing-lamp; I do not know how far that bord

was in, I think from 25 to 30 yards; about 14 yards from the face of the bord, the out end of the bord has fallen, and the gas is found at the entrance of the upstanding part of the bord; the gas showed, as far as I can say, about 3 inches from the roof; I tried for gas in the face also; there were indications of gas there, but not so definite as on the top of the fall; it was in the cavity caused by the fallen roof that I found the gas; in the innermost bord of the second left back heading I also found gas; I cannot say how far that bord was in; I was in there in the early part of last week; the bord is in 15 or 20 yards at least; I found traces of gas right in next the face; there is no fall in that bord, but the heading is fallen; so far as I have examined the pit there are only those two places where I have found indications of gas in it; the indications in the bords in which there has been no fall are certainly dry, but not what one would call dusty; I know that dust in a mine augments an explosion; a dusty mine should be watered; with proper use of safety-lamps in the mine, I should not take the dust into consideration at all; coal-dust should be either cleaned away or watered; the ventilating current of air at Dudley is a fairly strong one; it would not affect the coal-dust to any extent; it might dry the dust; the question of using safety-lamps in the mine does not depend so much on the evidences of gas in the mine under present conditions as the evidences of gas being given off in the mine during ordinary working conditions; that opinion can only be formed when a person sees the mine under its usual working conditions; assuming that the evidence as to lighting of gas given by the witnesses here be true, the question of using safety-lamps depends a great deal upon the method of ventilation as to the clearing and dealing with the bords during the working hours; with a good system of ventilation, and a good quantity of air travelling, and the dusty parts of the mine properly watered, even those flares-up may be dealt with without safety-lamps; the only feature that I see necessary for the use of safety-lamps, is a constant giving off of gas or where the mine is subject to outbursts or blowers of gas.

By Commissioner: By a blower I mean an outburst of gas sufficient to fill four or five bords in a short time even with the ventilation to carry it off.

By Mr. Curley: The small portions of gas described as having been given off could be dealt with without safety-lamps under the conditions I have mentioned; with the ventilation properly carried out small quantities of gas can be safely carried off; it is quite possible that some derangement of the ventilation caused the explosion at Dudley; a canvas door may have been knocked down by a fall or a stopping knocked down; I do not attach importance to small quantities of gas in a mine under proper conditions; if the conditions were all right I would attach that much importance to it that I would see it properly remedied; if gas were found by the fireman I would insist upon his reporting it; I have so instructed the deputies at Dudley.

By Commissioner: The stoppings on the right side of the second right return going in-by were in very many cases blown into the return from right to left; if the quantity of gas lit up to any extent it would be a matter of danger to the workman, but small quantities of gas the ventilation ought to carry off; if a volume of gas eight or ten yards in length had collected in spite of the ventilation, and lit up at the workman's lamp, it would be dangerous to the workman; I should certainly advise the use of safety-lamps in such a case; I do not consider a flare-up of less than half that quantity would be a danger to the workman; a flame 3 or 4 yards long would not be likely to burn a man if it caught him; the force coming through the two cut-throughs from right to left may have travelled up the main narrow bord and dislodged the second overcast; then later on the force coming down Star's heading may have driven it from left to right as it was found; I attribute the displacement of the timber in that overcast to the force coming from Star's heading; the first two stoppings in the return in-by No. 2 overcast are blown from right to left; going from the stow-bord towards the main narrow bord, I traced force along the two headings in the direction marked by black arrow; the force I mean evidences of fire and in many instances coke-dust; the dust was on the in-by side of the props; I believe there are certain conditions under which coke-dust is deposited on the side opposite to the direction of the flame; that could not, in my opinion, happen where the force has a straight course; in the bords between the first and second cut-throughs there were evidences of coke-dust and singeing; there were props there and a number of them upstanding; in the first two bords to the right of the second cut-through beyond the first overcast the direction of the force was as marked by the blue arrows; going towards the first cut-through, I have shown the direction with two blue arrows; the general direction of force to the right of the second right main heading and in the bords is marked with blue arrows; going out-by from Young's body the first indications I saw are marked with a cross.

By Mr. Curley: I do not know of any authority on mining which says that whenever fire-damp is given off in a mine naked lights should be absolutely prohibited.

By Commissioner: It was in the first three bords in Star's heading from the main narrow bord that I particularly looked for the date 21st; the first two bords were standing.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 31st day }
of August, 1898, before me, — }
C. G. WADE.

JAS. HENWOOD.

This deponent, *Jonathan Dixon*, on his oath, states (*to the Commissioner*):—I am manager of the Greta Colliery; I have been so for two years; I have had about twenty-eight years' experience of coal-mining altogether; prior to the Dudley explosion I had experience of one small explosion; I was one of the committee of management in connection with the Dudley explosion; I was first down the pit the day after the explosion; I was present at the finding of old Mr. Humphreys' body; it was lying face downwards; the body was covered with coal-dust; the body was not under a fall; the body was singed; I also saw Hetherington's body unearthed; I did not notice any signs of burning on the body; it was blackened; there was a fall upon the body; I was also present at the finding of the bodies of McDougall and Haddon; both bodies were exposed; McDougall was on his back, with his arms extended above his shoulders and his legs contracted; he appeared as if he had had a fright or shock; his body was singed; Haddon was on his face, and did not appear to have been so much knocked about as McDougall; I found evidences of force in the second right hand, the second left, the first left in Star's heading, and Bob's heading; this was after the unsealing; before the sealing down I saw skips on the main road showing signs of force—some being thrown to the left, some to the right; since the unsealing in the back narrow bords I found the brick stoppings in the stentins thrown from the back narrow bords towards the front ones;

ones; that was at the third stentin back from the face; the force, although diminished, then went from the faces of the main intake down to the point marked "H"; then the force was from the face of the second right to towards the point marked "H"; the stoppings in by the fan-shaft were blown to the left; on the right of the second right the force had divided itself, and had gone partly to the right and partly to the left; on the right of the main headings of the second right the direction of the force is shown by the arrows in red pencil in by the stow-bord; between the stow-bord and the main narrow bord the indications of force are marked in red arrows and blue and black arrows; in the second right district I saw coke-dust on the props and ledges of coal; at the third overcast the timbers were thrown across the road, and the bricks blown in from right to left; evidences of force and fire were found in Star's heading, going from right to left, as marked by the arrows in red pencil; the brattice door was blown from right to left; in the second bord in Star's heading there was burnt brattice-cloth; in one of the bords in that heading several of the props had been blown from right to left at an angle of about 45 degrees towards the face; the force showed as coming towards the left from Star's heading, as shown by the black arrows; the three headings out-by from Star's heading showed force from right to left, as evidenced by the coke-dust on the timber (*marked with red arrows*); the going bord between the second left and Bob's heading had in it a skip which was canted up off the rail, showing a force coming back over from Bob's heading and Star's heading towards the second left; the same evidences of force-coked props can be traced round the faces into Nigger's heading; the force is continued from Nigger's heading across to the first left hand; that would be on its route to the shaft; there was not much force shown in the bords to the right of the second right; the force has been much stronger in the bords to the left of the second right; the signs of force in the district of Star's heading were slight; from the indications the force in the Star's heading district has been lighter than that in the district to the right of the second right; the force was stronger again when we got to the first left hand; the first stopping between the main narrow bords was intact; another stopping near Humphreys' cabin was blown into the return; the cause of the explosion, in my opinion, was the contact of gas with a naked light; I believe it started in the right-hand district, but I cannot say where; I am strengthened in my opinion as to the seat of the explosion by the fact that the force was seen coming out of the air-shaft some moments before it was seen coming out of the downcast, showing that the seat was nearer to the fan-shaft than the downcast; assuming that a loaded tub was standing on its carriage at the cut-through, and the carriage was found there afterwards, while the tub itself had been blown from left to right, I say the tub may have been first carried from right to left by a force coming that way, and then blown the other way by a force coming in the opposite direction; assuming the positions as given are correct, the force that moved the tub was from left to right; that tub may have been shifted by the filling of the vacuum caused by the explosion before the main force reached the tub; the tail of the train of skips showed a force from right to left; the position of the trucks, as given in Mr. Ross's plan, only indicate to me an impinging of different forces at that point; the force which drove those skips against the left rib must have come from the left somewhere, and the same force must have taken the top off the tub in the cut-through; that force that came from the left of the back narrow bord must have gone through the first cut-through before any force reached that point coming from the right; if the explosion began in the right it would probably reach the first cut-through before the force coming from the left; the force may have gone through the cut-through first over to the left, and the force doing damage to the tub at the cut-through may have been a secondary force coming back that way; the secondary force may have been a force caused when the equilibrium was established; the primary force should be the greater.

By Mr. Atkinson: I think the force crossed from the right to the left at the heading at the side of the third overcast; thence it would travel along the back return, and partly along the main narrow bords and into the stentin along Star's heading; the fact of the stoppings being blown from the intake into the return, I would say the force travelling along the main narrow bords was the greater; the bricks at the second air-crossing were blown down the return; the balks were lying at an angle as though that overcast had been struck down by a force going over it; I cannot say which way those balks have been driven; if the force went over that overcast I think it went from the left; the right-hand wall of that crossing was not so much damaged as the left.

By Mr. Curley: I did not pay much attention to the skips on the road when I saw them; I was looking for bodies at the time; I cannot say in what position they were when I first went into the mine; I have been pretty well all over the mine since the unsealing, except the first right hand, and all I have seen leads me to believe that the explosion occurred in the second right hand; there was nothing in the conditions of the right side of the mine that would in my opinion be likely to cause the explosion there; at the point where the bodies of Price and Dunn were found there could have been an atmosphere of pure air; there is no reason, as far as I can see, why it should not be pure; they would get the bulk of the air in the mine there; I cannot assume that there was likely to be any accumulation of gas at the point where they were found; Young's body was found right in the intake in pure air; if gas were being given off on the right-hand side of the second right hand, and there was not sufficient air to diffuse it and render it harmless, Young would get it all; if there had been no indications of gas in those bords prior to the explosion, one would be naturally surprised to hear of it being there at the time of the explosion; Haddon's body was found in the main return; we have had evidence of gas having been seen about there; if there is gas it is bound to go into the return, but if there is sufficient air in the return the gas is rendered harmless; I am not prepared to say whether the explosion more likely started near where Haddon was found than where the other bodies were found on the right-hand side; I have read of explosions occurring at furnaces; I also know that furnaces are being differently constructed now from what they used to be; that is to prevent the contact of the flame with the return air; furnaces are less used now than formerly—fans being preferred; in a mine that is giving off fire-damp the use of naked lights in the return is a danger if the air is not sufficient to dilute it and render it harmless; it is not wise to have naked lights in the return of a mine that is giving off fire-damp; I looked for fire-damp in Nigger's heading in the first left hand—right to the face—and about a chain along the narrow bords past the second right hand—up the second right hand to where Haddon and McDougal were found; I found no gas in any of those places; since the unsealing of the pit I have been in the second right hand; that was on the 20th instant; I found gas there about 15 yards back from the face; the place was not bratticed at the time; that was in the front heading; I was through the bords on the back heading and found not a trace of gas there; I have been right round the mine, except the first right district, and only found gas

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in the one place mentioned ; there is fire-damp being given off in the second right district now, but not sufficient to show on the lamp ; the gas was being given off in some other parts but not sufficient to show on the lamp ; without doubt the explosion was started by gas coming into contact with a naked light, and then being increased by coal-dust ; the quantity of gas I saw being given off in the second right would not be sufficient to cause an explosion if there was any sort of ventilation ; if it were allowed to accumulate in an old working for some days it might cause such an explosion ; the presence of coal-dust in a mine is a matter to be considered in working a mine which is giving off gas in dangerous quantities ; within a certain radius of where a shot is going to be fired I should say the dry parts of a dusty mine should be watered.

By Mr. Brown : Forty-three or forty-four revolutions of the Dudley fan would give 100,000 feet of air per minute ; there was quite sufficient pure air in Dudley for the men on the morning of the explosion, no matter where they were working, in the return of intake.

By Commissioner : The fan working for the length of time it did on the morning of the explosion should have renewed the whole air of the mine seven or eight times over, provided there was no derangement of any of the ventilating appliances ; I do not think Rudge and Jones had time to travel from their working-places to where they were found before the explosion reached them, supposing the explosion started in the right hand ; if they were alarmed by the sound of the explosion and reached a point 70 yards away it would be more consistent with the idea of the explosion starting some distance away from them ; in my opinion Rudge and Jones at the time of the explosion were where they were found after the explosion ; they may have been away from their work ; it was about meal time ; I would expect to find traces of their meal about there.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 31st day)
of August, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

JONATHAN DIXON.

Inquiry adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow.
Court-house, Newcastle, 31st August, 1898.

Inquiry resumed at 10 a.m. this 1st day of September, 1898. Court-house, Newcastle.

This deponent, *John Gwatkin*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—I am a hotelkeeper, at Dudley ; my hotel is about 300 yards from the upcast shaft and 280 yards from the downcast ; I have had a little experience in coal-mining ; I remember the day of the explosion, on 21st March last ; the first thing that attracted my attention was a terrible report ; I was standing in my back yard at the time ; I then ran as hard as I could to the gate and saw an explosion coming up the downcast shaft ; when I heard the first report I saw a great lot of dirt coming from the upcast shaft ; when I got to the gate I heard another blow up, and saw a lot of dirt blown up from the downcast and saw the roof blown off ; I was about 70 yards from the gate when I heard the first explosion ; I had to run uphill to the gate ; I could not see the upcast from the back where I was at first, but I saw the dirt thrown up into the air from it.

By Mr. Atkinson : I could see the top of the fan-shaft from the back yard where I was ; I could not see the other pit ; I saw dust and smoke coming from the upcast, but I could not see the downcast ; I could not say whether dust and smoke were coming out of the downcast or not when I was down the yard ; I heard two reports ; I did not hear the second till I got to the gate.

By Mr. Curley : The gate I ran to is on the lower side of my premises—next the ocean and towards the upcast ; there is a building between my place and the gate ; I would not call the noise I heard a “dull thud” ; it was a loud report ; I knew it was an explosion by the smoke and dirt I saw.

By Commissioner : When I got to the gate I saw the timber in the roof of the downcast blown up.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 1st day)
of September, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

JOHN GWATKIN.

This deponent, *Thomas Croudace*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—I am general manager of the Scottish Australian Mining Company ; I was educated as a mining engineer, and have had forty-five years' experience of coal-mining ; I have been in the Colony about thirty-seven years, and during that time have been engaged as a mining engineer to the Company, and also as a consulting engineer ; I have seen three explosions in the old country and two here—Bulli and Dudley ; about three years ago I was through the Dudley pit ; I travelled a considerable section of the mine with Mr. Humphreys, the manager ; I think the fan was not working then, and we carried naked lights ; I was along the main narrow bords along the second right and also in the left-hand district of the mine ; I was in two or three of the bords merely to see the character of the coal for valuation purposes ; on the morning of the explosion, in consequence of a telephonic message from Mr. Humphreys, that they had had an explosion, and asking me to go out ; I went out, and found there had been an explosion ; I went down the shaft with Mr. John Dixon and Mr. McGeackie ; when we got about 250 feet down the shaft I noticed the white-damp ; we came up again and ordered the fan to be run at a greater speed, and put up some brattice-cloth round the shaft so as to direct a current of air down the shaft ; after waiting a while we descended again to within 14 or 15 feet of the bottom, where we were obstructed by a mass of guide ropes that had coiled itself at the bottom ; I lowered myself by a rope to the bottom and searched about the bottom ; I went into the pumping-room and looked round that ; I then went into the pick-rack, and from that into the opening leading into the main narrow bord ; I went a short distance up the narrow bord road, then returned to the bottom of the shaft ; at the bottom of the shaft the main timbers were knocked out in all directions ; the skips were knocked in all directions also ; a strong wall at the bottom of the shaft had been knocked in towards the shaft ; I should think the wall suffered more injury from the falling timbers than from any other cause ; I saw some of the tools in the pick-rack ; they did not appear to have been subjected to violence ; I then clambered up into the cage again, and went to the surface ; after that we organised gangs of men and decided to get as far in-by as we could get in search of the living or any bodies of those that had perished ; I went with several others so far along No. 1 left-hand headings ; I there saw considerable force, shown by the brick stoppings along that heading, being forced in the end of
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the pillar; some of them were embedded to a depth of 3 or 4 inches; the direction of the force was from the second left; there were also indications of a standing fire to the left of No. 1 left; although we could not exactly locate the fire, I should say that we were at times on top of it; all the top of the heading to a depth of 3 feet had fallen; I next went up the intake of the main narrow bord; an overcast—the first—had been blown down; some of the stoppings on the left-hand side were standing, but I think one was knocked down from right to left; that was the second stentin in-by (*marked with red arrow*); the third was standing; only one of those stentins was knocked down; just above that point a train of tubs was seen; they were thrown—many of them—off the road and up against the right-hand rib going in-by; it was at the stopping second from the overcast that I saw the tub thrown against the right rib first, and next at the entrance to the crosscut; I next went along the Nigger's heading; then for a short distance further to the crosscut; next day I was in No. 1 left, then the crosscut, and then in the second right; in the second right I noticed some of the stoppings on the left were here and there slightly displaced by a force which had come from the right to the left; the stoppings on the left and right of the main intake going in by the fan-shaft were displaced by a force from right to left; we proceeded up to the face and saw gas; Mr. Humble brought his lamp up and the gas fired at it some distance from the face of No. 2 right; we then went back and notified Mr. Ross of what we had seen of the gas; I then went back to the first overcast which had been repaired; about 8 p.m. same day I went back to the pit in consequence of a message received to the effect that a second fire had been discovered giving off volumes of smoke; when I reached Dudley I was told of the second fire which, judging from the smoke, was of much greater extent than the first; it was decided to seal down the pit, and that was done the next day; from what I saw on those visits to the mine, I thought the force of the explosion had come from the left-hand side of the mine somewhere above Nigger's heading; I was more occupied in looking for bodies than in anything else, such as looking for the seat and direction of the explosion; I went down the mine again yesterday with Mr. Humphreys; we went from the bottom of the shaft into the return on the left-hand side, and travelled up the pit as far as the left-hand crosscut; we came down a pillar into Nigger's heading, travelling along Nigger's heading at the fast wall side; we proceeded then up the bords, keeping the face as close as we could till we got to No. 2 left-hand heading; we proceeded then round the face as well as we could for five pillars up, and then returned along the heading into the return air-way, and back over to the crosscut previously mentioned; during that tour I found several indications at different points; coked coal-dust, charred timber, and singed brattice cloth; I tried to find gas at the face of Bob's heading on the fast wall side, but could not find any; I was also in the bord where Hindmarsh's body was found (*marked "A" and "O"*) and saw no gas there; I was up to the face in both those bords; the ventilation had not been restored yesterday in those places; I next went into the right-hand side, travelling over the seat of the second fire, and travelling two or three different bords, ultimately coming out on to the main narrow bord intake air-way; we then proceeded up to the main intake of the second right-hand heading, going right up to the face of both the back and front headings; we tested there for gas, but found none; the ventilation was restored there, and the brattice well up to the face; we then went back to the bord where the body of Young was found, and gave a general glance round there; I was also round the narrow bord there, and then left the pit; on my first visit to the mine shortly after the explosion, I noticed that there was very little indication of force in the second main right-hand headings; it is a very difficult matter for anyone to fix absolutely the seat of an explosion; if you made up your mind it had started at one point you would probably be met with such a condition of things that would prove the contrary; this might arise from the recoil of the first explosion; then again, the first explosion might be aided by a second and third explosion, caused by the ignition of coal-dust; one has, therefore, to be very careful in endeavouring to locate the initial point of any explosion; at this moment any one searching would have to give weight to the enormous falls of roof that have taken place, the hundreds and thousands of tons of rock that have fallen, and its power to create such power of compression as would not only throw down stoppings to the right or the left, but also to throw doors and such like off their hinges, and blow them a considerable distance, and to move even laden tubs off the roads; from an ordinary heavy pillar fall of stone where there is neither gas or coke-dust explosion, considerable damage is not infrequently done in mines, and very similar to what has been seen in Dudley; one ought to be careful when he finds evidence of force unless he at the same time finds evidences of flame; my observations of yesterday lead me to say, without any hesitation, that this Dudley explosion has been largely augmented by coal-dust; perhaps the greater amount of the destruction we have seen is due to the coal-dust and the compressive force caused by the falls; I produce specimens of bark from the props, brattice cloth, and coked dust, which show that the flame could not have been very great; the coked dust was taken from both sides, and shows that it was deposited by the primary force, and also by the recoil; all these, to my mind, show that gas did not play so important a part in the explosion as coal-dust; on the left of the second right front heading the force, as marked by the arrows, may have come against the current somewhere from the neighbourhood of the faces of the second right; that also may account for the direction of the force from the main narrow bords, towards the point marked "H"; what I saw originally did not indicate to me any great force in the second right, while the evidences on the left were of a very strong force, the bricks being embedded in the pillars to such a depth; a force that would cause such a result as that must have been immeasurably greater than a force that would merely blow the bricks of a stopping down, and carry them a few yards; the mere falling of the top stone may have been sufficient to have knocked some of those stoppings down; the falling of the top stone would not be powerful enough to drive the bricks into the rib side; where I found deposits of coked dust it must have been coked where I found it deposited; I found pieces of bark close to that which had not been singed; I found the specimen of coked dust in the third bord from the fast wall side, and the third pillar down from the second left-hand headings; that coke-dust shows there must have been a great heat at that point; not very far away—further in-by—I found indications to show that the fire had not been so powerful; up to the present I am inclined to think that the force came from the second left down towards the first left.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 1st day }
of September, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

THOMAS CROUDACE.

This deponent, *Hugh Humphreys*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—I am manager of the Dudley Colliery, and have been so for eight years and eight months; I have been connected with collieries for twenty-three years altogether; I have had my experience as manager at Dudley, and about fourteen years with the Wallsend Colliery as mine surveyor; the downcast shaft had just been bottomed before I took charge at Dudley; the two shafts were connected on the 20th June, 1891; we commenced to draw coal for the market immediately after the connection was made, and we worked for twelve months with the natural ventilation of the mine; there were 200 men and boys engaged; in July, 1892, the fan was completed and started to work; we worked the mine with the fan till November, 1893, when the mine was closed down; it remained closed till May, 1896; from that time it has been working till the time of the explosion; Dudley is south of Newcastle, a few miles in the locality known as Redhead; the seam is the Borehole seam; that is the seam that is generally worked in this district; we have at Dudley a seam about 6 ft. 3 in. above the morgan; we work it for 5 ft 9 in., leaving 6 inches next the roof; above that 6 inches we have about 2 ft. 6 in. of rotten shale and ironstone; above that shale we have the hard blue; that stands by itself, and we do not timber under that; everywhere where the shale has come down in the mine we do not require any timber for the roof; the coal at Dudley is bituminous in nature; we used safety-lamps in the mine only during the time we were making the connection, from January, 1891, till 19th June, 1891; we used bratticing then; we had a small fan on the surface forcing the air in down the shaft through 12-inch galvanised pipes; from June, 1891, till July, 1892, we worked with the natural ventilation; the course then was from the upcast shaft towards the downcast; the fan was idle the whole time the pit was shut down, from 1893 to 1896; we used brattice in the mine from the very first; since 1896, when shiftmen only were going into the mine, the fan would be started an hour and a half before they went in; when the whole of the men were to work the following day the fan would be started the previous night; the fan would be idle from 4 p.m., after all the men were out, till 9 p.m.; it was idle also at week ends when no men were in the pit; the working of the fan was carried out under my instructions; I understood that Rule 1 meant the fan was to work and produce a constant supply of fresh air while the men were in the pit; that has been the custom of the district as long as I can remember; it was necessary to work the fan a short time before the men went in in order to get a good current of fresh air before the men went in to work; it is necessary to have the ventilation going before the men go down at all; I had a conversation with Mr. Humble about the working of the fan; he was inspecting the mine and the fan was idle; I had a few men at work on the main roads; the conversation was as to the interpretation of the rule as to the working of the fan; that was after the pit had resumed work—some time in October, I think; the conversation is referred to in the report of 31st October, 1896; the conversation was just as to the reading of the rule, and he gave me no instructions in the matter; I agreed, however, to keep the fan going whenever the men were in the pit; stations were appointed for the deputy—one at the first left, another at the second left, and a third at the water-balers' going-bords; to get to those points the men would be along the main intake with about 30,000 feet of air per minute; the men went down at half-past 10 at night; the deputy would go down half an hour before the men; he would inspect the places where they had to work and take them to their places; there were only two water-balers; they worked in districts adjoining each other; the ventilating currents they had were distinct; I instructed the deputies to examine the districts, travelling with the current, and to examine that district before he met his men; he would meet his men at the station for that district; he should examine all the working-places in that district between the intake and the last bord where the men would have to go; when he had placed the men in that district, and if he had men to take to another district, he would examine that in the same way and place them in the same way; half an hour was sufficient time to examine any of the districts; the water-balers were very often employed for an hour or an hour and a half in the main roads before going to their places; no man would be allowed to pass beyond the district station before that district had been examined; if the deputy found gas it was his duty not to allow the men to go in; the gas was always removed before the men went in; the system was to report the finding of gas without delay, but the men would go to their places very often before the report was made in the book; the deputy would have other work to do up to the time it was necessary for him to examine the whole of the mine for the men going to work next day; he would start at the time in accordance with the rule; he would examine the whole of the mine on that inspection—every place in every district; old workings were not examined unless the ventilation going through them went through a district where the men were working; No. 1 right was never examined by a deputy; it was sometimes examined by three or four of us together; as soon as the day-shift men saw the deputy they could go anywhere in-by; they were not allowed to pass the station at the foot of the shaft until they saw the deputy; the night-shift men would go on to their own stations; the reason for this difference was that the deputy could meet all the men at the shaft bottom; the night-shift men always worked in the same district; on the 21st March last Hindmarsh was under-manager, Thomas Hetherington was a deputy, Thomas Young was another deputy; Hetherington had charge of a gang of men in Nigger's heading; Young was in charge of the water-balers, and would have to examine their places; Young's first duty that morning was to examine the places where the water-balers had to work; he would have to examine the second going bord of the second right in-by the face and up the same going bord along the face towards the main narrow bord; Rudge, Jones, and Cooke were the water-balers that morning; after he had disposed of the balers he would make his examination for the rest of the men; Haddon was master shiftman; he had charge of the lads stowing the fallen stone in the bord where Price and Dunn were found; they had been stowing in that bord a few times before the explosion—on and off, for about a fortnight before; that is all Young would have to do before he started his inspection of the No. 5 district; there was no time fixed for his examination of the whole of the mine; it would be his duty to make a second inspection of the working-places and places which the men had to pass during the shift; he would not probably begin his second inspection till some hours after the first; the dates on the face in the second right would be put there by him before the balers went in; I think he must have completed his first inspection, and was starting other work when the explosion occurred, as he had portion of his clothes off; there was a turn to be laid in bord 25, and he would be likely preparing to start at work on the turn; there would be no occasion to put the dates on the faces in the second right; the practice was to put the date in the places where the men were working before they went in; the absence of dates on the faces would not indicate anything at all; Hindmarsh's duties would take him just where he pleased; he had no defined duties more than a general supervision;

Hetherington

Hetherington and Young would have safety lamps with them; Hindmarsh and Haddon had naked lights when they went down that morning; Hindmarsh had given Young the turn to lay that morning, and may have taken the district in which he was found to examine for Young; I do not think Young had been round the second left that morning judging from the conditions under which he was found; the difference between an ordinary miner and a shiftman is that the latter is employed getting coal by the shift and the miner by the ton; they were working between the going bords of the second left and the bord marked "A" and "O"; so far as I know there was to be no firing of shots on the morning of the explosion; I have known the mine to give off a little gas from the commencement of operations up to the present; that has been in the winning-places or principally in the different districts of the mine; I have seen very little gas given elsewhere than in the winning-places; I have found gas in other places, but it may not have been given off there, but drifted there from other places; I have received reports of gas from the deputies at different times; I have been in the habit of seeing his report books every day, and, under the 1896 Act, a duplicate of his report is filed in the office; I have not had reports of gas lighting at the lamps from the deputies; the only report I ever had from the men was in the case of Harrison; I happened to go into his place that morning, and heard about it from him; I examined his place when I went in, and could find no gas there; I have heard the miners say that the gas fired after a shot; I have, on such occasions, asked them if they have overcharged or overdrilled their holes; I have usually found that the hole was drilled beyond the face in such cases; during the time the mine was shut down, from 1893 to 1896, I saw very little gas there; we used to find a little in the going-bord on the second left up towards Bob's heading; that bord was about 60 yards in advance of the face of the other bords; in the case of a mine giving off gas, I would expect more gas to be given off when it is working than when it is idle; I heard about the case of gas lighting deposed to by Thwaites; it was caused by a miner cutting off the regulator; he was prosecuted for it; I know nothing of the other case deposed to by Thwaites where he had been away from his work for half an hour, and on going back the gas lit up at his lamp; I know nothing about the case of lighting spoken of by John Sumner; I know of Allison's case; the gas had been burning over night in that case, having ignited from a shot; I only know of that from the deputy's report book; I know nothing of the case deposed to by Allison in which the gas lit at his lamp in the second right; I know nothing of Bell's case; bratticing can be carried to within 6 or 8 feet and work carried on; that would be sufficiently close to dilute the gas if it is not being given off in large quantities; 4 yards would be close enough for that purpose; the brattice is liable to derangement from different causes—such as falls of roof or the wheeler getting off the road; these cannot be guarded against at the time, but they are immediately repaired; brattice is very often pulled down by the miners passing through with their picks on their shoulders; rules provide that miners should at once report any defect in the brattice doors to the deputy or overman (special rules 78 and 79); falls do not happen very frequently in Dudley; the roof of shale sometimes falls where the shale is weak; it is more likely to come down in the narrow places than in the wide; the falling of the roof on the brattice is a possibility we have to reckon with in the mine; we guard against it as much as possible; I know the shale carries gas, but I have never been present at a fall where the gas has been liberated; I would expect gas to be given off in a fall; if a hole is drilled into the roof, you will always find gas in the hole; the roof, as it is generally in the mine, is likely to fall at any time in spite of our precautions; I have never known too much gas liberated by a fall for the ventilation to carry off; there would have to be a "sag" in the roof to allow of any great accumulation of gas there; the events of the 21st March last suggest to me that there must have been some accumulation of gas which the air had not got hold of properly; if the deputies had been round and found the bratticing down, it was their duty to replace it; the stentin, called Humphrey's cabin, is the fifth in by the first overcast; portions of the mine are dry and dusty; the whole of the left side of the second right hand is damp, Bob's heading is damp, the lower portion of the second left is damp, and the lower portion of the first left heading; the remaining portions of the mine are dusty and dry; along the faces of the right side of the second right it is dry; on the main roads water was thrown to reduce the dryness; that was done more for comfort in working than to guard against an explosion; we had no thought of an explosion at the time; the ignitions of gas that have been spoken of here were so small that I would not consider them dangerous to the workmen; if the miners thought there was any danger in them they would have very soon reported them to the manager or someone else; those ignitions do not show the presence of 5 per cent. of fire-damp in the mine; the quantity is so small that it could not be estimated; if there were 5 per cent. there the mine could not be worked as it has been with the naked lights; if there is sufficient to show at a safety-lamp permanently there would be more in the air than would be safe with the use of the naked light; the brattice cannot very well affect those small pockets of gas in the roof; when we were making the connection between the shafts we had a good deal of gas; it was more for the want of ventilation than from the quantity of gas being given off; if a man is careful at his work those ignitions of gas spoken of should not have occurred, but the men sometimes poke their lights right up to the roof and cause such an ignition; they have been cautioned against doing such a thing; after the explosion and before the sealing down my attention was devoted more to other things than looking for evidences of force; the only thing I noticed particularly before the sealing down was the No. 1 overcast; the right wall had been blown into the intake; further on I noticed the skips disarranged in several places, but cannot say now what their positions were; I was down Nigger's heading after the explosion, and was present when they discovered the bodies of Green and Hetherington; nearly the whole of Nigger's heading was fallen, and beyond the falls I did not observe any particular force; on the morning of 24th March I was up in the second right heading, and was present at the finding of Mowbray's body; I went with the same party up to about the going-bord, where they found the water-balers; I noticed the No. 3 overcast was dislodged, but did not notice the direction of the force; I led the first party into the No. 1 left, and noticed the way in which the stoppings there had been blown from right to left; we restored the stopping about the third or fourth stentin in the first left; those had been blown towards the shaft; the bricks of the third stopping we found embedded in the third pillar; I left for the surface, but returned with Mr. Atkinson to the same district; I think we only got another stopping or two in when we found the roof working, and decided to withdraw the men; since the unsealing I have been practically all over the mine; I found the wall of the shaft, 2 ft. 6 in. brickwork in cement, shifted towards the shaft about 6 or 8 inches; that is the place spoken of by Mr. Croudace this morning; I do not agree with his opinion as to the cause of the shifting of that wall, because there was no timber there to shift it; at the entrance to the first right hand I found

found the skips very much disarranged on the main road; by the position of the skips they had evidently been carried down the main road about 50 or 60 yards from the place where they are usually left; some were off the road, some not; the first stentin between the overcast and the shaft had been blown into the return; the first stopping in-by the overcast was standing; the second one was blown into the return; the bricks and a door that was in it were in the return; the third and fourth stoppings were standing; the crosscut door was blown into the crosscut; the stopping immediately beyond the crosscut was blown into the return; the next one was standing; the whole of the others to the face of the narrow bord were blown into the return; the one next the face but one has collapsed; taking the stoppings on the right-hand side of the narrow bords from No. 2 right, the first has been blown with some force to the right; in the other stoppings up there they have gone to the right; the stone has come down on top, but the fact of not finding any bricks in the intake shows that they have gone to the right; along the second right-hand heading the first and second stoppings are blown into the intake; the third and fourth are standing; the double doors are blown into the intake, and portion of them carried 15 yards out-by towards the narrow bord; the next stentin is blown into the intake; the next is standing; the next blown into the intake; the next standing; the door immediately in-by the second going bord was blown out over; the stopping in-by that door is blown into the intake; the door in the next stentin is blown into the intake; the next two stoppings were blown into the intake, and the door and stentin in-by the bailers going bord is blown into the in-take and smashed up against the pillar; the remaining stoppings from there to the face are blown into the intake; coming back to the first going board on the second right, the first stentin to the right is blown to the right, that on the left is standing; at the next two headings the stentins were blown—those on the right to the right, and those on the left to the left; in the fourth pillar the stopping to the left was blown to the left; on the right was a canvas door, I cannot say which way that was blown; the door in that going bord was blown in-by; there is very slight evidence of force there; there was no evidence of flame up there; in the second going bord the stoppings in the first two headings—both right and left—were blown to the left; we found everything gone to the left, and nothing to the right; the stopping to the left of the next pillar was blown to the left, and the canvas door still standing; the stoppings to the left of the main intake were just shook, and I could not say which way they had been affected; they were stowed up in behind, and it would have required a good force from the intake to have moved them; going into the back return off No. 3 overcast towards the upcast, the first, second, and fourth stoppings are blown into the return—from right to left; the third is standing; the door in the second pillar in the going bord behind the upcast is blown from right to left; the stopping in the heading to the right is blown from right to left also into the return towards the upcast; the stoppings beyond that afford no evidence of the direction of force as the roof is fallen in all of them; the stoppings on the left of the main intake of the second right right up to the face have scarcely been moved—some not affected at all, and others just cracked; on the in-by side of where the bailers were found the stoppings were all canvas; coming back on to the second left overcast that door was carried to the return narrow bord and across that return to the second left return heading; going up the narrow bords towards Star's heading, the first and second stoppings in the headings to left are blown to the left; the next one affords no evidence of force direction as there is a fall there; going down the back heading of the second left the first stopping is standing; there is no evidence of direction of force in the second owing to a fall; the third one is blown to the left; taking No. 1 right, the first and second stoppings are blown towards the downcast; it is sealed off above that; the first four bords to the right have the stoppings blown towards the right; in the fourth bord there is evidence of fire having gone across it; commencing with the second right-hand headings there are indications of force from right to left in all the stoppings; going along the second right-hand headings the force seemed to be from the narrow bords along the headings as far as the first going bord; the first skip in the set on the flat there showed indications of the force having travelled in that direction; immediately after passing the first going bord the force seemed to be coming in the other direction out-by; further in on the far flat the door beyond the second going bord showed force coming out-by; from there to the face of the headings the force seems to have gone over on to the left-hand side; going up to the face of the second right headings, and into the return four pillars from the face there is very little evidence of force, and as far as I can see no fire whatever, except in a bord in-by we found a skip thrown off the road at the turn-up against the left-hand rib; that showed a force going up towards the face of the heading; the bords from that to the face of the heading showed very little force, the brattice being all up, and only a little disarranged; there is no evidence of fire there at all; I found no evidence of fire till I got to No. 23 bord; from the bord where Young was found to that bord there is no evidence to show anything, as the roof is all fallen; the props in 23 bord and on the heading there show fire on the in-by side; on the other side of the prop there is fine coal-dust not burnt; in that bord there is a skip knocked over against two props showing a force going out-by towards the fan-shaft; in the wall out-by that skip there are other props showing signs of scorching on the in-by side, and a stringybark prop, the bark of which is broken down the centre showing a force out-by; travelling along that heading to a bord just out-by No. 21 there is evidence of considerable fire in that bord, many of the props seeming to be scorched all round; others of them showed scorching on the out-by side furthest from the face; on the heading above there are two props about 8 yards apart, one being scorched on the side next the heading, the out-by one showing a flame going out, while the other prop shows signs of scorching on the other side, as of a flame travelling in; that is the only evidence I could find of the flame travelling in-by on the right-hand side; that is only about 16 yards; there is some coke deposited just there, of which some of the witnesses have given samples; following the fourth heading out we have evidences there of scorching on the props on the in-by side, showing a force travelling out-by as far as the going bord at the back of the fan; at the stow bord the force has evidently divided itself, one portion going up the stow bord towards the fan point and the other going towards the seat of the second fire; there is very little evidence of flame there, the roof being down; the force is picked up again on the out-by side of the second fire; two pillars below the stow bord following that heading out—the sixth from the main road side—on the out-by of the second fire, the props show evidence of the flame having travelled out-by, and the front of the heading is scorched (*spot marked with black cross*); the force appears to have gone up the old bords carrying the stoppings previously mentioned between the headings of the first right and portion of it, forcing those stoppings from the right of the intake of the first right; to my mind it was portion of this force that forced the shaft wall; the only sign of flame I saw about there was in the fourth bord on the right of the main

main intake of the first right; I am also of opinion that it was portion of this force that forced the No. 1 overcast; another part of that force came through the first cut-through, and affected the skips there already spoken of; all those skips were coupled; between the fire bord and the next opening to the right there is evidence of both force and flame travelling in that direction, and coming out on to the main road at the second cut-through where the full tubs were forced right across the road; going two pillars further up there is evidence of force coming out the third cut-through; there is a big drift of dust at that corner; portion of that fire and flame has also gone into the main return, forcing the stoppings there; thence out by the No. 3 overcast into the back narrow bord return, the bricks of the overcast being found in there; going up the narrow bord to a stentin beyond Star's heading there is evidence of flame having passed over there, and in the coal right opposite there samples of coke and brick-dust were found in there; following the rib of coal from that brick-dust the coal shows the appearance of having been subjected to heat; the stentin on the out-by side of Star's heading also shows signs of the coal having been subjected to heat; entering Star's heading at the first bord to the right—No. 54—we have evidence of force travelling in-by towards Bob's heading, the props being carried from the right-hand side of the bord in-by, and the canvas being blown the same way; the second shows similar signs on both props and brattice; in both bords the brattice was burnt; the bords on the right of that to Bob's going bord have all fallen, and do not give much evidence of fire or force, except the fifth bord, which showed signs of considerable flame; all the bords to the left of Star's heading have props with signs of flame having travelled towards the second left heading, being scorched on the in-by side of the prop; we got samples of coke-dust in there also; the samples of burnt brattice-cloth produced by Mr. Croudace were obtained in bord No. 75; the coke on the bark was obtained from the fourth bord on the left of Star's heading; going down to the going bord on the second left there is a bridge of stone standing, with about half a dozen props under it; each of those props shows considerable scorching on the face-side, showing force having travelled down towards the second left (*place marked with arrow*).

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 1st day of }
 September, 1898, before— }
 C. G. WADE.

H. HUMPHREYS.

Inquiry adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow.
 Court-house, Newcastle, 1st September, 1898.

Inquiry resumed at 10 a.m., this 2nd day of September, 1898, Court-house, Newcastle.

This deponent, *Hugh Humphreys*, recalled, on his former oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—Going down that going bord towards the second left about 10 yards out-by the second heading there was a skip which had been thrown off the road towards the rib; it had been a full skip; that skip is on the single road, and had evidently been driven off the flat some distance, showing a force down the going bord towards the second left heading; in each of the headings to the right of the going bord—towards the main narrow bord—I found indications on the props that had been left standing of flame travelling from the main narrow bord towards the going-bord; going back to the fourth pillar—the heading in which Hindmarsh was found—there is very little indication of any flame or force, the roof having all fallen, but in the bord opposite which Hindmarsh was found there are indications of flame-burnt brattice-cloth; in a bord on the opposite side of the heading a prop there shows sign of a flame travelling towards the second left; from the position of Hindmarsh to the top of that heading there are no indications of any force or flame, the roof having all fallen; following the fast wall down other two pillars the roof is down, and they afford no indication of force or flame; coming into the next pillar—two pillars above the second left main—there are two props showing signs of flame coming from the face towards the second left; proceeding down that bord into the next pillar we find another prop with coke on the in-by side, showing a force travelling towards the second left; coming into the main second left return, and travelling towards the face, we find a prop in the in-by side of the last stentin but one from the face, scorched on the out-by side, showing flame travelling towards the face of the heading; coming into the main left intake there is a prop there coked on the in-by side, showing a force coming up from the face of the heading out-by; coming out by the intake of the second left heading, and up the first open bord, the props there indicate flame travelling towards Nigger's heading; the road immediately opposite that bord is displaced about 2 feet towards Nigger's heading; coming up that stentin between that bord and the next open bord a prop there shows signs of flame coming out in the direction of Nigger's heading; coming up the next pillar towards Nigger's heading the coal in the face of that bord is scorched; another pillar up that is immediately on Nigger's heading; the coal face shows the same signs; coming out by Nigger's heading in the second pillar from the face the bord on the opposite side has been driven into the opposite pillar a little, leaving a corner standing up; in that corner there is a good quantity of coke-dust; the old bord opposite that pillar on the right shows flame coming up that old bord towards Nigger's heading; several other old bords on the left-hand side show the same direction of flame; the bord immediately in-by the position of Hetherington's body shows considerable signs of flame, both on the props and by the fact that the brattice-cloth is nearly all burnt; from that out-by the heading the roof is all fallen, and also in the old bords coming up towards the first left, leaving little or no signs of force or flame until the first main left heading is reached; the stoppings between these headings have all been blown to the in-take in the direction of the downcast shaft; in the old bords between that and the downcast shaft there are signs of flame travelling towards the downcast shaft and the seat of the first fire; we have found no evidence of that fire in the cleaning up except that in the fourth bord it has fallen through the hard; going back now to the main narrow bords, commencing from No. 3 overcast, going in-by the door, just in-by the third heading to the right, has been blown towards the face of the narrow bords; passing along the main in-take to the stentin beyond Star's heading, the force seems to be gradually dying towards the face; the stopping nearest the face was simply displaced; the brattice doors in the face of the narrow bords were standing; I was in the face of those narrow bords on the 16th July last, before any of the stoppings were replaced or the ventilation in any way restored, and did not find the slightest trace of gas; travelling to the right along the face of those bords, the force has been but slight, the brattice in many cases standing; the only sign of force was the manner in which the brattice was doubled round the props in-by; what force there was appears

appears to have travelled along that face to within about four bords of the second going bord ; it appears to have been met by a force coming in the other direction there, as the brattice-cloth had been thrown in various directions ; beyond the second going bord towards the face of the second right the force has been slight ; what there was was travelling from the face of the headings out-by ; in the whole of the left-hand district of the second right, from the face of the main narrow bords to the face of the main second right headings, there is no evidence of flame having travelled that district ; it was on the 16th July last, while exploring that district, that we found the body of Cooke ; coming back into the right of the second right workings, and travelling the headings between the face headings and the main headings, there is evidence of flame travelling from the face out-by ; in the pillar head in the first heading, immediately in-by and out-by the eighth bord, there is sign of flame ; in the immediate bord itself there is no evidence of flame ; that bord is wet ; in all the old bords you find the flame going from one heading to another, going in one direction, and in the next in another ; the main direction of the flame in the headings is out-by towards the upcast shaft ; beyond the upcast shaft, out-by towards the main in-take ; the tub at the first cut-through had been carried in-by towards the face of the second right ; I found the carriage standing in the stentin and the tub in the cut-through ; I do not think it probable that the wheeler had gone out of the bord with tub, as he had not a clear road on the main ; I think it was standing in the bord on the turn ; the laying of the rails in the second left would not be likely to raise much dust as the surface would not be much disturbed in laying them ; the "first flat" No. 1 heading would be in the first right hand in 1892 ; the "narrow bord in No. 2 heading" I think would be in the first right, or perhaps in the first going bord of the second right where Cooke was found ; in the middle of 1893 the "second left-hand top flat" would be some of the bords up to about the third pillar in the second left ; from all I have seen in the mine, I am of opinion that the explosion originated somewhere in the right of the second right-hand district ; I cannot say where in that part ; in the fourth stentin beyond the double doors we found two lamps, one of which belonged to Mowbray, and the other to McDougal ; we also found two coats, two vests, and two caps—one with lamp attached—two tea bottles, two tucker tins, a "Midgee" lamp, and a bottle of oil, and a clock ; the "Midgee" lamp belonged to McDougall ; there were only two lamps found altogether ; Cooke's lamp was attached to his cap, and found a pillar in-by the body ; two bords out-by the going bord of Nigger's heading we found three coats, two clocks, and sundry other articles ; they were all together ; a coat and clock were identified as Hetherington's ; the other coat and clock belonged to my father ; the third coat I think was Green's ; the lamp carried by my father was recovered when the body was found close to the body ; we also found the pump-man's lamp in the pump chamber ; we also found some clothing and tea bottles and tucker tins in the first cut-through ; we have so far found nothing belonging to Young, Hindmarsh, Price, or Dunn, except a cap belonging to Young, and the shirts belonging to Dunn and Price ; the shirts were found in the stow-bord close to the bodies ; I think the explosion travelled out-by from the direction of the second right headings towards the main narrow bords, and across at No. 1 overcast portion at the first opening up the narrow bord portion at the other two openings before you come to the overcast, and through the overcast itself into the return portion, also went up the main narrow bord and through the stentins in the narrow bord into the return again ; the stentin in-by Star's heading, and two stentins on the out-by of the same heading show both force and flame going towards Star's heading ; it has gone by Star's heading, by Bob's heading round the face, round the face of Nigger's heading, from Nigger's heading through the first left headings to the downcast shaft ; the only force I can see along the main road of a force from left to right is at No. 2 overcast ; the skips on the main road opposite the crosscut show a force from left to right ; the force affecting the skips opposite the second and third stentins must have come down the main road ; the force affecting the skips at the crosscut was a secondary one, in my opinion ; a force evidently came down the crosscut, but no flame, as there is quantity of dry bark there which showed no sign of flame at all ; I said at the Coroner's Court that I thought Rudge and Jones were at their work when they became alarmed by something, and had run to where they had been found ; I have not altered that opinion ; the fact of the cap being found near the horse, goes to show they were near the horse ; they would not be having their meal ; they did not stop work for that till 11 o'clock.

By Mr. Atkinson : From my knowledge of the pit before the explosion I should say the most dusty part of the mine was from No. 1 bord to No. 29 bord ; Nigger's heading was also particularly dusty ; the main roads were also dusty ; the haulage was all done by horses ; water was leaking out of most of the bords on the left of the second right ; the water gets into the back heading of No. 2 right at the stentin, the second from the double doors in-by ; it travels down the back return of No. 2 right underneath No. 3 overcast into the back narrow bord return, and out by that return to the downcast shaft ; that would have the effect of keeping the bottom of the roads damp ; there was only one bord in the second left that was leaking ; that was No. 91 ; when the No. 2 left headings were working, it was necessary to take the water away ; in No. 5 split there were about 16,000 feet of air going ; it would only have seven places to reach before getting to the stow-bord ; I have had no reports of gas from the narrow bords up to the stow-bord.

By Commissioner : Thwaites was working in bord 24 when the regulator was stopped.

By Mr. Atkinson : Where Price and Dunn were working the air that would reach them would be what leaked through the door—a brattice stopping in the bord ; it was not usual to measure the air going to that part ; I have found the air perfectly sweet and cool there ; I should judge there were between 2,000 and 3,000 feet getting through that door ; it is not a place where I would expect to find any accumulation of gas ; in the vicinity of where Young was found, I found some singed cloth—the only evidence of flame there ; I have seen no evidence of flame on the in-by side of where Young was found.

By Commissioner : There was no fall there, and the brattice was simply blown down and not burnt.

By Mr. Atkinson : Judging from the time Young went down that morning and the dates that have been found, I should say that he would examine each district separately travelling with the air commencing at the in-take end ; he has evidently been in the bords from the face of the narrow bords to the face of the second right ; after getting to the face of the second right, he would return to the in-take of the No. 5 district and commence there ; he would most probably go into the stow-bord.

By Commissioner : If Price and Dunn were at work at the time of the explosion, it was Young's duty to have examined those seven places spoken of before they went to work ; after examining the faces of the second right he would probably return to the stow-bord and examine the places from that bord on to the face of the headings again.

By

By Mr. Atkinson: I think Young had sufficient time to do the examination taking the route I have described before the explosion occurred; it would not take him so long to make an examination of that sort as the one he would make before the miners go to work; the deputies would make a report in the usual way on such a morning as the 21st March when the men were not all in the pit; they would make their examination of the places and report verbally to the water-balers and others that their places were safe, then complete their inspection of other districts and then report in the book; the deputy would only put the date in the places where the men had to work that morning; the bord in which Young was found would practically have the whole of the air in No. 5 district; that bord was the return bord for that district, and the air would have passed twenty-eight or twenty-nine places before getting there; I have had a few reports of gas being seen between the stow-bord and No. 29-in No. 13 bord on 29th June, 1897; that was gas left burning after a shot, and was reported by Hetherington; in No. 18 bord on 23rd March, 1897, by Young; in 19 bord on the 13th April, 1897, by Young also; in 18 bord on 23rd April, 1897; in addition to these there was the case reported by Thwaites when the regulator was interfered with; the bord in which Young was found would probably get about 12,000 feet of air; under such conditions I would not consider there would be inflammable air where Young was found; I have seen no evidence of flame on the in-by side of Young's body; Young would probably be using his naked light in laying the turn; he would likely hang his safety lamp on a prop in the vicinity of where he was likely to work; there were 30,000 feet of air going into the No. 2 right split; I have never measured it in the going bord but usually out by that bord; about 12,000 feet would get round the split nearest the face; that and the air from No. 5 would get into the return; all the return air from that district would get into the return itself; there would be about 28,000 feet of air in the main return; under those circumstances I cannot imagine there would be air inflammable at a naked light in the return; No. 1 left headings had from 12,000 or 14,000 feet of air; after going round those headings most of it passed into the return narrow bord; there were about 13,000 feet in the split in the second left; that was about the time of the explosion; the bord at the bottom of Bob's heading was the first working place at night in the second left; in the day shift the first working place was the first bord on the out-by side of the going bord in the second left; Bob's heading was worked at night and Star's heading in the day; the last report I had from a deputy of gas in the second left district was in July, 1897; the last cavil was on the 17th March last; I cannot say what took Hindmarsh where he was found unless he was relieving Young of portion of his examination; Hindmarsh went down the pit with a naked light; he may have borrowed Hetherington's safety lamp from below; I feel satisfied that Hetherington was using a naked light at the time of the explosion; all the men working with him were using naked lights and it is not likely that he would use a safety lamp; all the bords on the return side of the second left are rising; there is a rise of 22 feet between the downcast and upcast; the face of those bords would be about the same from the downcast; the bords on the right of the second right have a natural dip; the force at No. 2 air-crossing indicated a force from left to right; there must have been a force in another direction there also for the greater portion of the planking has not yet been found, and there is only the in-take heading now in which we expect to find it; judging by the stoppings between the main narrow bords and referring to the two forces I have described as going up the in-take and the return I should say the stronger force went along the in-take from the second right; I have no idea how many cubic feet of gas at its most explosive point would be dangerous.

By Mr. Curley: In No. 4 district and No. 5 there were 54 working-places; there were no idle places in those two districts; we have no bords at the in-by stations; I consider that is not an infringement of our special rules; I consider the bord is only there in case of the absence of the deputy; as long as the deputy is there it is all right; no report of a place being unsafe has ever been placed upon the board at Dudley; if a place has been found unsafe it has been put right by the deputy before the men went to it; nothing has even been put on the board at the shaft bottom; reports have been made in the books when gas has been found, but the place has always been made right before the men went in; the deputy would examine the whole district before he sent the balers in; that was the practice when Durham was there if he carried out his instructions properly; I heard him say that he used to examine the place where the men had to work, and then took them to their places; that does not mean that he only examined the places in which they had to work; he would examine the whole district; then he would make his general examination of the mine about 2 a.m. or 3 a.m.; I certainly think that Young had completed his inspection of No. 5 district before he started to lay the turn; he would not put any dates on the face of the right even if he had been there; it was not understood that marks had to be put on the face when a general examination was made; it was done when the men had to follow; I do not think it was the duty of the deputy on the morning of the 21st March last to have examined the whole of the mine and returned to the shaft bottom before letting the men go in, seeing that the fan had been idle for forty-eight hours; I do not think the men should have been kept at the shaft bottom until he had made his inspection of the whole mine and returned to them; it was Young's duty that morning to inspect the mine; I do not think he examined the whole of the mine that morning; he had not time; I think he examined the whole of the right; I think the action of the deputy in putting right any dangerous state of things in the mine is in accordance with General Rule 7; he would not allow any man to go in till the whole mine was safe; the person in charge of the mine can only withdraw the men if a place is found dangerous; when gas was found as shown by the report books it was removed at once; when the mine was being worked with the natural ventilation I heard of no flares-up; I do not recollect a man reporting gas to me during that time; on one occasion the men packed the coal to such a height that they walled off the air, and gas showed in the face; they may have asked to leave the colliery without notice; I cannot say; that was in 1892; we had no flares-up in Dudley that came under my notice except that deposed to by Harrison; I heard of that, and went into his place and spoke to him about it; the small flares-up that have been spoken of here were not at all dangerous, and did not indicate the presence of a dangerous quantity of gas; I did not consider it necessary for me to give any special instructions regarding the gas from what I knew of the mine; I should call the quantity of gas seen in the face of the second right after the explosion a limited quantity, seeing the time that had elapsed and the fact that that was a rise place; I do not think the explosion reached that point; that would tend to compress what gas was there into the face; there would be a compression towards the face of the heading; that would not be likely to shift the gas from that point; I did not go up and examine that gas myself before the sealing down; I remember Mr. Thomas saying

saying he found gas in three bords off the back return; one of those bords was in about 12 or 13 yards; the next about a chain, the next two about 25 yards; if he found gas in all those bords a little distance in, I do not think that would indicate a good quantity of gas; I know the special rules have the force of the Act itself; I think, besides the burning coal found by Hetherington, there was another case of burning coal in the second right; that was in 1893, I think; I think there was also a case discovered by Green; there was a case in bord 29; the men had fired a shot the night before, and then set fire to the gas and left it burning all night; the deputy found it burning next morning; it was a piper coming out of the solid coal; the judd had been left upstanding, and in looking behind it they had fired the gas; on 20th September, 1896, another such case is reported in the deputy's book; in October, 1897, there was another case in bord 54; that had been fired by the water-baler; it was reported to me by the deputy; these ignitions after shot-firing suggest carelessness on the part of the men in going back too soon after the firing of the shot; most of them were due to the men putting their light to the face after firing the shot too soon; I do not say that the men deliberately left the gas burning after firing the shot; I suspended the men who left the gas burning all night for a day or two; I can imagine the men firing a shot just before leaving the face, the gas-firing, and the men going out leaving it burning; such an act might endanger the life of the examining deputy next morning by the coal falling on him; a miner should not leave any coal standing after firing if it is dangerous; there was a possibility of the gas being ignited from the explosion of the shot itself; in the case of the Livingstones, they thought they had put out the gas, but they left it burning in behind the coal; in the event of two men examining the mine, such as I believe happened on the morning of the 21st March, the two men would make a report; there was no necessity for Hindmarsh to examine that part of the mine, as nobody was working in that part beyond Hetherington; shiftmen are liable to be sent to any part of the mine during the day, but they would not be sent to any part that had not been examined; from the commencement of 1892 till some time in July, 1892, we had only the natural ventilation in the mine; the deputies' books show the finding of gas during that time in several places; the most usual cause of that was the brattice door being down; it is probable that some of the canvas doors were down on the morning of the explosion; I remember on one occasion in 1893 the fan was stopped for a few minutes after the deputy had gone down; something went wrong with the fan; that was during his inspection of the mine before the men went in; there was nothing much wrong with the fan, and the men went into the mine as usual; Dudley mine required to be well bratticed up; I consider I was complying with General Rule 1 when I stopped the fan at that week and kept it idle for forty-eight hours; I do not consider it necessary for the fan to be kept going when no men are in the mine; to a certain extent I was guided by motives of economy in not starting the fan on Sunday night or keeping it going at the week end; I had a free hand in the management of the colliery; Mr. Brown was the manager above me in a commercial sense; I probably told him that there was a little gas given off, but that did not affect me in my management of the mine if I did tell him; Mr. Brown never discussed with me the importance of keeping the mine free of gas; Mr. Brown had nothing to do with the stopping of the fan at the week end; the deputies received instructions as to their duties, and were supplied with copies of the Special and General Rules; they were instructed as to the method of making their inspections; they fully realised the responsibility of their position and duties, and their authority to withdraw the men in times of danger; there was no necessity to make a special report of the gas seen in the mine in ninety-nine cases out of 100, the quantity of gas seen being so infinitesimally small; the few cases that were reported to the deputies should have been reported in their book; I knew the number of men going into the mine on the morning of the explosion; I also practically knew where they were to work; the usual precautions were taken on that morning; I did not consider it necessary to take any extra precautions in view of the fact that the fan had been idle so long, that I had knowledge of brattice doors having been down at different times; I had no reason to think that anything unusual ought to have been done that morning; I had no anxiety about the matter, even in view of the facts that Platten had reported the presence of gas on one occasion when the fan had stopped, and the discussion with Mr. Humble about the constant production of ventilation; I have not made the subject of gas explosions in mines a matter of particular thought; my experience of gas at Dudley led me to study the question of perfect ventilation, in order to deal with the little gas I had in the mine; I have read of explosions which were supposed to have occurred in consequence of a blown-out shot; explosions can be guarded against by means of ventilation and by the use of safety-lamps; I have read no book in which it is laid down that naked lights should not be used in a mine giving off gas; I have heard that safety-lamps are largely used in England, and in a colliery in this Colony; if I were told that only 185 men met their deaths from fire-damp last year in England, I should say it was a small number, considering the output of coal; I have never thought about the introduction of safety-lamps to Dudley since the connection was made; the men would go into the mine on the 21st March about 7 or half-past in the morning; the deputy went down about 7 o'clock, and the others did not go down till 7:35; the men would have to unload a quantity of timber before going to their work; there were seven or eight skips of timber and rails taken down that morning; the men would not reach their working-places till 8 o'clock, if they did then; the onsetter would go down to take the timber and rails out, and the remainder of the men would be engaged at the top putting it in; some rails and sleepers were to go into Nigger's heading, and the remainder along the main roads and different places; some of it probably went to the far flat; the men would not leave off work for meals until 11 o'clock; Haddon was master shiftman that morning in charge of the men clearing the stone out of the return main, No. 2, right return; that stone had fallen; some 60 or 70 yards of it had fallen; the air would be flowing over that fall; the stone had fallen partly out by where they were working; that return would carry the air from the district in which the water-balers were, sweep the face of the second right back to the return bord in which Young was found; the air from No. 5 district would join with that, and the two combined go to the fan shaft; gas cannot at present be detected with a safety-lamp in the No. 2 right headings; a small quantity is being given off, as one can hear it oozing out; there is no gas oozing out on the left of the second right heading; I have examined the faces of the bords to the left of the second right-hand lately carefully; I found no gas there; I have been round No. 5 district several times, coming round on to where Young's body was found; I found no gas oozing out there; there were no circumstances that I know of likely to give rise to the explosion on that morning; I have made a close inspection of the bords on both sides of the second right-hand heading, near the face; the brattice has simply been blown down there; in three of them they have fallen; I found no signs of burning in any of those bords; they were well

well timbered where the falls took place; I think most of the falls have been caused by the pit having been sealed for so long, and the air becoming heated; then, when the pit was unsealed, the cool air would affect the roof to a very great extent, and probably cause most of the falls that are to be seen there now; I do not attribute all the falls in the mine to that, for I saw some falls in the first left hand before the sealing-down; I cannot locate the spot at which the explosion started; it may have been where Haddon was found or where Price and Dunn were found or where Young was found; I knew gas was being given off in the second right headings in small quantities; I knew that was so before and after the case mentioned by Harrison; if any gas were being given off it would pass over where Haddon was working; I never thought of a safety-lamp being necessary there; I have not spoken with Henwood about what he saw in the place opposite Hindmarsh; I know Williams, the deputy; he was working up in Bob's heading; I do not recollect his saying that Bob's heading district was the most gassy part of the mine; he would only know about the particular bords in which he worked; he was only a miner, and could not go over the whole of the mine; I was in the bottom bord in Bob's heading on Wednesday last, the 31st ultimo, with Mr. Croudace, and could not find a trace of gas there; the brattice in the bord opposite, where Hindmarsh was found, has fallen to within 4 or 5 yards of the face; Hindmarsh was found in a heading; there was a brattice door there, opposite the bord; that would account for some of the cloth that was found about his body; there was more canvas about him than formed the brattice door; he would not be carrying it, because it was spread out; all the bords out by where Young was found were open bords; the brattice-cloth about him may be accounted for by the fact that the bord in which he was found had only recently been holed, and some of the cloth may have been left hanging in the bord; some of the brattice-cloth I use is old; some of it has been hanging since 1892; some of it can be used over and over again, while some cannot be used for longer than three months; the brattice-cloth will involve a good deal of inspection by the deputies; it is nailed on to the props with brattice-tacks; sometimes there is a batten from prop to prop on which to nail it; I think Hindmarsh's hand has fallen off through decomposition; all the flesh to the elbow was off the arm, and the wrist-bone was quite clean, and without any sign of a fracture; I can think of no circumstance in existence on the left-hand side of the mine that would probably have caused the explosion.

By Mr. Baker: I saw the fan working at 6.15 a.m. on the morning of the explosion; it was going at forty-two to the minute at the time; I timed it again between 8.30 a.m. and 9 a.m., and found it going at the same rate; there were fifteen men in the mine that morning; the air going in would be from 90,000 to 100,000 cubic feet per minute; each man and boy would be getting about 6,000 cubic feet; the fan-man had instructions to keep the fan at from forty to forty-five revolutions per minute when all the men were in, and from thirty-five to forty when only the shiftmen were in; when all the men were in, each would be getting about 350 cubic feet of air per minute; I have never had any complaint from any of the men about any want of ventilation; I think the mine could be cleared of all gas in half an hour with the fan; the fan is powerful enough to ventilate two collieries like Dudley.

By Commissioner: I consider Haddon had travelled 70 yards from where he was working, by the position in which his lamp was found; Mowbray had travelled about 35 yards; I do not exclude them from the seat of the explosion; I think Mowbray lay down quietly, judging from his position, with his head lying on his arm; Young would probably be wearing two shirts while inspecting; he was found with only his flannel shirt and vest on; he would take off one shirt to do any manual labour.

By Mr. Curley: If the non-fatal accidents from fire-damp were 185 and the fatal nineteen in England during the last year, I would say that those were very small numbers, considering the output of coal.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 2nd day }
of September, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

H. HUMPHREYS.

This deponent, *Alexander Brown*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—I am a Member of the Legislative Council, and managing director of Dalgety & Company (Limited) in New South Wales; the Dudley Colliery is managed by Dalgety & Company under my supervision; I desire to say that the firm itself, and myself as managing director, are in no way interested in the colliery—pecuniarily or otherwise; Mr. Humphreys was the manager when we were asked to look after it by the mortgagees in possession; he has continued as manager ever since; whatever the practice was with regard to the management prior to my supervision of the work has continued ever since; all we did was to sell the coal and send the manager a cheque for the pay, whatever it was.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 2nd day }
of September, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

ALEXANDER BROWN.

Inquiry adjourned till Monday, the 12th instant.
Court-house, Newcastle, 2nd September, 1898.

Inquiry resumed at 10 a.m., this 12th day of September, 1898.
Court-house, Newcastle.

This deponent, *Thomas Croudace*, recalled, on his former oath, states:—On the 7th instant, I was down the Dudley mine again; on first descending the pit I examined carefully the brick wall at the shaft bottom; I noticed it was two and a half bricks thick—that is, about 23 inches; I could not see any signs of cracking or breaking in any portion of it, but noticed that it was tilted over at the top, leaving an opening at the bottom of 2 or 3 inches; I attribute that to a defective foundation, and am of opinion that the wall must have been like that before the explosion; for if any force had come behind it it must have broken it up; I have examined the right-hand side of No. 2 right-hand headings since I last gave evidence; I saw signs of heat there—charred coal at one particular point; that was at the point marked in blue by Mr. John Dixon; as a result of my two inspections of the mine, I am of opinion that there are not so many evidences of force on the right-hand side as on the left-hand side of the main narrow bord; I have travelled up from the junction of the main intake of the narrow bord, and the intake of the second right-hand heading to the face of the main narrow bord; I could not see all the original stoppings there, but the left stoppings had been blown from the

intake of the main narrow bord towards the left; I was anxious to see the going bord above the second left near its junction with the crosscut with a view of seeing what effect the explosion had had upon the stopping, but was unable to do so on account of the falls; I tested for gas in the bord near which Hindmarsh's body was found, but failed to find any; on going into the left-hand side of the mine, after the explosion, what I saw then caused me to feel that the force of the explosion had come down the left; all the signs of force led me to that conclusion; I cannot attempt to locate the initial point of the ignition of the gas; I am quite prepared to respect the opinions of those who say it originated on the right, as well as those of the gentlemen who say it originated on the left; at the same time, all my reading and experience teach me that it is a most difficult thing to fix with any certainty the exact spot of ignition; I am of opinion that the force came along the main intake of No. 2 left, on to the main intake of the main narrow bords; it there divided itself, portion of it proceeding up the main narrow bords to the face, another portion going down towards the shaft, and to the shaft; I also believe that portion went over to the right-hand, through the first and second cut-throughs, in by the first overcast; it then distributed itself through the various bords, until it reached the upcast shaft; I think, also, that portion must have travelled from the second left intake through the various bords, on to the first left, where there were very strong indications of force; I am still very strongly of opinion that the explosion has been more a coal-dust one than a gas one; it may be a question whether the explosion was not wholly caused by coal-dust—a fall of roof rousing the dust and causing the explosion; I know that coal-dust explosions have occurred through the dust igniting at a naked light; most instances of such have been caused by ignition of the dust plus force; I know of one case in which the coal-dust ignited at a lamp when coal was being screened on the surface; between the first overcast and the crosscut I think the force had not come from left to right, but straight down; the division of the force at the fast wall side would account for the door being blown in at the first stopping in-by the second left into the return would drive the third overcast from right to left, and the stoppings in-by of the second right-hand heading left and right; the same force would go along the first, second, and third cut-throughs in-by the first overcast, and through the various bords to the right of the second right; my opinion as to the force coming through at that point is strengthened by the evidence that the explosion first came through the fan shaft; assuming the explosion occurred in the left side of the pit, there would be only a few seconds' difference in the time of the force hurling itself up the upcast shaft and the downcast shaft; the fact that four of the men travelled about 70 yards from their work before being overcome, gives me the idea that the force in that part of the mine could not have been very great, and they were thus enabled to travel that distance before being overcome; the sound of an explosion would reach men at a distance before the force would make itself felt; I think those four men must have heard the sound of the explosion in some distant part of the mine, and were going out-by when they were overpowered by the gas; assuming the indications of force and flame on the bords to the right of the three cut-throughs are true, I consider that they are all confirmations of my opinion that the explosion started in the second left somewhere, and travelled through those cut-throughs; I have actually seen the indications of flame and force as marked on the plan in evidence (Exhibit "A") I think if the explosion had started in the neighbourhood of where Young, Haddon, or Price was found, the explosion would have crossed to the second right main headings with much more force; it is quite possible that the explosion did start in that portion of the mine; if it started in the right side the dampness of the mine to the left of the second right main headings would account for the diminution of the force there; the same argument would also apply to the right of the second right which is also damp; the indications of force afforded by the stoppings in the main return in-by, the second left being blown from right to left, may be accounted for by the division of the force on emerging from the second left, and portion of it travelling up the main narrow bords; there is no doubt the explosion originated at a light; Hindmarsh might have travelled a pillar down after igniting the gas; that would account for the evidence of burning found behind him; assuming that Hindmarsh ignited the gas, the indications of heat found in bords 75 to 78 may be accounted for by a force travelling back; the particular side on which the dust is deposited depends a great deal upon the force with which the explosion is travelling; it is found on both sides of props and pillars; the deposits of coke-dust vary so much that they do not afford any guide to me in laying down any rule as to the course of the explosion; I think if the force came from the right through those cut-throughs, it would have turned the tubs there over completely; looking at Mr. Ross's plan, the position of the skips may be accounted for by a force coming down the main intake and putting the skips in motion, and driving them into the position in which they were found; the force which displaced those tubs against the rib could not have come in from the left between the crosscut end and the first left main heading; such a force would have to break down the stoppings in the stentin between the main intake of the narrow bord and the return; the door at the crosscut end would have been driven in by the force coming down the main narrow bord from where I say it split at the second crosscut.

By Mr. Atkinson: I saw signs of props being charred, and one or two pieces of brattice in the Star's heading; I also saw deposits of coke-dust, indicating a force from right to left; I was in the bord in which Young was found, and in two or three in that neighbourhood; I saw deposits of coke-dust about there, and of coal-dust; the coal-dust is generally carbonised or coked on the side which the flame is travelling on, but in some places we have the coal-dust coked on both sides of the prop; this may be accounted for by a recoil of the flame; I was not in the first six bords immediately contiguous to the face of the second right on the right; assuming the explosion started near where Young was found, I would expect to see signs of burning on both sides; if the explosion was brought about by a fall raising a cloud of coal-dust which ignited at a naked light, I would suggest the watering of the mine to prevent a similar occurrence; I think this explosion was caused by the ignition of gas at a naked light, but it is possible it originated through a fall raising the cloud of dust; I am quite certain that the dust has done more injury in this case than the gas; if the explosion was caused by gas I would suggest that all the stoppings between the main intake and return should be well built so as to prevent any leakage of the fresh air; if gas were found in any of the winning places—such as the main narrow bords or the second right hand headings, or the left hand headings—exuding in any quantity, I would work them with safety lamps, and keep a careful watch on the working places on the out-by side from them; if the mine itself as a whole gave off a large quantity of gas I suppose I should have to work it with safety lamps; I mean by that for safety; all the main roads and main intakes would probably be safely worked with naked lights up to a given point; I would have distinct splits for the winning places where gas was being given off.

By

By Mr. Curley: I have been in the Burradon Colliery in England; I was in there after the explosion; I cannot say whether it was worked with mixed lights or not before the explosion; with mixed lights I would work with double doors; where there was no great body of gas coming away it might be worked with a single door; I would recommend in the case of a mine giving off any quantity of gas that means should be adopted to localise any explosion that might occur; I have been pretty well all round Dudley mine; there are not convincing evidences that the explosion has gone through the whole of the mine; there are very few proofs of it having travelled much through the right of the second right, and fewer still of its course to the left of the second right; if there is sufficient quantity of the gas ignited, it will go through a damp district as well as a dry, but if there is not sufficient gas ignited it will not leave so many evidences of its course in a damp district as in a dry one; I do not consider the 40 yards of gas discovered in the second right main headings three days after the explosion a large quantity for the mine to give off, taking into consideration the fact that all the ventilation appliances were disarranged; the finding of gas in the three bords in the back heading three days after explosion would not indicate a large quantity being given off; I would say those discoveries of gas would indicate a moderate quantity of gas in the mine; the inspection of the mine by the proper person I consider of great importance; where a mine has a good roof, and has never given off gas, the work of inspection is a fairly easy matter; where a mine is giving off gas freely, or the roof is bad, the man making the inspection has a very responsible and anxious duty to perform; I do not think there is much gas in Dudley mine; I consider the work of inspection there is of great importance; the manager of the mine would know of the inspection by the report books of the deputy; I would not insist on seeing the mark of inspection in a working place; that is only a check on the deputy; no man should be allowed to go to his place without permission from the deputy making the inspection; I quite believe in making distinct districts in mines which are gassy, but I do not call Dudley a gassy mine that requires such a division, provided the ventilation is carried out properly; if Dudley is put into proper order, and the ventilating appliances all working properly, I would not advise the use of safety lamps there as a necessity, notwithstanding this late explosion; the evidence as to the lighting of gas in the mine before the explosion would suggest to me the necessity of keeping the bratticing well up to the face; assuming Harrison's evidence to be true about the flare-up in his place, it would be prudent to use a safety-lamp in such a case; I know that very extensive falls have taken place in this district in taking out pillars; I have never known such falls to cause such an explosion, although they have caused a vast amount of damage in a mine; I have heard of such falls in the Lambton and Wallsend Collieries; have also heard of such a fall in the A. A. Colliery; I have not heard of dust igniting on any of those occasions; there are no pillars worked out in Dudley that I know of; there are none marked on the plan; I saw dust scattered about the surface for a considerable distance round the fan shaft; where a mine is dusty, particularly on the main roads, I would advise the watering of those main roads, and more particularly where fire-damp is being given off.

By Mr. Baker: I understand Rule 1 to mean that wherever and whenever you have men working in the mine a constant supply of fresh air must be supplied to them; if the workmen are not in the mine I do not think it necessary to keep the fan going under certain conditions, but where such a quantity of gas is given off as to make it dangerous I consider the fan should be kept going always; I know Dudley mine well; assuming that all the ventilating appliances are in good order, and knowing the capacity of the fan, I should say that half-an-hour should be ample time to clear out all gas in Dudley; if the fan started at 6.15 a.m. on the 21st March last, and assuming that every working place was properly bratticed up, all noxious gas should have been entirely cleared away by 9 a.m.; Special Rule 3 confirms my reading of General Rule 1 as to the fan being required to work only when the men are in the mine.

By Commissioner: If the men in their places could at any time of the day or night, and every day or night, find the gas exuding from the coal, I should advise the use of safety lamps; if there was coal-dust present in a mine, and only a small quantity of gas being given off, there would be more likelihood of an explosion than in a mine in which there was no coal-dust, and a great deal more gas being given off (*Passage in Mr. Henry Hall's evidence read, Question 218, before Royal Commission on Explosions in Coal Mines, 1891*); where there is dust in a mine that is giving off gas it is necessary to be more careful than in a mine giving off gas and without dust; I would not call Dudley a very fiery mine, nor a fiery mine; (*Extract from Minutes of Evidence before Royal Commission of 1891—“218. Have any experiments been made to test the effect of coal-dust in connection with fire-damp? Yes, with mixtures of fire-damp; the late Commission made a great many experiments. 219. What was the result of those? They conclusively showed that air and dust with a very small quantity of fire-damp, such as practical people perhaps could not find in a colliery, could not see, would cause violent explosions”*); putting aside the cases of gas lighting, owing to the carelessness of the men in going in too soon after firing a shot, or where the brattice has not been well up to the face, the ignition of gas for a foot or so, I should not consider a danger to the men, but a warning to be careful; the probability of danger would be increased where such ignitions took place in a dusty part of the mine; if the ignition extended for 9' or 10 feet the danger would be increased; the amount of danger would depend to a great extent upon the eruptive force of the gas itself; the giving off of gas such as has been noticed in Dudley, I would not term dangerous, but would be a warning to be careful; if gas ignited and extended for 20 or 30 yards, then one would realise that there was a dangerous amount of gas in the coal; if it is found that gas is still being given off with all the ventilating appliances at work, and every place well bratticed up, I should advise the increase of the ventilating power or the use of safety lamps; I should not advise the use of safety lamps if mere flashes of gas took place, not due or traceable to any carelessness or defect in the ventilation; if sudden outbursts of gas were met with I should certainly advise safety lamps; between 3 and 4 per cent. of the gas is the minimum quantity that is inflammable; where dust is present a smaller quantity will ignite; I mean by “inflammable” that the gas begins to show a tail; the force I spoke of as going up the main narrow bords would blow the stoppings in by the second right to right and left; from what I have seen I consider it was highly improbable that the explosion started in the right part of the mine; at the same time it was not impossible; the system of watering a dusty mine that I have spoken of includes the watering of the sides and roof, as well as the roads.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 12th day }
of September, 1898, before me, }
C. G. WADE.

THOMAS CROUDACE.

This deponent, *Hugh Humphreys*, recalled, on his former oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—Green was a plate-layer, Dorritty a wagon weighman, my father a brattice-man and plate-layer, Price and Dunn on-setters, Haddon master shiftman, Mowbray was assistant on-setter, and McDougal a flatter—regulating the trains on the flat; Haddon and Mowbray were working in the immediate vicinity of where their clothes were found; McDougal would be working the horse between where Haddon and Mowbray were working and where Price and Dunn were stoving; that horse was found where Haddon and McDougal were working; he was attached to a skip; I understand his face was pointing in towards the face of No. 2 right; the fact of the full tubs being found near the overman's cabin shows that they had been moved, as full skips are never taken past the empty road points nearly opposite No. 1 right; we have been clearing up round Young's body and Hindmarsh's, but have found nothing more belonging to them; we have cleared a space of about 7 yards round Young's body and nearly that round Hindmarsh's; we have also searched all the faces of the bords that are upstanding near Hindmarsh; the last date on the faces there is 18th; I saw no 21st marked up there.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 12th day }
of September, 1898, before me.— }
C. G. WADE.

H. HUMPHREYS.

This deponent, *Alfred Ashley Atkinson*, recalled, states (*in answer to Commissioner*):—When I gave evidence no evidence had been given of the indications of flame and force in Star's heading; I have since heard the evidence of those witnesses who are of opinion that the explosion originated in the second right district and travelled over to the left; having heard that evidence I do not wish to alter my opinion as to the seat of the explosion; the indications in Star's heading may have arisen from the fact that the explosion travelled along the main narrow bords blowing the stoppings out to right and left; as far as I can see, the explosion travelled the dusty roads; it has come on to the narrow bords at the overcast; I cannot say for certain as to whether it went into the cross-cut or came out of the cross-cut; the evidences of force and flame in the going bord near Hindmarsh's body have been placed there by the force coming out of the narrow bords; it might be termed the end of the explosion; I should think that the explosion would come back to somewhere near its starting point; it is quite possible that happened; I should think it quite likely that the explosion went from the left to the right side along the first cut-through, and came out again at the second cut-through; that would apply to the other cut-throughs and the air-crossings as well; my impression was at first that the timber of the third overcast suggested a force from left to right; I now say that the evidence afforded by that air-crossing is very conflicting and difficult to understand; the indications of force and flame in the right of the second right are consistent with my opinion that the force originated on the left side of the pit; it is impossible to explain all the evidences of force and flame no matter on which side the explosion is assumed to have taken place; I have heard it stated by men of experience that 20 or 30 cubic feet of gas, with a proper quantity of coal dust, would be sufficient to produce the results brought about in Dudley; I think with such a small quantity as that it would require to be at its highest point of explosion with the air.

By Mr. Curley: There must have been considerably more than 20 or 30 cubic feet of gas found in the second right three days after the explosion, judging by the evidence; as far as I know, the left side of the mine was not explored before the sealing-down.

By Commissioner: Provided all the roads near the point of explosion were equally dusty, I would naturally expect the explosion to diverge in different directions; if one road were more dusty than the others it would probably travel that road in preference to others.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 12th day }
of September, 1898, before me.— }
C. G. WADE.

A. A. ATKINSON.

This deponent, *John Dixon*, recalled, on his former oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—The bottoms of the empty casks that I spoke of were just inside the heading end; the casks had been rolled further in-by beyond where I found the tub; after hearing all the evidence adduced in this case, I am not prepared to retract one word of what I have said as to the seat of the explosion and the course it travelled; I believe the mine fired on the right.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 12th day of }
September, 1898, before me.— }
C. G. WADE.

JOHN DIXON.

Inquiry adjourned till 11 a.m. to-morrow.
Court-house, Newcastle, 12th September, 1898.

Depositions of Dr. Eames, Dr. Hester, and Reynolds, taken in Coroner's Court, put in evidence.
A copy of the Special Rules of the Colliery also put in evidence.

This deponent, *William Pickstock*, on his oath states (*to Commissioner*):—I am a miner employed at the Hetton Colliery; I was working at the Dudley Colliery about six years ago; I was working there for a month or six weeks; I was working in the second bord from the up-cast on the right-hand side; Mr. Humphreys was manager of the colliery at the time. I noticed gas on the morning I left and also a couple of days before; two days before I left I stood out of the way of a set near a door on the left-hand side; my lamp was low, and I knocked it on my boot to freshen it when a little gas lit up on the floor; some water was there and the gas was on top of the water; the light went sailing over the surface of the water; I did not report that gas to anybody; about ten minutes past 7 on the morning I left a man came into my bord and called out "Fire"; a shot had been fired in that man's bord; I heard a peculiar noise when the shot fired and went into his bord; I saw gas there and some of the brattice was down; there

there was a bit of a blower in that place ; the gas was alight when I went into the bord coming from the blower ; the flame did not extend very far ; I did not measure it ; I was too glad to get it out ; I put it out by "dabbing" some wet brattice on the flame ; I do not know whether Mr. Humphreys was informed of this or not, but he came in shortly afterwards with the overman ; all our tools were in the corner, and he asked us what was the matter ; we said we wished to leave the colliery ; he asked our reasons for doing so and we gave him none, but told him that we simply wished to leave ; he pointed out to us that we had plenty coal ready and it would be foolish to leave under such circumstances as we had a good place ; he pressed us for our reasons for leaving, and we asked to leave without notice ; he said he could not understand our reasons for wishing to leave ; we said we did not want to argue the point but wanted to leave ; he said there was not much gas there ; we did not want to say much about the gas ; my only reason for leaving the colliery was that there was too much gas there ; I have had some narrow escapes from accidents with gas in mines in England ; I mean by that that explosions occurred in those particular places resulting in loss of life—243 in one case and 57 in another ; there was no fan at Dudley at the time I speak of ; it had only natural ventilation.

By Commissioner : The man in the other bord was doing nothing when I went into his bord ; I heard the peculiar sound and his cry of "Fire" and did not like it ; I cannot say what lit the gas on that occasion—the shot or his lamp ; a few yards of the brattice were down, but I do not know what brought that down ; George Whittle was my mate at the time.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 13th day of }
September, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

WILLIAM PICKSTOCK.

This deponent, *Edward Charlton*, on his oath, states (*to Commissioner*):—I am a miner employed at the Burwood Colliery ; I worked at Dudley from about last October to March last—the time of the explosion.

By Mr. Curley : The quarter previous to the explosion I was working two bords from where Harrison was working, on the right-hand side of the mine ; Harrison was working in the heading ; I have several times had flares-up of gas in our bord ; I never knew any to take place in the morning when we went in ; they generally took place after firing shots when we went in with our lamps on our heads ; on one occasion there was a flare-up when we were fixing a wedge ; this took place during the two months prior to the explosion ; we had none during the first month, but as the bord went in they occurred more frequently ; the majority of them were small flares-up, and perhaps two of them extended back about 5 feet ; we used to have three or four such flares-up a week ; nobody ever warned me that I was not to go back to the shot after it was fired ; I am a brother-in-law of Dorrity, who perished in the explosion.

By Commissioner : I know it is proper and customary for miners to wait a little after a shot before going into the place again ; sometimes the gas had cleared away when we went back ; other times it had not ; it all depended on the time we allowed to elapse before going back ; the brattice was kept well up in our bord ; I did not report any of these flares-up ; I mentioned them in conversation to Deputy Green and others ; I did not report them because I did not consider there was any danger when all the ventilating appliances were in proper order ; I thought there was plenty of air in the mine to diffuse all the gas there.

EDWARD CHARLTON.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 13th day }
of September, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

This deponent, *William Humble*, recalled, states (*to Commissioner*):—I stated in my former evidence that at the first cut-through I saw a tub and some coal that had been scattered ; that coal had been scattered from left to right, and was lying between the carriage of the tub and the tub itself ; there was nothing in the tub itself but a token, showing it had been a loaded tub ; there was no evidence to show that that coal had been in the tub ; it may have been lying on the road ; the coal gives very little evidence of the position of the tub before the explosion ; I wish to state here, to make it clear, that I was Inspector of the Dudley mine, and am so still ; on some occasions Mr. Dixon has acted for me, but that was only a temporary arrangement.

WILLIAM HUMBLE.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 13th day }
of September, 1898, before me,— }
C. G. WADE.

The taking of evidence concluded at 12:30 p.m. on this 13th day of September, 1898.
Court-house, Newcastle, 13th September, 1898.

APPENDIX C.

Depositions of Witnesses taken at the Coroner's Inquest and put in at the Court of Investigation.

Witness.	Page.	Witness.	Page.
Croker, Charles	54	Parsons, Leslie	57
Callender, George	54	Purcell, Adam	57
Edwards, Gilbert	54	Reynolds, John B.	57
Eames, Wm. L'E., Dr.	55	Sutherland, Robert	58, 59
Fletcher, Peter	56	Sault, William	59
Hester, J. Wm., Dr.	56	Young, Sydney R.	60

This deponent, *Charles Croker*, on his oath, states:—I am employed looking after the horses at Dudley Colliery; I reside at Dudley; my duties take me very little underground; on the morning of the 21st instant I went down the pit to get a bit of brattice to cover some furniture I was moving; that was about half-past 8 o'clock; I saw Benson, the pump-man, there at his work, and the pick-boy, who was arranging the picks; I also saw Thomas Green down there; he was on the main road, about 200 yards from the pit; I think it was the second left-hand heading I went to; Green went down with me from the crosscut, and went back to the crosscut with me; he there left me; I was down below about fifteen minutes, leaving the pit about 8:45 a.m.; I did not notice any smell while I was down the mine; there was a young horse down the pit; I think Dorritty was in charge of it; Green asked me to give the men a hand with it.

By Mr. Baker: The current of air along the main road was so strong that I could hardly keep my lamp alight.

By Mr. Curley: None of the men complained to me about anything.

Made and sworn at Dudley, this 29th day }
of March, 1898, before me,— }

CHARLES CROKER.

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

This deponent, *George Callender*, on his oath, states:—I have been a miner for twenty-eight years; I was working at Dudley for two months prior to the explosion; I began in January last, and worked up to the time of the explosion; I first worked in the main narrow bord, straight in from the shaft; I worked there the whole two months; I found no gas there; I had any amount of ventilation there—more than was required; I was breaking into a part that had not been worked before; the ventilation was so strong that I found it too cold for me to work there, and asked the manager to take off some of it.

By Mr. Wilshire: He took half the door off and reduced the current; I knew they bratticed right up to the face at Dudley: even before the present Act came into force; that was to get rid of the gas, I suppose; I did not hear of Harrison being burnt there; I heard of gas in the mine, but in no particular place; I knew it was a mine that gave off gas.

By Mr. Baker: I was working in Dudley mine, I think, in 1892.

By Mr. Brown: The brattice was used to give air through the pit.

Taken and sworn at the Court-house, Newcastle, this }
22nd day of April, 1898, before me,— }

GEORGE CALLENDER.

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

This deponent, *Gilbert Edwards*, on his oath, states:—I am a carpenter, and was employed at Dudley Colliery; I knew Hetherington, one of the deputies there; I have been employed there nearly two years; I saw Hetherington on the morning of the 21st ultimo, about 6:50 o'clock; he had a safety-lamp with him; I saw him preparing to go down the mine, but did not actually see him go down; I know he was on duty that morning.

By Coroner: The lamp was alight.

By Mr. Baker: I have seen Mr. Humphreys going down the mine nearly every other day when the mine was at work.

By Mr. Wilshire: I am employed at the pit-top; Hetherington came out of the engine-house; he was preparing to go down outside the engine-house; he carried his lamp in his left hand; I have not compared notes with Fletcher as to which hand he carried it in; I did not see him on the 18th ultimo; I never saw the lamp in his right hand; I have seen him many times; he always had his lamp—not always in his left hand; I recollect he had his lamp in his left hand on that occasion; on many occasions he had his lamp in his left hand; I cannot say who was the first person I spoke to about this matter; Mr. Humphreys spoke to me, and I told him that Hetherington had a safety-lamp that morning.

By Mr. Curley: It was a wire-gauze lamp; I cannot say whether there was any glass about it or not; there was a shield on it.

Taken and sworn at Court-house, Newcastle, this }
21st day of April, 1898, before me,— }

GILBERT EDWARDS.

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

This deponent, *William L'Estrange Eames*, on his oath, states:—I am a legally qualified medical practitioner, residing in Newcastle; I was summoned to the Dudley mine about 9:50 a.m. on the 21st instant, by Mr. Winchester, of the Mines Department; I saw the first body brought out of the mine at 8:45 p.m.; I was out there all day; I did not go down the mine; the body was afterwards identified as that of Thomas Dorrity; I saw it as soon as it came to the surface; it was that of a well-nourished man in the prime of life, about 5 ft. 10 in. high; the body and clothes were covered with coal-dust, and the face and arms were singed; the body, chest, and arms bore traces of burning; the left arm was raised and extended, and the other lying on the chest; I saw the body again on the following morning, and also that of John Benson, which had been recovered during the night; Benson was covered with coal-dust; his hair was singed, and his beard very slightly; his face was burnt and his arms and the upper part of the chest; from the appearance of his hands I should say part of the body had been lying in water; there were no marks of violence on the body; at the request of the Coroner I made a *post-mortem* examination of both bodies with Dr. Hester; by daylight the lips and other parts where the epidermis had been torn off presented a bright pink appearance; we first examined the body of Thomas Dorrity; the body and clothes were impregnated with coal-dust; the body was that of a man about 24 years of age, about 5 ft. 10 in. high; there were no bones broken; there appeared to be some vomited matter adhering to the teeth and lips; the hair of the head and moustache was singed; there was pretty extensive burning on the head, arms, and chest; the epidermis was peeling off in places, showing a pink appearance underneath; the skin through which the colour could be seen and the mucous membrane wore of a decidedly pink colour instead of being pale or leaden blue, as it is in death caused by other causes than carbon monoxide; this clearly indicated the cause of death; this conclusion was confirmed by subsequent tests; on the head there was a slight scalp wound at the back; the skull was intact, the brain slightly congested, otherwise normal, the pink colour of the blood being alone remarkable; the lungs and heart were perfectly healthy, the pink colour being alone remarkable; we took some blood from the heart for future examination; the muscles were all of a pink colour; the intestines were healthy and other abdominal organs, their pink colour being alone remarkable; the superficial burns, although somewhat extensive, would not cause death immediately, although death might have ensued in a few days from their extensive nature; the blood, which we examined next day by spectroscopic colorimetric tests, confirmed our suspicions that death was caused by carbon monoxide; the body of John Benson was found at 8:30 a.m. on the 22nd instant; it was the body of a middle-aged man about 41 years of age, with a wooden left leg; it was covered with coal-dust and dirt; decomposition was setting in; the hair was singed, and the beard very slightly; the face, arms, and chest were burnt; the skin of the hands and forearms was wrinkled in appearance, pointing to the fact that the body had been lying partly in water; no bones were broken; there was the mark of a scratch on the face from which blood of a pinkish colour was issuing; the lips and skin of the over-chest and neck was of a pink colour; in the thorax we found extensive pleural adhesions, pointing to old pleurisy; the lungs were of a dark slate colour, pointing to a lengthy career as a coal-miner; when the blood was squeezed out of the lungs it was a pink colour; the heart was inclined to be fatty; the liver was of a darker red than in the case of Dorrity, but of a pinker colour than is usual; the muscles were pink in colour; the stomach and intestines were quite healthy, their pink colour being alone remarkable; we took the blood from the heart for further tests; on the morning of the 23rd instant we examined both samples of blood by colorimetric and spectroscopic methods; both tests indubitably confirmed our suspicion that death was due to carbon monoxide poisoning; in both cases the blood remained liquid, no coagula forming as would have been the case under ordinary circumstances; I saw the victims of the Stockton disaster, and their bodies presented exactly the same appearance; I saw the bodies of Haddon and McDougall, and turned back their lips; they were of a pink colour, showing death by carbon monoxide poisoning; both those bodies were singed; none of the bodies were burnt below about the waist; the hair of Haddon and McDougall was singed, but not right off; I did not make a complete examination of their bodies, because the slight examination I made, together with the examination of the other bodies, perfectly satisfied me that death in their cases was due to carbon monoxide; carbon monoxide is a deadly gas, and a third per cent. will cause death in twenty minutes; 1 per cent. of the gas would kill in a third of that time; assuming one body was found sitting in a natural position with his arms extended, it would show that his death was fairly sudden; the blood in the bodies I examined would be impregnated with the poison from eight to ten minutes; there was over 40 per cent. of the poison in the blood; the men would most probably be overcome in less than eight or ten minutes and drop down; the carbon monoxide forms a pretty definite combination with the blood, rendering it unable to take up oxygen.

By Mr. Atkinson: The blood has to be saturated with at least 40 per cent. of carbon monoxide before it can be detected with the spectroscope.

By Mr. Curley: I remember showing the jury the bodies of the two men in the engine-room; I drew their attention to Dorrity's mouth, and said there was some pink colour on the lips; I had partly formed the opinion then that death had been caused by carbon monoxide; that was before the *post-mortem*; I also drew attention to Benson's body in the same way; I said that his body did not present the appearance of death by carbon monoxide to the same extent as Dorrity's; I did not say then that I thought his death was due to violence probably; it would depend upon where the force of the explosion caught a man as to how much it injured him; there is not the slightest doubt if the tests I made are worth anything as to the cause of death in the case of Benson; it was not difficult to determine the cause of death in these cases from the appearances of the bodies, which were quite different from the appearance of bodies in which death was brought about by other causes than poison by carbon monoxide.

Made and sworn at Court-house, Newcastle, this }
1st day of April, 1898, before me,— }

W. L'E. EAMES.

GEO. C. MARTIN, CORONER.

This

This deponent, *Peter Fletcher*, on his oath, states:—I am screen overseer at Dudley Colliery; I have been there since the colliery started this last time, about the 11th May, 1896; I knew Hetherington, one of the deputies; I saw him on the morning of the 21st ultimo, and spoke to him; it was about 6:45 a.m.; he was just coming out of the engine-house towards the pit; I understood he was going down; he had a safety-lamp with him; I remember he was carrying it in his left hand; I did not actually see him go down the mine; Mr. Humphreys went down the mine very often, sometimes three or four times a day; he was down nearly every day except at the end of the fortnight, when he was occupied in the office; he would go down three or four times a week on the average; I did not see Gilbert Edwards at the top of the pit that morning.

By Mr. Wilshire: I have often seen Hetherington under similar circumstances; I would see him pretty well every morning; I have never seen him without his safety-lamp going down the pit; I cannot remember whether he had it on the morning of the 18th or 19th ultimo; I am quite certain he had the lamp with him on the morning of the 21st ultimo when I saw him; the lamp was not alight when I saw him; I first mentioned seeing him with the lamp about two days after the accident; Constable Spicer came over to me and asked me if I had seen anything of the men; I said, "Yes, I saw the poor beggar going down with his lamp."

By Mr. Curley: I did not pay particular attention to what kind of lamp it was; it was not a glass lamp.

Taken and sworn at the Court-house, Newcastle, }
this 21st day of April, 1898, before me,— }

PETER FLETCHER.

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

This deponent, *Jefferison William Hester*, on his oath, states:—I am a duly qualified medical practitioner, residing at Stockton; I visited the Dudley mine about 3 p.m. on the 21st ultimo; I saw the bodies of Dorritty and Benson about 10 a.m. on the 22nd instant; about 2 p.m. that day, with Dr. Eames, I made a *post-mortem* examination of the body of Dorritty; I found marks of burning on his face, arms, and chest, the hair singed, and his trousers and shirt covered with fine coal-dust; the clothes he was wearing were not otherwise disarranged; there was a small wound on the scalp which was still bleeding; the blood escaping was not coagulating; in the nostrils and around the mouth were traces of some vomited material; the lips were of a pink colour, and the skin of the body, where exposed, of a bright pink colour; on examination I found no bones broken; the brain was healthy, slightly congested; the heart and lungs were quite healthy, and the organs of the abdomen also; there was no sign of internal injury of any kind; the main thing noticeable was the colour of the blood, which, in all the organs, was pink; we collected some of this blood from the heart, and next day I spent some two hours examining it with the spectroscope and the colorimetric test; I found strong evidence that there was carbon monoxide in the blood; after examining Dorritty, we proceeded to examine the body of Benson; I found the hair slightly singed, and the skin of the face, chest, and abdomen burnt; there were no bones broken; the lips were pink inside, but not so markedly as in the case of Dorritty; the skin of the upper chest and neck was also distinctly pink; the lungs were very black, showing that he had worked for a long time in connection with mining; there were also pleuritic adhesions to the chest wall; in the abdomen the organs were normal; his left thigh had been amputated; the muscles were very much redder than normally expected; the blood had a much more pinkish colour than normal; he had a small scalp wound near the left ear, and the blood from it was not coagulating; it was still bleeding; I examined his blood the next day, with the same results as in the case of Dorritty; in my opinion, the cause of death in both cases was poisoning by carbon monoxide.

By Coroner: In both cases there were no internal or external injuries that could possibly cause death.

By Mr. Wilshire: In all probability both men must have lived longer than ten minutes after the explosion, because of the saturation of the blood with the carbon monoxide; they may have lived as long as twenty minutes after the explosion; I remember the Stockton case; the bodies of the nine men in the Stockton case presented very much the same appearance as the body of Dorritty; the Stockton men became unconscious after about fifteen or twenty minutes; on the night of the 23rd ultimo I examined the body of Hetherington and gave it as my opinion that an injury had been the cause of death in his case; I did so because I could see no sufficient sign of the carbon monoxide owing to decomposition, and there were injuries sufficient to have caused his death.

By Mr. Curley: There were no signs on Benson's body to show that he had been killed by a falling baulk; if he had been killed by the force of the explosion there would have been signs about his body of some injury; I made a *post-mortem* examination of the bodies of Smith and Curran in the Stockton case; in my opinion the cause of death in their cases was asphyxia; the resulting gases of an explosion are usually carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulphuretted hydrogen; there was not the slightest indication, from the minutest examination, to show that Dorritty and Benson met their death in any way, except by poisoning by carbon monoxide.

By a Jurymen: I am certain Dorritty had teeth.

By Coroner: Before we examined the body of Benson we had been told that his body had been found under such circumstances that he could not have met his death by poisoning; that made us more careful in testing for carbon monoxide.

By Foreman: The fact that the flowing blood did not coagulate was a sign that it was saturated with the carbon monoxide.

Taken and sworn at Court-house, Newcastle, this }
13th day of April, 1898, before me,— }

J. W. HESTER.

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

This deponent, *Leslie Parsons*, on his oath, states:—I am a pick-boy, employed at the Dudley colliery; I reside at Dudley; I recollect the morning of the explosion; I went down the pit about 7:20 a.m. that day; two men went down with me—Mr. Hindmarch and, I think, Thomas Dorrity; I held a young horse at the bottom of the pit while they put the ladders on it; I then went to the pit rack and attended to the picks; I then went to the pumpman, Benson; I generally used to see how the water was for Benson; I did so that morning and saw it was about 6 inches above the mark he had there; I then returned to Benson and went up above ground, reaching the top about 8:50 a.m.; I reached home at 9 o'clock by our clock; I had been home five or ten minutes when I heard the explosion; the ventilation was just the same as usual; I noticed it was a little more windy than usual below; I had a difficulty in lighting my lamp.

By Mr. Atkinson: I saw Benson, Hindmarch, Dorrity, Price, and McDougal, at the pit bottom; Mr. Hindmarch gave no particular instructions at the pit bottom while I was there; I saw those men there soon after I had gone down—but only Benson after.

By Mr. Curley: I usually go down the pit at the same time as I went down that morning; I was on the pit top some time before I went down; I saw about thirteen men go down while I was on the pit top; I could not say with any certainty who the thirteen men were; I did not see any men go down before 7 o'clock that morning.

By Foreman: Mr. Haddon was responsible for setting the men away that morning; he set me away that morning; I believe he set the others away that morning; there is supposed to be someone in charge at the bottom to set the men up; Price is generally employed to do that; Benson set me up that day.

By a Jurymen: Hindmarch might have gone down before 7 a.m. that day without my noticing him; two other men went down before 7 a.m., and I did not notice them.

Made and sworn at Dudley, this 29th day }
of March, 1898, before me,— }
GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

LESLIE PARSONS.

This deponent, *Adam Purcell*, on his oath, states:—I am a fan driver employed at the Dudley Colliery and residing at Dudley; I know this inquest is being held on the bodies of John Benson and Thomas Dorrity; I knew they worked in the Dudley Mine; I was last on duty before the explosion on the 18th instant; I knocked off work at 4 p.m.; the fan stopped then; the practice would be to start it again at 10 p.m. that day; the men were supposed to go in about 10:45 p.m.; we have to start the fan at 10 p.m., but generally start it before 10 o'clock; we very rarely started later than 10 p.m.; I measured the revolutions of the fan by my watch; the fan went from thirty-three to forty-five revolutions per minute; on coal day—when the men were at work in the mine—it was kept going up to forty-five per minute; a report is sent in to the manager every evening concerning the working of the fan; I took it over every day at 4 o'clock; the number of revolutions was not recorded in that report; we had a book at the fan-house but did not record the number of revolutions in it; I was not on duty on the 19th instant nor on the night of the 20th instant; I was not there on the morning of the 21st instant till after the explosion; I have never known the fan to stop while the men have been in the pit once it has been started; the only record I make about the fan is that the boilers and everything else are in good order; I have never made an entry as to the time the fan started; I believe my mate, Arthur, has made such an entry; we have a water gauge at the fan, but I do not understand it well, so take not much notice of it except to see that the glass is not broken; I have been employed as a fan man almost two years.

By Mr. Baker: I have always carried out strictly my instructions to start the fan at 6 a.m.; Arthur did the same to my knowledge.

By Mr. Brown: I remember after the accident sending over reports from the fan to the office; there was no difference between those and the ordinary reports I sent in, except that those on the 21st instant were sent in hourly and not daily; on the 21st instant a number of skilled gentlemen were present when these reports were sent in.

By Foreman: I was visited by Mr. Robson, the engineer, at times to see how things were going; Mr. Humphreys also visited me.

By Jurymen: I cannot remember any of the mining inspectors visiting me to see how things were working.

Sworn and made at Dudley, this 29th day }
of March, 1898, before me,— }
GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

ADAM PURCELL.

This deponent, *John Bernard Reynolds*, on his oath, states:—I am a miner, residing at Jesmond; I worked in Dudley Mine for three months prior to the explosion; I last came out of the mine on the Friday before the explosion—the 18th instant; I was working three or four bords from the end of the first left hand; my bord was No. 97; it was very hot in the heading there; there was a good current of air going up, but still it was very hot; it was very sultry in the bord; we ought to have bratticed well up to the face, but did not do so; we had gone about 35 yards into the bord; the brattice extended from the pillar end to within about 4 yards of the face; there was gas in that bord; it used to fire regularly in small quantities pretty well every day; it never fired at the drill-holes; for the last fortnight I regarded that bord as dangerous; I reported the sultry condition of the place to Hetherington, and asked him to put up a bit of brattice; he did not do so; we were working about 10 or 15 yards off the brattice at that time; he went to the end of the brattice and said there were 300 feet of air at that time; I said that was not at the face where we were working; he asked me what did I do when I had no brattice; I told him those

days of savagery were gone; he did not supply me with the brattice; the next morning the bord fired more than ordinarily; that was between two and three weeks before the explosion; the firing was thick on one end and reached to a feather edge on the other side to near my face; the flame extended for 15 yards in a wedge shape towards the heading; my mate's light fired at it; his name is Weir; I went on working; old Mr. Humphreys came in and I reported the matter to him; he was acting as deputy; I asked him for some bratticing; he said nothing, but went out and returned and bratticed the bord right up to the face; during the time I was working there prior to that my bord was not bratticed well up to the face; I have been in other bords; they seemed to be bratticed in the same way as mine; there were no canvas doors to them; I worked on the day shift; this large flash I noticed occurred about 8 a.m.; we had been working about an hour, I think; that was the day after I had asked Hetherington for the brattice; I do not know whether the manager or under-manager heard of the flash; I regarded the mine as a gassy one; a week before the explosion the mine was getting worse every day; I remarked to my mate that the flares-up were getting rather too common, lighting up every day; he said he had worked in mines in other places and did not apprehend any danger; as a consequence of my fear of the gas I was looking for work in another mine; as far as I could see, the deputy always made his examination before the men went to their places.

By Mr. Atkinson: The bord I was in was about the third pillar down from the heading; we were in about 28 yards on the last day we worked there; I did not report the flashes to Hetherington, but to Humphreys; I assumed it was the presence of the gas that caused the heat in my bord, which was so close to the downcast shaft; I have not tried to think out any other cause for it; the miners have never expressed any wish to have the mine inspected by the check inspectors; their reason for not doing so was the expense; I have never had any trouble in getting all the bratticing I wanted except in this one case.

By Coroner: I have never been in bord No. 87 or No. 91.

By Mr. Curley: I have worked in No. 65 bord but saw no gas there; I saw the small flares-up I have spoken of about once a day for the fortnight prior to the explosion; I have seen them at different times of the day; I could not name any particular time of the day; it has never flared up at my light, but always at my mate's; I have never seen Mr. Humphreys at my last place—No. 97; I worked there for seven or eight weeks; I have raised the question of check inspectors; at the last miners' meeting I said I had noticed this gas; the matter was decided against me on the ground of economy.

By Mr. Baker: I have had about ten years' experience of mining; I am a blacksmith by trade; after the brattice was put up I had no reason to complain of the gas; I went up for examination as an under-manager in January last, but did not succeed in passing; I volunteered to Mr. Atkinson to give evidence at this inquest while the search for the bodies was being carried out; after the explosion I volunteered to go into my part and search for bodies; I was never given a copy of the rules of the colliery; I do not know that all the men were supplied with copies; I never asked for a copy; I have not seen the copy posted on the pit top.

By Mr. Brown: There were about 240 miners employed at the Dudley mine; I think nineteen Dudley men attended the last miners' meeting; I said I had reason for asking for the check inspectors; I said nothing more about it; they did not ask me for my reasons; I moved that two check inspectors should be appointed, but could not get a seconder; I gave my reasons for making the motion; I did not get a chance to say much; I moved that two check inspectors be appointed; I then sat down; nobody seconded the motion; one of the men said he could work with his coat on where he was working; I said he had got his own share and somebody's—that there were parts of the mine where the ventilation was not so good; I did not take my tools out on the occasion I saw the big flare-up; I did not suggest to my mate the wisdom of taking out our tools; I wrote for other employment; I did not see immediate danger in it.

By Foreman: I never had any dispute with the management of the colliery, but on the contrary have always been satisfied with the manner in which I have been treated by Mr. Humphreys and other officials; I have not given this evidence out of any feeling of malice.

By Mr. Baker: I do not consider I had sufficient air to expel the gas where I was working; I do not know what quantity of air I had there; I will not say I had not about 9,000 feet of air there.

Made and sworn at Court-house, Newcastle, this 31st } JOHN BERNARD REYNOLDS.
day of March, 1898, before me, — }
GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

This deponent, *Robert Sutherland*, on his oath, states:—I am an engine-driver employed at the Dudley Colliery, and residing at Kahibah; I knew the two deceased; I also know that this inquest is being held on their bodies; I have been engine-driver at Dudley Colliery ever since the mine began to work; I had nothing to do with down below and did not go down the mine; I had to do with getting the men down the pit; I went off duty about 7 a.m. on the 18th instant, being relieved by Thomas Checker; I went on duty about 4.50 a.m. on the 21st instant; I was engaged in getting up steam till 6 a.m.; I did not notice when the fan started; it had nothing to do with me; I think three men went down about 6.55 a.m. on the 21st instant; I happened to look at my watch about that time; I made an entry regarding my own work as to the cage being in good order and steam up; I know Cook and Benson were two of the three men who went down, but cannot say who the third man was; no more than three went down at that time; I took three horses out of the pit after that; some more men went down about 7.25 a.m., and the last about 7.30 a.m.; Croker went down after them, but he had nothing to do with them; that would be twenty or thirty minutes after the last batch of men who went down; the pick-boy, Parsons, went down with the last lot of men; he was the last to come up; that was about 8.50 a.m.; I was in the fire-room when the explosion took place; that was about 20 yards from the pit; I just heard a hissing noise and saw some steam coming up; I thought it was a steam pipe that had burst; I went to look down the shaft, but before I reached it the explosion took place; that would be about 9.10 a.m.; I had told a man the time about 9.5 a.m. and it was about five minutes after that the explosion took place; I saw smoke coming from the mine; I saw the cage thrown up; it was standing about level with the surface and was thrown about 22 feet high; it was lying over;

it

it was lying 22 feet higher than when I first saw it; it may have gone higher and fallen back; it weighs between 23 and 26 cwt.; there was not much damage done to that cage; the bottom hooks were bent a bit; the sides were a very little bulged out; the chain was broken; mud and dirt of all descriptions were thrown out of the mine—a terrible lot of dust and small coal; the other cage would be in the bottom of the pit; it would be standing about 10 or 12 feet from the bottom; it was wrecked; it was about the same weight as the other cage; I did not see any flame come out of the shaft; there were two other men about at the time—Thomas Rudge and Whittaker Price; they were close to the fire-hole; Rudge is employed as a stoker at the pit works; there was nothing affected in the winding gear at all except the part going down in the cage; the explosion blew a few sheets of iron off the roof right above the shaft; there were no banksmen on duty that particular morning; Cooke was acting as one that morning I think; four engine-men are employed at Dudley; the night-shift comes on about 9.30 p.m. and knocks off at about 7 a.m.; the day-shiftman comes on at 7 a.m. and knocks off at 5 p.m.; the pit is empty then and does not work again till about 10 p.m.; I should think the fan man is the person to start the fan at the proper time; it would be his duty to see that it was started at the proper time; I should say if the fan were late in starting the driver should report the fact to the underground manager; I saw the chimneys going about 5.30 a.m. that day but that would be no indication that the fan was working; the practice was for the deputy of the night-shift to go down about 20 or 30 minutes before the men went down; I think that would allow him sufficient time to examine the mine; there were never more than about twelve men at work during the night-shift.

Made and sworn at Newcastle Court-house, this }
30th day of March, 1898, before me,— }
GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

R. SUTHERLAND.

This deponent, *Robert Sutherland*, recalled, states, in answer to Mr. Curley:—I have a very clear view of the cage from my standing position there; I cannot tell the number of men who went down that morning; I did not notice anyone going down with a safety-lamp that morning, but the deputies generally carry one.

Made and sworn at the Court-house, Newcastle, this }
30th day of March, 1898, before me,— }
GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

R. SUTHERLAND.

This deponent, *Robert Sutherland*, recalled, on his former oath states, in answer to Mr. Wilshire:—Hetherington used to leave his safety-lamp in one particular place in the engine-room; he was in the habit of doing that for some years; both deputies were in the habit of doing that; they were always hanging up, and nobody interfered with them but the deputies; I do not know whether Hetherington went in for his on the morning of the 21st instant; I had no business in the engine-room; my work was all in the fire-hole that morning; I do not know whether the lamps were in the engine-room that morning; the room has been full of safety-lamps since the explosion; I would not know theirs from any others; I never knew Hetherington to go into the mine without his lamp.

By Mr. Curley: They always lit their lamps in the engine-room; if I took notice of the fact I would see the lights burning in the cage when I was lowering them away.

By Mr. Atkinson: I think the two lamps belonged to the two deputies, Hetherington and Young.

By Mr. Curley: The lamps were like the "clan" lamps I have seen in England; they had glass on them; I have seen one particular lamp that had no glass in it.

By Coroner: No safety-lamp was kept down below; if a deputy went down without one, and wanted one, he would require to come to the surface to get one.

By Mr. Curley: I have seen the deputies take the safety-lamps down when I have been on the night-shift.

By Mr. Baker: I know what a Davy lamp is; I have seen one in the engine-room with the other, but have not taken notice which the deputies used.

Made and sworn at Court-house, Newcastle, this }
30th day of March, 1898, before me,— }
GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

R. SUTHERLAND.

This deponent, *William Sault*, on his oath, states:—I am a shiftman employed at the Dudley Colliery, and residing at Dudley; I knew the two deceased; I was working in Dudley up to the time of the explosion; I knocked off at 7 a.m. on the 19th instant; I had gone into the mine at 10.30 p.m. previous day; the practice, as far as the examination by the deputy, was for the deputy to go in and tell us to remain behind; we never went beyond the station; we waited there till he came back; he would come back to the flat then, and then tell us to go on to the flat; we would have to wait about five minutes after going down before seeing the deputy; none of the shiftmen would go down with him; he went down fifteen minutes before the men; the pumpman would go down with him; the deputy would go in and examine the place before he would go in; I have come across gas in the mine, but very little; what little I have come across was nothing to hurt anybody; I recollect gas being in the bord in which I was working, about two or three weeks before the explosion; it did not fire; Green was working with me then; one night I fired a shot which left some coal hanging; I went to chip it down, and the gas fired at my naked lamp; it was nothing to speak of, though; I reported it to Hetherington; the under-deputy, Williams, had been sent in to brattice up the place about a week before that; there was some brattice put

put in the morning after the firing I have spoken of; I have never seen much gas in the mine; I have never heard it coming out of the face; I have been working on the face for some considerable time; I have never tried whether any gas has come out of a drill-hole; I have worked pretty well all over the mine; I cannot say whether there is more gas in one part than another.

By Coroner: I have been working in the mine a long time; I have seen the deputy go down while we have waited on the top; he took his safety-lamp with him every time; we waited till he had been down about a quarter of an hour; we would then go down, and wait at the place the deputy told us to wait at till he told us to go further; my working-place would be about 150 yards from there.

By Mr. Wilshire: We went past the station; we went to the cross-cut before we stopped for the examination by the deputy; I know Bob's heading; I was working in the last bord in that heading; when we went down a quarter of an hour after the deputy we would go along to the second left-hand heading to a point about half a mile distant from the pit bottom; we went along the main travelling road; the point we waited at was called the "Little Flat"; that was about 150 yards from our working-place; that practice obtained up to the last day I worked there.

By Mr. Baker: All this time we were on the in-take airway, and were as safe as on the shaft bottom.

By Coroner: I never had to work with a safety-lamp.

By Mr. Wilshire: I never worked in the pit while the fan has been standing.

By Coroner: I have never noticed the revolutions of the fan; the ventilation has always been about the same, and quite sufficient.

By Mr. Curley: The number of the bord where the gas lit up was 91, I think, in Bob's heading.

Made and sworn at the Court-house, Newcastle, this }
30th day of March, 1898, before me,— }

WILLIAM SAULT.

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

This deponent, *Sydney Robert Young*, on his oath states:—I am employed as a saddler at the Dudley Colliery; I reside at Dudley; I knew the two deceased who were also employed there; I recollect the morning of the explosion; I was in the blacksmith's shop at the colliery; that was about 9 a.m.; I went to the colliery about 6.30 a.m. that day; I saw the engine-driver there then—Sutherland; I saw most of the men going down in the cage; two went down about 6.55 a.m.; the last lot I saw going down was about 7.30 a.m.; I knew one of them—Thomas Haddon; I remained on the mine up to the time of the explosion; that was about 9 o'clock a.m.; I heard the report—a very loud one—and rushed out; I then saw smoke coming up the shaft; I did not notice at what time the fan started that morning; I cannot say when Young and Hetherington went down; I thought they went down with the first lot; they were not among the last lot; I do not know whether they went down in the same cage; I heard no orders given by Hindmarch except as to the horses that were to go down; he told them what horses he required; he did not say where they were to work.

By Mr. Curley: I am a son of Thomas Young, the deputy; my father has never said anything to me about apprehending any danger in the mine; I have never heard him speak about gas in the mine.

By Coroner: My father was employed in the mine for two years on and off; I know that a copy of the special rules of the mine has been given to each man working there.

By Mr. Wilshire: My father always brought his safety-lamp home to clean it; I am positive he had it on the morning of the 21st instant; I was talking to him on the pit top that morning and he had it with him then; my father lost his life in the explosion and his body has not been found.

By Mr. Baker: I know my father was deputy that morning; he told me he had a long walk before him, from which I judged he had to go round the workings.

Made and sworn at the Court-house, Newcastle, }
this 30th day of March, 1898, before me,— }

SYDNEY YOUNG.

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

APPENDIX D.

Name.	When found.	Occupation.	Where found.	Injuries.	Cause of Death.	Remarks.
Thomas Dorrity	21 March	Waggon-way man	Crosscut end. Found uncovered	Hair, face, arms, and chest singed; skin hanging off the arms; no fractures.	Carbon monoxide poisoning	
John Benson	21 "	Pumpman	In pump chamber.	Hair singed; face, arms, and upper part of chest burnt; no fractures.	do	Lamp found in pump chamber.
William Humphreys	22 "	Bratticeman and platelayer.	Nigger's heading. Found uncovered	Body singed.		Lamp found close by.
Thomas Green	22 "	Platelayer	Going bord, Nigger's heading. Found under a fall.			
Thomas Hetherington	23 "	Deputy	Fourth pillar beyond Green's body. Found under a fall.	Face and body blackened	Injuries sustained by a fall of the roof. No signs of carbon monoxide, owing to body being decomposed.	
James Macdougall	23 "	Flatter	Two pillars in return in-by of upcast shaft. Found uncovered.	Body singed above the waist; face presented indications of fright.	Carbon monoxide poisoning	Found close to his skip. Lamp found 70 yards in-by of body, in a stenton.
Thomas Haddon	23 "	Master shiftman	do do	Body singed above the waist.	do	Body found 70 yards out-by from working-place.
Archibald Mowbray	24 "	Assistant onsetter	One pillar in-by of Haddon. Found uncovered.			Body found 25 yards out-by from working-place; cap and lamp found at working-place.
William Rudge	24 "	Water-haler	Second right main headings, bord 16 in-by of double doors to the left. Found uncovered.			Rudge and Jones were at work at working-face 70 yards in-by of where bodies were found. A cap and lamp found in water-tub at working-place.
Thomas Jones	24 "	do	do do	Both wrists fractured; an abrasion on the chin.		Water-tub found 20 yards away on out-by side. A cap and lamp found 15 yards away in-by.
George Cook	16 July	do	First going bord of second right main headings. Covered by a fall.	No signs of burning; no fractures	Carbon monoxide poisoning	
Arthur Dunn	23 "	Assistant onsetter	Slow bord, right of second right main headings. Covered by a fall.	Back of neck and head injured	do	
Sydney Price	24 "	Onsetter	do do	Chest flattened in	do	Shirts and tools found close to bodies.
Thomas Young	28 "	Deputy	Near bord 30, off second right back headings. Covered by a fall.	Hands and face blackened; hair singed.	do	Cap found close by, but no lamp.
George Hindmarch	4 August	Under-manager	In a heading four pillars to the right of second left main heading.	Left hand and part of wrist missing; both bones of left leg above angle broken; nose and chest flattened.	do	Neither lamp nor cap has been found.

APPENDIX E.

Report on the Dudley Colliery, Redhead.

[Put in on the 23rd August, 1898, and marked Exhibit "D."]

DUDLEY COLLIERY.

Sir, Merewether, 6 December, 1897.

I have the honor to report inspection of this colliery on 1st instant.

At the time of inspection the colliery was idle owing to slackness of trade. When at work the numbers of men, &c., in the several districts are as follows:—

No. 1 District	12 men	...	1 boy	...	1 horse.
No. 2	"	...	42 "	...	3 boys	...	3 horses.
No. 3	"	...	27 "	...	2 "	...	2 "
No. 4	"	...	20 "	...	2 "	...	2 "
No. 5	"	...	42 "	...	3 "	...	3 "

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I travelled through all the districts, and although the ventilating-fan was not working there was a nice current of air in each district.

The working-places and wheeling-roads were well timbered and in splendid order.

There was also a plentiful supply of timber on hand ready for use.

The main roads were also in good order and condition throughout the colliery.

I have, &c.,

JOHN DIXON,

A. A. Atkinson, Esq.,
Chief Inspector of Coal Mines, Sydney.

Inspector of Collieries.

[Put in on the 24th August, 1898, and marked Exhibit "D."]

DUDLEY COLLIERY INSPECTION, REDHEAD.

Sir, Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 15 May, 1896.

I have the honor to report inspection of the above colliery on Tuesday, the 12th instant.

After a stoppage of nearly three years this mine is about to resume work, the company having agreed with the miners on strike in the district as to prices.

I found eleven men and boys cleaning roads and baling water, preparatory to the admission of miners.

Mr. Humphreys, the manager, informed me that he had the ventilating-fan at work, but was forced to stop it on the day previous to my visit until he got a better water supply to the boilers, the usual source having been considerably reduced by the long period of dry weather. He expected to have it started again on the following day, certainly before he allowed any miners to enter, or coal to be got.

In consequence of this stoppage the current of air flowing through the mine (about 25,000 cubic feet per minute) was solely due to natural ventilation. Of this quantity, 17,952 cubic feet was split into four currents traversing the four districts. When the fan is started this quantity will be more than doubled, and its course reversed. The tendency of natural ventilation at this mine causes the current of air to flow from the fan-shaft to the winding-shaft, where it makes its exit, directly opposite to the course taken when the fan is at work.

The working-places have a portion of the current of air turned into them by canvas brattice, this mine being one of those that may be said to have a current of air at the working-face.

With a safety-lamp I tested for fire-damp in all the likely places, but found none whatever.

Innumerable falls of roof have taken place during the long stoppage of work, many of which, being on the wheeling-roads, will have to be cleared away before work can be resumed.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HUMBLE,

Jno. Mackenzie, Esq., F.L.S.,
Examiner of Coal-fields, Sydney.

Inspector of Collieries.

DUDLEY COLLIERY INSPECTION, CHARLESTOWN.

Sir, Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 4 July, 1896.

I have the honor to report inspection of the above colliery on Monday, the 29th ultimo.

After a stoppage of three years this mine resumed work about seven weeks ago, the manager agreeing to pay prices that the miners struck for in April last.

About 220 miners are now employed, and the mine may be said to be working to its utmost capacity.

The quantity of air in each split was as follows:—

No. 1 split (left-hand side): 48 men, 3 boys, and 3 horses employed and supplied with 10,000 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 185 cubic feet each.

No. 2 split: 64 men, 4 boys, and 4 horses employed, and supplied with 14,400 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 200 cubic feet each.

No. 3 split (right-hand side): 44 men, 2 boys, and 2 horses employed, and supplied with 14,400 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 300 cubic feet each.

No. 4 split: 56 men, 3 boys, and 3 horses employed, and supplied with 7,600 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 122 cubic feet each.

A

A portion of the air-current in each district is turned into each bord by canvas brattice. I travelled all the districts, and, with my "Hepplewhite-Grey" safety-lamp, tested for fire-damp in all the likely places.

In one of the winning-places I found traces of explosive gas, but in such small quantities that, with the current of air then travelling to the face of this place, no danger need be apprehended.

All other working-places, together with the roadways, in good condition, and a plentiful supply of timber was on hand.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HUMBLE,

Inspector of Collieries.

Jno. Mackenzie, Esq., F.G.S.,
Examiner of Coal-fields, Sydney.

DUDLEY COLLIERY INSPECTION, REDHEAD.

Sir,

Hamilton, Newcastle, 14 August, 1896.

I have the honor to report inspection of the above colliery yesterday. The quantity of air in each split was as follows:—

No. 1 split: 48 men, 3 boys, and 3 horses employed, and supplied with 8,700 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 161 cubic feet each.

No. 2 split: 48 men, 4 boys, and 4 horses employed, and supplied with 13,200 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 235 cubic feet each.

No. 3 split: 62 men, 4 boys, and 4 horses employed, and supplied with 11,880 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 169 cubic feet each.

No. 4 split: 42 men, 3 boys, and 3 horses employed, and supplied with 6,450 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 134 cubic feet each.

In addition to the above number of men, there are 16 who work at night time. The manager informs me they are under the control of a deputy specially appointed for the purpose, and that the ventilating-fan is working at the same speed as it does during the day.

A fair proportion of each current is carried into each working-place by canvas brattice, and the faces are, therefore, cool and pleasant. The roadways and working places were in good condition, and a good supply of timber was on hand.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HUMBLE,

Inspector of Collieries.

Jno. Dixon, Esq., F.G.S.,
Examiner of Coal-fields, Newcastle.

DUDLEY COLLIERY INSPECTION, CHARLESTOWN.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 31 October, 1896.

I have the honor to report inspection of the above colliery on Wednesday, the 28th instant.

The mine being idle, the ventilating-fan had been stopped. The conditions of this mine are such that when the fan stops the current of air is reversed, especially if the steam-pump at bottom of drawing-shaft is at work. This was the state of affairs when I was down the mine.

With a safety-lamp I found small quantities of fire-damp in three of the winning places, due chiefly, if not solely, to the stoppage of the fan. Seven deputies and shiftmen were at work, and as naked lights are used throughout the mine except for purposes of examination of the working-places, I considered that whenever men are in the mine with naked lights the fan ought to be at work, and told Mr. Humphreys, the manager, and Geo. Hindmarch, the under-manager so, and drew their attention to the Act, which provides that "an adequate amount of ventilation shall be constantly produced, &c."

Mr. Humphreys replied that he had been thinking of the same thing. I understood him to say he would see to it. He would have the fan at work whenever men were in the mine.

Every working-place is well bratticed, and from what I have seen of this mine when it was working I can confidently say the face of each place is adequately ventilated.

Refuge holes on the horse road (there is no engine plane or self-acting incline) have been made every 50 yards, and the register, report books, &c., are being kept up in accordance with the Act.

The manager tells me he will have a barometer and thermometer from Sydney in a few days.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HUMBLE,

Inspector of Collieries.

Jno. Dixon, Esq., F.G.S.,
Inspector of Collieries, Newcastle.

DUDLEY COLLIERY INSPECTION, CHARLESTOWN.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 31 December, 1896.

I have the honor to report inspection of the above colliery yesterday.

The quantity of air in each of the working districts was as follows:—

No. 2 split: 68 men, 5 boys, and 5 horses employed, and supplied with 13,500 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 173 cubic feet each.

No. 3 split: 70 men, 5 boys, and 5 horses employed, and supplied with 20,460 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 255 cubic feet each.

No. 4 split: 56 men, 3 boys, and 3 horses employed, and supplied with 18,760 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 302 cubic feet each.

A portion of each current of air is conducted by canvas brattice to the face of the majority of working places. In some I thought there was room for improvement, and told Mr. Humphreys, the manager (who accompanied me), so. He readily promised to attend to the request without delay.

It can very easily be done by paying a little more attention to the fixing of brattice, and using a few yards more in each place. I believe he will have it put right this week.

The

The winning-places, that is, those driven in advance of the wide bords, constantly give off a moderate amount of fire-damp, and are in consequence bratticed up to within a few feet of the face. All the workmen use naked lights, but each working-place is examined by a deputy carrying a locked safety-lamp before the men are admitted.

The report books, registers, barometer, and thermometer required by the new Act have been provided, and are in daily use.

Jno. Dixon, Esq., F.G.S.,
Inspector of Collieries, Newcastle.

I have, &c.,
WILLIAM HUMBLE,
Inspector of Collieries.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 31 December, 1896.

Doubtless you remember what I said to you yesterday in the mine concerning the inadequate ventilation of some of your working-places.

In addition to my verbal notification then given, I deem it my duty to further draw your attention to this important matter. As you are aware, the Act provides that at least 100 cubic feet of air per minute for each man (or as much more as the inspector may direct) must be forced to the face of each working-place. In many cases, owing to an insufficiency of brattice, there was no observable motion or displacement of air at the face, and consequently the two men were not getting the 200 cubic feet per minute which the Act says shall be constantly provided for them. This quantity, in my opinion, is necessary in every mine, but much more so in such a mine as yours, where fire-damp is constantly exuding from the coal.

I, therefore, in pursuance of the power given to the inspector by section 47, request you to at once take steps to provide adequate ventilation for each and every place in the mine.

H. Humphreys, Esq.,
Manager, Dudley Colliery.

WILLIAM HUMBLE,
Inspector of Collieries.

DUDLEY COLLIERY INSPECTION, CHARLESTOWN.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 10 April, 1897.

I have the honor to report inspection of the above colliery on Tuesday, the 6th instant.

Owing to lack of trade the mine was idle, but as the ventilating-fan was running at about working speed, I was enabled to measure the following quantities of air.

No. 1 Split.—56 men, 3 boys, and 3 horses usually employed, and supplied with 19,200 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 309 cubic feet each.

No. 2 Split.—70 men, 5 boys, and 5 horses usually employed, and supplied with 14,300 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 178 cubic feet each.

No. 3 Split.—50 men, 3 boys, and 3 horses usually employed, and supplied with 17,480 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 312 cubic feet each.

A fair proportion of the current of air in each district is conveyed to the face of each working district.

I travelled the workings and roadways in each district, and found everything in good order and condition.

Jno. Dixon, Esq., F.G.S.,
Inspector of Collieries, Newcastle.

I have, &c.,
WILLIAM HUMBLE,
Inspector of Collieries.

DUDLEY COLLIERY INSPECTION, CHARLESTOWN.

Sir,

Hamilton, Newcastle, 4 June, 1897.

I have the honor to report inspection of the above colliery to-day. The quantity of air in each split was as follows:—

No. 1 Split.—16 men, 1 boy, and 1 horse employed, and supplied with 7,880 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 426 cubic feet each.

No. 2 Split.—60 men, 4 boys, and 4 horses employed, and supplied with 18,400 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 270 cubic feet each.

No. 3 Split.—66 men, 5 boys, and 5 horses employed, and supplied with 13,200 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 173 cubic feet each.

No. 4 Split.—58 men, 3 boys, and 3 horses employed, and supplied with 12,320 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 192 cubic feet each.

An excellent proportion of the current of air entering each district was being conveyed to the face of each working-place.

Everything else in and about the mine in fair order and condition.

Jno. Dixon, Esq., F.G.S.,
Inspector of Collieries, Newcastle.

I have, &c.,
WILLIAM HUMBLE,
Inspector of Collieries.

DUDLEY COLLIERY.

Sir,

Merewether, 30 August, 1897.

I have the honor to report inspection of this colliery on 4th instant.

At time of inspection the mine was idle, but when in full work about 230 men, &c., are employed below ground in four separate and distinct districts.

I travelled through each district, and found the working bords well timbered and in good order.

The main and wheeling roads were also in good condition throughout. There was also a plentiful supply of timber on hand ready for use.

Although the ventilating-fan was not in motion at the time of inspection, there was a considerable quantity of fresh air circulating in each district. Everything in and about the colliery appeared to be in good working order and condition.

The Under Secretary,
Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney.

I have, &c.,
JOHN DIXON,
Inspector of Collieries.

INSPECTION OF DUDLEY COLLIERY, CHARLESTOWN.

Sir,

Hamilton, Newcastle, 8 October, 1897.

I have the honor to report inspection of the above colliery yesterday.

The ventilation of the mine was in excellent condition, as the following quantities of air will show:—

No. 1 Split.—14 men, 1 boy, and 1 horse employed, and supplied with 8,910 cubic feet of air per minute, being an average of 556 cubic feet each.

No. 2 Split.—36 men, 4 boys, and 4 horses employed, and supplied with 15,840 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 360 cubic feet each.

No. 3 Split.—34 men, 2 boys, and 2 horses employed, and supplied with 11,730 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 308 cubic feet each.

No. 4 Split.—32 men, 3 boys, and 3 horses employed, and supplied with 14,520 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 382 cubic feet each.

No. 5 Split.—51 men, 3 boys, and 3 horses employed, and supplied with 16,500 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 289 cubic feet each.

An excellent proportion of the current of air entering each district was being conveyed to the face of each working-place.

The seam at this colliery gives off a moderate amount of fire-damp, but, so far, not to such an extent as to prohibit the use of naked lights.

As far as I can see every care is being taken, especially in the winning-places which have large volumes of air sweeping the face.

The provisions of the Act regarding inspection of working-places, report books, &c., as well as all other matters are well attended to.

Everything in and about the mine was in good condition.

I have, &c.,

A. A. Atkinson, Esq.,

Chief Inspector of Coal Mines, Sydney.

WILLIAM HUMBLE,

Inspector of Collieries.

DUDLEY COLLIERY.

Sir,

Merewether, 3 February, 1898.

I have the honor to report inspection of this colliery on 27th ultimo.

No. 1.—The quantity of air in this district was about 14,400 cubic feet per minute for sixteen men, &c., giving an average of about 900 cubic feet for each man, &c.

No. 2.—In this district the current of air was about 12,600 cubic feet per minute for twenty men, &c., giving an average of about 630 cubic feet.

No. 3.—The current of air in this district was about 15,540 cubic feet per minute for forty-six men, &c., giving an average of about 337 cubic feet.

No. 4.—The current of air in this district was about 10,500 cubic feet per minute for sixty men, &c., giving an average of 174 cubic feet.

No. 5.—In this district the current of air was about 15,000 cubic feet per minute for sixty-four men, &c., giving an average of about 234 cubic feet.

Each working-place was bratticed, and an adequate quantity of air was reaching each working-place.

The working-places and wheeling-roads were well timbered and in good order. There was also a plentiful supply of all kinds of timber close at hand, and ready for use.

I travelled the old workings between Nos. 1 and 2 districts, and found them upstanding and in good condition.

The whole of the main roads were in good order in every respect.

I have, &c.,

A. A. Atkinson, Esq.,

Chief Inspector of Coal Mines, Sydney.

JOHN DIXON,

Inspector of Collieries.

APPENDIX "F."

Extracts from Exhibit "H."—Deputies' Reports, 11th June, 1891, to 9th January, 1893.

11th June, 1891—*John Greenhalgh*.—In good condition, except in No. 1 heading and cut-through, also in the return, showing a little gas; night shift.

11th June, 1891—*John Greenhalgh*.—In good condition, except in No. 1 heading and cut-through, also in the return, showing a little gas; brattice in shaft very good; afternoon.

15th June, 1891—*Thos. Platton*.—In good condition, except a little gas in the return; day shift.

16th June, 1891—*Thos. Platton*.—In good condition, except the front narrow bord and return a little dirty; day shift.

12th September, 1891—*Thos. Platton*.—In good condition, except the shaft pillar (Lamb's place) a little dirty.

28th September, 1891—*Thos. Platton*.—In safe condition, except the left-hand place at the shaft a little dirty; gave men safety-lamps.

13th November, 1891—*Thos. Platton*.—In safe condition, except the back heading in the low side of the far in flat, and Durham's bord; in the same heading I found gas, caused through a canvas door being down; I replaced it and soon cleared them.

- 30th December, 1891—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except Durham's bord and Scarlet's heading; found a little gas in them.
- 5th January, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except No. 1 heading in the first left hand; found gas.
- 6th January, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except Durham's bord; found gas.
- 18th February, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except Jeffrey's bord in the low side back heading, far-in flat; found gas.
- 25th February, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except third bord in the first right-hand heading, first flat; found a little gas; I put canvas on and removed it.
- 10th March, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In a safe condition, except a little gas found in the third and sixth bords in the back heading low side, far-in flat.
- 23rd March, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except a little gas in the No. 2 heading right side, first flat.
- 30th March, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except the top bord in No. 1 heading, first flat, and the 4th bord in the back heading low side, second flat; found gas, caused by the brattice door being down.
- 1st April, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except the 10th bord in No. 1 heading; found gas.
- 4th April, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the 6th bord in the back heading low side, second flat; found gas, caused by the brattice door being down; replaced it and removed the gas.
- 5th April, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the 10th bord in No. 1 heading; found gas, caused by the brattice door being open; replaced it and removed the gas.
- 11th April, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except No. 2 heading, first flat; found gas.
- 19th April, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the cut-through in No. 8 bord, No. 2 heading, first flat; found gas; put in brattice and removed it.
- 21st April, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the cut-through in No. 8 bord, No. 2 heading, first flat; found gas, caused by the brattice being down; I replaced it and removed the gas.
- 4th May, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the cut-through in No. 8 bord, No. 2 heading, first flat; found gas.
- 6th May, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the cut-through in No. 8 bord, No. 2 heading, first flat; found gas.
- 26th May, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except No. 9 bord in No. 1 heading; found a little gas.
- 4th June, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the cut-through in No. 9 bord in No. 1 heading, first flat; found a little gas.
- 7th June, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except in the cut-through, No. 9 bord, No. 1 heading; found a little gas.
- 16th September, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the No. 9 bord in No. 1 heading, first flat; found a little gas.
- 28th July, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In a safe condition, except the No. 8 bord, No. 2 heading, first flat; found gas.
- 1st August, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except No. 17 narrow bord, No. 1 heading; found a little gas.
- 8th August, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in No. 2 heading, first flat; found gas.
- 10th August, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except one narrow bord in No. 2 heading, first flat; found gas.
- 11th August, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in the No. 2 heading, first flat; found gas.
- 12th August, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in No. 2 heading, first flat; found gas.
- 17th August, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in No. 1 back heading; found a little gas.
- 23rd August, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in the No. 1 back heading and the narrow bord in the No. 2 heading; found gas.
- 24th August, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in the No. 2 heading, first flat.
- 25th August, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in the No. 2 heading, first flat; found a little gas.
- 26th August, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the first narrow bord in the No. 1 heading and the narrow bord in the No. 2 heading, first flat; found gas.
- 5th September, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in the first right-hand, first flat; found a little gas.
- 6th September, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in the No. 2 heading, first flat—found gas; and the No. 2 heading, right-hand flat—found gas, caused through the canvas being down; replaced it and removed gas.
- 7th September, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the first narrow bord and the narrow bord in the No. 2 heading, No. 1 flat; found gas.
- 15th September, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except No. 1 narrow bord; found a little gas.
- 20th September, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in the No. 2 heading; found a little gas, first flat.
- 21st September, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in the No. 2 heading, first flat; found a little gas.
- 26th September, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in No. 2 heading; found a little gas.
- 27th September, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except narrow bord in No. 2 heading; found gas.
- 28th September, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in No. 2 heading; found gas.
- 29th September, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in No. 2 heading; found gas.
- 30th

- 30th September, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in No. 2 heading; found gas.
- 7th October, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except No. 4 bord in No. 2 heading, first flat; found a little gas.
- 13th October, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except No. 6 bord; found a little gas.
- 22nd October, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in No. 2 heading; found gas first flat.
- 23th October, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except Witherspoon's narrow bord top flat; found gas.
- 5th November, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in the No. 2 heading, first flat; found gas.
- 11th November, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord and the top bord in No. 1 back heading; found gas.
- 16th November, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in the No. 2 heading, first flat; found gas.
- 22nd November, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except in the back heading in the right-hand side, top flat; found gas; I put brattice up and cleared her.
- 23rd November, 1892—*Thos. Platten*.—In safe condition, except the back narrow bord straight up from the top flat; found gas, caused by a brattice door being from its place; I fixed it and cleared it.
- 2nd December, 1892—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except Witherspoon's narrow bord, top flat; found gas, caused by a brattice door being down; I replaced and cleared it.

Extracts from Exhibit "I"—Deputies' Reports.

- 23rd March, 1893—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except No. 50 bord; found gas through a canvas door being down; replaced it, and removed the gas.
- 24th April, 1893—*Thomas Platten*.—In safe condition, except the two bottom bords and the heading in the second left-hand dip heading; found gas, caused by the fan stopping, shortly after I came down at 4 a.m.
- 3rd May, 1893—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the eighth bord in the second left-hand top flat; found a little gas, caused by the canvas door being down; replaced it, and removed the gas.
- 9th May, 1893—*Thomas Platten*.—In safe condition, except in the front heading air-pit; found gas; put brattice up and cleared her.
- 17th May, 1893—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except No. 60 bord in second left-hand top flat; found gas; put brattice up and removed it.
- 15th June, 1893—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord, No. 55, in the second left-hand top flat; found gas, caused by canvas door being down; replaced it, and removed the gas.
- 27th June, 1893—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord, No. 55, in the second left-hand top flat; found gas; I put up brattice, and removed it.
- 29th June, 1893—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except No. 66 bord in the second left-hand top flat; found gas; I put up brattice, and removed it.
- 5th July, 1893—*Thomas Platten*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in the first right hand through the right-hand flat; found gas.
- 11th July, 1893—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in the second left hand and Nos. 68 and 75 bords; found gas top flat.
- 13th July, 1893—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in the second left hand and No. 68 in the 1st left top flat; found gas.
- 23th July, 1893—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except No. 68 in the left hand; found gas; put canvas up, and removed it.
- 25th September, 1893—*Thomas Platten*.—In safe condition, except the narrow bord in the air-pit back heading; found gas in the cut-through.
- 20th October, 1893—*Geo. Hindmarch*.—In safe condition, except No. 52 bord in the second left hand top flat; found gas; put brattice in, and removed it.
- 6th June, 1896—*Thos. Hetherington*.—In safe condition, except straight-in heading showed gas; but put up canvas, and it is all right (No. 27).
- 7th July, 1896—*Thos. Hetherington*.—In safe condition; found 29 bord on fire, apparently from a shot; it had got a good hold of the coal; put it out with water.
- 8th August, 1896—*Thos. Hetherington*.—In safe condition, except No. 27; full of gas on account of canvas being pulled down at 28 bord; it is all right now.
- 12th August, 1896—*Thos. Hetherington*.—In safe condition, except 59; gas was in, but it is out now.
- 14th August, 1896—*Thos. Hetherington*.—In safe condition, except 63 and 59; gas in both places; prepared canvas, and cleared it out; they are both safe now.
- 2nd September, 1896—*Thos. Hetherington*.—In safe condition, except Nos. 50, 54, and 59; gas was in the above; by putting stopping up and canvas on, I succeeded in removing the gas.
- 16th September, 1896—*Thos. Hetherington*.—In safe condition, except No. 13; gas was in it; put up a canvas door, and cleared it.
- 21st September, 1896—*Thos. Hetherington*.—In safe condition, except No. 13 bord; gas in; by putting up additional canvas, cleared it.
- 30th September, 1896—*Thos. Hetherington*.—In safe condition; the coal was burning in No. 29 heading by a shot being fired the day before.

Extracts from Butts—Deputies' Reports.

- 13th April, 1897—*Thos. Hetherington*.—6.15; bar. 30°; ther. 67°. In safe condition, except No. 19 bord; there was a little gas in, but by putting a better check on at the bord end it cleared it out.
- 20th April, 1897—*Thos. Young*.—6.30; bar. 30.22°; ther. 69°. In good condition, with the exception of a little gas in main heading in cut-through, but had it removed with brattice; pit idle from the 17th.

- 23rd April, 1897—*Thos. Young*.—10:30; bar. 30·24°; ther. 64°. In safe condition; found gas in 18 bord, through some of the miners leaving check brattice down.
- 1st May, 1897—*Thos. Hetherington*.—6:15; bar. 30·50°; ther. 62°. In safe condition, except 77 bord gas was in, but more canvas has cleared it out.
- 19th May, 1897—*Thos. Young*.—10:30 p.m.; bar. 30·21°; ther. 64°. In safe condition; gas in bord 70, but had it removed.
- 29th May, 1897—*Thos. Young*.—10:30 p.m.; bar. 30·51°; ther. 62°. In safe condition, with the exception of a little gas in 59, 37, and 83 bords; but they are all right now.
- 17th June, 1897—*Thos. Young*.—10:30 p.m.; bar. 30·51°; ther. 61°. In safe condition; I found a little gas in 79 and 78, also in 66 bord, but have since removed it.
- 21st June, 1897—*Thos. Young*.—10:30; bar. 30·41°; ther. 61°. In safe condition, with the exception of 79 bord, where I found a considerable quantity of gas, but by putting a canvas door in the old heading it was removed.
- 29th June, 1897—*Thos. Hetherington*.—6:30; bar. 30·50°; ther. 63°. In safe condition; men filling slack; I found the coal on fire in 13 bord.
- 5th July, 1897—*Thos. Young*.—10:30 p.m.; bar. 30·44°; ther. 60°. In safe condition; I found a little gas in 73 bord, but soon cleared away with brattice cloth.
- 7th July, 1897—*Thos. Young*.—10:30 p.m.; bar. 30·34°; ther. 60°. In good condition; I found gas in 68 bord, and had some difficulty to clear it out, as the air was escaping back the old heading, and some of the canvas is not wide enough.
- 8th July, 1897—*Thos. Young*.—10:30 p.m.; bar. 30·50°; ther. 59°. In a good condition, with the exception of 19 bord; I found gas, but have cleared it all out with brattice door at bord end.
- 30th August, 1897—*Thos. Young*.—10:30 p.m.; bar. 30·13°; ther. 61°. In safe condition, with the exception of 78 bord, where I found gas, but have since had it removed.
- 19th October, 1897—*Thos. Young*.—6:30 p.m.; bar. 30°; ther. 65°. In safe condition, with the exception of 54 bord, where I found gas burning, and the coal on fire; but it is all safe now. There was also a fall of the roof, came down in Ratler's heading behind the air-shaft, but it is all cleared away now.

Extracts from Exhibit "G"—Overman's Reports.

- 1st December, 1897—*G. Hindmarch*.—Pit at work; mine examined by the Government Inspector, John Dixon; found a little gas in No. 32 heading; no fan on.
- 28th January, 1898—*G. Hindmarch*.—6:30 a.m.; bar. 29·71°; ther. 69°. 7 a.m.; bar. 30·40°; ther. 72°. In safe condition, except about 10 a.m., found something wrong with the ventilation in No. 5 district; on reaching regulator at No. 22 bord I found it closed; on inquiry, P. Cunningham said his mate, W. Peel, had closed it; I charged Peel with the offence, and ordered him out of the mine; on going into 24 bord, J. Thwaites informed me that gas has flared in his bord.

Falls of Roof.—Extracts from Deputy's Book.

- 24th September, 1897—10:30 p.m.; bar. 30·21°; ther. 64°. A fall of the roof came down in the old working heading, straight up of the narrow bord; but it will be all cleared and made safe by 7 p.m.—*Thos. Young*.
- 28th October, 1897—6 a.m.; bar. 30·11°; ther. 65°. A fall of the roof came down in the back heading, between 29 and 30 bord; but it will be all cleared by 8 o'clock and made safe.

APPENDIX G.

Special Rules for the conduct and guidance of the persons acting in the management of the Dudley Colliery, in the District of Newcastle, and all persons employed in or about the said Colliery.

(Framed in conformity with the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, 60 Victoria No. 12.)

Manager.

1. The manager (or the under-manager when acting for him) shall have the daily supervision of the above colliery, and shall have full command over all other officers and workmen employed in or about the colliery, who are to receive their orders from him, and shall apply to him for instructions as often as may be necessary.

2. He shall comply with the requirements of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, and shall to the best of his power enforce the observation of the said Act, and enforce observation of the General and Special Rules.

Under-manager.

3. The under-manager shall have the daily supervision and responsible charge of the mine under the direction of the manager, and shall give all necessary instructions to the men and boys in the mine respecting their work; and shall, to the best of his power, see that they comply with the Rules and Regulations of the colliery, as well as the orders of the manager, and shall visit every working-place in the mine daily, or as often as may be practicable, and see that the air-courses and stoppings are kept in a good state of repair, and that an adequate quantity of fresh air is constantly supplied to the men.

4. He shall give immediate attention to any complaints, and shall inspect personally such portions of the mine as are reported to be unsafe, or in any way to need his attention.

5. He shall see that a sufficient supply of timber is sent down the mine and into the different districts.

6. He shall see that each miner keeps his working-place sufficiently timbered, and shall suspend at once any miner refusing or neglecting to do so.

7. He shall examine every day the different main and district air-currents, and shall see that the furnaces are kept in good repair and carefully attended to.

8. He shall, under the direction of the manager, cause safety-lamps to be used, and naked lights to be excluded where required by the Act.

9. He shall see that the deputies, miners, shifters, and all others under his charge in the mine, strictly and rigidly observe the Rules applicable to them, and shall suspend immediately anyone infringing or attempting to infringe any rule, order him out of the mine, and report the same to the manager.

Deputy.

10. Each deputy shall be informed by the manager or under-manager as to what portion of the workings is to be under his charge, and all persons working in that portion of the mine will be under his direction, and he shall, in the absence of the manager or under-manager, direct the workmen how and where they shall work, and shall see that the rules applicable to them, as well as the orders of the manager or under-manager, are strictly attended to.

11. The deputy or other competent person appointed for that purpose shall be in the mine within four hours before the workmen commence, to enable him to examine the working-places, &c., carefully, and shall ascertain the condition thereof so far as the presence of gas, ventilation, roof and sides, and general safety are concerned, and shall record the result of such examination without delay in a book to be kept at the mine for the purpose.

12. He shall place cross-timbers, or rails, thus X, or a signal board, as a signal of danger at the entrance of every working-place which he may find unsafe, and on his return to the station shall state on his board all places so found unsafe.

13. In any place where there is a dangerous appearance of fire-damp, locked safety-lamps shall be used; and no workman shall be permitted to remain where fire-damp has accumulated in such a quantity as to show a permanent blue cap over the flame.

14. Before safety-lamps are taken into the workings, the deputy, or some other competent person duly appointed for the purpose, shall examine the entire lamp, and if all is right, shall lock it for the miner.

15. Should there be any discharge of gas, or any condition of roof from which the deputy apprehends any danger, he shall instantly report the circumstances to the under-manager.

16. He shall report as soon as possible to the manager or under-manager all accidents, dangers, or defects which may occur in his district of the mine, and he shall also so report any accident, danger, or defect to or in any machinery or structure in the mine which may come to his knowledge.

Wheelers.

17. The wheelers shall report to the under-manager or deputies if any part of the road or roof has been deranged, or is insecure or dangerous.

18. Any wheeler injuring a door or brattice cloth door, and not immediately reporting the fact, shall be suspended. He shall also report to the under-manager or deputy every morning the quantity and different lengths of timber required for his miners.

19. He shall take in without delay any timber the miners may require, and shall at all times carry out the orders of the manager, under-manager, or deputy, in order to facilitate and promote the work of the mine.

20. Any person neglecting these rules will be liable to instant dismissal or prosecution according to law.

On-setter.

21. The on-setter shall, subject to the directions of the manager or under-manager, have the sole control of the pit bottom, and the command of the signal up the pit, and on no account shall he allow any person to interfere with the signals. He shall at all times when sending up skips of coal see that none of the coal projects beyond the side of the skip, and shall pay the greatest attention to the signals when men are going to ride, in order that accidents may be avoided. The signals shall be as given in Rule 87.

22. No timber, materials, stones, coal, or other things shall, under any circumstances, be lowered or lifted in a pit while men are being lowered or lifted in it, except such as may be necessary in repairing a pit while the repairs are going on.

23. The on-setter shall not, on any account, allow more than six persons in a single cage, or ten in a double cage at the same time.

24. Any person refusing to leave the cage when ordered to do so shall be immediately suspended.

Miners.

25. Any miner after passing through a door must instantly close it; and shall not injure a door or leave it open, break down a stopping or brattice, interfere with or obstruct or damage an air-crossing, or an air-pipe, or remove or go beyond a mark or "danger-signal," without orders from the manager, under-manager, or deputy.

26. Every miner shall securely sprag or uphold the coal whilst holing, and shall securely prop up the roof of his working-place so that accidents may be avoided; and should he not be provided with a sufficient quantity of timber he shall cease working and report the same to the manager, under-manager, or deputy.

27. The seam of coal must be wrought strictly in accordance with the orders of the manager or under-manager.

28. Every miner shall, in all matters relating to the working of the mine or the safety of the men, obey strictly the orders of the manager, under-manager, or deputy; and no person shall go into any part of the mine other than where he is employed, except by order of the manager, under-manager, or deputy.

Door-keepers.

29. A door-keeper must only open a door for the passage of persons, skips, or animals, and must instantly close the same when they have passed through. He must never allow a door to remain open, or to be propped or fastened back, unless authorised to do so by the manager, under-manager, or deputy.

30. A door-keeper must not leave any door or doors under his charge until the work of his shift is finished, or until another person appointed by the manager, under-manager, or deputy takes his place.

31. Any door-keeper becoming aware of any defect in, or damage to, any door, shall report the same as soon as practicable to the manager, under-manager, or deputy.

Persons in Charge of Ventilating Appliances.

32. The persons in charge of any ventilating furnace or other ventilating appliance shall not leave the same without the permission of the manager, under-manager, or engine-wright.

33. Furnace-men must pay careful attention to the furnace under their charge; and shall maintain the fire in such a state as constantly to ensure efficient ventilation.

34. The fan and fan-engine shall be carefully attended to by the person or persons in charge thereof, who shall keep the same running at the speed ordered by the manager, so that effect may be given to the provisions of the Act as to ventilation.

35. All persons in charge of ventilating furnaces, fans, fan-engines, or other ventilating appliance, shall immediately report any damage, defect, or derangement therein to the manager, under-manager, or engine-wright.

Lamp-keepers.

36. No person except a person authorised by the manager or under-manager shall either take himself or give out for use in the mine any safety lamp.

37. Lamp-keepers must see that every safety lamp is thoroughly cleaned, properly put together, in safe working order, and securely locked when given out for use in the mine. If any lamp be not returned at the proper time they shall at once report the fact to the manager or under-manager.

38. All persons entrusted with the duty of cleaning any gauze, or other part of any safety-lamp, or with the duty of putting any safety-lamp or parts thereof together, shall at once report any defect therein to the lamp-keeper, or if there is more than one lamp-keeper, then to the head lamp-keeper.

39. Whenever any defective or damaged lamp is received from any person by any lamp-keeper he shall report the fact to the manager or under-manager, and shall cause such lamp to be kept in the state in which he received it until seen by one of them.

40. Every lamp-keeper shall see that all oil, spirit, and other inflammable articles under his charge are carefully and properly stored and used, and that no greasy waste or other refuse is allowed to accumulate in or near the lamp cabin.

Engine-wright.

41. The engine-wright or other competent person appointed for the purpose, shall cause the ventilating fan or other mechanical ventilating apparatus, together with the engines, machinery, and boilers for driving the same, to be properly attended to.

42. The engine-wright, or other competent person or persons appointed for the purpose, shall have charge of all engines, machinery, and boilers used for raising or lowering persons or minerals, or for pumping water, and of all ropes, chains, appliances, or apparatus connected therewith; and of all guides, ropes, chains, conductors, or other appliances in the shafts, and of all other engines, machinery, and boilers in or about the mine. In case he shall discover any weakness, defect, or want of repair therein, he shall, as soon as practicable, cause the same to be repaired and made good, and shall at once report to the manager the fact of such defect, weakness, or want of repair, and also the steps taken to remedy the same.

43. The engine-wright, or other competent person or persons appointed for the purpose, shall make the examinations and report required by General Rule 5.

44. The engine-wright, or other competent person appointed for the purpose, shall cause every rope used for raising or lowering persons or minerals to be securely attached to the drum, so that when either cage is at the pit bottom, there shall be not less than two rounds of rope upon the drum.

45. The engine-wright, or other competent person, whenever a winding rope requires capping, coupling, or splicing, shall superintend the same, and shall see that no spliced rope is used for raising or lowering persons in a shaft.

46. The engine-wright, or other competent person or persons appointed for the purpose, shall see that the fences are fixed and maintained at the top of every shaft, and that the guides, signals, covers, flanges, or horns, appliances, brakes, indicators, fences, valves, gauges, and things required by General Rules 18, 20, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33, or any of them, are fixed and maintained as therein required; and that the provisions of General Rule 25 are carried out above ground.

47. The engine-wright shall cause bells or other signals to be fixed in every drawing engine-house, connected with the drawing pit bottom, and with every entrance for the time being in work between the surface and bottom of the shaft; and shall cause the board required by Special Rules 23 and 64 stating the number of persons authorised to descend or ascend the shaft at one time, to be fixed and maintained on the pit bank.

48. The engine-wright shall cause each working boiler to be cleaned and examined as often as the manager shall so order.

49. The engine-wright shall cause the code of shaft signals used in moving the cages to be fixed and maintained at the top and bottom of each winding shaft, and at every shaft to which the provisions of Special Rule 57 apply; he shall see that the point named in that Rule is distinctly marked on the indicator.

Engine-drivers.

50. Every engine-man shall attend at such time as the manager may appoint, and as required by General Rule 25.

51. An engine-man shall not allow any person to interfere with the engine or machinery under his charge, or to remain in the engine-house unless authorised by those in authority above him. A winding engine-man while winding must remain at the handle and must pay particular attention to the indicator and signals, and if he perceives anything wrong must instantly stop his engine and not start it again until the defect is put right or until he receives an order to go on.

52. Every winding engine-man before commencing work in his shift, and before any person descends the shaft, shall carefully examine the engine, machinery, drums, ropes, brakes, indicators, and signal apparatus in the engine-house or under his charge, in order to ascertain whether they are safe and in good working order, and shall run the cages at least once up and down the shaft. Where shifts are worked continuously, it shall be sufficient if this Rule is carried out at the commencement of the morning shift.

53. Every engine-man, unless some other competent person is specially appointed for the purpose, shall keep the engines, machinery, and things connected therewith under his charge, properly cleaned and oiled, and shall see that they are in good and safe working condition. He shall see that the provisions of General Rules 27, 30, 31, and 32 are carried out and observed during his working shift, so far as they relate to engines or machinery under his charge.

54. Every engine-man must diligently and carefully attend to the working of the engine and machinery under his charge. He must examine such engine and machinery before commencing work, and if he becomes aware of any weakness or defect, or apprehends any danger, he must as soon as practicable, inform the manager, under-manager, deputy, or engine-wright. He shall not alter a safety-valve without leave from the manager, under-manager, or engine-wright.

55. Every engine-man, in addition to the duty in this respect imposed on the engine-wright, shall see that any ropes attached to the drum of the engine under his charge are securely attached, and so that when either cage is at the bottom of the pit there shall not be less than two rounds of rope upon the drum.

56. Every winding engine-man, whenever the engine under his charge ceases working, shall see that the cages are left so as not to impede the ventilation.

57. When men are being raised in shafts where the winding apparatus is not provided with some automatic contrivance to prevent overwinding, the cage shall not be wound up at a speed exceeding 3 miles an hour when and after it has reached a point 10 feet from the top of the shaft, as required by General Rule 27, and such point shall be marked on the indicator.

58. The signals given in Rule 87 shall be carefully observed by the engine-man.

Banksman and Assistants.

59. That the banksman shall, subject to the directions of the manager, under-manager, and engine-wright, have the control of the pit top, and the command of the signals down the pit and to the engine-man.

60. That the banksman shall be responsible for the state of the pit top, and shall see that the frames and the surface near the pit mouth are kept free from coals, stones, or dirt.

61. That at least one banksman and one on-setter, or other person appointed by the manager, under-manager, or deputy for that purpose, shall be at their respective posts at the proper time every morning, to give the proper signals, and to see the men and boys carefully into and out of the cages at the top and bottom of the shaft.

62. The banksman must be at the drawing shaft at such times as the manager or under-manager may appoint. He shall not allow a person to descend or ascend until the cages have been once run up and down the shaft, but where continuous shifts are worked it shall be sufficient if this is done at the commencement of the morning shift.

63. That the banksman shall not permit strangers or persons not employed in the mine to descend the pit or remain upon the bank, unless authorised by the manager; and shall caution strangers descending to keep carefully within the cage until they are fairly landed. He shall not allow an intoxicated person to descend the pit.

64. That the banksman or on-setter shall not allow more than six persons in a single cage, or ten persons in a double cage; nor shall any person be allowed to ride with or against coals, slack, dirt, &c. Neither shall any person, unless specially allowed by the manager, under-manager, or deputy, be permitted to carry any tools, implements, props, rails, or such like in his hands whilst so riding; but the same shall be securely placed in the cage, skip, or basket, so that no danger may exist of their falling out during their ascent or descent, or of their coming in contact with anything in the pit; and no person shall be allowed to get upon or off the cage at the pit top unless it be standing upon the catches or keeps, or at a mouthing, without the signal first being given and responded to.

65. The banksman must frequently observe the pit-top pulleys, ropes, chains, cages, and landing apparatus during working hours, and whenever he becomes aware of any weakness or defect therein, or anything belonging to the shaft, or any engine, machinery or winding tackle, he must immediately inform the engineman, and the manager, under-manager, or engine-wright, so that it may be repaired.

66. The banksman must report to the manager or under-manager any disobedience on the part of the miners or others.

67. The signals given in Rule 87 shall be carefully observed by the banksman.

Miners and all other Persons Employed.

68. No person acting in a place of trust shall depute anyone to do his work without the sanction of the manager.
69. No swearing or fighting is allowed in or about the mine, and no intoxicating liquors shall be permitted in the mine without the consent of the manager.
70. Any person employed in the mine shall inform the person in charge of the workings of the existence of any choke or fire-damp, of any insecurity of the roof, shaft, or any other part of the workings, or of any air-door being damaged or left open, immediately on its being observed by him.
71. No person shall be permitted to carry a naked light attached to the cap or hat on his head whilst handling explosives, or in charging holes for blasting.
72. A safety-lamp must be frequently examined, and if a lamp shows a blue cap, the person using it must carefully draw down the wick with the pricker, cease working, leave the place, and report the same to the manager, under-manager, or deputy.
73. No person shall place a safety-lamp on its bottom unless it is necessary to do so for the safe performance of any particular work, or unless authorised by the manager; and in all cases the lamp shall be hung or placed at least 2 feet from the swing of the pick, hammer, or other tool.
74. No person shall leave a lighted candle or other light in any part of the mine when leaving his work.
75. No person shall try the wastes or workings for fire-damp with a naked light, and no person shall smoke or take a naked light, tobacco, pipe, cigar, cigarette, lucifer matches, or candle, where safety-lamps are ordered to be used.
76. No naked lights shall be allowed or taken beyond any danger signal where gas exists.
77. No person shall wilfully kindle a feeder of gas, or negligently have the gauze of his safety-lamp full of fire, or unlock the lamp, or unscrew the gauze, or blow out the flame, or light tobacco or other substance at the gauze, or damage or improperly use the lamp, or leave it in the works, when he has ceased using it.
78. Any person discovering any stoppage or derangement to ventilation, injury to an air-crossing, door, regulator, sheet-stopping, brattice, or air-pipe, or observing any injury to or obstruction of an air-course, shall immediately give notice to the manager, under manager, or deputy, and to any person or persons whose safety may be endangered thereby.
79. Any person passing through a door or sheet must instantly close the same, unless it is a door or sheet ordered to be kept open. No person shall, without authority, remove any caution board, notice, or danger signal, or pass any danger signal, caution board, or fence.
80. In case of a shot missing fire the workmen shall place a danger signal at the entrance to their working-place, and shall immediately report the same to the manager, under-manager, or deputy.
81. Every miner or other workman in charge of any working-place, before commencing work, and at intervals during his shift, shall examine his working-place, and in case any danger is observed shall at once report to the manager, under-manager, or deputy.
82. No person shall leave coal, slack, or other material so as to impede the ventilation; nor leave a skip or other obstruction in the air-current.
83. Every horsekeeper shall see that no animal under his care is allowed to go to work while in an unfit state, and shall report to the manager, under-manager, or deputy, any injury received by any animal.
84. No person shall wilfully injure any animal whilst in his charge, or permit it to receive injuries by his wilful act or negligence, and shall report immediately to the horse-keeper or a deputy any injury received by such animal while in his charge.
85. No person shall take a horse on to or travel along any incline or plane, either in the mine or on the surface, which is self-acting or worked by machinery, while it is in motion, without special instructions from an officer of the mine.
86. Every person in charge of any animal shall immediately report to the manager, under-manager, or deputy, in case he finds such animal cannot pass along any road without rubbing against the roof or timbering; and no person shall, unless otherwise authorised, give his horse into the charge of any other person than the horse-keeper at the stables.

Shaft Signals.

87. The following signals (with such additions as under special circumstances may be ordered by the manager) shall be carefully observed by the engineman, banksman, onsetter, and other persons employed at this colliery:—

- One (1) rap from bottom when cage is on bottom signifies "All clear" or "Go on."
- Two (2) raps after the "All clear" signal has been given is to let the cage stand.
- One (1) rap when engine is in motion is to stop.
- Two (2) raps to lower the cage when in the shaft.
- Four (4) raps, lower the cage slowly.
- Five (5) raps, raise the cage slowly.
- Two (2) raps from engine-driver, when cage is on bottom, signifies send away the "empty cage."
- Two (2) raps from engine-driver, when cage is in motion, also signifies send away the "empty cage."
- Three (3) raps from bottom "Men to ascend"; before men are allowed to enter the cage, the onsetter must receive (1) one rap from the engine-driver, which will mean "All clear," and in no case will the men be allowed to enter the cage until told to do so by the banksman or onsetter.

88. Every person, when on the pit bank, or while about to descend the shaft, shall obey the orders and directions of the banksman; and every person, while in or about the pit, or while about to ascend the shaft, shall obey the orders and directions of the onsetter.

89. No person shall improperly use any signal, signal wire, or signal apparatus.

90. No person shall get into the cage after the authorised number is in, or if forbidden to do so by the banksman or onsetter.

91. Every person who shall couple or fasten any skip to any other skip, or to any rope or chain, shall see that such coupling or fastening is made secure.

92. All persons employed in the mine shall be under the control of the manager, under-manager, and deputies, and shall at all times obey their lawful commands.

93. Any person committing a breach of any of the foregoing Special Rules is liable to be instantly dismissed.

End.

Name of Mine—Dudley.

Where situated—Newcastle, N.S.W., County of Northumberland.

Name of the Owner—Dudley Coal Company.

Name of the Manager—Hugh Humphreys.

Name of the Under-Manager—George Hindmarsh.

Name and Address of the Inspector of Mines of the District—J. Dixon, Newcastle.

Certificate of Special Rules, Dudley Colliery.

Hugh Humphreys, Manager.

I HEREBY certify that the above copy of Special Rules has been shown to my satisfaction to be a true copy of the Special Rules which at this date are established under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, for the above-named mine.

JOHN DIXON,
Inspector of Collieries.

Fifth day of March, 1897.

APPENDIX H.

[Put in by Mr. Atkinson on 23rd August, 1898, and marked Exhibit "C."]

(Circular No. 60, 98-7,621.)

Sir,

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 1898.

I have the honor to invite your attention to the provisions of General Rule 1, Section 47, of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, respecting the ventilation of mines, and to request that you will be good enough to cause them to be strictly complied with.

I may point out for your information that, so long as a mine is being worked, it is necessary that an adequate amount of ventilation shall be constantly produced therein, even during the temporary suspension of work between shifts, at week-ends, &c.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

The Manager.

Chief Inspector of Coal Mines.

[One plan.]

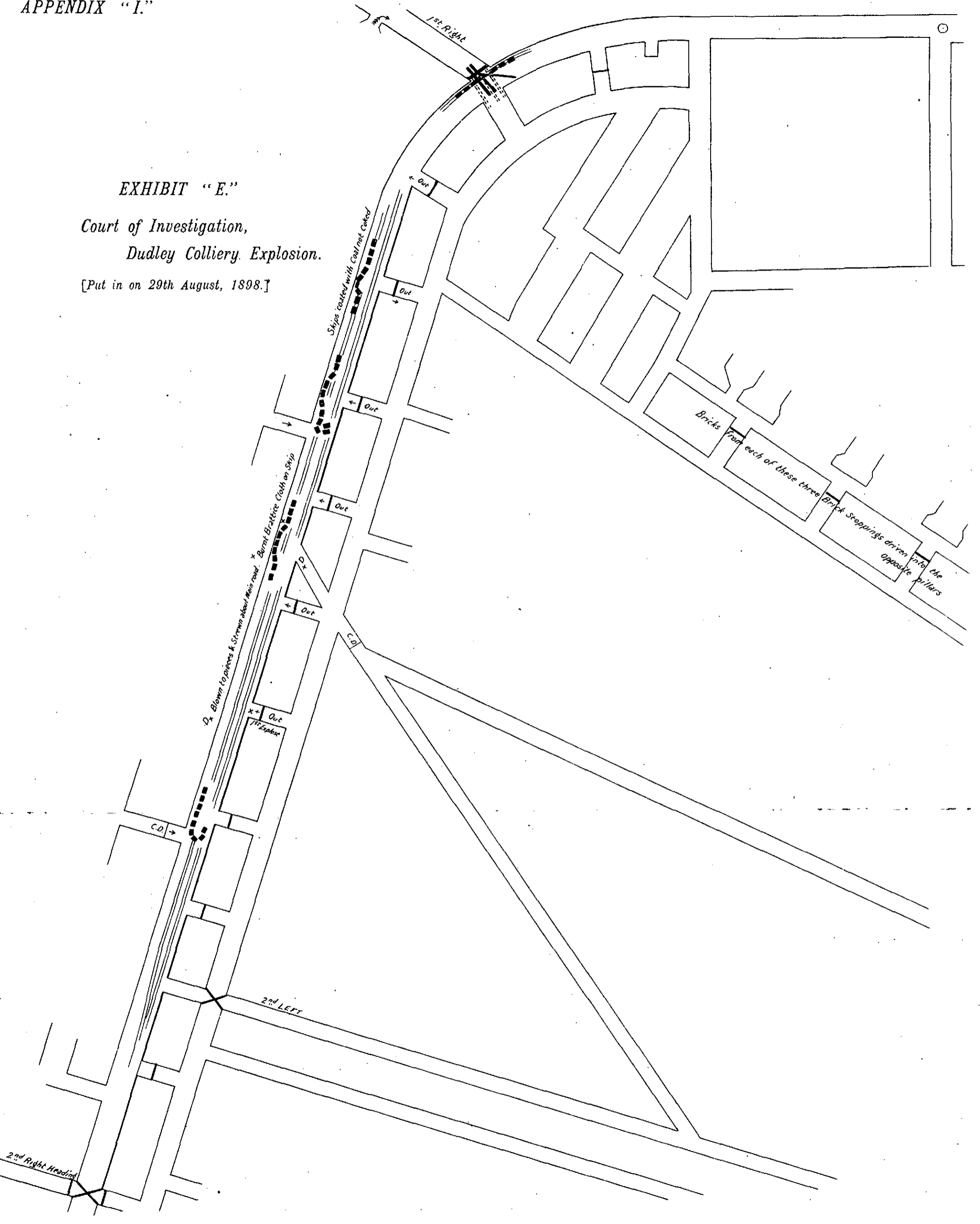
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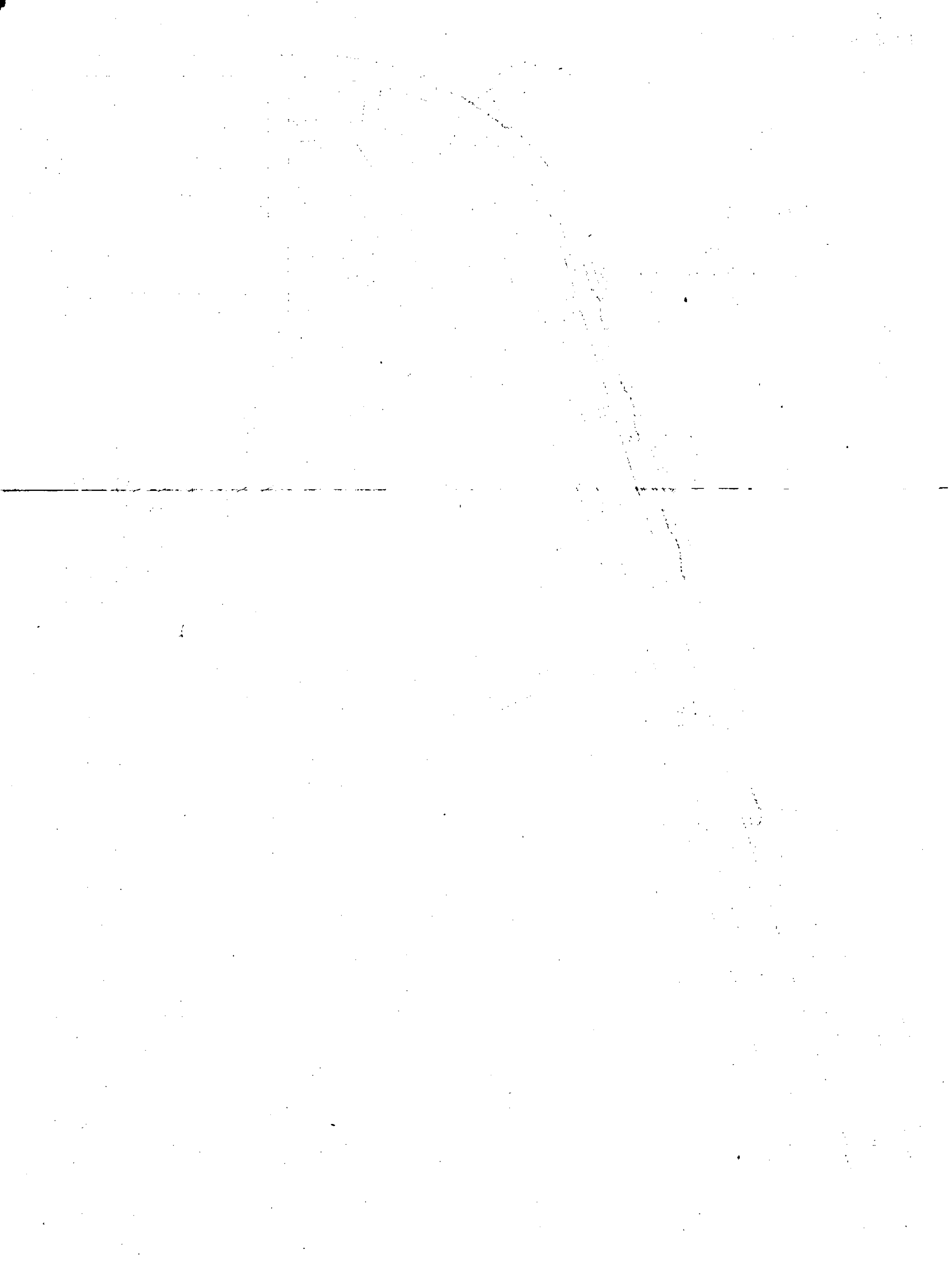
Sydney: William Applegate Gullick, Government Printer.—1898.

EXHIBIT "E."

Court of Investigation,
Dudley Colliery Explosion.

[Put in on 29th August, 1898.]





1899.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

THIRD REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION ON PUBLIC CHARITIES;

TOGETHER WITH

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE AND APPENDIX.

SUBSIDISED BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS, &c.

APPOINTED 10TH NOVEMBER, 1897.

Presented to Parliament by Command.

Printed under No. 1 Report from Printing Committee, 20 April, 1899.



SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPLGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

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Commission.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen,
Defender of the Faith, and so forth,—

To Our Trusty and Well-beloved—

JOSEPH BARLING, Esquire, Chairman of the Public Service Board, and one of Our Justices of the Peace of Our Colony of New South Wales, Associate of the Institution of Civil Engineers;

GEORGE ALEXANDER WILSON, Esquire, a Member of the Public Service Board, and one of Our Justices of the Peace of Our said Colony; and

JAMES POWELL, Esquire, Deputy Member of the Public Service Board, and one of Our Justices of the Peace of Our said Colony,—

Greeting:—

Know Ye, That We, reposing great trust and confidence in your ability, zeal, industry, discretion, and integrity, do, by these presents, authorise and appoint you, or any two of you, as hereinafter mentioned, to make a diligent and full inquiry into, and report upon the methods of carrying on Government Charitable Institutions, and the way in which Grants of public money to charitable objects under the control of the Government are administered, including Grants for the Aborigines; and to report also upon the methods of administration and relief in force in all charitable organizations which receive aid from the public Treasury, including the Hospitals of the Colony; with further power to suggest desirable changes in the existing state of affairs, with a view to placing the expenditure of public moneys in such directions upon a more satisfactory footing: And We do, by these presents, grant to you, or any two of you, at any meeting or meetings to which all of you shall have been duly summoned, full power and authority to call before you all such persons as you may judge necessary, by whom you may be better informed of the truth in the premises, and to require the production of all such books, papers, writings, and all other documents as you may deem expedient, and to visit and inspect the same at the offices or places where the same or any of them may be deposited, and to inquire of the premises by all lawful ways and means: And We do give you power at your discretion to procure such clerical and other assistance as you may deem necessary for enabling you duly to execute this Our Commission: And Our further will and pleasure is that you do within three months after the date of this Our Commission, certify to Us, in the office of Our Chief Secretary under your or any two of your hands and seals, what you shall find touching the premises: And We hereby command all Government Officers and other persons whomsoever within Our said Colony, that they be assistant to you and each of you in the execution of these presents: And We appoint you the said JOSEPH BARLING, Esquire, to be President of this Our Commission; which said Commission We declare to be a Commission for all purposes of the Act 44 Victoria, No. 1, intituled "*An Act to regulate the taking of Evidence by Commissioners under the Great Seal.*"

In testimony whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of Our said Colony of New South Wales to be hereunto affixed.

Witness Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Cousin, HENRY ROBERT, VISCOUNT HAMPDEN, Our Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Our Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, at Government House, Sydney, in New South Wales aforesaid, this tenth day of November, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, and in the sixty-first year of Our Reign.

(I.S.)

HAMPDEN.

By His Excellency's Command,

JAMES N. BRUNKER.

Entered on Record by me, in Register of Patents No. 19, page 151, this eleventh day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven.

For the Colonial Secretary and Registrar of Records,

CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

VICTORIA,

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen,
Defender of the Faith, and so forth,—

To our Trusty and Well-beloved—

GEORGE ALEXANDER WILSON, Esquire, a Member of the Public Service Board, and one of Our
Justices of the Peace of Our said Colony,—

Greeting:—

WHEREAS by an instrument under the Great Seal of Our Colony of New South Wales, bearing date the tenth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, We did, *inter alia*, appoint JOSEPH BARLING, Esquire, to be a Member, and also President of the Royal Commission of Inquiry in connexion with Charitable Institutions: And whereas the said JOSEPH BARLING has now resigned the Office of President: Now, therefore, know You, that We, of Our especial grace, have thought fit to appoint, and do hereby appoint you, the said GEORGE ALEXANDER WILSON, to be President of such Commission.

In testimony whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of Our said Colony of New South Wales to be hereunto affixed.

Witness Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Cousin, HENRY ROBERT, VISCOUNT HAMPDEN, Our Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Our Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, at Government House, Sydney, in New South Wales aforesaid, this eighth day of February, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, and in the sixty-first year of Our Reign.

(L.S.)

HAMPDEN.

By His Excellency's Command,
JAMES N. BRUNKER.

Entered on record by me, in Register of Patents No. 19, page 263, this eighth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

For the Colonial Secretary and Registrar of Records,
CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

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—

RICHARD CORNELIUS CRITCHETT WALKER, Esquire, Companion of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Principal Under Secretary; and

FREDERIC NORTON MANNING, Esquire, Doctor of Medicine,—

Greeting:—

WHEREAS by an instrument under the Great Seal of Our Colony of New South Wales, bearing date the tenth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, We did appoint JOSEPH BARLING, GEORGE ALEXANDER WILSON, and JAMES POWELL, Esquires, to be a Royal Commission of Inquiry in connexion with Charitable Institutions, and the said JOSEPH BARLING to be President thereof: And whereas by a further instrument, bearing date the eighth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, We did appoint the said GEORGE ALEXANDER WILSON to be President of such Commission in the stead of the said JOSEPH BARLING, who had resigned such office: And Whereas it hath appeared to Us to be expedient to appoint additional Commissioners: Now, therefore, know Ye, that We, of Our especial grace, have thought fit to appoint, and do hereby appoint, you to be such additional Commissioners accordingly.

Witness Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Cousin, HENRY ROBERT, VISCOUNT HAMPDEN, 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 sixteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, and in the sixty-second year of Our Reign.

(L.S.)

HAMPDEN.

By His Excellency's Command,
JAMES N. BRUNKER.

Entered on record by me, in Register of Patents No. 20, page 272, this twentieth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine.

For the Colonial Secretary and Registrar of Records,
CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON PUBLIC CHARITIES.

WHEREAS it is necessary to extend the time within which the Commissioners are to make their report in the above matter: Now, therefore, I do hereby, with the advice of the Executive Council, extend the time within which the said Commissioners are to make such report for a period of six months,—to take effect from the 10th February, 1898.

Given under my hand at Government House, Sydney, this second day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

HAMPDEN.

By His Excellency's Command,
JAMES N. BRUNKER.

ROYAL

ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON PUBLIC CHARITIES.

WHEREAS the time appointed for the return of the Commission in the above matter was by an Instrument dated the second day of March last, extended for a period of six months; And whereas it is necessary to extend the same still further: Now, therefore, I do hereby, with the advice of the Executive Council, extend the time within which the Commission are to make their return to, and for a further period of three months beyond the time in and by the aforesaid instrument appointed for the purpose,—to take effect from the 10th instant.

Given under my hand at Government House, Sydney, this second day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

HAMPDEN.

By His Excellency's Command,
JAMES N. BRUNKER.

ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON PUBLIC CHARITIES.

WHEREAS the time appointed for the return of the Commission in the above matter was by an Instrument dated the second day of August last, extended for a period of three months; And whereas it is necessary to extend the same still further: Now, therefore, I do hereby, with the advice of the Executive Council, extend the time within which the Commission are to make their return to, and for a further period of three months beyond the time in and by the aforesaid Instrument appointed for the purpose,—to take effect from the 10th instant.

Given under my hand at Government House, Sydney, this eleventh day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

HAMPDEN.

By His Excellency's Command,
JAMES N. BRUNKER.

ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON PUBLIC CHARITIES.

WHEREAS the time appointed for the return of the Commission in the above matter was by an Instrument dated the eleventh day of November last, extended for a period of three months; And whereas it is necessary to extend the same still further: Now, therefore, I do hereby, with the advice of the Executive Council, extend the time within which the Commission are to make their return to, and for a further period of three months beyond the time in and by the aforesaid Instrument appointed for the purpose,—to take effect from the 10th instant.

Given under my hand at Government House, Sydney, this sixteenth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine.

HAMPDEN.

By His Excellency's Command,
JAMES N. BRUNKER.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON PUBLIC CHARITIES.

THIRD REPORT.

To His Excellency the Honorable Sir Frederick Matthew Darley, Knight
Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and
Saint George, Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony of New South Wales
and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, your Commissioners, appointed to inquire into and report upon the financial administration and general management of the Government and State subsidised Charities of the Colony, have the honor to submit to your Excellency our third Report.

On the 16th February last your Excellency was pleased to appoint Dr. F. Norton Manning and Mr. Critchett Walker, C.M.G., Principal Under Secretary, as additional Commissioners.

In our previous reports we have stated that we would deal with the subjects of our inquiry in groups, unless it were found desirable to report separately on any one institution. Our first report related to the institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, and the next to the Benevolent Society of New South Wales, which Society was separately reported upon on account of its importance and the urgent necessity for reform in its general administration.

The present report completes the second section of our work, and gives the result of our investigations in regard to other "Subsidised charitable bodies, such as the Benevolent Societies and kindred institutions."

Our next report will be devoted to the Hospitals of the Colony and the control of Government stations for Aborigines.

The institutions dealt with in this report are the following :—

- The Sydney Rescue Work Society.
- The Society for providing Homes for Neglected Children.
- The Salvation Army's Institutions.
- The City Night Refuge and Soup Kitchen.
- The Sydney Night Refuge and Reformatory.
- The Infants' Home, Ashfield.
- The Central Mission Children's Home.
- The St. Vincent de Paul's Home for Destitute Boys.
- The Sydney Female Mission Home.
- The Newcastle and Northumberland Benevolent Society.
- The Newcastle Relief Society.
- The Newcastle Mutual Help Society.
- The Maitland Benevolent Society.
- The Women's Hospital and Dispensary.

A brief statement is also made relative to the operations of the several suburban and country societies administering outdoor relief, and also to the expenditure by the Chief Secretary's Department of the money voted annually by Parliament for the assistance of destitute persons not provided for in Government asylums.

While we have confined this report to mention of subsidised institutions only, we have thought it necessary, in the course of our investigations, in order to obtain a fuller knowledge of our subject and for purposes of comparison, to visit a few institutions not in receipt of State aid; and we have to express our thanks to those in charge of these institutions for the courtesy shown to us in affording whatever information we desired.

SYDNEY RESCUE WORK SOCIETY AND SOCIETY FOR PROVIDING HOMES FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

THE two Societies named above are dealt with under one head in this Report, because they are virtually under one management, and, we are informed, it is proposed to formally amalgamate them. Each Society has at present a separate committee, but several members of the one are members of the other. Mr. G. E. Ardill occupies the position of Director and Secretary to both Societies, and they are administered from the same centre. The collections from the public on behalf of each Society are kept distinct, but portion of the Government subsidy which is granted to the Sydney Rescue Work Society is devoted to supplement the funds of the Children's Homes. This arrangement is within the knowledge of the Chief Secretary's Department, which administers the subsidy.

Ardill, 2696.

The Sydney Rescue Work Society is the outcome of a movement which was started by Mr. Ardill in Sydney in 1882 on the lines of the Gospel Temperance movement in England, and which was continued under his control until 1890. In that year, finding the management of the work and the monetary responsibilities too great a strain to be borne alone, he invited a number of gentlemen to form a committee of management for the initiation of the present Society. Since the foundation of the Society certain changes have taken place in its operations which are hereafter incidentally referred to.

Until 1893 the Society was maintained without State aid, but since that year it has received support from the Public Treasury by means of special grants, and subsidies upon private contributions.

The Society for providing Homes for Neglected Children commenced in 1887 with the establishment of a home at Liverpool, which was the gift of Mr. F. K. Olliver. In 1890 the late Mr. W. H. Paling presented to the Society a building and an acre of land at Camden for use as a home for boys.

OBJECTS.

The annual reports of each Institution inform us that as a basis of its constitution, "The Society shall be undenominational, but distinctly Christian in its character, and founded upon the principles and teachings of the New Testament."

The objects of the Rescue Work Society are said to be—"First, preventive; second, restorative; and third, alleviating," in the following respects:—

Preventive.—To guard young women exposed to fierce temptations and placed in dangerous circumstances; to make provision for and receive such into the Jubilee Home and Registry Office, and by care and kindness prevent their downfall. To visit the railway stations and steamer wharfs, and meet young women arriving in Sydney from the country districts—receive, welcome, and direct them as to their future.

Restorative.

Restorative.—To rescue young girls from vicious surroundings and restore them to society. To seek, by midnight meetings, street and park visitation, attendance at the gaol gates and police courts, visitation of the haunts of vice, to restore those who have fallen victims to prevailing vices. To receive such in the "Home of Hope for Friendless and Fallen" and the "Open All Night Refuge for Women," and temporarily provide for them and train them for domestic service. To rescue and save prisoners of both sexes from a return to vicious and criminal paths, to meet them at the gaol gates and induce them to accept the shelter of the Homes of Welcome. To provide them with temporary employment and secure suitable situations for them.

Alleviating.—To relieve the distressed, making small grants to help to retain shelter for families, or providing food and clothing for the impoverished.

To fulfil these objects the Society maintains the following homes and branches of work :—

1. "The Home of Hope for Friendless and Fallen Women," in connection with which there are (1) "The Home-training School and Lying-in Hospital," carried on in the same building; and (2) a laundry on an adjacent site.
2. "Open All Night Refuge," for the temporary accommodation of destitute women and children.
3. "Babies' Home," for the care of infants between the ages of 6 months and 5 or 6 years.
4. "Jubilee Home," to provide board and lodging for respectable young women.
5. "Discharged Prisoners' Mission," for rendering assistance, &c., to prisoners on release from gaol.
6. "Women's Crusade," for reformatory work amongst women.
7. "Outdoor Relief Agency," for affording special kinds of relief.
8. "Gospel Union," for the "dissemination of the Gospel."

The objects of the Society for providing Homes for Neglected Children are the care and training of destitute, deserted and neglected children. The homes controlled by the Society are those to which reference has already been made, viz.:—

- "Our Children's Homes," Liverpool, for children of both sexes.
- "Our Boys' Farm Homes," Camden, for boys alone.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF.

Although the constitution of each of these Societies provides for a separate Committee, the business of the Society for providing Homes for Neglected Children is virtually transacted by the Committee of the Sydney Rescue Work Society. As we have already pointed out, several of the members of this Committee are also members of the Committee of the former Society, and the affairs of the two organizations are dealt with at the one monthly meeting held.

The members of the Committee of the Sydney Rescue Work Society, we are informed, were at one time elected annually. Such, however, is not the case now. The position of committeeman is said not to be a coveted one, and those already in office themselves secure the services of gentlemen willing to act. When the meetings of the Society's subscribers are held an announcement is made of the names of those who have consented to sit on the Committee.

The Director and Secretary is *ex officio* a member of the committees, and since the beginning of this year has occupied his position without remuneration other than board and lodging for himself and family.

The powers of this officer are extensive, and, as the title of his office implies, the management of affairs practically rests with him.

There is a staff of officers, consisting of matrons of the various homes and their assistants, the nurse in charge of the Lying-in Home; mission workers; three collectors, a clerk and two boy assistants, a gardener, and a carter. With the exception of the clerk and assistants, the laundry matron, and the carter, the officers are provided by the Institution with board and lodging.

The remuneration which the officers receive for their services is small. A low nominal rate is fixed in each case, but, as pointed out elsewhere, owing to a continued embarrassed financial position, the Societies have been, and continue to be, indebted to their officers for unpaid salaries. The Director, in referring to this matter, states that the officers have not made any request for payment of the arrears, "the understanding with most who come to us," he says, "is that they have to wait if funds are not to hand. They recognise it as a mission which they undertake to perform, and salary is not a question with them. Many of them have in times past given money out of their salaries, when they have received it, back to the funds of the Institution."

Ardill,
2784-7.

With regard to the Director's own position, he informs us that since the end of the year 1897 he has declined to receive any stated salary, simply obtaining in return for his services free board and lodging for himself and family. Prior to that time, and from the initiation of the Rescue Work Society in 1890, his allowance from that Institution was £80 a year, a portion of which, however, had to be devoted to the payment of a clerk; and his salary from the Society for providing Homes for Neglected Children, discontinued at the same time, was £50 a year.

Ardill,
2767-75.

Ardill, 3144.

In September last there was an amount of £84 due to him from the former Society, and £207 from the latter. No member of his family receives any money allowance from the Societies.

In March, 1893, the Director of Government Asylums, in reporting upon the affairs of the Rescue Work Society, said: "Mr. Ardill's position with regard to the new Society during the past three years has been:—(1) He presented it first with £227 5s. 5d." (by relinquishing his claim to moneys due to him); (2) "He next presented £120 realised from damages awarded in connection with a libel upon his personal character; (3) The Society owes him £247 10s., arrears of an actual salary of £141 4s. per annum; (4) He is further still personally liable for a balance of £174 11s. 8d. in connection with the old account" (incurred before the formation of the Society).

The visiting medical officers give their services gratuitously.

FINANCIAL.

We have mentioned on page ix the various branches controlled by these Societies, and, briefly, the objects they are required to serve. It will be readily understood that for each of those branches to be an adequate and properly-administered agency to efficiently cope with the work in its particular field of operations, a considerable revenue would be required. That revenue has not been forthcoming to anything like the extent needed, and, consequently, instead of well-managed and properly-equipped Institutions, we have found a number of small struggling concerns that fulfil in a meagre way functions which should be better and more fully discharged, and which certainly are discharged in a better manner by Government and by other charitable organizations.

Giving full credit to the zeal which has prompted the endeavour to encompass so large a work in the domain of charity, the wisdom of the attempt must be gauged by the performance.

The existence of any imperfect agency may be a positive harm in deterring other and more adequate aid being organised.

Had

Had the Societies confined their work within narrower limits success might have resulted, instead of which we find them burdened with financial difficulties which harass their administration.

The published statements of account merely show the yearly cash transactions, and, except when special reference has been made to the outstanding liabilities, no indication has been given of the true position of affairs in the annual reports.

On the establishment of the Sydney Rescue Work Society in March, 1890, ^{Ardill, 2699.} the original organization was in debt to the extent of about £950. The Committee of the Society made itself responsible for £450 of the amount, leaving Mr. Ardill personally liable for the balance.

In the report for the year ending 29th February, 1892, there is a statement showing debts amounting to £1,411, of which £323 were for salaries to officers. In the next report there is a list of liabilities totalling £1,151. The unpaid salaries amounted to £466, of which £127 were due to the Director.

The two following reports do not mention the extent of indebtedness, but each contains the following reference to the financial position :—

“ Compared with other charitable institutions, the work of this Society is much hampered in its progress for the amelioration of the condition of necessitous cases which come constantly under notice, for scarcity of funds. Financial burdens and anxieties weigh heavily upon those responsible for the management of the Society.”

This position of things, however, did not deter the Society in seeking an extension of its work in a direction which would have involved further liabilities. In both reports in which the above statement appears appeals were made to the public for gifts to enable a cottage home to be established for young girls about to become mothers for the first time.

The next report of the Society (*which is the last published*), embracing the period from 1st September, 1895, to 31st August, 1897, is also without a complete statement of liabilities. It refers, however, to the mortgages on the freehold property of the Society, and says :—

“ The burden of financial difficulty is very great, and, notwithstanding implicit confidence in God, is calculated to distract the attention of the workers. Who will come to our aid and remove this load of care ? ”

The evidence shows that, on the 30th June last, in addition to mortgages on ^{Ardill, 3135-7,} the Society's properties amounting to £2,356, there were the following further ^{2869.} liabilities :—

						£
Amount due for salaries to officers	...	...	...	...	...	320
„ maintenance of homes	...	...	...	...	...	435
„ rent and taxes...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Loan	...	...	...	...	...	100
						<hr/>
						£915

£109 of the amount due for salaries was owing to the Director.

^{Ardill, 2779.}

In the cash accounts themselves there are items that testify to the difficulties that have arisen in financing the Society. Among the receipts there appears in the year ending February, 1892, a loan of £100; in 1895, a “ Government grant towards old debts,” £500; in the same year, a “ temporary loan ” of £25; in 1896, “ temporary loan,” £300; and “ loan,” £25.

An analysis of the accounts reveals the fact that even trust moneys (payments under affiliation orders) have been temporarily used to meet the current requirements of the Society. With regard to this circumstance, Mr. Ardill, after giving evidence, informed

informed us "that the Committee decided in July last to have a special account opened at the Bank for all moneys received on trust, such account to be known as the Sydney Rescue Work Society Trust Account, and thus obviate the possibility of any balance at any time remaining at credit of that fund being utilised, however temporarily, for general purposes."

Ardill, 2866-70.

Sums amounting to £75, which were collected in the course of three years for the specific purpose of forming a fund to purchase the property occupied by the Society as a laundry, were also spent for current needs, "because," as is stated, "the general fund was short and this money was lent to it"; but, says Mr. Ardill, "we afterwards put it right by borrowing £100, for which the Committee is responsible, so that we have applied it virtually to the purpose for which it was given."

Wilson, 3259-60.

On the formation of the Society, in March, 1890, there were already in existence two Homes of Welcome in connection with the Discharged Prisoners' Mission—one in George-street North and the other in Darlinghurst. Both of these, together with a wood and coal depôt at which men were employed, had to be closed "through lack of funds"—the first in November, 1890, and the latter in September, 1891. A Parramatta branch of the same mission has also ceased to exist.

1st Report,
p. 6.
2nd Report,
p. 8.

Ardill, 3118.

A registry office was maintained for a time, but was abolished "because," the Director says, "there were so many offices about, and several other institutions were established on similar lines, and we felt we would rather devote ourselves to work amongst destitute women."

Ardill, 3117.

Another branch—the Jubilee Home—which was practically a boarding-house for respectable young women seeking employment, has been "virtually" discontinued. "We have retained," says Mr. Ardill, "two or three beds instead of twenty, the number that we formerly had." This curtailment of operations was also due to want of funds.

Wilson, 3258.

The position of affairs, at the time the Director was under examination, is explained by him in the following evidence:—

Ardill, 3100-5.

3100. Is the total income of your Society sufficient to carry on efficiently all these schemes that you have in hand? Yes, if in future we receive the subsidy from the Government at the rate at which we were receiving it; but not otherwise.

3101. If you do not receive it what would you recommend in that case? I should recommend the committee to make an appeal to the general public, and, if that failed, to close some of the Institutions.

3102. Unless the Government increased the subsidy from £500 to what? To what it was, £1,000.

3103. Unless you have a subsidy of that amount your funds will not be sufficient? We cannot carry on these Institutions with the present income.

3104. If it is not increased the committee will have to choose which Institution they will close? Exactly so.

3105. Is the financial position improving or otherwise? I think the amount derivable from the public at large is improving.

In the face of the above evidence, and without knowing whether the Government subsidy would be increased (as a matter of fact the Parliamentary vote for the current year has since been fixed at £500), we find that an appeal is being made to the public for funds to open another home, to be called "the Rescue Home," in order that the Home of Hope may be used exclusively for lying-in purposes. And in the same paper, *The Rescue*, 7th December, 1898, in which this appeal is made, donations are asked for to meet the following liabilities:—

	£	s.	d.
Instalment of principal mortgage, Home of Hope premises...	100	0	0
Temporary loans to pay deposit on purchase laundry premises	100	0	0
Salaries of workers, due to 31st October	295	1	8
Accounts due to storekeepers and others, to 31st October ...	735	12	11
	<hr/>		
	£1,230	14	7

The cash transactions of the past two years of each Society are shown in the following statements:—

SYDNEY Rescue Work Society (year ending 28th February).

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Cash Disbursements.</i>	
	1897.	1898.		1897.	1898.
	£	£		£	£
Government subsidy	1,565	400	Provisions and clothing, medicine, &c.	473	533
Subscriptions and donations	1,073	1,419	Relief in money, for rent, &c.	86	100
From or on behalf of inmates	134	155	Funeral expenses, &c.	28	62
From work of inmates	176	189	Fuel and light	133	135
Fees—Home Training School		112	Salaries and wages	843	502
Trust Account—Payments under affiliation orders, balance in hand at end of year	6	45	Rent, rates, taxes, and insurance	287	386
	<u>£2,954</u>	<u>2,320</u>	Interest	127	94
			Printing, stationery, advertising, &c.	109	139
			Travelling	34	141
			Other items	187	197
			Alterations, repairs, &c.	43	59
			Furniture, utensils, &c.	5	55
			Loans repaid	352	...
			Reduction of mortgage	100	...
				<u>£2,807</u>	<u>2,453</u>

SOCIETY for providing Homes for Neglected Children (year ending 30th September).

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Cash Disbursements.</i>	
	1896.	1897.		1896.	1897.
	£	£		£	£
Government subsidy	254	151	Provision, clothing, medicine, &c.	297	257
Payments by parents	38	135	Fuel and light	6	6
Subscriptions and donations	184	243	Salaries and wages	114	157
Dairy profit	18	39	Printing, stationery, advertising	24	34
Other receipts	3	10	Travelling	11	7
	<u>£497</u>	<u>578</u>	Other expenses	23	24
			Alterations, repairs, &c.	19	74
			Furniture, &c.	11	12
				<u>£505</u>	<u>571</u>

The above accounts of the Sydney Rescue Work Society closed with a credit balance of 9s. 8d., and of the other Society with a credit balance of £30 8s. 11d.

We have before referred to the fact that the Societies do not publish, as they should do, a proper balance-sheet at the end of each year. The cash statements by themselves are misleading, and they should be accompanied by information which will enable the public to see the exact position of affairs. Although the Societies' objects are meritorious, and there is a very laudable earnestness displayed on the part of the officers in their work, the present financial administration is unsound. The non-payment of salaries, the continual indebtedness in other directions, and the constant strain to meet difficulties, are not conducive to efficiency.

With reference to the above statements of account, it is necessary to point out that gifts in kind were received in 1896, which were valued by the Director at £540, and those received in 1897 at £518.

Compared with the total expenses, the cost of administration in the case of the Rescue Work Society appears to be high. A somewhat heavy charge is occasioned for rent, taxes, interest on mortgages, &c., in consequence of the many separate properties occupied.

The properties which are owned or rented by the Society at the present time are as under:—

The building in Pitt-street, which is used as offices and as the Jubilee Home, is Ardrill, 2714. rented at 30s. a week.

The Home of Hope, at Newtown, was purchased in 1890 for £2,650. Only £300 was paid off, and the balance remained at 6 per cent. interest. In 1895 the rest of the purchase money was paid to the vendors, and a mortgage of £2,000 was obtained elsewhere at 5 per cent. interest. One of the conditions of the mortgage was that the Society should reduce the principal amount by the payment of £100 a year. This condition had not been fulfilled at the time of our examination, and there remained a sum of £1,900 owing. The present market value of the property the Director reckons at £2,250.

The

Ardill,
2859-64.

The laundry, opposite the Home of Hope, was erected and occupied in 1891. The land was purchased specially for the purpose by a supporter of the Society, who also erected and fitted the building at a cost of £470. The total amount expended was £917, for which the Society paid about £40 per annum as interest. The property has recently been transferred to the Society for the sum of £450, and a mortgage effected upon it of £350, at 5 per cent. interest.

Ardill, 2910.

The Open All Night Refuge in Sussex-street is rented at £2 a week.

Ardill, 2938.

The Babies' Home, Newtown Road, is rented at £7 a month. Until recently it was £8 a month.

Ardill, 2975.

A house in Wexford-street, the quarters of the Women's Crusade, is rented at 9s. a week.

The properties at Liverpool and Camden were gifts to the Society, and are unencumbered.

Ardill, 3088.

The Society owns a hall at Parramatta, "built in the early stage of the movement," which is valued by the Director at £350, and is mortgaged for £106. The rent derived from this property, we are informed, pays the interest on the mortgage and reduces the principal.

The Society also has a block of land at Ballina, valued at £20.

The above shows that (excluding the Parramatta property from consideration) the Society is paying £289 8s. a year in rent and £112 10s. interest on mortgages, and is further under an obligation to reduce the mortgage on the Home of Hope property by £100 a year, which condition, as we have pointed out, has not been regularly fulfilled.

The accounts are audited by professional accountants, whose certificate, published in the last report issued of the Sydney Rescue Work Society, certifies to the books being in excellent order, and to vouchers being furnished for all items of expenditure.

The above remarks have dealt generally with the two Societies, and we have now to describe their separate branches.

SYDNEY RESCUE WORK SOCIETY.

BRANCHES.

HOME OF HOPE—HOME TRAINING SCHOOL AND LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

This Institution, which may be regarded as the chief centre of the Society's operations, is situated at Newtown. Its object, as stated in the annual reports, is to provide "a home for the friendless and fallen women of the city who are sunk in degradation and vice." "Young women about to become mothers for the first time are admitted and nursed through their time of trouble."

Ardill,
2827-8, 2842.

In past times, the Director says, the Home was intended specially for the reception of women from gaols. These are not now admitted, but during the last year some women were taken from the police courts in "cases of what are called first offenders."

Ardill,
2822-3.

With regard to the class of women who now find a refuge at the Home, the Director's evidence when first under examination was contradictory. He said, "Those who come to us for confinement would not be called women who have walked the streets. They have all been of respectable character but for this fall. They are not degraded or fallen women, they are mostly domestic servants and such like, and are of an average class." In answer to the question, "Suppose a woman taken off the streets came into the Home, would you keep her separate?" he said, "We could not in any way separate her. If we attempted to deal with cases of another nature we should have to provide a separate Institution. Those now being dealt with

Ardill,
2831.

with are either friendless women or women needing help, such as is afforded by the lying-in hospital." From this it would be supposed that women taken off the streets cannot be received, but later on the following evidence appears:—

2855. It says in page 23 of the report that the Home of Hope was established to provide a home for friendless and fallen women of the city, does that refer to women off the streets? Yes.

2856. Do those women apply? We have methods of securing them, such as holding midnight suppers, sending officers out to intercept them on their parades at night, and visiting their homes.

Subsequently it was explained by Mr. Ardill that "to a very large extent the work of receiving fallen women off the streets had lapsed and the character of the home had changed more into that of a lying-in hospital, &c." The original intention of the home was as mentioned on page 23 of the Annual Report, but he says, "we do not largely receive that class now; some few are received still." No organised effort is now made to recover women from the streets; though that is regarded by the Society as an important branch of their work, which they feel has been neglected lately. Ardill,
3301-3.
Ardill,
3304.

Although the report states that young women about to become mothers for the *first time* are admitted, in a few instances admission for the purpose of confinement has been granted more than once to the same individual, and the Director when asked how often a girl would be readmitted said, "I do not know that I would place any limit upon it. I should deal with the circumstances of each individual case. I should prefer that they were not readmitted, of course." Ardill,
2845-6.

Women are admitted in some cases four or five months before confinement— and are kept on an average two or three months after, or until employment is found for them, or they are restored to their friends. Ardill,
2832-4.

Married women are also admitted, but they generally go to the Institution just prior to confinement and leave shortly afterwards. Ardill,
2824.

Except in the case of married women, who are generally attended to "in their own room by one or two nurses," and occasionally in other instances, there has been no necessity, it is said, to classify the inmates admitted for confinement, because they have been of an average character and class. Ardill,
2826.
Ardill,
2821.

The routine of the Institution is described by the Director, as follows:—

Ardill,
2792.

"In almost every case application is made by post or personal interview. Before a person becomes an inmate of the Institution I take the particulars or history of the case, which is kept privately; and unless the person herself chooses to tell her history it is not known to any officer of the movement. She is admitted upon an order given by myself, unless in the case of the lying-in home—that being what we call a front-door case—immediate admission is necessary. The Institution is carried on like a large home, three meals per day being provided, with usually lunch for workers at 11 o'clock in the morning—a cup of tea and bread and butter. Many of the women are occupied in the laundry attached to the Institution, some of them being trained to laundry work, as they know nothing of it when they come to us. The work of the Home, such as cleaning and so forth, is performed by the inmates themselves. None of them are paid for their labour. Their keep whilst in the Institution is accepted as an equivalent for the services rendered." "They generally take a turn at housework and laundry-work. Each Monday there is a change of work. If a woman shows adaptability for ironing, she is kept at that. None of the inmates are paid. Small gratuities are, however, given at times by way of buying extras for them and clothing for them when they are going out, but nothing further." Ardill,
2835-6.

The laundry at which the inmates are employed is situated opposite to the Home, and is an useful adjunct, but from want of funds the Society has been unable to fit it with appliances necessary to enable it to compete with better appointed establishments.

Efforts are made to obtain situations for the women, which have been attended with a fair measure of success. Mr. Ardill when first giving evidence stated that the Institution did not allow the women to be engaged at lower than the current rate of wages, but when subsequently questioned on the matter, he said "if a woman Ardill,
2837.
Ardill,
2858.

Ardill,
3308.

woman has been a fairly competent servant before her confinement she may have to submit to a reduction of 4s. or 5s. a week. If she has been in the habit of earning 10s. a week, then she may have to take 6s. or 5s. a week. If she has been getting 12s. a week, she may have to take 7s. or 8s. a week."

Steps are also taken to affiliate the children in the manner referred to in the following evidence :—

2888. Now about the affiliation of the children—what steps do you take in regard to that? Immediately a woman arrives, if it is not too long before the time, and would give him an opportunity to clear away, the father of the child is communicated with. We endeavour to get him to come to the office. If the woman arrives there a considerable time before the birth we leave it until the birth of the child; then an intimation is sent to the father that by attending at our office he may prevent proceedings from being taken. In most cases we have been successful. We have had to send some to the court, and in only one instance have we been unsuccessful.

2889. How many cases have you had in a year? Those dealt with at the office and those dealt through the court—at least fifty.

2890. And you succeed? We succeed. Of course there are some cases in which the women will not give us the facilities for affiliation. With regard to that, there needs an amendment of the law to enable us to do more than we are doing. The law might be amended on the lines of the South Australian Act and the English Act, which provides for action being taken against an alleged father before the birth of the child, and also for making him pay the cost of medical attendance and nursing, also permitting an Institution to take action should the mother neglect so to do.

The number of inmates dealt with by the Home is given in the following table for the period 1st September, 1896, to 31st August, 1897 :—

In Home 1st September, 1896	...	...	...	...	57
Admitted during year	...	...	...	...	132
Readmitted	...	...	...	...	78
					— 210
					267

How disposed of—

Sent to situations	...	...	...	...	70
Restored to friends	...	...	...	...	66
Sent to hospitals	...	...	...	...	6
Transferred to other Homes of the Society	...	...	...	...	19
Sent to Newington Asylum, &c.	...	...	...	...	4
Left of own accord	...	...	...	...	43
Deaths...	...	...	...	...	1
					— 209

Remaining in Home, 31st August, 1897 58

The daily average number of women was 54, and of children 30.

Ardill,
2844.

The large number of readmissions, it is explained, is caused by former inmates seeking the shelter of the Home when out of employment.

Spencer,
3154-9.

The midwifery department is in charge of a nurse, and is visited by an honorary medical officer "at least once a week, but usually oftener." The Medical Officer says the lying-in division is as suitable as it can be, except that he would like to have more room and more appliances. A building specially constructed for the purpose would be better, and as the obstetric ward should be kept apart from the rest of the Institution, he would like to see it in a different building adjacent to the present one. There is a danger of infection being introduced into the lying-in ward by the other inmates, but he states, "We endeavour to minimise it by making isolation wards in the neighbourhood of the obstetric ward, and by placing partitions and doors, so that in case of need the obstetric part of the Institution could be shut off from the rest; and, of course, other precautions are put in force as soon as the danger signal is sounded." When asked whether the danger was a very serious one, he replied, "It might become so, but I think that with the precautions that have now been adopted, and with careful conscientious people at work, the danger might be disregarded, or I would not attend the Institution." When he first attended the Institution some three years ago an epidemic of puerperal fever occurred, which resulted in "one or two deaths, but a dozen or more were attacked."

Spencer,
3174-3200.

It is evident that this Institution is open in some respects to similar objections to those which apply to the lying-in ward of the Benevolent Asylum, with which we have dealt in our recent Report on that Institution. Such Homes must always be open to serious objections and liable to abuse, and whether they exist with or without State aid they should be under strict Government supervision. The powers of inspection which are provided by the Children's Protection Act Amendment Act should be regularly exercised.

Provision is made at the Institution for the training and examination of nurses in midwifery. A fee of 15 guineas is charged to resident and 5 guineas to non-resident pupils. In February last there were five nurses under instruction. The course of instruction extends over three months. This time appears insufficient, especially in cases where there has been no prior training in a general hospital. Moreover the general surroundings among which the training is given are such as do not lend themselves to careful and efficient work.

We have paid a personal visit to this Home and to the adjacent laundry, and found in their condition striking evidence of the want of funds. These premises have on all sides appearances of penury and of want of proper management and care, conditions which in the case of the other Homes of the Society are even more forcibly apparent.

We noticed that, although there were resident at this Home a considerable number of women and children, including several sick inmates, adequate facilities had not been provided for the extinction of fire, and no advice had been obtained in respect thereto. We interrogated the Director on the subject, and were surprised at the unpractical manner in which he has regarded his responsibilities in the administration of a public institution. His evidence on the matter was as follows:—

2805. What provision have you made against fire? We have the baths on each landing kept full of water and buckets ready. We do not make any special provision in that regard.
2806. Have you no hose? No hose. The baths are filled at night, and the buckets are available if any outbreak should occur.
2807. Have not the committee ever considered the question of providing a hose? No.
2808. Have you ever had any report from the Fire Brigade as to the protection of the place from fire? No; I do not think we had a visit from the Fire Brigade at all.
2809. Is it not a very serious responsibility? There is an outlet at each end of the building which is provided with wide staircases. We have not looked upon it as a very serious responsibility.
2810. How many people are residing in the building at present, including officers? Seventy, besides the children.
2811. Might not a good many of these be very weak and unable to move in case of fire? Six or eight of them might be.
2812. And you have obtained no advice in the matter at all? We have not had any advice whatever.
2813. Do you not think it would be wise to take advice? I suppose that looking at it from one standpoint it would be.
2814. From what standpoint would it not be advisable? I do not know that it would be inadvisable from any standpoint. I do not object at all. It can be submitted to the committee. Personally, perhaps, I take a stand that most folk do not: I think that in most of these matters, by trusting in the God of salvation, we secure deliverance.
2815. Yes; but you see certain things can be done in regard to providing for the extinction of fire? Yes; I quite recognise that, but I have not at present seen any great necessity for any provision other than that which has been made.
2816. I do not say that there is; what I say is, that where you have seventy people—some children, some women in a weak state of health—it may be worth while for the committee to consider whether it should not take precautions against an outbreak of fire? I will bring the matter before the committee. It is a matter that did not strike me.
2817. It may be worth while to consider it? Yes; I recognise that.

OPEN ALL NIGHT REFUGE.

The object of this Refuge, which is located in Sussex-street, is to provide shelter for homeless women. The building occupied is an old dilapidated structure, very wretchedly furnished, and presenting a mean and forbidding aspect. It is in charge of one official—the Matron. The person who at present holds this office has only recently been appointed, and she informs us that the work is of so uncongenial a nature that she cannot continue for long in the position.

We evidently saw the place under its most favourable condition, as we were told by the Matron that she had had a great task to get things in order; that the house had been recently done up throughout, and that it was now scrubbed from top

to bottom daily by the inmates. Nevertheless it was far from clean, or in a satisfactory condition. We are bound to say, however, that the Matron appears to be doing her best under the most discouraging circumstances.

On the 7th February forty-two women slept in the Home, which is about the daily average number. An entry is made in a register each day of the names of the inmates sleeping in the Refuge, and of the meals there partaken of by them. Originally it was intended that the Refuge should provide women with shelter for a few nights only, but we learn that inmates are now occasionally there for several months, the reason given for their protracted stay being that lack of employment prevents their removal.

After having performed a certain amount of work about the Home in the morning, most of the women leave, presumably with the object of going to or seeking employment. Those who are able to obtain casual employment, and we understand there are several, are expected to give half of what they earn to the Institution.

The Matron informed us that although the house is not made a general resort by prostitutes, the inmates, with some exceptions, are of a very dissolute class, and the place is frequently the scene of disturbances amongst them. Many of them are drunkards, and of such a character that it is not safe to furnish the beds with sheets because of their being stolen. Women appear at the door at night and demand admission at what hour they please, telling the Matron that they will walk the streets as long as they like and she will have to admit them when they come.

Religious services are held several times a week, which we understand are usually conducted by Mr. or Mrs. Ardill. The inmates are compelled to attend these services, which the Matron tells us is the occasion of a considerable amount of trouble. The hall in which the services are held is at the rear of the Refuge, and at night beds are made up on the floor for those for whom room is not available in the house, and for women in a state of intoxication. Fifteen slept in this hall on the 7th February last.

Two of the women we saw working about the Home were pointed out to us as being mentally deficient.

The manner in which this Institution is conducted we regard as entirely unsatisfactory, and we are of opinion that the purpose it serves is of but little, if any, real value. In some cases it appears to be made merely a convenience of by women of vicious disposition, and we are inclined to think that, in some respects, it is calculated to do positive harm. The lack of discipline, and the squalid appearance of the house, can have anything but a salutary effect on the inmates, and no practical, intelligent effort is made to secure their reformation such as we find exhibited in the home for women conducted by the Salvation Army.

BABIES' HOME.

The Babies' Home, off the Newtown Road, is a cottage providing accommodation, which is usually fully occupied, for twenty-five infants. It was originally intended as a crèche, but it is now more generally used as a permanent home for children up to the age of 5 or 6 years. At the end of that time the children are transferred to the Home at Liverpool, referred to on page xxi. It is explained by the Director that the original intention of the Institution was departed from owing to there being a number of women prevented from obtaining situations in which they might keep their children with them. These women were becoming a permanent charge upon the Society, and it was resolved to receive their children into the Home, where they might see them regularly. We were, however, informed by the matron that only a few of the mothers ever came to see their children. A charge is made for the maintenance of the children, according to the ability of the parents to contribute. In the year ending 28th February, 1898, £103 was received on this account. The Home is open to sickly children, unless they are suffering from contagious diseases. It is visited by a medical officer, and also by a ladies' committee which is appointed by the general committee of the Society.

Ardill, 2939.

Ardill, 2944.

From

From the following evidence of the Director it appears that no record is now kept of the visits of the members of this Committee to the Home and of their comments upon its condition. This is an omission, we think, which should be at once rectified:—

2953. There is a ladies' committee? Yes; connected with the Babies' Home.
 2954. Who appoints that committee? The general committee appoint the ladies' committee.
 2955. How often does the ladies' committee visit the home? There is a visitation committee appointed. Two individuals are told off for each month to pay a weekly visit, and the committee visit once a month.
 2956. Is any record kept of their visits? I do not think there is.
 2957. Should there not be a book in which their visits could be recorded, as well as any remarks which they choose to make? They make remarks at the committee meetings.
 2958. But they are not on record;—suppose there was an inquiry in connection with the institution, and certain things were not recorded, they would not be in evidence, would they? You would have the ladies to give evidence.
 2959. You might not;—they might not be there? I am not certain about it now, but I believe that at one time a book was kept in which entries were made of their visits, but I do not think it is done now. I am certain it is not done now. The remarks became so uniform in their favourable statements that I suppose they dropped it.

The locality is hardly a suitable one for a number of young children, and a more favourable site and better premises could be secured elsewhere at the rental now being paid. We are of opinion, however, that the more permanent inmates could be better dealt with under the State Children Relief Board, and the children requiring temporary care at Randwick.

OUTDOOR RELIEF.

A form of outdoor relief is administered by the Society in the shape of payments of registry office fees, releasing clothing from pawn, purchasing clothing for those going to work, &c. Food is given in exceptional cases, but where relief is likely to be required for some time applicants are referred to other institutions. Rent is occasionally paid, usually in the case of boarding-house lodgers whose clothes have been detained in consequence of their payments being in arrear. Ardill, 2738-58.

The relief is in most cases granted by the Director on his own responsibility, and he reports to his committee monthly. The total amount expended in outdoor relief is a small one, as the Director considers "that there are at present quite sufficient agencies at work to cope with all deserving cases of distress in need of grants of food, &c., if such agencies were properly organised and in touch with each other." In 1898, the money spent in affording out-door relief amounted only to £116 5s. 10d. Ardill, 2755-6.
Ardill, 2736.

JUBILEE HOME.

The object of this Home is stated to be "to provide means of escape from the allurements of city life for friendless, virtuous young women arriving in Sydney from the country districts or elsewhere." Ardill, 2721-2.

Women from the country are met on their arrival at the railway station or wharf by an officer of the Society, and an endeavour is made to obtain situations for them through the registry offices. Admission is also given to women from the city in the case, for example, of a discharged hospital patient who is without funds. Ardill, 2728.

There is a nominal charge of 10s. a week for board and lodging, but the total amount received from the inmates is not more than £10 or £12 a year at the outside. A complete record had not been kept of the number that passed through the Home last year, but it is said by the Director to be approximately thirty-six. At one time the operations of this Institution were more extensive, but since its removal to the premises in which the offices of the Society are located there has only been accommodation for two or three, instead of twenty as heretofore. Ardill, 2731-2.
Ardill, 3117.

A member of the Committee pointed out that the "Jubilee Home is a very small business," and he did not think it need be advertised as one of the branches of the Society. Wilson, 3257.

DISCHARGED

DISCHARGED PRISONERS' MISSION.

The operations of this branch are referred to in the Society's last report as follows:—

“The necessity for this branch of our service, known as the Discharged Prisoners' Mission, has been more than ever demonstrated since the cessation of the operations of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society. Though we have not had a home to which to invite the men and women on release from the city gaols, we have had numerous appeals from those released for assistance, and, so far as possible, with the means at our disposal, have endeavoured to aid them. The difficulty of securing employment for such has been intensified through the great depression in trade, yet numbers have been assisted to regain a footing in society, and have been saved from a return to criminal courses. We are hoping to be enabled to recommence the daily visitation of both Darlinghurst and Biloela Gaols, and to arrange that every prisoner released shall be met immediately they leave the gaol gates, and then offered assistance before the evil influence of former associates and the insidious temptations to a return to the former evil life have to be encountered.”

Ardill, 2980. The Director states that released female prisoners are sent to the Open All Night Refuge, and lodgings are found for the men in premises contiguous to the Society's office. The number of men for whom employment is found in a year is said to be “not more than twenty.” As in the case of the Jubilee Home, a satisfactory record had not been kept of the number of persons assisted by this “Mission.”

Wilson, 3260. We have already referred to the fact that scarcity of funds led to a discontinuance of agencies of relief that were established some years ago in connection with this branch.

WOMEN'S CRUSADE.

Ardill, 2972-83. This department is worked from a house at 36, Wexford-street, where the “Mission Visitors” reside. The Director describes it as a mission work amongst the outcasts in the city, to influence them to enter the various institutions.

The reports of the Society state: “The Crusade undertakes the work of visitation of opium dens, houses of ill-fame, police cells, courts, asylums and hospitals, parades of the lost and erring, &c., &c.”

Ardill, 2981. It is in evidence that over 3,000 meals, consisting of tea and bread and butter, are distributed throughout the year on Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday to occupants of police cells.

The entire cost of this branch, as at present carried on, is said to be about £100 per annum.

GOSPEL UNION.

Ardill, 2678. This is termed “An agency for the dissemination of the gospel.” A hall adjoining the Refuge in Sussex-street is used for meetings of a religious character, which are regularly attended, it is said, by many who have passed through the homes and are now in situations.

Ardill, 2995. At times the hall is used for shelter when the other homes are fully occupied.

Open-air meetings, it is stated in the report, have been held at George and Hay Streets before each service in the hall, and also on Saturday evenings in Wexford-street.

SOCIETY FOR PROVIDING HOMES FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

BRANCHES.

"OUR CHILDREN'S HOMES, LIVERPOOL."

From the name given to this Institution, it might be concluded that there is more than one building for the reception of children; such, however, is not the case.

The children received are principally those of widows and deserted wives, but Ardill, 3000. we are informed that at this institution, as well as at the Babies' Home, Newtown, and Boys' Home, Camden, a certain number of the children are in only temporary need of shelter and care, owing to sickness or other temporary disability on the part of parents. Boys are admitted of ages from 5 to 9 years, and girls from 5 to 14 years.

The staff consists of a matron, an assistant, a cook, and a servant who combines the positions of dairyman and gardener. Ardill, 3013.

The area of the site is a little over 3 acres in extent, enabling a small dairy to be maintained.

It was originally intended that the Home should not contain more than 24 children, but that number has been greatly exceeded, there being as many as 47 residing there in September last.

The education of the children is provided for by their attendance at the local public school.

The condition of this Home indicates the inadequacy of the Society's funds for its proper maintenance. When first visited it was found to be in an extremely dilapidated state, and not a fit habitation for a number of young children. When subsequently seen we found a slight improvement had been made, but the place still presented an appearance of squalor and of great want of cleanliness and order. The Society evidently recognises the unfitness of the premises when we find in their report the statement that the building is entirely unsuited for the work. Appeals have been made for funds to enable a new building to be erected, but they have "not hitherto been responded to very liberally."

"OUR BOYS' FARM HOMES, CAMDEN."

At present the designation of this Institution is a misnomer in two respects. There is only one Home, and no facilities whatever exist there for the training of the inmates in farming operations. The property, which is a gift from the late Mr. W. H. Paling, consists of a two-storied house and 1 acre of land.

The Director states: "Mr. Paling's intention was to have 60 or 80 acres," but Ardill, 3046. when it was found that the land could not be secured the boys were sent to the neighbouring farmers and nurseries for instruction, returning to the Home at night. This was not found to be satisfactory and was discontinued. There were seventeen Ardill, 3053-7. boys in the Home in September last of ages varying from 11 to 14 years, all of whom attended the public school. Apart from their school hours they are employed Ardill, 3086-7. 3330-3. in the ordinary housework of the Institution and in keeping the ground around the building in order. Occasionally some of the boys are sent to neighbours to help in household and other work. About 1s. a day is charged for each boy's services, and the money, it is said, is spent upon the boys themselves, and not passed to the funds of the Institution. At the age of 14 situations are found for the boys on stations and farms.

The only official at the Home is the matron, recently appointed from one of the other institutions.

On

On visiting the Institution we found it imperfectly equipped and the building much in need of paint. It was far from clean, and showed no evidence of care or orderly management.

Ardill,
3071-7.
Ardill,
3148-51.
Ardill, 3328.

In the case of the Liverpool Home an official inspection is made almost every week, but the Camden Home is not inspected more than once a month. Mr. Ardill says, "I admit it should be inspected more frequently. For this purpose we have, unfortunately, no Government pass and the cost is not always charged to the Institution. I inspect it without charging, and I cannot always find 5s. 11d. to do it."

Mr. Ardill's personal inability to bear the cost of visiting this Home at Camden does not relieve the Society from its responsibility, and the fact that the Home has not been more frequently inspected shows that the Society is unable to efficiently perform the duties it undertakes.

GENERAL REMARKS.

These Societies, like those we have already reported upon, are not under Government supervision, and we believe that had they had the advantage of an organised system of Government inspection and control they would have been saved some of the difficulties in which they are now involved, and they would either have been more efficiently administered or closed. We have already pointed out the inadequacy of the funds to efficiently carry out all the objects of these Societies, and with regard to the management generally we are led to the conclusion that the exercise of a more active administrative authority on the part of the committee is necessary.

The present management appears to us unsystematic and in many other respects faulty, and not calculated to secure the ultimate aims of intelligent charitable administration.

The Sydney Rescue Work Society is endeavouring to encompass a work similar to that performed by the Salvation Army, but a careful comparison of the two Institutions clearly shows that whereas the latter undertakes its work in a practical manner, exhibiting a true knowledge of human nature, the administration of the former is conducted in a haphazard way, the result of the lack of proper organisation and the ever present burden of pecuniary difficulties.

INSTITUTIONS CONTROLLED BY THE SALVATION ARMY.

The Government have, in each of the past two years, granted the sum of £300 to aid the Salvation Army in what is termed its "Social Work" in this Colony.

The objects of this branch of the Salvation Army's operations are to afford eleemosynary aid to reputable persons, and to assist and elevate to a better life men and women who have fallen from the paths of rectitude. Organised corps of female workers are engaged amongst the slums and poorer quarters of the metropolis, and institutions are provided for the reception of the erring who can be induced to enter or who voluntarily ask for help.

The spirit which animates the officers employed in the work is one evidently of devotion to the aim they have in view. No consideration of personal gain can enter into the performance of their work, for we find throughout that the remuneration received is insignificant.

We have visited the metropolitan homes connected with the social work, and it has been a pleasure to witness their excellent condition and the fine organisation and discipline which are displayed in their management.

We

We can apply no more apt remark as a general conclusion drawn from our own observations on the institutions here than that made by Professor Blackie in 1897, after visiting some of the Army's institutions in the United Kingdom. He said, "I found all the operations carried on with the vigour and unwearied energy that are characteristic of the Salvation Army, and with a business precision and regularity rare among such people of enthusiastic zeal. The sensational methods characteristic of other departments of their work are not to be found in their social operations."

The institutions we have inspected are the Industrial Farm, Manly; the Prison Gate Home, Enmore; the Rescue Home, Newtown; the Maternity Home, Burwood; and the People's Palace, Pitt-street.

In each of these Homes religious services are conducted by the Army, but it is quite optional on the part of the inmates whether they shall attend or not.

One of the main principles which the Army applies in all its institutions, is to make every able person helped render some service in return for the assistance received. It is contended, and we believe with perfect right "that active employment is an essential condition to the elevating of the individuals with whom they deal; in promoting within them a self-respect; and for the purpose of helping them in their future." Assistance afforded without this condition can have none other, as a general rule, than a pauperising influence.

THE INDUSTRIAL FARM, MANLY.

The Farm consists of about 1,300 acres of land, situated on the Pittwater Road. The property has been given to the Army, subject to the payment of a small annuity during the life of the owner.

Operations were commenced there about two years ago, since when about 35 acres have been put under cultivation as a market garden, and another portion has been partly cleared. An excellent piggery has also been established, containing about 150 pigs.

The object of the Farm is to fit and train men in occupations which will enable them to secure situations elsewhere. Any man able and willing to work is received, regardless of what may have been his former occupation. Good food and shelter are provided, and small weekly gratuities are given as an incentive to the men to exert themselves and to provide them with means on leaving. The institution is thus helpful to the unskilled labourer, and to the man unable to find employment in occupations for which he has been trained; in addition to which it offers to those who, from their own fault or otherwise, have sunk in life, a stepping-stone to better things.

In an airy, clean room, furnished with well appointed and clean beds, there is good sleeping accommodation for about twenty-four men. There is also a reading and smoking room. On the date of our first visit (31st January) only fifteen were employed at the Farm. This is a surprising fact in the light of the statements recently made regarding the large number of unemployed men in Sydney. We were informed by the officer in charge that although unemployed men had been given the opportunity to go to the Farm, some had refused, seeming to prefer a life of idleness in town to one of industry.

The Farm is not intended as a place for the permanent occupation of the men, but after three or four months' training they are induced to take situations elsewhere, and thus make room for others needing similar help.

The produce of the Farm is sold at the market rates. As is the case with all the Army's institutions, a strong endeavour is made to make the Farm self-supporting, and although the capital outlay has been rather large, the success which has attended the operations of the Farm convinces the management that this end will soon be attained.

We

We have been furnished with a return of the receipts and expenses for 1898, as follows:—

To Expenditure for maintenance, &c.	£936	3	9
„ 5 per cent. on £600, cost of new buildings, &c., 1898	£30	0	0
„ 10 per cent. depreciation on £162 16s. 7d., value of plant and furniture... ..	16	5	8
			46 5 8
			£982 9 5
Income from all sources	339	8	2
			£643 1 3

Average weekly number of inmates, 13.

Average cost per head per annum, £49 9s. 4d.

The cost per head appears high ; but it was not until the latter half of the year that the Farm became reproductive to any extent, and much better results are expected in future.

PRISON GATE HOME.

A striking feature of the Army's operations is the excellent way in which the institutions are housed. Large and well-constructed dwelling-houses, around which small tenements have sprung up, are sought after by the Army and usually obtained at low rentals, or small cost if purchased. Their buildings are suitably and well furnished, and kept in admirable order. It is their practice to have the house work finished early in the morning, after which the inmates are employed in the various occupations carried on in each Home.

The Prison Gate Home is situated in Edgeware Road, Enmore. It is a fine house, with about 18 acres of ground attached.

The inmates received are mostly from gaols, but inebriates and others are occasionally admitted. The normal accommodation provided by the Home is for thirty-two inmates, but at the time of our visit (3rd February) there were four in excess of that number. To a large number of men the shelter afforded by this Home must be an inestimable boon, and the general good conduct displayed by the inmates is indicative of their appreciation of the timely assistance rendered to them. We were told, as a pleasing fact, that there had not been a single attempt at stealing the property of the Army.

The manner in which the inmates are employed is interesting. Large sacks are distributed amongst warehouses, tailoring establishments, dwelling-houses, &c., as receptacles for waste material of all sorts, which is collected periodically by the Institution. On delivery at the Home it is sorted and dealt with in accordance with the purpose for which it is to be used. Rags and paper are sold to the paper mills; cardboard of sufficient size is made into boxes for use at the Army's stores; hoop iron and other old iron is sold to foundries; kerosene tins and sheet galvanised iron are made up into household tinware; bottles are disposed of, and wood (old packing cases, &c.) is cut and made up into bundles of fire kindlers. The larger pieces of wood are used for making toys. The collections from private houses frequently contain articles of use, which are sorted and sold at the Home once a week.

A poultry-yard and flower garden also afford employment and are further sources of revenue.

After a period of residence at the Home, which on the average is between one and two months, the inmates seek employment, or situations are obtained for them by the Army. From 200 to 250 men pass through the Home in a year, and as far as possible an endeavour is made to keep in touch with them after leaving.

The cost per inmate per annum at this Home in 1898 is arrived at from the following figures, supplied by the Army :—

To Expenditure for maintenance, 1898	£989 17 8
„ 5 per cent. on £178 2s. 2d., cost of furnishings, 1898	£8 18 1
„ 10 per cent. depreciation on £535 18s. 11d., value of plant and furniture... ..	53 11 10
	62 9 11
Total cost of maintenance	£1,043 7 7
Income from all sources	936 10 2
	£106 17 5

Average weekly number of inmates, 28½.

Average weekly cost per head per annum, £3 15s.

RESCUE HOME.

This institution is situated in Wells-street, Newtown. Like the Prison Gate Home, the building occupied was at one time a private dwelling house, which is now out of keeping with its surroundings. The operations of the Home have outgrown the accommodation provided, and fresh premises are being sought capable of housing about forty inmates. On the 3rd February last, when we visited the Home, there were twenty-two inmates, which is one more than there is convenient room for.

The inmates are received direct from gaols and from the police or are assigned to the Home by Magistrates. The Police Courts are attended by Army officers for the express purpose of speaking on behalf of accused women and securing their admission to the Home. Women are also brought to the Home by the Slum and League of Mercy officers, and others personally seek admission. Intoxication appears to be the most prevalent cause to which the admission of inmates is attributable.

In addition to the housework, the inmates are employed in laundry and needlework, from which sources the expenses of the Home are very largely defrayed.

After a period of three months' residence, situations are, if possible, obtained for the inmates. The institution is frequently made a home by ex-inmates who seek its shelter when out of employment.

The House is excellently kept, and by cleanliness, discipline, and careful control, the Army endeavours to induce a healthy mental condition and self-respect in the inmates.

The receipts and expenses of this Institution in 1898 were as under :—

To Expenditure for maintenance	£443 16 1
„ 10 per cent. depreciation on £268 9s. 10s., value of furnishings ...	26 16 11
	£470 13 0
Income for the year 1898	257 13 6
	£212 19 6

Average weekly number of inmates, 19.

Average cost per head per annum, £11 4s. 2d.

MATERNITY HOME.

This Home is located in the Lucas Road, Burwood. The house is a large one with ample ground surrounding it. A visit to the Home dispels at once the objections, which can in cases be made against similar institutions elsewhere. It is an excellently appointed place, and scrupulous cleanliness and order pervades the whole.

The inmates admitted are only those about to be confined the first time. There is accommodation for twenty-six women. On the date of our visit (3rd February), there were twenty women and ten infants in the Home, together with six female officers.

A local medical practitioner attends in an honorary capacity when required.

The spare time of the inmates is employed in laundry work and sewing, a large amount of the work done being that needed for other institutions and branches of the Army.

As soon after confinement as is desirable the inmates are returned to friends, or situations are found for them. In all cases the inmates take their infants with them on leaving.

The following statement has been furnished to us of the cost of this Home :—

To Expenditure for maintenance, 1898	£360 3 4
„ 5 per cent. on £334 5s. 6d., cost of new furnishings, &c., 1898 ...	16 14 3
„ 10 per cent. depreciation on £324 10s., value of old furnishings ...	32 9 0
	<hr/>
	£409 6 7
Income for the year 1898	137 4 4
	<hr/>
	£272 2 3

Average weekly number of inmates, 16.

Average cost per head per annum, £17 0s. 1d.

THE PEOPLE'S PALACE.

The People's Palace, in Pitt-street, has recently been opened, and will continue the operations hitherto performed at the Workmen's Hotel, Darling Harbour. It is an institution which meets, in an eminently practical way, the difficulties of providing the poor with wholesome food and shelter, amidst surroundings of cleanliness and order.

The building occupied is that which formerly was known as the Natatorium Coffee Palace and Swimming Baths. With a few alterations it has been made very suitable for the purpose to which it is now put. It is divided into two main sections—one for men, the other for women, the former being much the larger.

On the men's side, the two old baths have been converted into a large shelter, which provides 266 beds (made up in bunks), a dining-room, lavatory, library and reading room, and a box-room for storing the effects of those using the shelter. A charge of 3d. per night is made per bed, and in the dining-room various dishes can be obtained from the cost of a half-penny upwards. In a portion of the shelter (the galleries above the old baths), kept distinct from the main dormitory, there are other beds, for which 6d. and 9d. a night are charged; each of the latter being in a separate room. Several beds are also provided for boys in a separate corridor, for which the charge is 2d. a night.

A special room has been set apart for the reception of intoxicated men needing shelter.

In the hotel portion of the building there are rooms which are let at 5s. a week, and others from 1s. to as high as 3s. a night, according to the kind of accommodation provided. There is a separate dining-room for the occupants of these rooms.

The provision of a better class of accommodation than that afforded by the shelter is the result of experience gained by the Army at their other institutions. Men whose condition has improved after a residence at the shelter have expressed a desire for better things, while at the same time loth to remove themselves from the care of the Army. It is with a view of meeting this desire and promoting the self-respect of the men, that the People's Palace is arranged on its present plan.

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In the event of an applicant for a meal or bed not having the wherewithal to pay for it, he is given the opportunity of earning the required amount at the Army's wood-yard. This is at present located at Darling Harbour, but the basement of the Palace will soon be made available for the purpose. In this basement there are fumigating chambers for cleaning the beds and bedding when necessary.

The beds provided for 3d. in the shelter are already all occupied, and also many of the other beds throughout the building, so that the financial success of the institution is looked forward to with confidence.

In the women's section there are sixty beds, some of which are let for 3d. and some for 6d. a night. On the evening before our visit (8th February) twenty women had availed themselves of the shelter. A dining-room is also provided here, but up to the time of our visit breakfast only had been partaken of by the inmates, before leaving the institution for the day. A room is specially set apart, as in the men's quarter, for the reception of intoxicated women. In the basement of this section a laundry has been fitted up for the purpose of giving employment to respectable women.

In connection with the Palace, books of tickets can be purchased by the charitable public for distribution to persons seeking their aid, each ticket entitling the holder to a 3d. bed or meal. By arrangement with the institution, persons presenting the tickets will be required to earn the value of the relief or otherwise in accordance with the wish of the purchaser of the tickets.

The Salvation Army controls two other Rescue Homes for women, in Bathurst and Newcastle, which we have not visited. We are informed that they are conducted in a similar manner to the one in Sydney. The following is a statement furnished to us of the cost of these Institutions:—

Bathurst.

To Expenditure for maintenance	£194	8	5
„ 5 per cent. on £13, cost of new furnishings, &c., 1898...	0	13	0
„ 10 per cent. depreciation on £143 2s. 4d., value of furnishings	14	6	2
	£209	7	7
Income for the year 1898	107	4	7
	£102	3	0

Average weekly number of inmates, 6.

Average cost per head per annum, £17 0s. 6d.

Newcastle.

To Expenditure for maintenance	£148	8	2
„ 10 per cent. depreciation on £106 14s. 3d., value of furnishings	10	13	5
	£159	1	7
Income for the year 1898	40	8	7

Average number of inmates per week, 5.

Average cost per head per annum, £23 14s. 7d.

CITY NIGHT REFUGE AND SOUP KITCHEN.

In this Institution, which is situated in Kent-street, provision is made for the nightly shelter of destitute men and women. In the men's quarters there are 122 beds, and in a separate building 16 beds are provided for women and their children. This accommodation is frequently fully occupied, especially in the colder months of the year. At the time of our visit, 2nd March, only about ten of the beds for women were occupied at night. The smallness of the number the Matron thought was due to the fact that employment was just then more easily procurable.

The men leave the building in the morning between 6 and 7 o'clock. Except on Sundays no meal is given in the morning, but at noon the doors of the Institution are opened and a meal of soup and bread is provided, which is partaken of by some 230 to 240 men altogether.

The women before leaving in the morning are given tea and biscuits and at mid-day another meal is provided.

The doors are opened again at night admitting men between 7 and 9 o'clock in the winter and 8 and 9 o'clock in the summer. Women are admitted between 6 and 7 o'clock.

In the year ending 30th June last, on a daily average 131 persons slept at the Refuge and 292 obtained meals.

No person is allowed admission in an intoxicated condition and proper provision is made for the cleanliness of those who enter.

The Institution is in charge of a Manager and a Matron, and they are assisted in the work of the place by certain inmates to whom gratuities, varying from 3s. to 14s. a week, are paid. The premises are kept in a very clean and orderly manner.

An endeavour is made to secure situations for the people who seek the shelter of the Refuge.

The Refuge is at present often made a resort by men and women from Government Asylums. They avail themselves of the shelter for a few nights, expressing their intention of trying to secure employment. When this is not obtained, as is usually the case, they return to the Asylums. It is very undesirable that persons of that class should be allowed to leave the Government Asylums only to become a burden on other Charitable Institutions, and the adoption of stringent measures is necessary to prevent people leaving unless there are sufficient grounds for assuming that they can obtain employment or be maintained by relations or friends.

The City Night Refuge has this year been granted a sum of £300 by the Government. Its receipts in the year ending 30th June, 1898, amounted to £510 4s. 4d., and expenses to £848 19s. 7d., including £200 for a new steam boiler. The financial year closed with a sum of £2,173 18s. 1d. standing to the credit of the Perpetual Fund Account, and £113 7s. 7d. deposited in the Savings Bank of New South Wales. Considerable contributions in kind are received by the Refuge.

No work is demanded in return for the relief afforded; and we think this matter should engage the attention of those in charge of the Institution. A rule to this effect, carefully enforced, should, in our opinion, be one of the conditions upon which Government aid is granted.

SYDNEY NIGHT REFUGE AND REFORMATORY.

The Sydney Night Refuge and Reformatory is located in Francis-street, Woolloomooloo. It consists of a dwelling house in which the Manager resides, and of a rough outbuilding where destitute men can sleep in a room on the first floor. There are no beds or furniture in this latter place, it being in fact a bare room, on the floor of which the men lie. There are neither mattresses, beds, nor pillows, and the only covering furnished to each man is a blanket and rug, both very much worn.

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In this room we are told about thirty-six men are nightly received, and it appears to us much too small for such a number, the space being considerably under 200 cubic feet per man. There are no baths provided, and other appliances for personal cleanliness are scanty and insufficient.

The "reformatory work" seems to consist mainly, if not solely, of services delivered to the men every evening by gentlemen connected with various religious denominations; but the attendance of the men at these services is not made compulsory.

Only "decent men" it is said are admitted, a great many being seafaring men. One meal only—breakfast—is given, which consists of dry bread and tea. The men come in at 6 o'clock in the evening and all leave by 6:30 in the morning, with the exception of the one or two kept behind to clean the premises.

The report of the Institution informs us that an annual meeting is held, and that at the last one a committee of eleven gentlemen was appointed to conduct its affairs.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenses for the year ending 31st December, 1898.

Receipts.				Expenditure.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Subscriptions and donations ...	125	17	0	Balance from 1897 ...	...	...	14 13 4
Legacy ...	10	10	0	Bread ...	44	1	1
Balance ...	8	7	4	Groceries ...	19	1	11
							63 3 0
				Collector's commission ...	12	10	0
				Fuel and light ...	18	7	8
				Interest ...	14	17	6
				Repairs ...	12	12	5
				Printing, insurance, and sundries ...	8	10	5
							66 18 0
							£144 14 4
							£144 14 4

There is a mortgage on the premises of £850.

This institution has recently been granted a sum of £50 by the Government.

The Refuge is not performing any work which is not better done by other institutions in the city; and we think that places conducted on such lines as the one in question, rather than being agencies for good, tend to foster a class of men who so long as they can subsist by the aid of charity will not seek work.

INFANTS' HOME.

This Institution was established in 1874 as the "Sydney Foundling Hospital," by which name it was known till 1877. In 1876 it became possessed of the property now occupied at Ashfield, which was in part a gift from the late Mr. Thomas Walker. Since that time considerable improvements have been made by the erection of new buildings, &c. The main object of the Institution is to provide a temporary home for unmarried girls after the birth of their first infants. No woman is received a second time. Foundlings and the younger children of widows, widowers, and others whose parents are unable to give them proper care are also admitted.

While retained in the Institution nursing their children the women are trained in domestic work, and no difficulty is experienced in obtaining situations for them with their infants at the end of their period of residence, which usually extends over nine or ten months.

The control of this Institution is entirely in the hands of ladies, who are to be commended for the interest they take in its welfare and for the careful attention they give to all the details of management. The Matron is a competent official, and the condition of the Home and of its inmates testifies to the efficient manner in which her duties are discharged.

The

The infant mortality for the past four years is given in the Society's Annual Reports, as under :—

1894...	...	...	...	14·6 per cent.
1895...	...	...	...	15·2 „
1896...	...	...	...	13·9 „
1897...	...	...	...	7·4 „

The low death-rate in 1897 is largely accounted for by the fact of the Home not having been visited by any epidemic. With one exception, it is the lowest death-rate since the opening of the Home.

The Institution is regularly visited by an honorary medical officer.

In the year 1896 the Home sheltered 53 mothers and 114 children, and in 1897, 68 mothers and 121 children. At the time of the Commission's visit, in May last, the number of inmates was 86—29 adults and 57 children. The mothers on leaving the Home are in all cases required to take their children with them. Of those discharged in 1897, 16 were returned to their friends, and situations were found for 25.

Infants admitted without their mothers are maintained in the Home up to the age of 4 years. At the end of that time, if not previously adopted, those who have friends or relatives are returned to their care, and the remainder, including the foundlings, are handed over to the State to be boarded out.

For the elder children, a Kindergarten class is now in operation. A small dairy is worked in conjunction with the Institution, and it is found of great advantage.

The subsidy granted by the Government is at the rate of £1 for every £1 collected by the Institution, limited, however, to £500.

The receipts and expenses of the Home for the past two years have been as follow :—

<i>Receipts.</i>				1896.	1897.
Government subsidy	...	...	...	£236	£500
Subscriptions and donations	...	...	...	602	520
Receipts from or on behalf of inmates	...	...	...	104	56
Interest and dividends	...	...	...	297	118
Other receipts	...	...	...	16	43
				£1,305	£1,237
<i>Expenses.</i>					
Provisions, clothing, drugs, &c. (including fodder)	...	...	...	£330	£382
Salaries, wages, and commission	...	...	...	377	342
Fuel and light	...	...	...	67	102
Stationery, printing, &c.	...	...	...	25	44
Repairs and furniture	...	...	...	66	77
Improvements	...	...	...	245	213
Other expenses	...	...	...	66	76
				£1,176	£1,236

The Institution closed the year 1897 with the sum of £1,596 to its credit, most of which was deposited in the Savings Bank of New South Wales.

Though we cannot but feel that some of the objects and aims of this Institution are such as come more properly under the operation of private benevolence, they are also in a great measure such as are met from the funds provided by the Poor Law Administration in England and other countries. Our inquiries, and the knowledge gained in visiting a number of the maternity homes, have convinced us of the necessity for some provision for the class dealt with by this institution. Indeed it would appear that the operations of the institution might with benefit be extended so as to provide for a larger number of inmates—both women and children.

CENTRAL MISSION CHILDREN'S HOME.

This Institution is located in Woolloomooloo-street, and was established between five and six years ago. It has for its object the reception and care of deserted and neglected children. Children are received not younger, as a rule, than 12 months of age nor older than 5 years in the case of boys, and 12 in the case of girls. Some are received into the institution through the agency of Magistrates and the Police. Those of an age to attend are sent to the local public school, being accompanied to and from by an officer of the Institution. The children leave the Home only on being adopted by reputable persons without children of their own, and we are informed that no difficulty is experienced in satisfactorily disposing of them in this manner. About seventy children have passed through the Home, and, where possible, they are visited every three months, with the object of ascertaining whether they are being properly cared for.

When the Home was visited by the Commission, there were twenty-three inmates, whose ages varied from 14 months to 14 years. They appeared healthy and intelligent, and were evidently the subjects of careful treatment by the Matron. The premises, however, are not suitable for the purposes of a home for children, inasmuch as the accommodation is inadequate, the locality is an unfavourable one, and there is no ground connected with the building for the recreation of the inmates. An endeavour is being made to alter these conditions by procuring premises in one of the suburbs. A building fund has been started with this object, towards which a sum of £451 had been given up to the end of September last.

The Home is controlled by a Committee of ladies, who display a very great interest in the welfare of the inmates, and to their personal efforts the financial support of the institution is largely due. A grant of £100 a year is received from the Government, and apart from the monetary contributions of the public, a considerable amount of support is afforded the Home by the donation of gifts in kind and the provision of a house rent free.

Although this institution is carrying out useful work in a manner to which no great exception can be taken, it does not appear that, except in assisting to procure the adoption of the children, it is doing anything which is not undertaken by the State Children Relief Board, and carried out in a manner more conducive to the welfare of the children themselves. Under these circumstances, whilst there can be little objection to the Institution if supported entirely by private funds, we are unable to recommend the continuance of Government aid.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S HOME FOR DESTITUTE BOYS, WESTMEAD.

This Institution has now been in existence between seven and eight years. It was first started in Riley-street, Sydney, from whence it was moved to Five Dock a year later. In 1896 the property at Westmead was acquired and occupied. It is situated near Parramatta, in an elevated position. There is an area of 21 acres of land, and at the time of purchase the buildings consisted of a two-storied brick building, and a detached wooden building. Since then, however, other structures have been erected.

On the date of our visit, the 10th March, there were 76 boys in the Home, which is a larger number than there is proper accommodation for. The dormitories are overcrowded, and beds for about one-third of the lads are made up on the floor. Consequent upon the want of room, many applications for admission, we are informed, have had to be refused.

The officers controlling the Home have in view the early erection of a new building, and it is to be hoped that due provision, which is now absent, will be made for cleanliness and order in the dormitories and elsewhere.

It is the intention to provide accommodation, as funds become available, for 250 or 300 boys. The aggregation of so large a number under one roof has been shown by the experience of other institutions to be open to many objections, and it may be questioned whether the best results can be expected from the adoption of such a scheme.

The object the Institution has in view is to receive destitute and neglected children, and, in addition to giving them a scholastic education, to train them thoroughly in trades at which they may earn their livelihood in after life. There are workshops for instruction in carpentering, tailoring, bootmaking, tinsmithing, and, those to which most attention is now paid, printing and broom-making. The articles produced, except such as are required in the Home, are disposed of at market rates, and it is hoped that in time the Institution will be largely self-supporting.

In the last annual report of the Institution it is mentioned that the teaching of useful trades to the boys is one of the main reasons for the existence of the Home, and the report further says: "In an excellent discourse delivered at the Home in September last, His Eminence the Cardinal laid very special stress on this fact, and the weighty words then used by him may be said to have been constantly before the minds of the Committee. His Eminence said that *if the Home were to be regarded as a mere depôt for the reception of friendless and destitute lads, he could not possibly give it his sympathy and support; and it was only by becoming a great centre for the imparting of systematic trade teaching that it could realise the hopes entertained for it by its friends and supporters.*"

With this view we are thoroughly in accord, and it is only on the ground of the industrial training which the Institution affords that any claim to State aid can be based.

We do not think boys should be received into this Home until they are about 12 years of age, that being the age at which they can no longer, under the Act, be received and dealt with by the State Children Relief Board. Before that time they are better cared for by women, and under the boarding-out system, than in a large institution.

The Committee which controls this Institution is composed of members drawn from the various conferences of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the internal management is entrusted to the Marist Brothers. Although the direction is thus under Roman Catholic auspices the inmates are received without regard to creed.

The Government aid the work of the Home by a subsidy granted on the usual conditions, but limited to £250. The Institution is economically conducted, which is largely due to the self-denying labours of the Marist Brothers, who give their services at a nominal cost.

SYDNEY FEMALE MISSION HOME.

This Institution, which is situated at Pymont Bridge Road, Glebe, was established in 1873. Its object is to provide a home for single women before and after confinement. When near confinement the women are sent to the Benevolent Asylum, Pitt-street, where they are attended to during the lying-in period, and then sent back to the Home with their infants. Admission is given only to women about to be confined the first time, and an endeavour is made to secure their future welfare by precept in the Home, and by obtaining for them situations with their offspring in positions where an interest for their good will be taken in them by their employers. We are informed that the wage which is usually received in the situations thus obtained is 5s. a week, and that there is no difficulty in securing employment for the women at that rate.

The Home provides accommodation for fourteen inmates. The number of women admitted and discharged in 1898, was as under :—

In the Home 1st January, 1898	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Fresh admissions	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Re-admitted	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
							88
Sent to service	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Sent to friends	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Sent to Ashfield Home	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Married	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
In the Home, 31st December, 1898...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
							88

The number of re-admissions is accounted for by the fact that in the event of ex-inmates losing their situations, and having nowhere else to go to, the Home affords them shelter until fresh employment can be found. The inmates are sometimes received as long before their confinement as six months, and are occasionally allowed to remain for long periods after. At the time of our visit one of the children in the Home was 14 months old, and its mother was still an inmate of the Institution.

The Home, which at the time of our visit we found clean and in fair order, is economically managed by a Committee of ladies, but the rent paid (£100 per annum) appears excessive, considering the amount of accommodation for the inmates. The Committee is not elected annually, and when a vacancy occurs it is filled by the appointment of a nominee of the sitting members.

Some difficulty is experienced in raising sufficient funds from the public for the support of the Home, and but for the Government subsidy, which was first granted in 1896, it is stated that it might have been necessary to close the Institution.

The principal work done by this Institution appears to us to overlap that carried on by other subsidised organisations, and, in our opinion, it should not be assisted by a Government subsidy.

NEWCASTLE AND NORTHUMBERLAND BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The Newcastle and Northumberland Benevolent Society, which was established in 1884, is the largest institution of its kind in the Colony out of Sydney. Located in the chief city of the north—a shipping port and centre of a great coal-mining district, which has been subjected to many trade disturbances—the calls upon its aid are numerous, both in respect of permanent residents and the migratory population which is incidental to a great seaport.

Its primary object is to afford outdoor relief in the shape of food, clothing, &c., &c., to the destitute; but it has an Asylum for the aged and infirm, where provision is also made for the confinement of women.

The Commission visited the Society's premises at Newcastle and Waratah, and examined the principal officers connected with its administration.

The management of the Institution is conducted by honorary officials, consisting of the President, the Honorary Treasurer, and a committee of ladies. These officers take an active interest in their work, and, as we shall explain hereafter, the ladies, besides collecting funds for the Institution, perform the whole of the inspection and many other duties in connection with the outdoor relief department without cost to the Society. The Society has been fortunate in the choice of its President, to whom its satisfactory position is largely due; and its Honorary Treasurer is an officer who brings good business methods and training to bear in the duties of his position, which are of an arduous nature.

The system of management we consider commendable, and the methods adopted in administering relief appear to be efficient.

There are only five paid officers on the staff—the secretary, the matron of the Asylum, an assistant matron, cook, and wardsman—all of whom are in receipt of small salaries.

Financial.

The accounts of the Institution are well kept, and are subjected to an independent audit. Economy appears to be exercised in all departments.

The receipts and expenses for the past two years are as follow :—

	Receipts.		Year ending 31 March.	
			1897.	1898.
From Government	*5,622	2,949
Subscriptions, donations, proceeds of entertainments	979	1,518
Receipts on behalf of inmates	93	171
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			6,694	4,638
Expenditure.				
Provisions, clothing, and medicine	2,708	2,659
Rent money, outdoor relief	344	285
Salaries, commission, gratuities, &c.	181	224
Rent and insurance	144	88
Printing, stationery, advertising, &c.	93	102
Fuel and light	9	24
Interest (balance of account)	155	180
Buildings and repairs	4,330	1,875
Other expenses	42	446
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			8,006	5,883

* Includes £3,000 special grant for building.

Lock,
2638-42.

The Asylum building at Waratah, including the cottage homes and improvements, cost £6,806 18s. 2d. Towards this amount the Government has contributed £5,000.

Outdoor Relief.

Lock, 2541.

In our Report on the Benevolent Society of New South Wales we referred to the different methods adopted by that Institution and the Newcastle Society in administering outdoor relief. In the former case the food supplies are distributed from a central store at the Society's Asylum. This system is inapplicable to the Newcastle Society's operations, mainly in view of the large area over which the Society affords relief. The ticket system is therefore adopted.

Lock, 2534.

Lock, 2543-4.

Lock, 2663.

Lock, 2560-6.

The Society divides the district which it serves into twenty-five sections, in each of which the administration of relief is entrusted to two lady visitors, who confine themselves strictly to the districts allotted to them. On a case of destitution being brought under their notice they make a full investigation of the applicant's circumstances and forward their report to the General Committee. Until the case is dealt with by that body they are authorised to grant temporary relief. The Committee decide on the amount of relief which shall continue to be granted. The visitors are afterwards expected to inspect and report upon each case at least once a month, and, said the Honorary Treasurer, they "are more often as not called upon for explanatory reports." The introduction of this frequent visitation, which is of somewhat recent date, led to the removal of several undeserving cases from the Society's books. The lady visitors are provided with books of tickets, which they issue, according to their instructions, to the beneficiaries. Each ticket has to be signed by both the visitors; and the storekeeper, whose name is mentioned on the ticket, is required to state thereon the articles obtained and their prices. Storekeepers are precluded from giving anything in the shape of luxuries, and there is no reason to suppose that they do not strictly observe this rule. At the end of every month the tickets, accompanied by an invoice, are returned by the storekeepers to the lady visitors. Each visitor then hands in these tickets, accompanied by a report on the cases dealt with by her, to the office of the Society. The tickets are examined, and if found correct a cheque for the amount they represent is given to the visitor who pays the storekeeper's account and forwards the receipt to the office.

This

This method provides a good check both on the storekeeper and the recipient of the relief against a wrongful use of the ticket, unless there were collusion between the two, which we consider is unlikely. The more or less intimate knowledge which both the lady visitors and the storekeepers have of the persons assisted is a further safeguard. As regards economy of purchase, the Honorary Treasurer says, "In our case we have compared the prices of the city and suburban stores, and we find but little difference; we find a disposition on the part of the local storekeepers to behave well; we find that the suburban stores are so much in touch with our wholesale places that they can sell just as well out at Minmi as in Newcastle." "Taking the general necessaries, we would not save anything by contract at all as applied to out-door relief." Lock, 2568.

There has been no complaint by the out pensioners in regard to the quality of the stores. "On the whole," he says, "we have to speak well of the generous treatment by the stores. That is because of dealing locally; most of the old pensioners are known by the storekeepers." "In some cases we grant 9d. a week for meat, and an old lady will go to the butcher and get a leg of mutton, but the butcher only gets his 9d." Lock, 2653-6.

There is no fixed scale of allowances, the Society, in granting relief, being governed by the circumstances of the applicants. In practice, however, it is usual to give 2s. 6d. a week to a single individual and 4s. to a married couple. The Society does not profess to give relief that will solely support, "because," says the Honorary Treasurer, "we do not believe in doing that which will take away their self-reliance." Lock, 2571-6.

While not prepared to venture an opinion generally as to the relative merits of the store and ticket systems, the Honorary Treasurer says that, so far as his Society is concerned, worked purely by volunteers, the ticket system is the best. The store system, he thinks, would tend to take away the interest of the lady visitors in their work; and he points out that purchasing in several quarters augments the contributions to the Society. Lock, 2567-8.

In a few cases money is granted for the purpose of paying rent, but, instead of being handed to the persons assisted, it is given direct to the landlord. Lock, 2577-82.

In addition to the relief granted in the manner described above, assistance is afforded direct from the office of the Society to destitute men in search of employment, who are said to be mostly seafaring men or men tramping the country to obtain work. Assistance is rendered to such men by providing them with meals (under the ticket system), distributing loaves of bread, and paying for steamer or railway fares and for the cost of a night's lodging. The relief given at the office is solely of a casual nature. Lock, 2617.

At the instance of the Hon. Treasurer, who in all the affairs of the Society takes an earnest and practical part, the principle of requiring able-bodied men to perform a certain amount of work in return for the assistance rendered to them has been lately put into operation. Mere inquiry into the circumstances of a man's position is found to be no true test of his being deserving of assistance, and the experience of the Society indicates that in the past men have been aided who have been unworthy of help.

Before a ticket is now given to an able-bodied man for a meal or bed, he is required to cut up a small quantity of wood in a yard adjoining the office. Excellent results have followed the adoption of this means of separating those genuinely in need of help from those who make a profession of living on the charity of the public, and rather than perform the fairly light labour which is imposed men have been known to take advantage of the overseer's back being turned to escape from the premises. The wood which is cut at the yard is used in the Society's asylum at Waratah.

A separate sub-committee, called the "Doreas Committee," controls the preparation and distribution of clothing and blankets, all applications to that committee passing through the lady visitors. Lock, 2621.

In regard to medical attendance on the outdoor pensioners, Mr. Lock, the Honorary Treasurer, says: "We find that our medical men are very good in that way. There is no case in any district that wants for medical attendance. On the application

application of one of our lady visitors a doctor will visit. If it is likely to be a protracted illness they refer the matter to us, and we apply to the hospital authorities." The personal acquaintance of the lady visitors with the medical men makes this matter, he says, very easily managed.

The following table shows the relief afforded during the past three years :—

Year ending March.	Number of Families relieved weekly (approximately).	Casual Relief to Men in search of Employment.				
		Meals.	Beds.	Steamer Fares.	Railway Fares.	Leaves distributed.
1896	275	1,431	411	618	44	3,981
1897	301	1,688	308	353	37	3,234
1898	274	1,304	311	447	40	1,401

In the last year the Dorcas Committee provided clothing as under :—

135 families received blankets.

105 women received 44 dresses, 117 articles of clothing, and 21 pairs of boots.

27 men received 16 blankets, 23 articles of clothing, and 11 pairs of boots.

269 children received 58 dresses, 385 articles of clothing, and 34 pairs of boots.

The cost of the outdoor and casual relief for the three years mentioned above was £2,606, £2,698, and £2,400, respectively.

ASYLUM AT WARATAH.

The building at Waratah was completed in 1897, and the inmates of the Society's old home at Newcastle were removed there early in that year. The building is a well-constructed and suitable structure for its purpose, and stands in an elevated position. The site, which is about 4 acres in extent, was a grant from the Government, and, with inmate labour, is partly utilised for growing vegetables for the Institution.

The Institution is in charge of a Matron, who has had a general hospital experience and training in midwifery; and she is assisted in her duties by a nurse similarly experienced and trained. The only other paid officials are a cook and a wardman. Assistance in the work of the Institution is rendered by the few women admitted for confinement.

The majority of the inmates are aged or infirm. Ample provision seems to be made for their requirements; and in sickness they have all the advantages of an ordinary hospital. An honorary medical officer attends the Institution regularly once a week, or more often if required.

The Asylum is economically managed, the capitation cost of the Asylum inmates, lying-in patients, and inmates of the cottage homes being about £13 17s. 4d., which compares not unfavourably with that of the Government Institutions.

The numbers of inmates admitted, discharged, &c., in one year are as follow :—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Inmates, 31st March, 1897	17	22	3	42
Admitted since	42	37	17	96
	59	59	20	138
Discharged	29	34	17	80
Deaths	4	5	1	10
Births	...	...	11	11
Remaining 31st March, 1898	26	20	13	59

At the time of our visit there were 28 men, 24 women, and 4 children, a total of 56 inmates in the Asylum.

A separate ward is set apart for confinement cases. Both married and single women are attended in this department. Applicants are required to apply to a member of the Committee, and they are admitted by the matron on the order of the President or of a Vice-President. ^{Milligan, 2402.}

Women are admitted in some instances several months before confinement if they have no other means of maintenance, and they are retained three months after, so that their services may be availed of in the work of the Home as some return for the advantages they have received from the Institution. ^{Lock, 2536-8.}

The number of women admitted for confinement is very small, and it is pointed out by the Matron that they would not be kept for so long a period at the Asylum if their services were not needed. When required, endeavour is made to obtain situations for the women. ^{Milligan, 2447.}

In the grounds of the Institution there are two structures, representing four cottage homes, in which aged couples reside. These inmates have their meals in the Asylum. If funds are available, it is the intention of the Society to erect more such homes.

NEWCASTLE RELIEF SOCIETY, AND NEWCASTLE MUTUAL HELP SOCIETY.

These are two small benevolent institutions which have received aid from the State in the shape of special grants.

We have not examined any witnesses in regard to these Societies, but ascertain that they are managed by ladies at a cost of a few pounds only for working expenses.

The Newcastle Relief Society expended in the year ended 28th February, 1898, about £145, mainly for food distributed to the poor. The revenue received that year amounted to £92, £50 of which was from the Government.

The Mutual Help Society confines its operations almost solely to the distribution of clothing. Material is purchased and made into garments by a working committee, which meets weekly and distributes the clothing monthly. This committee consists of members of the general committee, which sits once a quarter. The total expenditure of the Society in the year ending February 28th last was about £170, and its income in that period amounted to about £151, towards which the Government contributed £100.

We consider the ladies controlling these two Institutions would, by securing unity of effort, better serve the objects they desire to fulfil and aid in promoting the successful administration of charity if they joined their forces with the larger, well-organized and equipped Institution that seeks the welfare of the poor in their district.

It is undesirable, and in fact fraught with many disadvantages, to have more than one benevolent institution carrying on similar work in the same locality.

MAITLAND BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

This Institution has not been visited by the whole of the members of this Commission, but one member inspected the asylum, and his report thereon appears in his evidence on page 23.

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The financial operations of the Society for the years 1896 and 1897 are shown in the following table:—

		<i>Receipts.</i>		1896.	1897.
Government subsidy	... ..	£336	.....	...	£368
Government grants...	... ..	500	£836	...	.....
Subscriptions and donations	... ..		341	...	287
Proceeds of ball	... ..		81	...	66
Interest on fixed deposit	... ..		37	...	18
Bequest	... ..		.....	...	200
			£1,205	...	£939
		<i>Expenses.</i>			
Provisions, clothing, drugs, &c.	... ..	£751	...	£796	
Salaries and wages	... ..	168	...	164	
Printing, stationery, stamps, &c.	... ..	12	...	12	
Fuel and light	... ..	30	...	26	
Other expenses	... ..	46	...	63	
Building account	... ..	24	...	159	
		£1,031	...	£1,220	

The Society, by means of its Asylum, affords indoor accommodation to the aged and infirm poor, and also gives outdoor relief, partly by the ticket system and partly by distribution of stores from the Asylum. It is economically managed by a committee of ladies, who appear to devote a large amount of time and attention to the work. The visitation of the recipients of outdoor relief is undertaken by them, and also the collection of subscriptions.

The number of inmates for whom accommodation was found in the Asylum in the year 1897 was as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Inmates on 1st January, 1897	33	15	48
Admitted since	69	10	79
	102	25	127
Discharged	68	8	76
Died	6	2	8
Remaining on 1st January, 1898	28	15	43

About ninety families were at the time of the Commissioners' visit in receipt of outdoor relief. In the management of the outdoor relief department there appears to be room for improvement. There is no system of regular visitation of the recipients of relief, and written reports are not furnished by the visitors on the cases which come under their attention. This Institution, we think, might with advantage follow the practices adopted by the Newcastle and Northumberland Benevolent Society.

WOMEN'S HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.

Our report upon the Women's Hospital and Dispensary appears at this stage, instead of being reserved until we take up the subject of hospitals generally, owing to the Institution having already come within the range of our inquiries embracing benevolent societies controlling lying-in homes.

The Institution was inaugurated in 1893 to afford to women in indigent circumstances greater facilities than then existed for obtaining medical and nursing skill during their confinement and when suffering from troubles peculiar to their sex; and as opportunities would thus be provided for the systematic training of nurses in midwifery—an evidently much needed work—the scheme of the Institution embraced such training as a special feature.

For some time the undertaking was controlled by a few medical men, with the assistance of friends of the movement; but in May, 1895, it became a public organisation, with a duly constituted Committee of Management.

Up to October, 1896, the work of the Institution was entirely confined to the treatment of women in their own homes, and to affording advice at the dispensary. The necessity, however, for the establishment in Sydney of a hospital exclusively for women, such as exists in most other large centres of population, led the management to take steps towards procuring premises where indoor patients could be received. A home was subsequently rented and furnished, in Elizabeth-street, and the first inmate was admitted in October, 1896. In June, 1897, this building was vacated, and the premises at present occupied at the corner of Crown and Albion Streets were secured.

It is pointed out that the authorities of the Institution were induced to establish the Hospital by the fact that no definite action had been taken to give effect to the proposal, made by a Medical Commission appointed by the Government, for the establishment of a Maternity Hospital in place of the Lying-in Home at the Benevolent Asylum. The Directors were further encouraged to start the Hospital by a public meeting which adopted resolutions in favour of assisting the Institution to extend its usefulness in that direction.

On the claims of the Women's Hospital to State support being brought under the notice of the Chief Secretary, the Government granted the usual subsidy to aid in the work, and also a special sum of £500, which was utilised for procuring furniture and surgical instruments.

The operations of the Institution have gradually increased, but any great extension is hampered by want of adequate accommodation. In order that the main building may be devoted to patients, the whole of the nursing staff and the servants are lodged in a separate home in Albion-street, which is also used in part as the dispensary, where the business of the Outdoor Department is conducted. In addition to this, two rooms in an adjoining building have had to be rented. There are twenty-one beds in the principal building for patients, and in the other premises there are three beds for waiting patients. Consideration has already been given to the question of the erection of a new building, and drawings of the proposed structure have been prepared. Substantial assistance, it is said, has been proffered by several citizens towards the accomplishment of the scheme, but the difficulties of securing a suitable site and sufficient funds stand in the way.

The full plan and objects of the hospital are set forth in the Annual Report as follows:—

- “Firstly,—A maternity hospital, where poor and necessitous women can receive necessary care and attention during their accouchement.
- “Secondly,—To provide medical and nursing aid for poor women at their own homes during their accouchement.
- “Thirdly,—To afford medical and surgical aid for women suffering from diseases peculiar to their sex, as indoor or outdoor patients.
- “Fourthly,—To establish a training school where obstetrical nursing in all its branches may be taught, and certificates of efficiency granted.”

In explanation of these objects, Dr. Graham, one of the Honorary Medical Staff, gives the following evidence, which accompanied our report on the Benevolent Society of New South Wales. He says: “The plan of the work may be briefly given as follows:—

“(1) An Outdoor Department, or what is called in the European hospitals ‘The Externe.’ This branch of work embraces the treatment of poor parturient women at their own homes. It provides them with the comfort of a skilled obstetric nurse and medical assistance when such is necessary.

“This branch of work has been entirely neglected in Sydney until the Women's Hospital took it up, and the proof that it was urgently needed is to be seen by the fact that this year 500 poor women applied for assistance. It might be asked, How were these women provided for in former times, before the Women's Hospital came to their assistance? They were allowed to do the best they could, or were dependent on the charitable assistance the medical profession gave them; but I would point out that our general hospitals have always been largely filled by a class
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of women who sought admission for surgical assistance—for the repair of injuries incidental to childbearing life—especially where such births were conducted without the aid of skilled nursing or medical assistance. I would further point out that such cases constitute the most expensive class in the general hospitals, the reason being that, from the nature of the injuries, they take a long time to recover; the operations that they have to undergo are often extensive and delicate, and compel them to be kept in bed for a long period. As the Government had these patients for the most part to keep in hospital, the expense from this cause alone must have been very great, and an institution conducted as the Women's Hospital is will necessarily lead to a large saving in this direction. Moreover, it will tend to reduce the average length of illness in the case of a poor lying-in woman, and that means untold benefit to her children and to the household. Experience goes to prove that while Nature in most cases is quite equal to manage a woman in labour without any skilled assistance, still, among those who do not get that assistance, there are very many who get into a chronic state of ill-health, and so become a charge upon the State.

“Another important aspect of this externe department is that it affords excellent opportunities for training the obstetric nurse amidst surroundings such as she will have to work under when she follows that calling as a means of living.

“A nurse only trained in the hospital in this subject has not the opportunity for becoming generally useful; the additional advantages of nursing, as learned in the patient's house, makes her more full of ready resource.

“During the time the Women's Hospital has been established, over 200 women have sought and obtained the benefit of such training. Many of these women for years had carried on the calling of ‘midwives’ without any previous instruction in the art.

“As a result of such a state of things as a body of ignorant women being allowed to follow a skilled calling, I believe that the mortality of newly-born infants and lying-in women must have greatly increased beyond what it should have been.

“The Women's Hospital has done its best to displace these dangerous ‘Sarah Gamps’ by giving the public a supply of intelligent and properly-instructed obstetric nurses.

“(2.) The Women's Hospital has also established an Indoor Department, consisting of two branches. The one is set apart for the reception of pregnant women whose cases are complicated from any cause, and those who have no home of their own. The other branch is set apart for the treatment of those cases who suffer from surgical injuries incidental to child-bearing, and which in the past have formed the most expensive and the most numerous type of female patients in the general hospitals.

“In regard to the indoor branch for pregnant women, so far as the space would permit of judicious classification, an attempt has been made to follow a system that provides for the treatment of married and single women in separate wards. In the Benevolent Asylum they are all warded together.”

The management of the Hospital is conducted by an honorary Board elected by the subscribers, and comprising a president, two vice-presidents, five lady directors, a treasurer, and a secretary, together with the members of the honorary medical staff *ex officio*. Two members of the Board retire annually, but are eligible for re-election.

The paid staff consists of six members only—the matron, the head nurse, and four servants. The bulk of the hospital work is performed by the nurses under training.

The education of nurses in obstetric nursing is a very important function of the Institution. The fee charged for instruction is 5 guineas, with an addition of 15 guineas in the case of resident pupils. The training extends over a period of six months, and at the end of that time, if proved proficient by examination, a certificate to that effect is granted. Lectures are delivered by two members of the Medical Staff, who take each course in rotation, and receive in return for their services half the fee of 5 guineas paid by the pupil nurses. The matron, in addition to the salary paid to her, receives 10s. 6d. of this fee for the instruction she imparts; and the remainder of the fee goes to the funds of the Institution. A

A course of instruction is also given to medical students of the University, for which a fee of 3 guineas is charged.

The numbers of patients treated during the past two years ending 30th June, are as follow :—

	Surgical Department.		Midwifery Department.	
	1896-7.	1897-8.	1896-7.	1897-8.
Indoor patients	83	109	26	120
Outdoor patients	838	922	228	255
	871	1,031	254	375

The total number of cases thus treated in 1896-7 was 1,125, and in 1897-8 1,406.

Maternity patients treated in their own homes are attended to by a certificated midwife, the head nurse, and a probationer. A daily report of each case is sent to the Matron of the Hospital, by which means a knowledge is obtained whether medical or other assistance is needed.

Maternity patients admitted to the Hospital are received as a rule just before confinement, and maintained for the lying-in period only, unless occasion warrants their longer retention. It has, however, been found necessary frequently to receive patients some time before confinement, their services being then utilised in the domestic work of the Institution.

Financially the Hospital appears to be well administered. The receipts and expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 1898, were as under :—

RECEIPTS.	£	EXPENSES.	£
Government subsidy	76	Provisions and clothing	286
Government grant	500	Drugs, instruments, &c.	69
Subscriptions, donations, and proceeds of entertainments	156	Salaries and wages	224
Receipts from patients	184	Rent	247
Nurses—		Printing, stationery, &c.	55
Board fees	370	Fuel and light	58
Lecture fees	150	Laundry	38
Rent of rooms	34	Alterations, repairs, &c.	36
Certificates	13	Furniture, &c.	242
Register fees, &c.	4	Other expenses	66
	571		
	£1,487		£1,321

After making an estimated allowance for the expenses of the Outdoor Department, the cost per hospital bed is ascertained to be £53. This amount, it will be observed from the above statement, covers a considerable sum for rent of premises—an item which seldom appears in returns of hospital expenditure.

In our recent report on the Benevolent Society of New South Wales, we dealt somewhat fully with the question of the establishment of a Maternity Hospital to take the place of the Lying-in Home at the Benevolent Asylum, and we recommended the proposal made by the Commission of medical gentlemen already referred to, that the Government should acquire the School of Industry property at Darlinghurst for the purpose. We further recommended that the constitution of the proposed new hospital should be framed on lines somewhat similar to that of the Sydney or Prince Alfred Hospital.

We do not consider it necessary to reiterate here the arguments advanced in support of that proposal, but we have to regard the important bearing which its adoption would have on the Institution with which we are now dealing. The demands upon that Institution are pressing somewhat heavily, and a more suitable and commodious building is required for the work. The provision of adequate and proper accommodation for the performance of that work is a matter of general public interest,

interest, and we think, if the proposed hospital is established at Darlinghurst on the lines suggested, it should also provide for continuing the work now carried on by the Women's Hospital in Crown-street. That Institution being in such close proximity to Darlinghurst should then, we think, cease to exist. If this arrangement is carried into effect, we would suggest for the consideration of the Government the advisability of appointing members of the Committees of both the Women's Hospital and the Benevolent Society to the first Committee of Management of the New Hospital.

COUNTRY AND SUBURBAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

With the many subsidised Benevolent Societies which exist in the larger centres of population throughout the country, and in several of the suburbs of Sydney, we have not thought it necessary to deal separately. To treat each as a subject for special examination would occupy a considerable amount of time, and the result, we consider, would not be of any material benefit. From a general knowledge gained of them by inquiry during the course of our investigation, we find they are almost uniform in their aims and methods of operations, and that these are of a simple character. We have been placed in possession of their reports for the year 1897, and from them have compiled a return (Appendix A), giving particulars of the receipts and expenditure in each case. This return may not be quite accurate in detail, as some of the items are not explicitly stated in the reports.

The Societies are organised for the administration of outdoor relief only, except in the case of a few institutions which, in addition, control cottage homes or small asylums. The relief is given on the ticket system, and is chiefly confined to the aged and infirm and destitute men and women with families dependent upon them.

The management is almost entirely conducted by committees of ladies, without the aid of paid servants. The members of the committees, besides gratuitously collecting funds for the maintenance of the Societies and performing all necessary clerical work, visit the recipients of relief at frequent intervals. The operations of the institutions are confined to certain areas, so that they do not overlap.

The usual support received from the State is at the rate of £1 for every £1 raised privately. The amount paid by the Government in 1897 to these Societies was £5,217, the subsidies being calculated in most cases on the basis of the subscriptions and donations collected during the previous year. In some instances "special grants" of money and donations of blankets have been given by the Government. These do not, however, appear to have been granted on any fixed principle, and the practice is one which we consider to be at least inadvisable.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE BY GOVERNMENT TO DESTITUTE PERSONS.

In the summary of the financial operations of State-subsidised Charitable Institutions which appears in Appendix B, is included the amount of £10,147 which was expended by the Chief Secretary's Department in 1897 in the following manner:—

£4,660	in payment of weekly allowances to destitute persons,
1,063	" special grants " "
736	" rations to destitute persons, "
2,360	for conveyance of destitute persons by rail,
719	" " " other means,
609	for cost of burials.

£10,147

Each year amounts are voted by Parliament for similar purposes.

The weekly allowances are granted to persons for whom provision cannot be made by Benevolent Societies, and whom it is considered undesirable to place in Government Asylums. Many of the recipients have friends or relations in the localities

localities in which they reside who partially aid in their support. In other cases the allowances are instrumental in keeping homes together which would otherwise be broken up, and the children cast upon the care of the State.

The special grants are made in cases of temporary need.

Where possible a report of an inspecting officer of the Charities Department, accompanied by a recommendation of the amount which, in the opinion of the officer, should be granted to meet the necessities of the applicant, is furnished to the Chief Secretary before monetary assistance is given.

The weekly allowances are granted for periods of three or four months, at the end of which time, if the recipient applies for a continuance of the relief, an inspection is made for the purpose of ascertaining whether further assistance is required or not.

The following table is a summary of the cases receiving weekly allowances on the 30th June last:—

Class.	Allowance per week.															Total cases.	No. of individuals represented.
	2/6	3/-	4/-	5/-	6/-	7/-	7/6	8/-	10/-	12/-	12/6	14/-	15/-	17/6			
Aged persons without families	4	2	3	108	14	...	6	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	141	141
Aged and infirm couples .....	...	...	...	10	8	3	12	2	25	1	...	...	...	...	61	122
Wage-earners permanently invalided .....	...	...	...	9	4	1	8	3	37	...	3	1	3	1	70	400
Other families .....	...	1	...	10	4	...	9	...	14	...	...	...	5	...	43	164
	4	3	3	137	30	4	35	5	78	1	3	1	10	1	315	827	

The total allowances amount to £111 17s. 6d. per week, which afford relief to 827 persons, equalling about 2s. 8½d. for each person relieved.

Rations are granted on the recommendation usually of the Director of Government Asylums or the Police. The goods are supplied by storekeepers, who are instructed to provide the applicant for relief with necessaries of life of such value and for such period as may be named.

Cost of conveyance is paid to enable persons to reach relatives or friends who will maintain them or provide them with employment, and also for the carriage of destitute people to and from hospitals.

We believe that considerable care is exercised by the Government officials, upon whom the responsibilities of the administration of this relief falls, to prevent any benefit being obtained by those undeserving of assistance; but it has been conclusively shown by the experience of other communities that out-door relief by allowances in money, even under the elaborate checks and restrictions of the Poor Law system in England, tends to foster and encourage pauperism, and is otherwise open to abuse. We are strongly of opinion that the amount expended under this head should be granted in exceptional cases only.

In our report on the Benevolent Society of New South Wales, we spoke of the great increase in the number of cases which received outdoor relief from that institution in the years 1896 and 1897, and we stated we would refer to the matter again at a later date. With a view to ascertaining whether the increase might be accounted for by a different method having been adopted of recording the number of cases to that which prevailed in previous years, the Acting Director of Government Asylums was requested to make an investigation of the Society's books. His report appears in the Appendix (C), and shows that the record of cases relieved is not strictly accurate; but as the books have been kept in the same manner for several years past, no new light is thrown upon the causes which led to the abnormal increase in 1896 and 1897. From the last report issued by the Society, it is ascertained that the number of cases assisted in 1898 was 2,618, or 449 less than in 1897.

This Report brings us to the conclusion of our labours in regard to subsidised charitable institutions other than hospitals. In a few instances we find the institutions reported on are well equipped for the work they perform ; but the majority are inadequate, and lacking in order and care. In the metropolis there appears to be a want of co-operation on the part of charitable workers, with the result that several small organisations exist performing similar functions. Efficiency in administration is impaired as a consequence of this multiplication of institutions, and the funds which are now spread over many agencies for the accomplishment of a certain purpose might, if concentrated, be expended with much greater effect. The presence of a number of institutions of the same character is frequently productive of a spirit of rivalry between them which is harmful. Many of them are suffering from the want of funds, and the frequent appeals which have to be made for the necessary means tends to alienate rather than attract the sympathy of the public.

The little interest displayed in the management and direction of the institutions by the subscribers generally is a noticeable and unfortunate circumstance. The actual control is allowed to pass into the hands of a few individuals, who, year after year, carry out the management without any healthy criticism on their operations. Though, as a rule, their intentions are excellent, their work deteriorates, owing to the lack of public interest; and in some cases the institutions are now kept up more for the benefit and support of those immediately in charge, than to meet a public want or to minister to the needs of the sick and struggling poor.

At present there is no Government supervision to protect the public interests. Although by far the largest subscriber in the case of subsidised institutions, the Government exercises no voice in their management. We believe that had there been an effective oversight by Government, much unnecessary expenditure would have been avoided and the condition of the institutions would generally have been much improved. We are of opinion that a system of Government inspection should be introduced, which should provide for the visitation of each subsidised institution not less than once in six months. This would afford the Government an opportunity of ascertaining which institutions were performing their work in an efficient manner, and were deserving of Government support.

The following recommendations, in addition to those already embodied in former reports, are submitted as a result of our investigations in regard to the subsidised charities of the Colony :—

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That no further Government aid should be given to the undermentioned institutions—

Sydney Rescue Work Society.
Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children.
Newcastle Relief Society.
„ Mutual Help Society.
Sydney Female Mission Home.
Central Mission Children's Home.
Sydney Night Refuge and Reformatory, Francis-street, Woolloomooloo.

2. That, in view of the fact that the boarding-out and individual treatment of children has been sanctioned by Parliament, and has been shown to be the system best calculated for their future success and welfare, no institution in which children are dealt with in the aggregate should, except under special conditions, be subsidised by the State.
3. That subsidies to societies or organisations controlling more than one institution should not be granted so that they may be used for general purposes at the discretion of the management, but should be granted towards special objects to be named and defined.

4. That as the grant to the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, voted from 1881 to 1896, has been discontinued, and no special assistance is now given to discharged prisoners, except in the form of gratuities and railway fares, assistance should be continued to the Prison-gate Home for Men, and the Rescue Homes for Women—institutions mainly for the aid of discharged prisoners, which are carrying out useful work in a commendable and systematic manner under the direction and control of the Salvation Army, and which are now receiving aid in the form of State grants voted to that body for its "social work" generally.
5. That institutions which provide temporary relief, either in the form of quarters, food, or money, should demand the performance by all able-bodied applicants of a certain amount of work, in partial or full return for the assistance rendered; and that in the distribution of State aid preference should be given to institutions giving effect to that system.
6. That as soon as a hospital for the treatment of maternity cases and the diseases of women, such as is recommended in our report on the Benevolent Society of New South Wales, be established, no further State aid be granted to any other maternity home in the metropolis.
7. That in future it shall be a condition precedent to the granting of State aid to any institution, that it shall be visited and reported on by a responsible Government officer, and that after such aid is granted, visits shall be paid to such institution once at least in every six months.
8. That as long as State aid is continued, a responsible officer of the Government shall have power (1) to audit the accounts at any time; (2) to ascertain if the funds are expended for proper purposes, with due regard to economy; (3) to see that the by-laws are carried out in their integrity; (4) to report generally on the management of the institution, with a view to bringing under the notice of the Government and the Committee any defects that may, in his opinion, exist in connection therewith.
9. That Government allowances for out-door relief granted by the Chief Secretary's Department direct, and also through other agencies, should be dispensed on a much smaller scale than at present; and that as soon as local government is established throughout the Colony, any expenditure for out-door relief, not met from private charity, should be thrown entirely on the local rates, and not made a charge on State funds, either by subsidy or otherwise.

In conclusion, we have pleasure in recording our appreciation of the able services rendered by our Secretary in the course of this inquiry.

We have the honour to be
Your Excellency's most obedient Servants,

GEO. A. WILSON, President.
J. BARLING,
JAMES POWELL,
F. NORTON MANNING, M.D.,
CRITCHETT WALKER.

WALTER WILSON,
Secretary.

13/4/99.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON PUBLIC CHARITIES.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION.

TUESDAY, 20 DECEMBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Chief Secretary's Office, at 10:30 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Commission discussed the affairs of the Sydney Rescue Work Society, and Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children.

The Commission adjourned at 12 o'clock noon.

WEDNESDAY, 21 DECEMBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Chief Secretary's Office, at 11 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The management and operations of the Sydney Rescue Work Society and other Institutions were considered.

The Commission adjourned at 12:30 o'clock p.m.

FRIDAY, 6 JANUARY, 1899.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The future procedure of the Commission was discussed.

The minutes of the last two meetings were read and confirmed.

The Commission adjourned at 10:45 o'clock a.m.

MONDAY, 9 JANUARY, 1899.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Mr. W. E. Wilson, a Member of the Committee of the Sydney Rescue Work Society, was sworn and examined.

Mr. G. E. Ardill was further examined.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Commission adjourned at 12:30 o'clock p.m.

MONDAY, 30 JANUARY, 1899.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 3:30 o'clock p.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The business of the Commission was generally discussed.

The Commission adjourned at 4:15 o'clock p.m.

TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY, 1899.

PRESENT:—

Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Commission visited the Industrial Farm of the Salvation Army at Manly, in the forenoon.

FRIDAY,

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FRIDAY, 3 FEBRUARY, 1899.

PRESENT:—

Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Commission visited the following institutions controlled by the Salvation Army, viz.:—The Rescue Home, Newtown; the Prison Gate Home, Enmore; and the Maternity Home, Burwood, in the afternoon.

WEDNESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY, 1899.

PRESENT:—

Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Commission visited the Open All-Night Refuge, Sussex-street, and the People's Palace, Pitt-street, in the forenoon.

THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY, 1899.

PRESENT:—

Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Commission visited the Home for the Aged and Infirm, Randwick, at 3'45 p.m.

FRIDAY, 24 FEBRUARY, 1899.

PRESENT:—

Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P.
F. Norton Manning, Esq., M.D. | Critchett Walker, Esq., C.M.G.

The following institutions were visited by the Commission, viz.:—The Boys' Farm Home, Camden; the Carrington Convalescent Hospital; and the Children's Home, Liverpool.

MONDAY, 27 FEBRUARY, 1899.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 2'30 p.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.

Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.
F. Norton Manning, Esq., M.D. | Critchett Walker, Esq., C.M.G.

The minutes of the meeting on 30 January and subsequent meetings were read and confirmed.

The instruments appointing Mr. Walker and Dr. Manning Members of the Commission and extending the appointment of the Commission for a further period of three months, were read.

Correspondence read and received.

The business of the Commission generally was discussed, and particularly the method of inquiry to be adopted in regard to the administration of hospitals.

The Commission adjourned at 3'30 p.m.

TUESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY, 1899.

The Babies' Home, controlled by the Sydney Rescue Work Society, was visited by Messrs. Barling and Walker and Dr. Manning at 2'30 p.m.

The following institutions were subsequently visited by Dr. Manning and Mr. Walker, viz.:—The Home of Hope, Newtown; the Rescue Home, Newtown; the Prison Gate Home, Enmore; and the People's Palace, Pitt-street.

THURSDAY, 2 MARCH, 1899.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.

Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | F. Norton Manning, Esq., M.D.
Critchett Walker, Esq., C.M.G.

The Commission visited the following institutions, viz.:—The Open All-Night Refuge; the City Night Refuge and Soup Kitchen; the Sydney Night Refuge and Reformatory; and the Central Mission Children's Home.

Dr. Manning and Mr. Walker subsequently visited the Women's Hospital, Crown-street.

SATURDAY, 4 MARCH, 1899.

Dr. Manning and Mr. Critchett Walker, C.M.G., inspected the Industrial Farm, Pittwater-road, Manly, in the forenoon.

MONDAY, 6 MARCH, 1899.

Dr. Manning and Mr. Critchett Walker, C.M.G., visited the Salvation Army's Maternity Home, Burwood; the Lewisham Hospital and Blind Asylum; and the St. Margaret's Maternity Hospital, Elizabeth-street.

WEDNESDAY,

WEDNESDAY, 8 MARCH, 1899.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 12:15 o'clock.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.	
Joseph Barling Esq., J.P.	James Powell, Esq., J.P.
F. Norton Manning, Esq., M.D.	Critchett Walker, Esq., C.M.G.

The draft of the third Report of the Commission was considered.

The President, Dr. Manning, and Mr. Powell were appointed as members of a committee to frame recommendations for submission to the full Commission.

The minutes of the meeting on 27 February and subsequent meetings were read and confirmed.

The Commission adjourned at 4 o'clock p.m.

*FRIDAY, 10 MARCH, 1899.***PRESENT:—**

Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P.	
F. Norton Manning, Esq., M.D.	Critchett Walker, Esq., C.M.G.

A visit was paid to the St. Vincent de Paul's Home for Destitute Boys, Westmead, in the afternoon.

The Committee appointed on the 8th March to frame recommendations to accompany the Report on the Benevolent Institutions met on the following days:—

Wednesday, 15th March, at 11:45 a.m.

Thursday, 16th March, at 2:15 p.m.

Monday, 20th March, at 2:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL, 1899.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 2:30 p.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.	
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P.	James Powell, Esq., J.P.
F. Norton Manning, Esq., M.D.	Critchett Walker, Esq., C.M.G.

Further consideration was given to the Draft Report on the benevolent institutions of the Colony.

On the motion of Mr. Barling, seconded by Mr. Walker, it was resolved that Dr. Manning should take the Chair at future meetings of the Commission in the absence of the President.

The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and confirmed.

The Commission adjourned at 4 o'clock p.m.

MONDAY, 10 APRIL, 1899.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 2:30 p.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.	
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P.	James Powell, Esq., J.P.
F. Norton Manning, Esq., M.D.	Critchett Walker, Esq., C.M.G.

The third Report of the Commission was further considered, and on the motion of Mr. Barling, seconded by Mr. Walker, was adopted.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Commission discussed the procedure to be followed in the investigation into the affairs of the hospitals of the Colony.

The Commission adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON PUBLIC CHARITIES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

SATURDAY, 27 AUGUST, 1898.

[The Commission met at the Newcastle and Northumberland Benevolent Society's Asylum,
at Waratah, at 10 o'clock, a.m.]

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (PRESIDENT).
J. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

Mr. Wm. Arnott, President of the Society, also present.

Joseph Stapleton, M.D., sworn and examined:—

2372. *President.*] What is your name? Joseph Stapleton.
2373. You are one of the honorary medical officers of the Benevolent Society? Yes.
2374. How many medical officers are there besides yourself? I believe that I attend to the institution solely.
2375. Are you an honorary or paid officer? Honorary.
2376. There is no paid medical officer? No.
2377. How many times do you attend? I make it a practice to attend once a week under all circumstances, and always come when sent for.
2378. You deal with the inmates of the asylum only? Yes.
2379. Do you know how the outdoor pensioners are provided for in regard to medical attendance? I do not know; I have nothing to do with that.
2380. There is a lying-in home here? Yes.
2381. How many cases are attended to in the year? I do not know; the matron could tell you that.
2382. Is there any opportunity of training nurses in the asylum? A small opportunity.
2383. I suppose there is not much scope for that? No. If you mean as a properly trained nurse of the day, I should say "no" absolutely to that.
2384. I was referring more particularly to training in midwifery? There are not enough cases to warrant you putting anybody here to be trained in midwifery.
2385. Do you know anything about the condition of the recipients of outdoor relief? I know nothing about it. If I attend any of them I do not know it.
2386. Have you any suggestions to make in regard to the institution? In what direction?
2387. In regard to your own particular work here? It would facilitate my work and would give me a little help if I had a telephone to the house.
2388. That is a matter of administration for the committee to deal with? I wanted you to point out the direction I should go.
2389. *Mr. Powell.*] It would be a desirable thing to have telephonic communication? Yes. I suppose any suggestion I should make should be put before the committee?
2390. *President.*] A mere matter of that kind is one for the committee to deal with;—have you anything to say as to whether the present system of medical relief meets the case of the asylum? That is for you to judge. I tell you what I do.
2391. We want the information;—you say you attend here once a week;—I want to know whether that, in your opinion, is sufficient? I always say everything I do is sufficient. If I had the telephone, the medical attendance would be a little more precise, and would be facilitated.

J. Stapleton,
M.D.
27 Aug., 1898.

Blanche Milligan sworn and examined:—

2392. *President.*] What is your name? Blanche Milligan.
2393. You are the matron of this institution? Yes.
2394. How long have you been appointed? Since 11th June last year.
2395. What experience had you had before? A general hospital experience, and in midwifery.
2396. What are your duties here? The general supervision of the whole place, to attend to the midwifery cases, and to the old people if any of them should be ill.
2397. You have the responsibility of the whole place? Yes.
2398. What other paid officers are there in the institution? One nurse, a wardman, a cook, and a female attendant.
2399. Have you anything to do with the outdoor pensioners? I do not know anything of the outside work.
2400. How many cases have you in the lying-in division in the year? There were sixteen in the year.
2401. How is admission obtained to the lying-in division? They apply to a member of the committee, and then get a recommendation from one of the vice-presidents or the president.

B. Milligan.
27 Aug., 1898.

- B. Milligan. 2402. You admit on the order of the president or a vice-president? Yes.
 27 Aug., 1893. 2403. Is the matter considered by the whole of the committee? Not always—sometimes.
 2404. When possible? Yes.
 2405. Do the patients ever contribute to the expense of their maintenance in the lying-in hospital? Very few do.
 2406. Is that because they are too poor? They do not seem to have any money at all.
 2407. Does the Government give any contribution towards the lying-in home? I do not know anything about that.
 2408. Is any provision made for attendance on midwifery cases outside the institution? No.
 2409. How many inmates can you accommodate in the lying-in division? Twenty.
 2410. If there are only sixteen a year the full accommodation is not nearly availed of? No.
 2411. How many inmates have you in the institution apart from the lying-in cases? We have twenty-eight men and twenty-four women.
 2412. What class of people are the men generally—are they miners? Mostly miners.
 2413. And the women—are they the relations of miners? Most of them.
 2414. The accommodation, judging by appearances, seems to be ample for the inmates? Quite.
 2415. Are there children in the institution? Four.
 2416. Of what ages are they? One 2½ years, one 12 months, one 7 weeks, and the other 3 weeks.
 2417. Are their mothers here? Yes.
 2418. In what capacity? The mother of the two elder ones is an attendant; in the case of the younger ones the time is not yet up for the mothers to go; they are kept here three months after.
 2419. Do you ever board out children from the asylum to the State Children Relief Department? No; we have taken them in until the department sent for them.
 2420. You have not applied to the department to take them over? No.
 2421. You are aware that machinery exists for taking them over? No.
 2422. If the department sent for them you would be aware of the existence of the department? Yes.
 2423. In the lying-in home is there any classification separating the married from the single women? No.
 2424. Do you consider it desirable? We cannot very well obtain it.
 2425. You have not the accommodation? We might get a married woman this week, and a single girl next week. We get so few of them.
 2426. One of the by-laws states that a single girl admitted to the home from Newcastle and district is to remain three months in the asylum after the birth of the child, and that a single girl from outside the district is to remain six months? I do not think any of them remain six months unless they have not a home to go to—three months is the longest they remain.
 2427. That rule is not carried out? No.
 2428. You do not know the reason for adopting such a rule? I do not know.
 2429. How long before confinement are the girls admitted? Some three and some four months.
 2430. Why are they taken in so long before? Some of them have no home to go to.
 2431. When they have a home, they are not taken in so long before confinement? No.
 2432. Suppose they have a home, how long before are they taken in? A month or two months before.
 2433. Girls are employed in the institution, I suppose, in accordance with one of the by-laws? Yes.
 2434. Do you pay them any gratuity or wages? In some cases.
 2435. What gratuities are paid? One receives 2s. 6d., and one 6s. a week.
 2436. The one that is paid 6s. a week gets her maintenance as well? Yes.
 2437. Is her child here also? She has no child.
 2438. Is this girl, who is receiving 6s. a week, specially useful? Yes; she is the cook.
 2439. Do you know the cost per head of the lying-in patients? No; I have not worked it out.
 2440. Have you ever had to refuse admission to the lying-in home for want of room? No; we have always had plenty of room.
 2441. Is there any attempt made when these girls have recovered to get them situations? Sometimes.
 2442. Do you make that attempt? Yes.
 2443. You say sometimes;—is it not done in all cases? No; sometimes a girl goes back to her friends, or gets a situation herself, or they go back to where they came from.
 2444. What is done when a girl has no home to go to after her confinement? She remains here.
 2445. With her child? Yes.
 2446. What would be the limit that she should be allowed to remain here? If she were very useful, she could stay as long as she liked.
 2447. Suppose you had more useful people in the home than you require? We would not keep them.
 2448. What would you do with them then? We would get them situations outside.
 2449. Do you do any work, such as laundry work, in the institution? No; not beyond the laundry work of the asylum.
 2450. Have you ever considered whether that could be done with profit to the institution? We could not do it.
 2451. You have not sufficient people? No.
 2452. Are any children of school age ever retained here? Yes.
 2453. Are they sent to school? Yes.
 2454. Are the children retained on account of the usefulness of the mothers? No; if a poor mother came here to be laid up, she might bring her child with her.
 2455. That would be a temporary matter? Yes.
 2456. I was referring to children kept here some length of time? We have never had any children here for any length of time.
 2457. The only cases then would be those of mothers here for a short time, who might bring their children with them? Yes.
 2458. Are bed-cards placed on the beds of the girls in the lying-in home? No.
 2459. They are in the dormitories of the old people? Yes.
 2460. Is any attempt ever made at affiliation in regard to the lying-in patients? I do not know if the committee do: the girls sometimes do it themselves.
 2461. You do not know whether the committee take any steps in the matter? No.
 2462. *Mr. Powell.*] The girls are questioned on the subject when they enter? Yes. 2463.

2463. *President.*] When the girls are admitted, do they go before the ladies' committee? Not always. B. Milligan.
 2464. Have you much difficulty in finding situations for these girls? Sometimes.
 2465. Does the difficulty arise from their having a child? No; from the girls not being trained properly. 27 Aug., 1898.
 2466. Have you had any girls here from the other colonies for confinement? No.
 2467. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you communicate with Newcastle by telephone? Yes.
 2468. How far is Dr. Stapleton away from you? About 2 miles.
 2469. Would it be more convenient and better if you were able to telephone to him direct? Much better.
 2470. Have you brought that under the notice of the committee? No; I have not. The doctor wrote himself.
 2471. *President.*] Are you connected with the Central Exchange in Newcastle? Yes.
 2472. Is the doctor connected with the Central Exchange? No. I think the only telephone he has is in connection with Wallsend.
 2473. If there were a telephone from here to his residence it would be useful? Yes.

William Arnott sworn and examined:—

2474. *President.*] What is your name? William Arnott. W. Arnott.
 2475. You are the president of the Newcastle Benevolent Society? Yes. 27 Aug., 1898.
 2476. How long have you been president? A little over twelve months.
 2477. How long have you been connected with the institution? A good many years—about five years.
 2478. Can you say how long the society has been in existence? Between thirteen and fourteen years.
 2479. There is a committee of ladies, I understand? Yes.
 2480. Do you preside over that? Yes.
 2481. That is really the governing body of the institution? Yes.
 2482. Those ladies, I believe, do almost all the work in connection with the outdoor relief? Yes.
 2483. They make themselves acquainted with the circumstances of the families, and recommend certain rates of relief which are given in accordance with the rules of the institution? Quite so.
 2484. Does that system work satisfactorily? Yes, very. We have had to give more attention to it lately; we found a great many of the people outside were imposing upon us. Some of them were receiving relief from the State, at the same time receiving a large amount from us. We have had that put right now.
 2485. Have you any paid inspector? No.
 2486. The inspecting is done voluntarily by these ladies? Yes.
 2487. A paid inspector would be too expensive? I do not think it would work at all. I think you would have the ladies resigning in a body if a paid inspector were appointed. They feel their position a very honorable one.
 2488. These ladies all give their services gratuitously? Yes.
 2489. What about their travelling expenses? They pay them themselves.
 2490. How long has this particular building been erected? It was opened on the 6th June last year.
 2491. Was that the time you had a fair? Yes; the Governor opened it.
 2492. To judge by appearances, it would seem that the building fully answers all the purposes so far as the district is concerned? Yes.
 2493. What about the funds of the society? We are not very flush of funds. We have a big overdraft at the bank of about £1,000. I cannot say within a few pounds; but I think £1,000. Besides that there are about £2,000 owing on the building. I had to give a bond to the bank for that amount. We have made an application to the Government to give us £1,000 for the outdoor relief, and £2,000 for the building; if we get that we shall be all right.
 2494. In 1897 you appear to have had Government grants of about £4,500; I presume that was mainly for the building? A lot of that went for the building.
 2495. In 1898 you appear to have had £1,500 from the Government? That would be outdoor relief subsidy.
 2496. It appears there were special grants amounting to £1,500, and subsidy of £1,449? Yes.
 2497. You have still, however, the obligation you mentioned? Yes.
 2498. The overdraft is in connection with the balance on the building? Yes. £2,000 as near as possible.
 2499. You have actually given a bond for that amount? Yes; for £2,000.
 2500. *Mr. Powell.*] What interest do you pay? Six and a half per cent. We could not get it under.
 2501. *President.*] That seems high? It is very high just now. We pay about £200 a year interest on the overdraft.
 2502. How did the society obtain funds for the building? The Government sent us a grant now and again as we asked for it—the Government paid about £6,000.
 2503. In 1897-8 they paid £6,000;—I understand that you raised a good deal of money by the fair;—did that go to the building fund? Yes.
 2504. Is there any matter you would like to lay before the Commission? No. I think we have everything in fine working order, and the only trouble now is the debt.
 2505. You have made application to the Government to help you in regard to that debt? Yes.
 2506. Does the Society propose to make any special effort themselves to collect a portion of the money? We are always making every effort.
 2507. All the effort you make is really required to carry on the current work of the institution? Yes.
 2508. You are quite hopeless in any effort to reduce the building fund from your own resources? We could not do it.
 2509. It takes all your time to get funds to carry on the business? Yes; if it were not for the subsidy we get from the Government on our collections we would go under.
 2510. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you find the claims upon you for relief are increasing? Yes; they have been increasing wonderfully this last twelve months.
 2511. You have been obliged to restrict them to some extent? Yes, we have. We have had to cut down all round. For instance, we cannot afford to give a single old man or woman more than 2s. 6d. a week, and in the case of an old couple we reduce the double allowance by 1s.
 2512. *President.*] You give them 4s.? Yes; they are all crying out that they want more.

- W. Arnott. 2513. The outdoor relief has really absorbed the whole pretty well of the Government endowment and your own public subscriptions? Yes; more than absorbed them. We cannot keep out of debt. We must get an overdraft at the bank now and then. There has been so much distress here the last year or two, and a great many men went away to Western Australia and left their poor wives to come to us for assistance.
2514. The mines in the district have been very busy? Just lately they have, during the last month or two, perhaps; but last year in Wallsend they were out of work for months and months. In Wallsend we distributed last year, I think, over £300. And all the money we got by collections from there was about £30. Wallsend is the worst district we have.
2515. You hope it will improve now? Yes; things are looking up now.
2516. You say many of the men have left their families behind them? Yes.
2517. *Mr. Powell.*] Those families remain a charge upon you even though the district may become more prosperous? Quite so.
2518. *President.*] If the district becomes more prosperous some of those men would find their way back again? Yes; but the miners have been cut down in the hewing rate, and that makes matters worse. They are paid half what they used to get two or three years ago.
2519. *Mr. Powell.*] Mr. Lock is posted up in all the details of the working of the institution? Yes; he is a smart young fellow. He only joined me about six months ago, I think. When Mrs. Ellis resigned I was elected President, and I wanted someone to help me. I tried a good many gentlemen in the town, but no one would have anything to do with it. I tried Mr. Lock, as I had known him for some time; but he was so busy with the hospital and town council that he could not find any time, but at last he consented, and resigned his position as alderman and his place at the hospital on purpose to attend to this. And he has taken it up manfully. We consult about the principal things, but he has a very good secretary, and he is a very good organiser, he has made a wonderful difference in the amount distributed in some cases. Sometimes I think he has cut them down too low, but that was necessitated by the funds. The Manager of the Bank was always writing about the overdraft. Accompanied by some members of Parliament, I waited on the Colonial Secretary, and he promised to do something for us; but we did not get anything until just recently.
2520. The ladies do the collecting as well for you? Yes; they are out now. My wife is away sometimes for two days at West Wallsend.
2521. *President.*] You get a great deal of work done for nothing? Yes; it costs my wife 10s. to go out there, and there are two days' hotel expenses.
2522. That is good work? They are so willing, it brings its own reward. They come in to Newcastle all the way from West Wallsend, Wallsend, Adamstown, Charlestown, and those places, and we have a full meeting nearly every month.
2523. It would be a bad look-out for these poor people if the ladies did not work as they do? Yes; they would starve otherwise.

SATURDAY, 27 AUGUST, 1898.

[The Commission met at the Office of Newcastle and Northumberland Benevolent Society, Newcastle, at 2.30 p.m.]

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (PRESIDENT).
J. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

Wm. Arnott, Esq. (President of the Society), also present.

G. P. Lock sworn and examined:—

- G. P. Lock. 2524. *President.*] What is your name? George Parsons Lock.
2525. What is your position in reference to the Newcastle Benevolent Society? Hon. treasurer.
- 27 Aug., 1898. 2526. How long have you been hon. treasurer? About a year, I think.
2527. Had you any connection with the institution before that? Only as subscriber and per medium of my wife.
2528. Are you acquainted with the details of management? Yes, thoroughly, I think, now. I took more active service some three months since, on the death of the late secretary.
2529. Will you tell us how admission is obtained to the home at Waratah? My attention, since I have been actively associated with the society, has been more directed towards the outdoor relief than to the asylum department; but, I understand, the method of admission into the home is by application, either to the president or one of the vice-presidents, and on their recommendation the matron admits.
2530. Are you aware of what investigation is made into each case? I am not personally aware of the investigation made.
2531. Do you know anything about the admission to the lying-in department? All that I know is that they apply through the president or the vice-presidents, and the matron makes the examination.
2532. As regards the outdoor relief, you have given particular attention to that;—will you state how that is administered? The outdoor relief is administered by the volunteer service of ladies, two representing each district. They are the means of distributing the outdoor relief; at the same time they are the means of collecting moneys. They do the two conjointly.
2533. And they do the inspecting, too? Yes, and the reporting.
2534. And on their report the committee grants the relief? Yes; any new application for relief is made before the general committee. Up to the present it has been made verbally, but we are starting a new order of things now, whereby all applications for relief must be made on a proper form, which will be supplied, including all the details we require of the cases. These we propose to enter into an alphabetical register of outdoor relief. These applications are dealt with by the committee, in the meantime, until a case is dealt with, which simply means a month at the outside, the ladies are allowed to give temporary relief on a basis laid down.
2535. Upon a standard set up by the committee? Yes.

2536.

2536. It is stated in the by-laws that lying-in inmates are to stay three months in the institution;—what is the object of that regulation? Simply that we should have a return in some way by their services. And in certain cases it gives them an opportunity of reclaiming themselves by giving them time to get away from their associations. G. P. Lock.
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2537. That would operate when the cases were few; if the cases were many you would not require that rule, because you would not be able to employ them? I have not given close attention to the rules, but on a casual observance they seem to me to want remodelling and revising; that will be one of the duties of the committee as soon as we get through the investigations.

2538. What is your idea of the object of that rule;—is it that these young women should remain there so that you may get some return by their services? Yes.

2539. We have seen this morning that there is accommodation for more inmates than you have, we presume, therefore, this rule has not resulted in your turning anyone away? We have not to my knowledge.

2540. What condition is laid down as regards the admission of people as permanent inmates;—must they be absolutely penniless and homeless? That is it. Absolutely penniless or homeless. We have one or two cases where they themselves are without homes or means, but some of their people have homes and means, and in that case we receive a remuneration from the friends. These cases are few; I do not think we have more than four or five. We have to search them out too; we make it a rule to make inquiries into the circumstances of those connected with the persons we admit, and if they are in any way able to give assistance we ask it, and sometimes demand it.

2541. With reference to the outdoor relief—how far do your operations extend? To within a radius of somewhere about 20 miles.

2542. You have no paid inspector? No, we have not.

2543. Are the homes of these outdoor pensioners supposed to be visited a certain number of times in the year? We expect our lady visitors to inspect them at least once during the month.

2544. Do the ladies furnish written reports? Yes; and are more often as not called upon for explanatory reports.

2545. Do you consider the system of having local ladies, say two in each district, as a source of information, to be advantageous? Yes; infinitely better than having a paid inspector—I mean under the present order of things. Our service is purely voluntary service, from the highest to the lowest. We have only two or three paid servants; the secretary is the only paid servant so far as the outdoor relief is concerned. The ladies give us information, and more readily than they would if under the supervision of a paid inspector.

2546. Do you think there is much imposition on the society? They have not got much chance so far as we are concerned now.

2547. You have reduced it to a minimum, you think? Yes.

2548. There will always be some, I presume? Yes; we have to weed it out from time to time.

2549. How many districts are there; it appears there are something like twenty-five? Yes, twenty-five.

2550. Is the relief given all from one centre, or from local centres? Each pair of ladies representing a district is provided with an order book [produced]. They are empowered to give whatever relief is granted by the committee per week or per month. They can either give a ticket for 2s. 6d. a week or 10s. a month. That ticket has to be signed by two ladies. The words "no luxuries allowed" are printed on the ticket.

2551. The ticket is presented at a store? Yes; and is an order. Each district supplies its own people.

2552. That is what is called the ticket system? Yes.

2553. Are provisions given direct in any case? It is all done upon the ticket system.

2554. You have no store at all, except for the use of the home? No; and that is for the home consumption.

2555. You have no store for outdoor relief? No.

2556. It is stated elsewhere as one of the objections to the ticket system that the poor people would not get such good value as they would at the society's own store? Our ticket system is operated upon by two lady visitors, and you cannot get better buyers than two ladies; they know exactly what is given to each person. The articles obtained from the store are enumerated on the back of the tickets.

2557. And the prices? Yes.

2558. And the ladies check them? Yes. If they think the store charges too much they do not go there again. These tickets correspond with the invoices; there is an invoice supplied in addition to them.

2559. From whom? From the storekeeper. He has to render an account. When the ladies send in their reports for the month, they have to send in the tickets. These tickets represent the account in detail, and the ladies have to send us the receipts for the amounts they paid the previous month. We check the items, and they being enumerated, we know exactly what stores were obtained.

2560. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you explain what is meant by luxuries? They cannot get any luxuries. When we find anything like luxuries—raisins, currants, whisky, and such like—we write to the people. If the grocer supplies anything in the way of luxuries we stop it.

2561. *President.*] That is quite right, if you define what is meant by luxuries? We define it to the pensioners. We have never stopped a grocer yet. In one particular case the ladies reported that an old woman was applying her ticket to other than the goods prescribed, and we wrote to her that complaint had been made that the allowance made by the society was not used for the purchase of necessaries, and informed her that unless the allowance was so used it must be discontinued. In such a case we would check the next ticket, and if there were anything of the kind the allowance would be discontinued.

2562. Is no collusion possible between the storekeeper and pensioner? There would have to be three parties to it. There is such strict supervision by our visitors there is not a possibility of it. There are two lady visitors at all times.

2563. Could not there be collusion between the storekeeper and pensioner behind the visitors' backs? That would be gross collusion and perjury; and we have never had any reason to believe that such was done in our district. Our district being cut up so small—twenty-five districts in a population of 60,000—we have them under most strict surveillance. The reports have to be before us every fortnight, and we investigate the whole matter. That is the system which obtains now.

2564. *Mr. Powell.*] There is no third check—there is only the check between the receiver and seller? I think there might be a third check in this way: The tickets are given to the beneficiary, who passes them

on

- G. P. Lock. on to the storekeeper. He has to send them back to the lady visitor, who gets the account and pays it herself.
- 27 Aug., 1898. 2565. *President.*] There is, of course, some danger? I think it is a very remote possibility. I do not think our storekeepers would be party to it for the small profit they would make out of it.
2566. The ladies would know who they were dealing with here? I suppose there is not any more unreliable set of people to deal with than these impoverished people, and the storekeeper would not give himself away.
2567. You think the ticket system, as against the store system, is a good one? I do; because by a distribution of our purchases in that way it helps our contributions.
2568. I can see that it is so in your particular society, which is comparatively small; but in the case of an institution dealing with 1,100 or 1,200 pensioners a week, would you still think the ticket system applicable? I am not prepared to venture an opinion on that. I only know what our society does. I am quite sure, so far as our society is concerned, worked purely by volunteers, it is the best. Use the store system if you will, and you take away the interest of your ladies, if their orders have to be distributed from one store and one centre. In our case we have compared the prices of the city and suburban stores, and we find but little difference; we find a disposition on the part of the local storekeepers to behave well; we find that the suburban stores are so much in touch with our wholesale places that they can sell just as well out at Minmi as in Newcastle.
2569. *Mr. Powell.*] In the store system there is the cost of distribution? Just so.
2570. *President.*] And the cost of the store? Yes; we have nothing of that. You can quite see from what I say that the ticket system must be the best here.
2571. Have you any maximum relief standard? We never bind ourselves to a maximum.
2572. In practice you have a maximum? We have in practice; we set as a basis for all purposes 2s. 6d. for a single case, and 4s. for a double case.
2573. And if there are a number of children? We call that an exceptional case, and we give it further consideration, and extend the relief. We do not give this allowance with a view to keeping the people, we give it to relieve them—just to help them.
2574. It is in aid? Yes.
2575. You have no stated maximum? No; circumstances govern us.
2576. And do you not profess to give relief that will solely support? No; we do not believe in doing that which will take away their self reliance.
2577. Do you give any allowance for rent? Yes; but not to the individual. We give it direct to the landlord, who has to give his receipt.
2578. Are there many of those cases? Not a great many. All the moneys are paid by the visitors themselves. We do not pay money to anybody.
2579. *Mr. Powell.*] Suppose a recipient of relief be living with a relative;—would you pay rent in that case? We do not consider we have a right to pay rent in that case. We consider if the beneficiary is living with a relative able to keep a home, the relative should roof him, or her. We would not give an allowance for rent.
2580. There are relatives and relatives? We would not pay it as a rent—we would give them an allowance in groceries.
2581. In the case of a mother residing with her daughter, you would not think it right to give the daughter rent? We should not.
2582. *President.*] So far as you can you get receipts from the actual landlord? Yes.
2583. Suppose a case of very great destitution, would you, on your own responsibility, give immediate relief? I would, pending a meeting of the committee.
2584. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you give occasional relief at this office? Yes; casual relief tickets for meals, and passes for steamers.
2585. *President.*] So that a deserving case need not wait for the committee? No, not five minutes. Applicants for relief must apply to the ladies giving relief in the district where they live; if any lady gives temporary relief out of her district she must immediately, before the meeting, acquaint the office here.
2586. She will only give it as a matter of emergency? Yes, and report at once.
2587. The two ladies are not supposed to give relief outside their own district? No, and that is investigated.
2588. There can be no overlapping? We have no overlapping in our own institution. The overlapping we get is from other places.
2589. Have you discovered cases where your people are receiving relief from other sources? Yes.
2590. If you do not profess to give them enough to support, why should they not get supplementary aid from their church, or some other organisation; supposing they are actually destitute? My view of it is this: We should know exactly the amount of relief that person is in receipt of; we say that if that organisation has money to spend they had better spend it on a new case and advise us, that we are not giving enough in this case. I think all the charities should come from one source, to that end we propose to make an alphabetical statement of all our pensioners, with a view to passing it on to the Mutual Help Society, which is also giving assistance, and to ask them to give us their list in return; and ask them not to relieve any case that we are relieving. We want the same in regard to the State aid. The department sends us a bald statement, but it is not sufficient. They do not know what cases we are dealing with. There is plenty of room for improvement as we go on, but we are just feeling our way. This is the list received of the State aid granted [*produced*].
2591. Was that received from the Director of Charities in Sydney? Yes.
2592. This is a list showing all of those granted monthly allowances, and requesting that you will not relieve them without consultation with the Director? I am not prepared to say it is not a complete list, but the information given is not sufficient.
2593. It does not give the amounts? No. We do not know how many other pensioners there are that may receive relief from the State. We want a correct list of the whole of the pensioners. That opens up a fresh matter, but I think all the relief would be best distributed from one centre.
2594. The list is not complete in the sense that it does not say what amount is being received from the State; it might be £1 or £2 a week for all you know? Yes. We are proposing to have what is called an outdoor register prepared on these lines [*specimen produced*]. I want something like that from the State Department.

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Department. In many cases State aid is only granted for a period of two or three months, and our relief goes on or it may be stopped in the interim. If we are relieving a case and we get advice that aid is received from the State we either withdraw our relief or reduce it.

2595. If they were to give you a complete list of all recipients with the amounts received, and then in future send you particulars of new names added and all alterations, that would suit your purpose? That would do. Our only object is that we should know the amount of charity distributed in the district.

2596. There are other institutions in Newcastle subsidised by the State, and if they do not act on the same principles as you they may actually be making allowances to your people? Just so. We want to get away from indiscriminate relief; we want to know exactly what relief is being afforded each person. There have been some objections raised to this list passing from one society to another, because it exposes the affairs of the people; but it would be confidential between the two societies; there must be some publicity about it.

2597. It is quite possible that other societies may be actually covering the same ground as you are? Quite so.

2598. Is it also possible that you are covering some of their ground? It may be so. They are operating in the same district, only not so widely extended as we are. Newcastle Central and Newcastle East and West are the portions more particularly affected.

2599. How often does the committee meet? Fortnightly—that is the house committee. The general committee meet monthly. If necessity arises we call the house committee when required.

2600. Have you an auditor to audit the accounts? We have two auditors. There is the balance-sheet for the quarter ending March, and for the quarter ending June [*produced*], audited by Gardner and Wood.

2601. Has any Government auditor ever examined the accounts in any way, so far as you know? Mr. Williams has.

2602. It is stated in the report that meals are given to people;—is that done by ticket? Yes.

2603. Are they given to men and women out of employment? To indigent men in search of employment; very often to cases coming out of the hospital—just convalescent and without money. If they are likely to be convalescent for some time then we send them into our home; if not, we give them a few meals or a bed or two.

2604. Until they get employment, or are disposed of in some other way? Yes.

2605. If they are too ill you take them into the home? Yes.

2606. That is a branch of the outdoor relief? Yes; casual outdoor relief. It is operated upon by the secretary, the president, or myself.

2607. They are not long on your books? No; perhaps for one meal, and then pass on. In fact, it is understood that to anybody that comes here we give them one meal to help them along the road. If we gave them one meal a day they would loaf round the walls all day.

2608. One of your tables shows the number of families relieved; there were last year an average of about 274 families a week;—is that correct? It is if the report says so.

2609. Those families may be large or small? Yes; the number of families for 1897 relieved was 2,580, consisting of 10,756 adults and children; the number of single men was 297, and the number of single women 728.

2610. It looks better this year so far? Yes; many are widows and many old men.

2611. Are there any deserted wives? Yes; our system of charity is based on an allowance of 4s. a couple and 2s. 6d. a single case. If you compare our balance-sheets you will see how it works out. In 1897 the amount dispensed in outdoor and casual relief was £2,698 9s. 10d. There were 2,580 cases at 4s., amounting to £2,064; 1,025 cases at 2s. 6d., making £512 10s.—a total of £2,576 10s., as against £2,698. Taking the next year, it appears the sum dispensed by the ladies was £2,400 4s. 9d. Against that we have 2,175 cases at 4s., making £1,740, and 1,111 cases at 2s. 6d., making £555—a total of £2,295. That shows we keep pretty near that basis.

2612. When steamer fares and railway passes are given, are they granted to the same class of men—those out of employment or convalescent? To indigent men in search of employment, or sick men who want to go to Sydney or perhaps to Maitland Asylum or Maitland Hospital.

2613. Are they usually residents of the district or casuals? You can quite understand that a seaport town like Newcastle is a point of gravitation; we have them coming down from the north—stranded sailors—and that is how we get so many casuals.

2614. Would any of those have families that you give steamer tickets to? Sometimes; a man may be a fireman, who wants to go down to Sydney to get a better chance of a boat.

2615. Would the ticket be for his family, too? No; it does not cover his family.

2616. In some cases they may have employment to go to? Yes; in some cases a man might want to join a steamer in Sydney.

2617. They would be mostly seafaring men? Yes; and men tramping the country in search of work.

2618. *Mr. Powell.*] You do not give them any money? No; the way we give them passes is this: the man comes in the morning, and to make sure he is a sober man we ask him to call for his pass at 5 o'clock. When he comes back we tell him the secretary will call at the steamer office at 10 o'clock with the pass.

2619. Does the committee give clothing as well? Yes, in some cases; but that occurs more particularly under the branch of the society called the Dorcas.

2620. *President.*] That is a sub-committee? Yes; of ladies.

2621. And they distribute bedding and clothing? Yes; but only on the recommendation of the ladies themselves. The lady visitors report, and we pass it on to the Dorcas committee; and they deal with it and distribute. The same thing applies to the distribution of blankets, which are distributed by the Dorcas society. All applications are made to the lady visitors.

2622. How do your outdoor pensioners manage in regard to medical attendance? We find that our medical men are very good in that way. There is no case in any district that wants for medical attendance. On the application of one of our lady visitors a doctor will visit. If it is likely to be a protracted illness, they refer the matter to us, and we apply to the hospital authorities.

2623. The local ladies, in cases of sickness, have only to ask a doctor to attend? Yes; in a small place where ladies can call the doctors "Fred," or "Alfred" you can understand there is a familiarity which makes this thing very easily managed.

- G. P. Lock. 2624. *Mr. Powell.*] I suppose the ladies in their districts are acquainted with all the circumstances of the cases? Yes; we have only to ask the visitor why this case is receiving so much, and she can tell us in a moment.
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2625. *President.*] Does the present system of having hon. medical officers work well at the asylum? The patients have not been neglected so far as medical treatment is concerned, from the fact that we have only an honorary medical staff. I am hopeful by and bye that we shall have a better visitation than we have now.
2626. Do you think once a week is sufficient? I think so, unless there is anything particularly the matter with them.
2627. In which case the doctor is sent for? Yes.
2628. You think a visit once a week is enough? We have no reason from past experience to believe otherwise.
2629. *Mr. Powell.*] Has the doctor applied to be placed in telephonic communication with the home? Yes; and I should be very glad if it could be done for him.
2630. You think it would be a desirable thing? Yes.
2631. *President.*] That is a matter for your committee to deal with? I have been applying for a telephone from this office, so that we may have direct communication with the home.
2632. The grant of £4,500 received from the Government in 1897 was, I presume, in connection with the building fund? That is almost before my time; a portion of it was—there was £3,000 of it for the building fund, and £1,500 outdoor relief. That was not a special grant, it was inaugurated in the Dibbs administration, and when Mr. Reid came into office, he gave it to us for a year, and next year reduced it to £1,000, so that the Government really owes us a back £500.
2633. There was a considerable increase in subscriptions in 1898? There was.
2634. Was that owing to your fair? Just about that time our home was being opened, and there was a good deal of enthusiasm, and a good deal of special effort. Our public subscriptions were £1,402.
2635. The cost of the outdoor and casual relief was £2,698 in 1897, and in 1898 it was reduced to £2,400; the expenditure, however, in connection with the asylum increased in 1898;—can you say why there was a decrease in the outdoor department, and an increase in the indoor department? That is before my active service; it has been the duty of the treasurer hitherto simply to take the money and bank it, and to sign the cheques. But now, under Mr. Arnott, I am taking a more active service.
2636. How is the increase of expenditure in the asylum accounted for? We went from here to the new home, and the inmates increased. There was furniture to be bought—wrongly charged to my mind; it is not an item of maintenance.
2637. The furniture was charged in the maintenance? Yes. I am arranging a different system now, whereby we shall be able to keep the outdoor relief, the Dorcas, the home maintenance, the casual relief, and the secretarial expenses all separate; but these things take time to prepare.
2638. What has been the total cost of the new building? The total cost of the building was £6,203 7s. 4d; the cottage building, fences, &c., £603 10s. 10d., making a total of £6,806 18s. 2d.
2639. Was the site a grant from the Government? It was a grant.
2640. What is the area of the site? About 4 acres, roughly speaking.
2641. I suppose you have no valuation of it? No.
2642. What debt is there on the building? The overdraft to-day is caused by the cost of the building. By a reference to our balance-sheets prior to the erection of the building you will see our Bank overdraft varied from £100 to £245, which was covered by our property here, valued at £450. The building cost us £6,806, and we have only received £3,000 from the Government. You can, therefore, readily understand why our overdraft is occasioned to-day. Our overdraft to-day is, roughly speaking, £3,000; we have a credit, I reckon, on the building to the extent of £3,800, seeing we have only received £3,000 from the Government.
2643. *Mr. Powell.*] You could not mortgage the property? No. I wanted to point out, if I be in order, that the Government are losing money in this matter. We are paying 6½ per cent. interest for that overdraft, incurred by the establishment of the home. We are saving the Government, whether by transferred services or not, a large amount of money per annum; and while other institutions, such as those at Goulburn and Bathurst, which have no buildings at all, receive £ for £ subsidy, we have this building, and take in seventy inmates on an average, the cost varying from £11 to £12 per annum per inmate.
2644. *President.*] How many inmates will the building accommodate? The number of beds is sixty-four.
2645. You have about fifty-two old people there now? Yes.
2646. You have two cottage homes? Yes; they represent four cottage homes, because we have four old couples there.
2647. Was it part of the scheme of the society to have more of those homes? Yes. A special gift, one by Mr. Arnott of £100, built one of the cottages; and £100 given by Mrs. Henderson, subsidised by the Government, built the other. We have plenty of room for others if we can get the money.
2648. Have they been satisfactory? Very.
2649. Do the people in the cottages get rations as well? They have their meals at the institution.
2650. Are your stores for the asylum purchased by contract? Yes; this year is the first year by contract.
2651. Is there a finance committee? No; we have no finance committee, we have a house committee, wrongly called so, because it is a committee of management which deals chiefly with outdoor relief—that sub-committee contains twelve. I think we have a building committee, but it never meets.
2652. How does the ticket prices compare with your contract prices? Splendidly; there is only one item which perhaps does not agree—that is, potatoes. They fluctuate. Our contract price is 4s. 6d.; in some case we are charged 9s., but that is according to the market. Taking the general necessaries we would not save anything by contract at all as applied to outdoor relief.
2653. Have the out-pensioners ever complained of the quality of the stores? We have no complaint. On the whole, we have to speak well of the generous treatment by the stores. That is because of dealing locally most of the old pensioners are known to the storekeepers.
2654. *Mr. Powell.*] And when they get money again they go to him? Yes. In some cases we grant 9d. a week for meat, and an old lady will go to the butcher and get a leg of mutton; but the butcher only gets his 9d.
- 2655.

2655. So that she gets charity both ways? Yes.

2656. *President.*] Do you find much variety amongst the different storekeepers in regard to prices charged? No; there is an unanimity. We have no complaints comparatively, either on the part of the local visitors or the beneficiaries themselves.

2657. In estimating the cost of the asylum inmates at £11 to £12 per head, do you include each child as one? I have done so. We have no children at present, but if you take two children as equal to one adult the cost would not be much higher. Our salaries are so small; our matron gets £60 a year; our sub-matron, £40; our cook, at present, 7s. 6d. a week; our wardsman, 15s.; and we have two girls getting 2s. 6d. a week. Then a great deal of our vegetables are grown by the old men on the ground.

2658. What are the duties of the secretary;—does he do all the secretarial work? Yes, under my direction.

2659. Has he anything to do with the outdoor relief? His work is chiefly in connection with the outdoor relief.

2660. That is dealing with the ladies' reports, tickets, and so forth? Yes; his work is chiefly in connection with the outdoor relief. The asylum work only comes in once a month, when the accounts have to be checked and the reports of the matron received. We have very little correspondence in connection with the asylum.

2661. What is the secretary paid? £100 per annum at present, but we shall have to increase his salary as we increase his work. Our investigations are so minute and so stringent that they are entailing a lot of secretarial work; for instance, I think in the short time he has been here—three months—he has written more letters than were written in the eighteen months before.

2662. You will admit that the inquiry is the basis of the whole thing? Yes.

2663. And inspection? Yes; we found when I took up active work we must have these ladies' investigations from month to month. The first month when we made investigations and weeded out what we considered undeserving cases we made a saving of £30, and in three months after we had discovered that in some cases we had been a little hard; we made an average saving of £15 a month in outdoor relief.

THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

[The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10 o'clock a.m.]

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (PRESIDENT).

J. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

George Edward Ardill sworn and examined:—

2664. *President.*] You are connected with various charitable societies? Yes; with the Sydney Rescue Work Society and the Society for providing homes for neglected children. G. E. Ardill.

2665. What position do you occupy in connection with the Sydney Rescue Work Society? I am director of the Society. 22 Sept., 1898.

2666. Is there a committee? There is a committee consisting of clergymen and business men.

2667. Have you your last statement? Yes; I will hand that in.

2668. It appears from the information we have got that you have several departments or branches, and apparently you have an office in Pitt-street; is that an administrative office? It is.

2669. Is it only an administrative office? No; there is attached to it what is known as a Jubilee Home, providing shelter for respectable women who are destitute.

2670. Is that a casual shelter for the night? Sometimes it extends to two or three weeks.

2671. There is a Home of Hope, Newtown, and a laundry, which we saw? Yes.

2672. There is a home training school and a lying-in hospital occupying a portion of that building? Yes.

2673. There is an all-night refuge in Sussex-street? Yes.

2674. You have a babies' home? Yes; "Brisbane Cottage," on Newtown-road.

2675. There is what is called the Women's Crusade, in Wexford-street? That is a mission carried on to secure admission for women to one or other of our institutions.

2676. Then there is the Discharged Prisoners' Mission? That is without a home; it is simply an agency.

2677. Do you give relief there? Yes; to released prisoners.

2678. Then there is the Gospel Union? That is an agency for the dissemination of the gospel.

2679. Then there are the Children's Home at Liverpool and the Boys' Farm Home at Camden? Yes.

2680. What subsidy did you receive last year from the Government? £500.

2681. Is that given for any special institution? When Mr. Maxted reported he made it cover the whole of the branches.

2682. What is it given for now? I understand it is given as covering the whole of the branches, but the Home-training School was not in existence at that time.

2683. Is this subsidy, when it is given, intended to cover the whole of your work now? As I understand it, yes. The £500 for last year was a reduced sum. We had been getting £1,000.

2684. You understand that that subsidy is given, not for any special work, but for the whole of the charities? Yes.

2685. You consider that you are entitled to devote it to any one of them? No; not to the Gospel Union. There is no expense connected with that. It must be for providing shelter for men, women, or children in some form.

2686. Where any one of these institutions does provide for that you consider yourself at liberty to devote any portion of that money to it? Exactly.

2687. You say you are director of the Sydney Rescue Work Society;—what is your position in regard to the other institutions? I am also director of the society for providing homes for neglected children, which includes our Children's Homes at Liverpool and the Boys' Farm Home at Camden.

2688. And what about the Babies' Home? That is under the Sydney Rescue Work Society.

- G. E. Ardill. 2689. The Sydney Rescue Work Society includes what? The Home-training School, and Lying-in Hospital, the Home of Hope, the Open-all-night Refuge for Women, the Discharged Prisoners' Mission, the Babies' Home, and the Women's Crusade.
22 Sept., 1898.
2690. These are all branches of the Sydney Rescue Work Society? Yes.
2691. The Children's Home at Camden is distinct? Yes.
2692. Have the Sydney Rescue Work Society anything whatever to do with the Homes at Liverpool and Camden? The members of the committees are virtually the same. The idea has been to merge these institutions under the Sydney Rescue Work Society.
2693. Your idea is that the Sydney Rescue Work Society should absorb them? That is the intention.
2694. At present they have not been absorbed? No; they are dealing with them, but they are not formally absorbed.
2695. I understand that up to a certain point you carried on this work on your own initiation without a committee? Sometimes without a committee and sometimes with a few friends, who were associated together with me, but principally apart from the jurisdiction of any committee.
2696. When did this movement originate? In 1882, sixteen years ago. I was in business in the city when I had my attention called to the movement known as the Gospel Temperance Movement in England, and I formed a small committee here to carry on a similar work. We held meetings with the view of securing signatures to total abstinence pledges from any who had given way to intemperance. In consequence of those meetings we discovered that a number of women were absolutely without shelter in the city.
2697. In its inception, was this movement a religious or a temperance movement? It was a semi-religious temperance movement. Discovering that there were a number of women without shelter in the city, we made an appeal to friends, and the response warranted us in securing an open-all-night refuge for them.
2698. Then at what period did it formally come under the management of a committee? In the year 1890.
2699. What was the financial position of affairs when it was taken over by the committee? We were in debt to the sum of about £800 or £900. The committee accepted a portion of the liability, £450, leaving myself responsible for about £500.
2700. Why did they not take over the whole of the liabilities? I really cannot say; I think it was that they felt that they could compass a liability of about £450, and not any more. There was no exception taken to any of the liabilities.
2701. Is there only one grand committee, or are there separate committees for these various institutions? There are no separate committees, except in connection with the Babies' Home. For that there is a ladies' sub-committee.
2702. There are no sub-committees for the other institutions? No.
2703. The children's homes at Liverpool and Camden are carried on without any definite control by the Sydney Rescue Society at present? Yes; reports simply being made to them.
2704. Are funds separately collected for these homes at Liverpool and Camden? Yes.
2705. With regard to the premises in Pitt-street, will you state again what they are used for? First of all for administrative purposes and offices, and for providing shelter for friendless but respectable women.
2706. What staff do you keep there? We have a clerk, an office-boy, and a messenger.
2707. What salary does the clerk receive? Thirty shillings a week.
2708. And the office-boy? He receives 7s. 6d. a week, and the other lad 6s. a week.
2709. Is all the administrative work of all these different institutions done there? It is all done there.
2710. According to a return before me there are three collectors? Yes, we had three collectors.
2711. They are attached to the Pitt-street place? Yes; they report there.
2712. Then there is a carter put down? He is attached to the laundry. He delivers the washing and secures gifts of provisions.
2713. Are these premises entirely occupied by you? Yes.
2714. What rent do you pay? Thirty shillings a week.
2715. Do these officers give the whole of their time to your work? They do.
2716. Does their remuneration include board? The clerk and office lads do not get board, but the other officers do.
2717. That is, the collectors do? Yes; if they are in the country they are provided with board.
2718. The clerk assistant and the messenger do not get board? No.
2719. You say that you receive certain destitute women there;—who is in charge of the place? Miss Wales, a collector, who resides there.
2720. Your collectors are all ladies? Yes.
2721. You state in one of your reports that one of the objects of this home in Pitt-street, as you state now, is to provide a home for young women from the country, who are met at the railway-station? The object is to provide a means of escape from the allurements of city life for friendless virtuous young women arriving in Sydney from the country districts or elsewhere. Young women are met on arrival at the railway station or on the wharfs.
2722. Do these women write to you beforehand? Their friends write to us frequently. They themselves write sometimes. Ministers write to us, and we send officers to the railway station to meet the young women.
2723. Then do you take them to the home? Yes; they are taken to the home.
2724. And given the necessary relief? Yes. We provide for them by sending them to registry offices accompanied by one of our officers, and paying the fee if they are without funds.
2725. How many have you in the home at present? None.
2726. How many would you pass through the home in twelve months? I have not the figures, but I should think forty or fifty.
2727. When did you last have any inmates there? Last week.
2728. Does your home deal with any women from the city? Yes. If a woman has been in a situation in Sydney, and has had to go to the hospital, if she is discharged from the hospital without funds, we give her shelter.
2729. Do they ever pay you anything for their relief? Yes. The nominal charge in connection with the institution is 10s. a week for board and lodging. We get a refund sometimes.

2730. What becomes of the girls who are taken in there? We get situations for them. We have frequent visits from those who have passed through the institution. G. E. Ardill.
2731. Have you any idea how much you received in refunds last year? No; I should think about £10 or £12 at the outside. 22 Sept., 1898.
2732. That would be about the average? I think so.
2733. It is stated that shelter is given at the Home in exceptional cases; what are the exceptional cases? Not the ordinary cases. They would go to the open-all-night refuge.
2734. You say that this institution is intended to deal with cases in a way which would not be adopted by any other institution;—what is the meaning of that? I do not remember that statement.
2735. The report says, "However, we have dealt with large numbers of cases which seem to be outside the general scope of existing organisations"? You will notice on page 11 that that is connected with the relief agency.
2736. I suppose that as far as you know there is no institution which does this particular work? That is not the Jubilee Home. You have gone into what we call our outside relief. We have not undertaken any widespread system of outdoor relief, believing that there are at present quite sufficient agencies at work to cope with all deserving cases of distress in need of grants of food, &c., if such agencies were properly organised, and in touch with each other. Writing upon this subject in 1892 and 1893, we said: "All charitable workers are feeling the necessity for some practical measure for the organisation of the large number of charities in Sydney and the suburbs."
2737. I understand, as regards this particular protection that you say you afford to virtuous girls, no other society has taken up the work in the way you are doing? The statement refers to the Relief Agency which does not comprise the Jubilee Home, it also compasses applications from people who do not enter the Jubilee Home—persons who ask us to pay registry-office fees, and so on.
2738. So that when you say you do it in a way in which it is not usually done by other institutions, you refer to the payment of rent, the releasing of clothing from pawn, and so on? Not the payment of rent—the payment of registry office fees and releasing clothes from pawn, and the purchase of clothing for those going out to work.
2739. Have you any return showing how much was distributed under each head—paying rent, releasing clothing from pawn, and so on? I have not, but I could get it.
2740. Do you give outdoor relief in the form of bedding and clothing? Yes.
2741. Do you give provisions? In exceptional cases we do. That would not be a very large amount. We think that the Benevolent Asylum and other institutions are quite capable of dealing with that form of relief.
2742. Suppose an application is made to you for rent, what inquiries do you make? We have an officer on the voluntary principle who proceeds at once to make inquiries at the residence of the individual and from the neighbours as to the person's antecedents. A report is made to me before any relief is granted, unless it is a case in which food is required. In that case relief would be granted at once.
2743. In dealing with these people, do you ever compare notes with other institutions to see that you are not actually double-banking? We do not very largely. I have suggested a scheme, and it may be adopted, but I think there can be very little double-banking in connection with providing situations for women and paying registry-office fees, because no other institution does that.
2744. But with regard to the outdoor relief business? That is a very small matter. I do not think it can amount to £20 a year, because I immediately refer such applicants to the Benevolent Society, and I make inquiries by telephone as to whether the applicants are receiving relief from them.
2745. You would not permanently provide relief of that kind, but you would relieve a person in a case of urgency? Exactly.
2746. If a case became chronic you would hand it over to another organisation? Yes.
2747. Have you any maximum standard of relief? No; it depends upon the necessities of the case. Each case is dealt with on its merits.
2748. In paying rent, do you pay it direct to the landlord, or do you pay it to the tenant? It can scarcely be called rent. It is generally for a person lodging in a house that we pay the rent—a person whose clothing is, perhaps, detained in consequence of the rent of a room not being paid. Only in exceptional cases have we paid money to the landlord. If we were paying rent, we should pay it direct to the landlord.
2749. When you talk about paying rent, you mean paying rent to release a tenant's property? In some cases; in other cases it is to continue for them a shelter until they are able to obtain employment.
2750. How long do you go on paying rent in a case of that kind? Not more than three or four weeks at the outside. In most cases for a shorter period.
2751. You relieve them until they have time to turn round and find some other resource? Until they can obtain employment.
2752. Or some other source of relief, because I understand you to say that you would only do it as a temporary matter, until they made other arrangements? Yes; but whilst paying rent for them we are on the look-out for employment for them. In most cases we have been able to secure them employment. We should not continue to relieve them permanently.
2753. What would happen if you could not find employment for them? They would have to go to some institution that would provide for them.
2754. You help them until they can either find employment or get relief from some other institution? Exactly; but I do not know many cases like that.
2755. I should like to know how far this is done on your own responsibility, or how far your committee have any responsibility in the matter? There is no responsibility whatever so far as the committee are concerned. They leave it to me, and I report to them monthly; but if there is a case in which a larger amount than 10s. is needed then I consult with Mr. Wilson or some other member of the committee.
2756. You relieve on your own responsibility, and report to the committee? Yes; in most cases.
2757. Have you any idea to how many persons you are affording outdoor relief? I should say that the average number would be about twelve cases per week.
2758. I understand that none of these are chronic cases? No.
2759. Is the cost of working the Pitt-street branch included in the general statement of income and expenditure which you have supplied? Yes, it is included in all our balance-sheets.
2760. In the form before me it appears under the heading of "General"? Yes.
2761. Who keeps the books? I keep them partly, and the clerk assists. 2762.

- G. E. Ardill. 2762. Who are the auditors? Messrs. Smith and Stewart, of the Equitable Buildings. They audit the accounts monthly.
- 22 Sept., 1898. 2763. Have they any connection with the institution beyond being the auditors? No.
2764. By whom are they appointed? By the committee. They have been the auditors for twelve months; prior to that Mr. Fell was the auditor.
2765. This heading "General" includes other things? It includes a considerable number of items.
2766. All the accounts are kept at Pitt-street? Yes; except the item of expenditure in connection with the various institutions. They are all, however, transmitted to the general office, and put in to the general cash-book.
2767. What is your own salary? At present, nothing.
2768. How is that? I have declined to receive any stated salary from the institution since the end of last year, obtaining simply shelter at one of the institutions, and food wherever I may happen to be.
2769. Are you a married man? Yes.
2770. And you have received no money? I was in receipt of an allowance of £30 a year for some time, a portion of which then even had to be devoted to the payment of a clerk. Since the institution of the society in 1890, as the Sydney Rescue Work Society, that was my stated allowance.
2771. At present there is no allowance? At present there is none.
2772. Have any of your family received an allowance of any kind? No.
2773. Are any members of your family employed in the society's works? Mrs. Ardill is my helper.
2774. Without pay? Without pay. She throws herself into the work altogether apart from the consideration of being employed by the society.
2775. I understand that the only compensation you receive from the society is board and lodging for yourself and family? That is all.
2776. *Mr. Powell.*] Have you any charge against the institution for arrears of salary? I have.
2777. Is it shown in the books? Yes. At present it stands at something above £100. That, of course, is apart from any indebtedness prior to the formation of the society.
2778. The indebtedness prior to the formation of the society would be your own private indebtedness? It is recognised as such.
2779. *President.*] In June, 1898, the amount due for salaries for officers was £319 17s. 9d.—how much of that was due to you? £109; but that has been reduced. The amount now due will be about £90.
2780. *Mr. Powell.*] You have a salary, but it is not paid? No; I cannot say that I receive a salary.
2781. It is charged in the books? There is no charge since last December.
2782. *President.*] It leaves £210 as due to the other officers apparently at that period? Exactly.
2783. To whom is that money due? G. E. Ardill, director, £109; Miss Williams, matron, Home of Hope, £30 10s.; Nurse Adams, matron, Home-training School, £24 10s.; Mrs. Clifford, matron, Babies' Home, £17; Miss Thompson, matron, Open-all-Night Refuge, £11 5s.; Miss Green, matron, Mission House, 36 Wexford-street, £5 16s. 8d.; Miss McLean, matron, Our Children's Homes, Liverpool, £46 10s.; Mrs. Hayley, matron, Boys' Home, Camden, £3; Miss Wales, collector, £15; Miss Murcutt, collector, £6 9s. 7d.; Miss McNicol, collector, £5 17s. 10d.; Miss Carroll, assistant, Babies Home, £3 13s. 4d.; Miss Butler, assistant, Home of Hope, £18 3s. 4d.; S. Wales, carter and handy man, £3 12s.; W. C. Perrett, carter for laundry, £19 10s.; £319 17s. 9d.
2784. Have these ladies made any request for the payment of their salaries? No; the understanding with most who come to us is that they have to wait if funds are not to hand. They recognise it as a mission which they undertake to perform, and salary is not a question with them. Many of them have in times past given money out of their salaries, when they have received it, back to the funds of the institution.
2785. Who was the previous matron at the Camden Boys' Home? Miss Thompson.
2786. Has Miss Thompson been paid? Yes; paid in full.
2787. And these persons to whom the society owes money now have not made any demand for the payment of the arrears? Not any whatever.
2788. It must be a very serious matter for them to have to go without their money? They manage, and, as far as I know, they are satisfied. I notice that I have received £25 since that statement; that leaves £84 due up to last December.
2789. In regard to your own salary, how is it debited;—is it portioned off against the various branches? No; it is a general salary.
2790. In travelling, do you or your collectors or any other officers obtain free passes or exceptional terms from the Government? We do not.
2791. Suppose people are coming to your homes or are being sent away, do you get any special concessions? We obtain free passes for women coming from the country to the institution, but not for officers.
2792. About the Newtown Home—we have seen the home, but we should like you to explain the principles on which it is conducted? In almost every case application is made by post or personal interview. Before a person becomes an inmate of the institution I take the particulars or history of the case, which is kept privately; and unless the person herself chooses to tell her history it is not known to any officer of the movement. She is admitted upon an order given by myself, unless in the case of the lying-in home; that being what we call a front-door case, immediate admission is necessary. The institution is carried on like a large home, three meals per day being provided, with usually lunch for workers at 11 o'clock in the morning, a cup of tea, and bread and butter. Many of the women are occupied in the laundry attached to the institution, some of them being trained to laundry work, as they know nothing of it when they come to us. The work of the home, such as cleaning and so forth, is performed by the inmates themselves. None of them are paid for their labour. Their keep whilst in the institution is accepted as an equivalent for the services rendered.
2793. Do the women who are at work in the laundry receive any gratuity of any kind? No, not any gratuity. Clothing is provided for them if needed, and a little extra provisions; but no money is given.
2794. A better ration, but no money? I would not say a better ration, but an extra ration.
2795. When was this institution established? It was transferred from Brisbane Cottage to Newtown. It has been virtually in existence as a Home of Hope ever since the year 1883.
2796. Was it then transferred to Newtown? In the year 1890, I think it was.
2797. The Society bought the property, I understand? They bought the property on mortgage terms.
2798. What was the price? The price given was £2,650.
- 2799.

G. E. Ardill.

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2799. How much of that is owing? £1,900 at present.
2800. What is the interest paid on the mortgage? Five per cent.
2801. What do you value the property at now? I reckon, without being perhaps a judge, that £2,250 would be its present market value.
2802. *Mr. Powell.*] What are the terms of repayment? £100 a year was to be paid off; that was one of the conditions.
2803. *President.*] Is that condition being fulfilled? It has not been fulfilled for the last year. We are indebted to the Australian Widows' Fund to the amount of £100.
2804. Is the building in a good condition? It is in fair condition; it has been getting repainted during the last six weeks or so.
2805. What provision have you made against fire? We have the baths on each landing kept full of water and buckets ready. We do not make any special provision in that regard.
2806. Have you no hose? No hose. The baths are filled at night, and the buckets are available if any outbreak should occur.
2807. Have not the committee ever considered the question of providing a hose? No.
2808. Have you ever had any report from the Fire Brigade as to the protection of the place from fire? No; I do not think we had a visit from the Fire Brigade at all.
2809. Is it not a very serious responsibility? There is an outlet at each end of the building which is provided with wide staircases. We have not looked upon it as a very serious responsibility.
2810. How many people are residing in the building at present, including officers? Seventy, besides the children.
2811. Might not a good many of these be very weak and unable to move in case of fire? Six or eight of them might be.
2812. And you have obtained no advice in the matter at all? We have not had any advice whatever.
2813. Do you not think it would be wise to take advice? I suppose that looking at it from one standpoint it would be.
2814. From what standpoint would it not be advisable? I do not know that it would be inadvisable from any standpoint. I do not object at all. It can be submitted to the committee. Personally, perhaps, I take a stand that most folk do not: I think that in most of these matters, by trusting in the God of salvation, we secure deliverance.
2815. Yes; but you see certain things can be done in regard to providing for the extinction of fire? Yes; I quite recognise that, but I have not at present seen any great necessity for any provision other than that which has been made.
2816. I do not say that there is; what I say is, that where you have seventy people—some children, some women in a weak state of health, it may be worth while for the committee to consider whether it should not take precautions against an outbreak of fire? I will bring the matter before the committee. It is a matter that did not strike me.
2817. It may be worth while to consider it? Yes; I recognise that.
2818. What class of women are dealt with in this institution? The Home-training School and Lying-in Hospital provides shelter for women before the birth of their children.
2819. Is that all in one building? Yes; they are separate, of course. They are attended to in the hour of labour, and we keep them until they can obtain employment or be restored to their friends.
2820. Do you attempt to classify these women who are in for confinement? No, not largely, if at all. Occasionally cases are kept to themselves, and provided for apart from the general table; but that is only in exceptional cases.
2821. Then, as a rule, you do not attempt to classify them as regards character? We have not seen any necessity for it. Most of those who come to us are of an average character and class.
2822. I do not quite understand that? Those who come to us for confinement would not be called women who have walked the streets. They have all been of respectable character, but for this fall.
2823. They are not what you would call degraded women? They are not degraded or fallen women; they are mostly domestic servants, and such like, and are of an average class.
2824. Do you receive any married women? Yes; they generally come to us just prior to confinement, and leave shortly afterwards.
2825. Do you put them apart from the others? Yes.
2826. Then, to that extent, there is classification? Yes; but that is not a very large item. They are generally attended to in their own room by one or two nurses.
2827. Do you admit women from gaols to this institution? Not at present.
2828. Have you done it? In past times it was specially for that.
2829. To that extent the institution has changed? It has, to some extent, changed in its character.
2830. Suppose you were to admit a woman from gaol now would you separate her from the others? We could not do so. We could not make provision for entire isolation.
2831. Suppose a woman taken off the streets came into the Home, would you keep her separate? We could not in any way separate her. If we attempted to deal with cases of another nature we should have to provide a separate institution. Those now being dealt with are either friendless women, or women needing help such as is afforded by the lying-in hospital.
2832. How long before confinement would you admit a woman? In some cases, four or five months.
2833. Why so long beforehand? It depends on the appearance of the woman, very often—whether she is able to obtain employment. In most cases, they are not able to obtain employment at a period (say) of two or three months before confinement.
2834. And how long after confinement? I should say that the average time that they have been kept after confinement would be from two to three months—till we could get employment for them, or they were restored to their friends.
2835. Do you always, when they are physically fit, put them into the laundry? They generally take a turn at housework and laundry work. Each Monday there is a change of work. If a woman shows adaptability for ironing she is kept at that.
2836. I understand that you have no paid servants in the institution? None of the inmates are paid; small gratuities are given at times by way of buying extras for them, and clothing for them when they are going out, but nothing further.

- G. E. Ardill. 2837. I understand that you endeavour to obtain employment for these girls? We have been very successful in obtaining employment for them. We have secured a very large number of situations for them in times past. During the last seven years we have secured 587 situations.
- 22 Sept. 1898. 2838. What is the average number of women in the home? The average is about fifty-six. The present number is sixty. We have this year secured sixty-one situations for women direct from the home.
2839. Have you had any cases of puerperal fever? Yes, we have had one or two cases; I think not more than four.
2840. Were those four all at the same time? No, at two periods. I cannot say whether it was absolutely puerperal fever.
2841. The doctor gave you to understand that it was? Yes; there was need for isolation.
2842. How many women, if any, were admitted into the home from the gaols last year? I do not think any were admitted direct from the gaols. Some were taken from the police courts, cases of what are called first offenders.
2843. Have you followed the history of those women whom you have dealt with;—can you tell us what the general results were;—do you keep in touch with them after they have left you? We have a reunion tea next Friday night, to which we have invited 200 women, whose addresses we know in the city and suburbs, and who have passed through the institution. These are simply women in the city and suburbs. There are many in the country districts that we are in touch with by correspondence. No girl has left the institution without continuing to write for some period, at any rate, to either myself or the matron. The success of the rescue work is set forth in certain statements given in one of the reports, particular cases having been inquired into by Mr. Maxted. We have had numbers of these who were really very much degraded—very low in the social scale—some of whom are to-day workers in connection with the movement, and others in respectable situations earning good wages.
2844. Have you many readmissions into the home? Yes; our readmissions form a large item—not readmissions for delinquences, but readmissions because they prefer to come to us when out of situations, making the place their home.
2845. Have you many readmissions for confinement purposes? No; there have been some, but only a few.
2846. How often would you readmit a girl? I do not know that I would place any limit upon it; I should deal with the circumstances of each individual case. I should prefer that they were not readmitted of course.
2847. You have no rule? No.
2848. You do not exclude? We do not.
2849. On page 15 of the report you mention twenty-eight transfers to other homes of the society;—does that refer to women? Yes.
2850. To what other homes? The Open-all-night Refuge principally, or to the Babies' Home in exceptional cases. Women are sent from the home to become assistants there.
2851. To assist in working the home? Yes.
2852. What are they sent to the refuge for? In some cases; because they want to go out day by day in search of employment. It is more convenient for them to remain there than to go back to Newtown. In one or two cases they would be sent up to the Boys' Home at Camden as assistants.
2853. The report says that thirty-two left of their own accord;—what does that mean? It means that they desired to go, and we were not really certain where they went to.
2854. You lose sight of them? We lost sight of that number to a large extent.
2855. It says on page 23 of the report, that the Home of Hope was established to provide a home for friendless and fallen women of the city;—does that refer to women off the streets? Yes.
2856. Do those women apply? We have methods of securing them, such as holding midnight suppers, sending officers out to intercept them on their parades at night, and visiting their homes.
2857. When you obtain a situation for these girls, do the employers know their history? In most cases they do; what it is necessary to tell them.
2858. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you find that these women are engaged at a lower than the current rate of wages? We do not allow that. We have had small wages offered for women, because some people thought they had a right to get them cheap, but the women were not allowed to take such engagements.
2859. How about the laundry;—is that the property of the society? Yes; it is on mortgage.
2860. It is a separate property from the other? It is divided by the street. It is not included in the £1,900; it is mortgaged at a sum of £350, and there is a loan making the indebtedness on it £450.
2861. *President.*] According to a paper I have before me your report of 1891 states that your trustees made themselves liable to the amount of £940 on account of the laundry? It was virtually £917, there being a rebate of £23. There was a reduction of the amount, the vendor making us a present of the balance between £450 and £917.
2862. So that the £917 was reduced by the vendor to £450? Yes.
2863. And was this legally done—was there a deed? Yes; we have the sale of the property to us at that price, and then a mortgage given of £350.
2864. What interest are you paying now on the mortgage? Five per cent.
2865. *Mr. Powell.*] I think you said that the laundry was not self-supporting? It pays its way, but it does not pay for the cost of the institution with which it is connected.
2866. *President.*] On page 39 of the last report you show a donation of £65;—is this money being applied to the purpose of the laundry? Virtually not at the time.
2867. How is that? Because the general fund was short, and this money was lent to it.
2868. It has been applied to the general fund of the institution? Yes.
2869. It was subscribed to the laundry? Yes; we afterwards put it right by borrowing £100 for which the committee is responsible, so that we have applied it virtually to the purpose for which it was given. It is not the laundry which is responsible for the £100, but the committee.
2870. There is another sum of £10 for the laundry, has that been devoted to the laundry? Yes; there is £30, a sum of £35 3s. 6d., and £10, making altogether £75. We have more than covered that by the loan of £100.
2871. What does the matron of the institution at Newtown get? Her salary was £40. A 10 per cent. reduction was made in most of the salaries, so it is now £36.
2872. That is the matron of the home? Yes.

2873. Who is in charge of the laundry? At present we have not a matron; she left a fortnight since. G. E. Ardill.
2874. Usually you have a matron in charge? Yes; she receives a salary of £40 a year.
2875. We have a return, showing that Miss Wales received £60 a year, and an assistant £60? Yes; the assistant is a working-woman. 22 Sept., 1893.
2876. Is that £60 without board? Yes; without either board or lodging.
2877. Is the matron of the laundry, when there is one, under the orders of the matron of the institution? Yes. This was an exceptional appointment made by the committee with the view of securing more work if possible, but as it did not answer very well the matron left voluntarily, and we were not sorry.
2878. The idea of the committee is that the matron of the laundry should be subject to the matron of the institution? Yes; and be an assistant in the institution after laundry hours.
2879. And what was the idea of giving the matron of the laundry £60 a year and the matron of the institution only £36 a year, the matron of the laundry being subject to the matron of the institution? The matron of the laundry had her board and lodging outside. You often have to pay a competent woman in that way. She had £24 allowed for board and lodging.
2880. But if the matron of the laundry is to be an officer of the institution after laundry hours, that arrangement would not hold, would it? No; she would get £36 a year, and would not go outside for board and lodging.
2881. Have you kept a separate statement of the profit and loss account of the laundry? Yes.
2882. How does it show out? The income derived is shown in the last balance-sheet.
2883. Does that statement take into account the support of the women engaged in the laundry? No; merely the receipts and expenditure connected with the work done.
2884. Does it debit the laundry with their board? No; the two institutions are worked together.
2885. You could do that as a matter of book-keeping? We have quite enough book-keeping at present for our staff.
2886. As a matter of fact, you do not do it? No; there is a sum of £175 12s. 9d., proceeds of work done by inmates in the laundry.
2887. Do you admit children to that institution without their mothers? We have one child, but it is not a general thing. We have made exceptions in consequence of an arrangement made some little time since that we should not receive infants under six months old at the Babies' Home. We have made exceptions at Newtown, and received one or two younger children.
2888. Now about the affiliation of the children—what steps do you take in regard to that? Immediately a woman arrives, if it is not too long before the time, and would give him an opportunity to clear away, the father of the child is communicated with. We endeavour to get him to come to the office. If the woman arrives there a considerable time before the birth we leave it until the birth of the child; then an intimation is sent to the father that by attending at our office he may prevent proceedings from being taken. In most cases we have been successful. We have had to send some to the Court, and in only one instance have we been unsuccessful.
2889. How many cases have you had in a year? Those dealt with at the office and those dealt through the Court—at least fifty.
2890. And you succeed? We succeed. Of course there are some cases in which the women will not give us the facilities for affiliation. With regard to that, there needs an amendment of the law to enable us to do more than we are doing. The law might be amended on the lines of the South Australian Act and the English Act, which provides for action being taken against an alleged father before the birth of the child, and also for making him pay the cost of medical attendance and nursing, also permitting an institution to take action should the mother neglect so to do.
2891. About the nurses;—do they pay fees to the institution? Most of the probationers pay fees.
2892. What do they pay? Those who are in the institution pay 15 guineas a quarter; those outside, who come to the lectures three times a week, and attend the various classes, are charged 5 guineas.
2893. These fees are to cover the cost of maintenance? They cover the cost of maintenance in the institution, and are a recognition of the lectures given.
2894. Do you consider that it results in any balance in favour of the institution? Certainly.
2895. It is intended to do that? It is.
2896. How many medical officers have you? Dr. Spencer is the constant attendant, and there are Dr. Levy and Dr. Gordon Craig. Dr. Worrall is the examiner in connection with the home-training school.
2897. How many nurses did you train in 1897? Since the institution of the classes forty-three have attended, and twenty-four of these have passed.
2898. How many are in attendance now? Seven.
2899. Have you an outdoor department for midwifery? Yes.
2900. Is that increasing? It is increasing. It is not extensive at present. It is as much as we can attend to now; but we should be able to do more with a larger staff. It is a valuable institution in that neighbourhood, where there are a number of poor married women to whom nurses can be sent.
2901. How many have you had this year? I suppose ten or twelve since the 1st January.
2902. How is the thing put into operation;—do you receive applications from married women? We place in the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Herald*, and other newspapers, advertisements stating that nurses will be sent out in necessitous cases; then applications come in, and arrangements are made to send the nurses. We also communicate with ministers, missionaries, and benevolent societies within the districts of Newtown, Marrickville, Petersham, Camperdown, Leichhardt, and other suburbs, informing them that such is done.
2903. You say you place a nurse in charge of such cases;—what about a medical man? Dr. Spencer attends, or the nearest medical man obtainable.
2904. Have you bedcards? Yes; we have the temperature-charts. We give no particulars of the case, simply the temperature and the nurses' notes.
2905. Have you any fixed dietary scale? We have not.
2906. What is the staff at the home at Newtown? The present staff consists of the matron, an assistant (Miss Butler), who has been transferred; the nurse in charge of the Home-training School and Lying-in Hospital, Nurse Adams, the laundry matron, her assistant, and the carter. Those are the paid officers.
2907. Have you one or two carters? Only one.

- G. E. Ardill. 2908. You have an institution, called an open all-night refuge, in Sussex-street—how long has that been in existence? It was established, I think, in the year 1885.
- 22 Sept., 1898. 2909. Is it the property of the institution, or is it rented? It is rented.
2910. What is the rent? £2 a week. We hope to get a reduction.
2911. What are the objects of it? To provide temporary shelter for two or three nights, in the first instance, but the time was extended, in consequence of the lack of employment, and it goes into months.
2912. Is that for women? For women, and children with their parents.
2913. From the name, I judge it is open all night? The door is not open, but it is available for admission at any hour of the night.
2914. Anyone coming at any hour can get in? Yes; women are frequently brought by the Police. An arrangement was made by the Inspector-General of Police that no destitute woman should be locked up, but that she should be taken to the all-night refuge.
2915. Instead of being locked up in the cells they are sent to your institution? Yes.
2916. What is about the daily average of women there? In the winter months the number is larger than at any other time, but the average will be forty-two or forty-three inmates provided with a night's shelter.
2917. That means that you will make up forty-two beds on the average? Yes; that would be it.
2918. Do you give them meals there? Yes, as far as provisions are available, and if they return for them. A breakfast of bread and treacle and tea is given to everyone before she goes out. If they choose to come back to dinner—which about one-half of them do—dinner is provided.
2919. You say if provisions are available? I meant according as they are available. We always give them something. The meals would be more substantial still if we had more funds.
2920. How long do these women remain, on the average? We generally keep them till they get a situation. Unfortunately, some of them are almost beyond taking situations. There is a floating population of that class. They come away from Newington Asylum when they get tired of the restraint there, and we receive them until we can induce them to return to Newington Asylum. The average stay of those who are able to help themselves, I should think, would be about four weeks.
2921. I understand from what you say that you look upon it as somewhat hopeless to get situations for some of them? Many of them are crippled, and should not be allowed out of the Newington Asylum. They are chronic cases.
2922. They would be chronic, as far as you are concerned? Yes, if we were to retain them. It is only by insisting that they shall go back to Newington that we get rid of them.
2923. *Mr. Powell.*] What is the adjoining hall used for? For services and evangelistic meetings, three times a week.
2924. Then you are receiving State aid for religion? Well, it is in a very infinitesimal form.
2925. *President.*] You mention, on page 16 of the report, that 125 of these women were restored to friends;—how is it that those women came to be in the institution at all? In some cases young girls staying out late at night at dancing saloons, and afraid to go home, have come there, and we have sent them home in the morning. In another case a husband, brutalised by drink, has driven his wife out, and she has been provided with shelter, and in the morning an officer is sent to effect a reconciliation.
2926. About the women that you send to Newington Asylum;—some of those come from Newington to your institution, and after a time you send them back? In most cases they come from Newington; in some cases they are transferees on their road from the country.
2927. To what other institutions are they being transferred? I could not tell; in some cases to the Benevolent Asylum.
2928. You do not profess to give permanent shelter at this place? No.
2929. You give temporary shelter, and make such arrangements as are open to you, either by transferring them to Newington or to their friends; when they threaten to become permanent you get rid of them? Yes; we send to situations those who are able to go.
2930. There appears to have been an average of fifteen children in 1897;—were they brought there with their mothers? Yes.
2931. Are they in all cases brought with their mothers? Yes; there is only one child in that institution not with the mother.
2932. Is it a suitable place for children? They do not stay in long.
2933. Can you get situations for a woman and child, or what becomes of the child? It goes with the mother.
2934. In all cases? In some exceptional cases we admit the child to the Babies' Home.
2935. Are the children kept apart from the women? No; they are with their mothers. They are principally infants. There are one or two children 6 or 8 years of age.
2936. What officers are there at the refuge? Only the matron, Miss Agnes Thompson.
2937. The women do the work of the place? Yes.
2938. Is the Babies' Home the society's property? No; it is a rented property. The rent now is £7 a month. It was £8.
2939. What was that established for? In the first instance, it was established as a *Creche* or day nursery for infants. Then we found that a number of women were prevented from obtaining employment in consequence of having to support their children. They were becoming a permanent charge almost upon the institution. We therefore resolved to provide a babies' home where they could see their children. The women secure situations, and pay a small portion of the cost of keeping their children. They are in constant touch with their children, being able to see them regularly.
2940. How long do you keep them there? Until they are 5 years old.
2941. What becomes of them then? Then they are transferred to the Children's Home at Liverpool.
2942. Are most of the children in the home the children of women who have been confined in the institution? No, they are not. Most of them are from other quarters. Some of the mothers have been confined at the Benevolent Asylum; some at other institutions.
2943. What have they to do to get admission to your institution? They have to make application at the central office. Particulars are given. We discover the rate of wages that they are securing, or are likely to secure, whether any payment is made by the father of the child, and in many cases we have secured affiliations. According to the ability of the mothers, they are expected to pay; some pay a couple of shillings a week; some four shillings.

2944. Are any diseased children admitted into the institution? We would not admit a child suffering from a contagious disease. We would not object to them on any other ground than that of contagion. G. E. Ardill.
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2945. What provision is made for medical attendance? Dr. Dagmar Berne has been the medical attendant, and was a very assiduous and regular attendant, but she is now suffering from ill-health, and Dr. Gillies has accepted the appointment.
2946. Do the women contribute towards the maintenance of their children? Some of them do.
2947. Do any of them contribute the full cost? In one case that is done.
2948. Some contribute nothing, I suppose? Many contribute nothing.
2949. *Mr. Powell.*] What do you estimate the food costs? At the Babies' Home, £8 1s. 11d. a year.
2950. *President.*] Can you explain why it was necessary to start this home, seeing that the State has made certain provision for the care of children? Under the Children's Protection Act provision is made for the care of children in registered homes, but the charge for their reception under 6 months old is at least 8s., and in most cases 10s. a week, to the parent. That is a prohibitive charge. The State does not assist in the case of a mother with one child. We found that a woman was not able to pay 10s. a week. I believe that the establishment of this institution has prevented child desertion.
2951. Do you say that a charge of 10s. a week would be insisted upon in every case? I have made many applications, and at least 8s.—in most cases 10s.—has been insisted upon at the registered homes. One matter that should be remedied is the difficulty of getting the names of registered homes.
2952. The charge you have mentioned is made by the homes? Yes. There is no stipulation with the Department as to what charge they shall make. It depends upon the individual who is registered, and no woman not receiving a liberal sum from the father of her child could meet such a demand.
2953. There is a ladies' committee? Yes; connected with the Babies' Home.
2954. Who appoints that committee? The general committee appoint the ladies' committee.
2955. How often do the ladies' committee visit the home? There is a visitation committee appointed. Two individuals are told off for each month to pay a weekly visit, and the committee visit once a month.
2956. Is any record kept of their visits? I do not think there is.
2957. Should there not be a book in which their visits could be recorded, as well as any remarks which they choose to make? They make remarks at the committee meetings.
2958. But they are not on record;—suppose there was an inquiry in connection with the institution, and certain things were not recorded, they would not be in evidence, would they? You would have the ladies to give evidence.
2959. You might not;—they might not be there? I am not certain about it now, but I believe that at one time a book was kept in which entries were made of their visits, but I do not think it is done now. I am certain it is not done now. The remarks became so uniform in their favourable statements that I suppose they dropped it.
2960. Are the healthy children and the suffering children separate? There is a separate ward for them.
2961. Is there a dietary scale? We have no absolute dietary scale in any of our institutions? The doctor deals with each individual case, prescribing such food or milk as may be necessary. The elder children are fed upon ordinary food.
2962. How many children can be accommodated at the home? Twenty-five is the number we limit ourselves to.
2963. How many are there now? Twenty-five.
2964. Have you any table showing the mortality amongst these children? During the year 1897 there were six deaths.
2965. I see from the document before me that in the year 1896-7 the number of cases admitted was forty; deaths, ten; remaining in the home at the end of the year, twenty-five? Yes; I have the figures here in a different form. This year four deaths have taken place since the 1st of January.
2966. Have you worked out the cost per head? Yes; average cost, £8 1s. 11d. per head.
2967. I think you said you consider yourself at liberty to devote the subsidy to any of the institutions? Yes; to any dealing with the reception of women and children.
2968. Do you get private collections for the Babies' Home? The collections go to the whole of the institution.
2969. There is no special fund? There is no special fund for any separate branch.
2970. Has the State Children's Relief Board ever relieved you of any of these children? No; not from the Babies' Home. In the case of the death of the parent we have sometimes secured the admission of the child to the State Children's Relief Department; that was in only two or three cases, at the outside.
2971. When these children get to a certain age I suppose they are transferred to the homes at Liverpool and Camden? To the home at Liverpool, and from there to Camden when at a certain age.
2972. Now about the Women's Crusade in Wexford-street;—what is that? It is a mission work amongst the outcasts in the city to influence them to enter the various institutions, or at once forsake their present lives and secure situations.
2973. Do you give relief? We give a little relief.
2974. Have you premises there? There is a four-roomed house.
2975. Have you a rented room? Yes; for which we pay 9s. a week.
2976. You do give food in certain cases? Yes; from that Mission-house. The police-stations are visited each Sunday morning to give bread and butter and tea to people incarcerated, to speak to them, and to influence them for good.
2977. Have you any paid staff in connection with it? The "worker" is paid 10s. a week, and occasionally there is a gratuity allowed to an assistant amounting possibly to £10 a year.
2978. How is the relief distributed? By the "worker."
2979. On page 10 of the report you state that you give meals on Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday to persons in the police-cells;—how many cases of that sort do you have in a year? About 3,000.
2980. Would that be 3,000 meals? What we call a meal would be three or four pieces of bread and butter and some cups of tea; we give it on Sundays, Good Friday, and Christmas Day.
2981. You give 3,000 meals a year? Yes; more than that.
2982. Where are they prepared? At the Mission House, Wexford-street. The tea is carried in cans to the cells, and baskets of bread and butter are taken, and buns on Christmas Day and Good Friday.
2983. Then you have a discharged prisoners' mission? Yes; that is worked from the central office, Pitt-street.

- G. E. Ardill. 2984. Do you receive prisoners when they get out of gaol? Yes; we receive prisoners when they are coming out of gaol. Some write to us whilst undergoing their sentences, and we visit them occasionally, and meet them at the gaol-gates.
- 22 Sept., 1898. 2985. Do you act in concert with the Comptroller-General in the matter? I cannot say that we are working with him; but he has sent us intimations of discharges, and we always secure from him a report as to the conduct of persons in the gaol. I have interviewed him with a view to securing a bridge between the gaol gates and society outside. It is important that something should be done in that regard, as it is done in England.
2986. About these prisoners, do you receive them in any of your homes? No; we provide shelter for them at some of the boarding-houses contiguous to the office. We get employment for them in the country districts, and secure passes to send them away.
2987. Does that apply merely to female prisoners? No; to male prisoners as well.
2988. Have you been successful in getting employment for them? Yes, we have.
2989. How many cases would you get employment for in a year? Not more than twenty male prisoners, I suppose. I must correct a statement that I made just now: the female prisoners are sent to the Open-all-night Refuge. The number would appear in the number of situations secured from the refuge.
2990. Do you consider it any part of your work to do anything for the families of persons who are locked up in gaol? Yes; if we receive an intimation that a family are in distress we relieve them.
2991. Had you at one time a place called a Home of Welcome for discharged prisoners? We had.
2992. Has it been closed? It has been closed for some time, to my great sorrow.
2993. Why was it closed? For want of funds. It was of immense service to men coming out of gaol to be met on their release, taken to a breakfast room, and taken care of until they could secure an entry into society.
2994. Who are the officers engaged in the prison work? It is done by myself and our voluntary workers. A clerk goes to the Department to make inquiries at times.
2995. What is the hall in Sussex-street used for? For Evangelistic meetings and for shelter. At times, when our ordinary places are full, shake-down beds are made in the hall.
2996. How are the properties held at Liverpool and Camden? Both of them by trustees.
2997. Who are the trustees? Mr. W. E. Wilson, Mr. Vickery, Mr. Wigzell, and myself.
2998. In the trust, is it laid down that the site is to be used for that particular purpose? Yes. The premises at Liverpool could be sold, and the proceeds applied to the same purpose.
2999. They are both old properties? That at Liverpool is, but that at Camden was erected specially for a Boys' Home in the year 1892.
3000. What class of children are taken into the Liverpool Home? The children principally of mothers who have been deserted by their husbands, or whose husbands are dead.
3001. At what age are they taken into the institution? Boys, from 5 years to 9 years old; girls, from 5 years old to 14.
3002. At 9 they have to leave the institution? Yes, they should then be transferred to the Boys' Home, Camden. There have been exceptions made in one or two cases. At present there is a lad there whom the public school teacher specially desired us to retain, as he thought he would secure a scholarship; and there is another lad assisting in the milking.
3003. What physical condition are they in? Most of them are strong children, fairly healthy. We have only had one death since the establishment of the institution.
3004. Have you any provision for medical attendance? Yes; Dr. Pirie and Dr. Beattie give their services gratuitously.
3005. What provision is made for the education of the children? They attend the public school, the plan of operations being to secure simply a home. The intention was not to have more than twenty-four children in the institution, but that has had to be over-ridden, in consequence of the lack of room. It is a home with one matron as a mother, and the children are treated as one large family.
3006. How far is the school from the home? It is a few hundred yards away.
3007. Are there any conditions as regards creed? No; neither as regards creed nor colour.
3008. Have you any Catholic children in the home? We have.
3009. What provision is made for their religious teaching? The understanding with their parents is that they must attend the Church of England.
3010. Do those Catholic children attend the Church of England? Yes.
3011. How is the Liverpool Home supported? From the funds of the society for providing homes for neglected children, supplemented by portions of the Government subsidy, and grants from the general fund when needed.
3012. What is the first item? The special contribution of the society to provide homes for neglected children; the account is still kept separately from that of the Sydney Rescue Society. Then there is a portion of the Government subsidy, and there are the special grants.
3013. What staff is there at Liverpool? There is the matron, who is receiving £40 a year. At present there is also an assistant and a cook, and a dairyman and gardener combined.
3014. What does the cook get? £20 a year.
3015. And the gardener? £40 a year. The matron's salary has been reduced 10 per cent., so that she is actually getting £36 a year.
3016. Are the inmates at the Liverpool Home received chiefly from the various other Homes? No, only some of them.
3017. Where do the others come from? We have applications from parents in Sydney and in the country districts.
3018. Will you tell me why, seeing that you are carrying on all these things with so very little money, you do not refer these parents to the State Children's Relief Board? Because the parents would not place the children there.
3019. Why not? Because they want to see their children. They do not want to lose touch with them entirely by their being absorbed into families where they could not visit them.
3020. If the parents are in the country how can they? In those cases they cannot see the children, but they prefer to have them with us to having them absorbed into homes where there is not the same method of treatment. Children placed out by the State may be placed in a home where there is a suitable mother,

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mother, who will study the characteristics of the child, but it is not always the case. The children who are received into the homes at Liverpool and Camden need some little corrective influence, which is not so well given by an untrained person.

3021. Are you aware that we have a good many cottages in the country with trained matrons of the highest character, treating the children on exactly the lines on which you should be treating the children at Liverpool? At Mittagong. I have nothing to say about that. I do not believe in institution work.

3022. Is not yours an institution? No, it is a home. There is a great distinction. The success of Dr. Barnardo's institution and others has resulted from the fact that home life has been afforded to the children. They have not been treated as machines.

3023. What is the cost per head of the home at Liverpool? The average cost for the year 1896, ending 30th September, was £7 10s. 6d.; 30th September, 1897, £6 16s. 2d. That includes everything.

3024. Does it include salaries? The salary of the matron.

3025. Would it if the salary was not paid at that particular time? The salary would be paid. Although a balance is due it is not an increasing amount.

3026. Is a proper charge made for salaries? Yes; this was carefully gone into.

3027. The cost of 1897 was £6 16s. 2d.—that was the cost for the year? Yes; that is the cost per annum per head.

3028. The cost at this home at Liverpool comes out at the rate of 4½d. per day, including salaries? Yes.

3029. Do you think they are sufficiently fed? I think their appearance will speak for that.

3030. Do you receive contributions in kind for that home? We do.

3031. That would tend to reduce the cost of maintenance? It would make a difference of about £1 per head per annum.

3032. In what form are those contributions? Clothing, principally.

3033. Do you send provisions and clothing from the central institution to Liverpool? Yes.

3034. Is that charged against the Liverpool Home? Yes. Every charge is made to the Liverpool Home for the cost of maintenance. We send gifts from the central office which are received there, and distributed to the various homes. Those are not charged.

3035. But you may have to send stores? They are charged to the institution.

3036. *Mr. Powell.*] What do you value the gifts at? I think the total for the year for the whole of the institutions will be about £500.

3037. *President.*] At present the institutions at Liverpool and Camden have not come formally under the committee's management? Not under the management of the Sydney Rescue Work Society.

3038. You are responsible, and really have the management? Yes.

3039. The accounts appear to show that for the year ending September, 1893, you devoted £100 of the subsidy to these homes? Yes.

3040. And for the two years ending September, 1895, £330; 1896, £254—that is carrying out the principle that you asserted some time ago, that you considered the subsidy available for any institution for the support of women and children? Yes; on the basis of Mr. Maxted's report.

3041. Is this subsidy devoted to the separate institutions on any fixed principle, or is it simply dealt with according to the necessities of the case? The subsidies are applied on the principle of £ per £.

3042. Each institution gets an amount in proportion to the amount contributed? Yes.

3043. Is that principle adhered to? Yes, except in the case of the £100; that was a special grant.

3044. Is the home at Liverpool in any way subject to the operations of the State Children's Relief Act, from the fact that it is receiving a subsidy? No.

3045. Is the object of the Camden Home the same as that of the Liverpool Home? Yes; the object in starting it was to provide industrial or farm training for the boys. To a large extent we have been hindered in consequence of the lack of area.

3046. What is the area of the ground? Only 1 acre. Mr. Paling's intention was to have 60 or 80 acres.

3047. How many children are there at the farm? At present eighteen.

3048. What are their ages? The boys' ages are from 9 to 14 years. There are no girls there.

3049. What provision is there for teaching these boys? The plan we adopted when we found we could not secure the land was to send them out to the neighbouring dairy-farmers and nurseries to get some little training there.

3050. What check is there on these farmers as regards their treatment of the children? The boys returned to the home at night. We are not sending them out at present.

3051. Were they hired out? They were sent out to Mr. Ferguson, and also to the dairy-farms.

3052. Were they paid? They were paid 1s. a week. The institution got the benefit of that.

3053. Why was it stopped? It was not found to be satisfactory.

3054. How was it not satisfactory? There was no continual discipline over the boys. When we sent them away in the morning they were lost sight of by the matron, and it was thought better to give them their regular schooling than to have them at school half-time.

3055. Then there is practically no instruction at all given in farming operations? No; the desire of the committee has been to secure additional land, but the response has not been encouraging.

3056. What is the prospect in regard to this home? It is a home for the improvement of children. Some of the children are said by their parents to be incorrigible, but we find them to be amenable to kindness and firmness. We send them out as apprentices on farms and selections, and many of them are turning out well.

3057. When do you get rid of these boys? When they are 14 years of age.

3058. What becomes of them then? They are sent out to stations and farms.

3059. Who would be their guardian? The home is their guardian.

3060. What becomes of their wages? They secure that at the end of their term.

3061. What becomes of it during their term? It is banked by their employers.

3062. Who sees that it is banked? I do.

3063. A man might run up arrears and then become insolvent? We see that there is a constant check.

3064. Do the boys go to school? They do.

3065. How far away is the school? About a mile.

3066. Then, these boys, getting on for 14 years of age, have no occupation at the home? None, except digging round the garden.

- G. E. Ardiff. 3067. *Mr. Powell.*] Do they take their lunch, and stay at school all day? Yes.
- 22 Sept., 1898. 3068. Then they are away all the day? Yes; from half-past 8 until half-past 4 p.m.
3069. So they have very little time for anything else? They could not do anything else.
3070. *President.*] How often are the homes inspected by you or by anybody in authority? At no regular periods.
3071. There are eighteen boys at Camden, with only a woman to look after them, and they are away from the home a great part of the day;—I want to know how often the home is inspected by any responsible person? Not more frequently than once a month, except on special occasions.
3072. Then how do you know what is going on? There are constant reports from the matron.
3073. But the matron is not checked? If we could not trust her it would not be worth while to have her there. If we found that she was incompetent we should dismiss her.
3074. *Mr. Powell.*] What is her salary? The present matron is only in temporary occupation. We have been paying £40 a year.
3075. *President.*] How long has this matron been there? About two months.
3076. What do you know about her? She came to us with recommendations, which were approved of. She is the widow of a deceased bank manager.
3077. You say that this home is inspected about once a month? Not more than that.
3078. Is it inspected as frequently as that? Yes, generally.
3079. What is the nature of the inspection;—are the boys seen and questioned? Yes; each boy is asked as to his treatment, and is spoken to for his morals and so forth.
3080. What is the salary of the matron? We have been paying £40 a year for the matron.
3081. It is shown by a return that the matron's salary is £20 a year? The salary of the former matron was £40 a year.
3082. Do you make any written report as to these inspections? No.
3083. There is no visiting committee;—have you any visitors? The clergymen of the district occasionally visit; not very frequently.
3084. Do they ever send in a report to you? No.
3085. *Mr. Powell.*] There is a difficulty in getting water there, is there not? There is a difficulty; it has to be carted some distance in dry weather. We have been hoping to secure a windmill so as to get a supply of water from the lake.
3086. The boys are doing the house-work, are they not? Yes; we train them to do housework.
3087. They do the washing, too? Yes; they do the whole of the washing for themselves. They are just trained up for what they will have to do for themselves when they go into country places.
3088. *President.*] In one of the returns you show a statement of liabilities and assets, and you show that there is a hall at Parramatta;—what is the purpose of that hall? It was built at an early stage of the movement. The rent derived from it pays the interest on the mortgage, and reduces the principal.
3089. The statement appears to be that the properties are valued at £5,095, and you have a mortgage on the property amounting to £2,456; is that correct? Yes; that is correct.
3090. Is that your own valuation? Yes.
3091. These mortgages, I understand, were on the property when you took it;—it is part of the purchase money. You paid a certain amount down and this is the balance? There have been subsequent payments after the deposit, and that is the balance. The £100 that was borrowed is included in this as a mortgage.
3092. Would the trustees have power to mortgage the homes at Liverpool and Camden? I do not think so.
3093. With reference to the money owing to officers, yourself included, on the 30th June, the amount was £319;—has the position improved or otherwise since that date? I think it is about the same.
3094. You have an account dealing with affiliation moneys? Yes.
3095. What is the balance of that account? At the end of August the difference was £3 8s. 5d.
3096. It is a trust account? Yes.
3097. Has all the money paid to the trust account been paid away on behalf of the mothers? It has been paid away to or on behalf of the mothers, except that £3 8s. 5d., which remains in the bank.
3098. The large liability for unpaid salaries, I presume, arose simply from the lack of funds? Yes; it would have been considerably reduced, and also the liability for provisions, had the Government subsidy last year been the same as in previous years, as we anticipated.
3099. I understand that Miss Thompson, one of your matrons, has been paid in full? Yes; she was paid prior to her departure for England.
3100. Is the total income of your society sufficient to carry on efficiently all these schemes that you have in hand? Yes, if in future we receive the subsidy from the Government at the rate at which we were receiving it; but not otherwise.
3101. If you do not receive it, what would you recommend in that case? I should recommend the committee to make an appeal to the general public, and, if that failed, to close some of the institutions.
3102. Unless the Government increased the subsidy from £500 to what? To what it was—£1,000.
3103. Unless you have a subsidy of that amount your funds will not be sufficient? We cannot carry on these institutions with the present income.
3104. If it is not increased the committee will have to choose which institution they will close? Exactly so.
3105. Is the financial position improving or otherwise? I think the amount derivable from the public at large is improving.
3106. Was the amount of the subsidy reduced because you had not subscriptions? No; it was reduced by some mistake, I understand. It was not intended on the part of Mr. Brunner and Mr. Reid; I do not know how it came about.
3107. *Mr. Powell.*] Did you receive some portion of that £500? We received £300 which unfortunately has been charged to the present year's account. Now we have a promise that a sum of £300 to cover that loss will be placed upon the Estimates.
3108. *President.*] Owing to the lack of funds, have the interests of all these women and children suffered to any great extent? No; because we have gone into debt.
3109. That is to say that, rather than allow the interests of these people to suffer, your committee have incurred obligations to prevent it? Exactly so.

3110. *Mr. Powell.*] Is it true that at one period the children at Liverpool were without food? It could not possibly be true under any circumstances. The baker and the butcher reside in the town, and the matron is at liberty to order what she pleases. G. E. Ardill.
22 Sept., 1898.
3111. *President.*] The matron may order, but the baker and the butcher might not supply the goods? There has never been any difficulty about the supply.
3112. No doubt the baker and the butcher could solve the question? We have monthly accounts with Mr. Ashcroft and Mr. Freeman. There could not possibly be any lack of provisions.
3113. In the accounts for 1897 there is an item of £385? That was an advance from Mr. Vickery.
3114. Mr. Vickery advanced the money for a certain purpose, and the committee being able to do so have repaid him? He was reimbursed.
3115. What was the purpose for which the money was applied? I think it was for the reduction of the mortgage when changing from the Metropolitan Building Association to the Australian Widows' Fund.
3116. There is mention of a Jubilee Home? That is what I have already indicated—the shelter given to young women at the office.
3117. That was discontinued? It was, virtually. We have retained two or three beds instead of twenty, the number that we formerly had.
3118. Why did you give up the registry office? Because there are so many offices about, and several other institutions were established on similar lines, and we felt that we would rather devote ourselves to work amongst destitute women.
3119. You still try to get employment for these people? Yes; we advertise continuously, and receive answers at our present office.
3120. Among the receipts for 1891 there is an item of £127 for wood and coal? We had a dépôt for wood and coal connected with the Discharged Prisoners' Mission, the profits of which were diverted to the maintenance of the institution.
3121. *Mr. Powell.*] About the affiliation trust in your accounts rendered up to February, 1898, there is a sum of £50 18s. 5d. to the credit of the trust account? I do not think that can be quite correct. If so, the amount will have since been paid away.
3122. If this account is correct, that money must have been used for current expenses? We had not any credit balance. That certainly would be absorbed for the time-being, and would be repaid, leaving that credit balance.
3123. It does not appear to me that at any time you published a balance-sheet? The cash account we always call it. We published a statement of liabilities in 1893. I think that is the last statement that we published.
3124. These accounts are merely your cash payments? Cash payments and expenses for the period.
3125. Prior to 1893, it does not appear that you received any assistance from the Government in aid of the Liverpool and Camden Homes? I do not think that we did prior to 1893 for any portion of our work.
3126. You have really not at any time put before your subscribers a statement of your assets and liabilities? It was put before them at a meeting in the Centenary Hall.
3127. It is not in any of the annual reports? I am not positive of that without reference.
3128. So that your true indebtedness has never been shown on your published accounts? I will not say that. I think that we did state at the inception about the total amount due.
3129. In the report for 1892, you published your cash account, and stated an indebtedness of £1,411 3s. 4d. separately, not incorporated in the following part of it? We put it in with the report.
3130. And the same in 1893? Exactly, and that is the report which was read to the annual meeting.
3131. But you had not done so subsequently? I do not know why; 1893 is the last; I do not see anything since.
3132. Then suppose these amounts were paid subsequently, and they appear in the cash accounts for other years than that in which the liability was incurred? The cash accounts would not nearly cover the expenditure for the year.
3133. But it states that it does? It is the cash account for that year, the exact amount paid away for the period.
3134. But not necessarily for the liabilities of that year? No.
3135. You said that at present you owe £300? We have a statement showing that it will be about £300.
3136. On the 30th June, 1898, you owed to your officers £320? Yes.
3137. And for maintenance, £435; rent and taxes, £60? Yes; that would be about £300.
3138. When was Miss Thompson, at Camden, paid? She was paid on the 25th May this year. She had left the institution some five or six weeks previously.
3139. How many acres of land have you at Liverpool? A little over 3 acres.
3140. What is it worth? It is right in the township, and I reckon that it is worth at least £200 an acre. It has a frontage to three streets.
3141. What do you estimate the value of the house at? £300 or £400.
3142. How much money are you spending on it? £30 or £40 now.
3143. What do you think land is worth at Camden per acre? I do not know about the land, but that building is supposed to be worth about £850.
3144. *President.*] Is there anything you would like to say that we have not touched upon? There is one matter. I used to have an allowance of £50 a year from the Society for providing Homes for Neglected Children. There was an amount of £207 due to me in connection with that, as well as the amount of £84 in connection with the Sydney Rescue Work Society—I am not claiming salary from either Society since December last.
3145. Does the society you refer to still exist? It is in existence, and will be until we arrange for them to merge.
3146. Is there anything that you wish to say about the society generally? I do not remember anything very special. The results of the work have been only generally touched upon.
3147. You cannot always measure them? No; but you can see whether there has been any moral uplift in connection with the work, and that should be a great factor in the consideration of it. Mr. Maxted's statements are there; the same persons are available to-day, and a very large number of others who have since been influenced by the organisation and are to-day occupying respectable positions in society.
3148. How often is the Liverpool home inspected? It is inspected almost every week.

- G. E. Ardill. 3149. If it is necessary to inspect the Liverpool home every week, why is it necessary to inspect the Camden home only once a month? I do not know that it is considered necessary to inspect the Liverpool home once a week, but it is more easily got at.
- 22 Sept., 1898. 3150. The fact remains that at Liverpool the inspection is once a week and at Camden it is once a month? The Liverpool home is different from the Camden home. There are forty-eight children at the Liverpool home.
3151. I cannot see why the Camden home should be uninspected for a month? I admit that it should be inspected more frequently. For that purpose, unfortunately, we have no Government pass, and the cost is not always charged to the institution. I inspect it without charging, and I cannot always find 5s. 11d. to do it.

Walter Spencer, M.D., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., sworn and examined:—

- W. Spencer, 3152. *President.*] You are a medical practitioner? Yes.
- M.D., 3153. Are you medical officer to the Sydney Rescue Work Society's Home, at Newtown? Yes.
- L.R.C.P., 3154. Is the building adapted for the purposes that it is used for? It is better adapted than any building that I know of that could be procured. A building specially constructed for the purpose would be better.
- M.R.C.S. 3155. I was referring particularly to the sanitary aspect of the matter? Yes; from a sanitary point of view it as good as it can possibly be.
- 22 Sept., 1898. 3156. So that, considering that the building was not erected for this particular purpose, it is satisfactory? It is, always excepting that one would like to have more room, and, in consequence of more room, more appliances.
3157. How often do you visit the institution? At least once a week; usually, oftener. I should think that, taking the year round, I make three visits a week on the average.
3158. And you make a visit when called upon, I suppose? Yes.
3159. Is the lying-in division suitable for its purpose? Yes; as suitable as it can be.
3160. What is the average number of patients? I must refer you to the director for that.
3161. Is there any attempt at classification;—for instance, are the married women separated from the single women? I am not acquainted with that part of the internal arrangements. I only visit wards outside the obstetric wards in cases of illness.
3162. Is there any outdoor division;—do you attend patients in their own homes? Yes; midwifery cases are attended to in the homes in cases of indigence.
3163. How many cases a year? For that I must refer you to the records.
3164. Is the practice extensive? It is increasing.
3165. Have you anything to do with that division? Only when called upon.
3166. Is there a department for training nurses in the institute? There is.
3167. Do you lecture to them? Yes.
3168. How often? Once a week, as a rule. Sometimes I give an additional lecture.
3169. Do those nurses who pass satisfactorily get a diploma? They get a certificate from the institution to say that they have attended a course of lectures and have attended so many cases of midwifery—have conducted so many cases. Then they go up for examination, and if they are successful the examiner states that he has examined them and found them competent to act as midwifery nurses under the supervision of a medical man.
3170. The Examiner is someone not connected with the institution, and a medical man of course? Yes; the candidates do not all pass.
3171. How does the mortality at this home compare with that of similar institutions? I have not had an opportunity to consider that. The mortality this year has been very slight. I think it has been amongst the infants only.
3172. Have you any knowledge of the Babies' Home? I had formerly when it was situated in my neighbourhood, but now I have not.
3173. In your time, when you did know something about the Babies' Home, were the children healthy? There were all sorts there, a few ill, most of them well. They were, of course, all subject to illness now and then, but it was a fairly healthy institution. They had the disadvantage of receiving what may be called chronic cases; some children whose existence was a struggle against conditions that it was almost impossible to overcome, children born with congenital deficiencies and hereditary complaints.
3174. Have you any suggestion to make or any information to give us in regard to the institution? As to what would help you I am in the dark. I should like to see the obstetric ward in a different building adjacent to the present building. The two departments should be separate.
3175. Do you consider there is a danger of other inmates of the institution bringing illness to those who are in the confinement ward? There is a danger, but we endeavour to minimise it by making isolation wards in the neighbourhood of the obstetric ward, and by placing partitions and doors, so that in case of need the obstetric part of the institution could be shut off from the rest, and, of course, other precautions are put in force as soon as the danger signal is sounded.
3176. You endeavour to isolate as far as you can, but the idea would be to have this division separate altogether? It would.
3177. Is the danger a very serious one? It might become so, but I think that with the precautions that have now been adopted, and with careful conscientious people at work, that danger might be disregarded, or I would not attend the institution.
3178. How long have you been connected with it? Some three years.
3179. Has there been any case of puerperal fever during the time you have been there? Yes; when I first attended an epidemic occurred.
3180. Was it very fatal? There were one or two deaths, but a dozen or more were attacked.
3181. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you think it would be desirable to have one central lying-in hospital instead of these hospitals in connection with the various relief societies? It is a subject that I have not considered. I have been too busy to consider these matters. I think that Sydney and the immediate suburbs, taking Marrickville and Dulwich Hill on the one side and Waverley on the other, really form too large an area, and have too great a population to be served by one central institution. Also, I am not quite sure that a vast institution such as that would have to be, would be anything like so efficient as several smaller ones situated at some distance from one another.
3182. Waverley and Woollahra have no convenience of the kind at present? No. 3183.

3183. A lying-in hospital in the vicinity of Darlinghurst would be more central for the eastern suburbs? W. Spencer,
M.D.,
F.R.C.S.,
M.R.C.P.
22 Sept., 1898.
Yes.
3184. There are two or three of these institutions that seem to be struggling on in difficulties;—probably a central institution well endowed would be of more value to the whole community? It would be of great value, whether it would meet all requirements I am not sure.
3185. From a medical point of view, do you think that a central lying-in hospital would be an advantage at the present time? I think that more accommodation, such as would be furnished by a central hospital, is desirable at the present time; but I also favour the idea of having several small hospitals rather than one large institution. In England the profession now favour smaller institutions rather than large ones.
3186. You have told us that this institution has not the appliances that you would desire, and which are requisite to increase the usefulness and value of such an institution? Yes.
3187. Would not those be obtainable in a large central lying-in hospital? It would be devoted solely to that purpose, but whether it would be possible to gather in the class of patients who are now gathered in by these other institutions from the various suburbs is a question.
3188. Would there not be a possibility of such an institution as that I have spoken of being much better appointed, and more up to date than these small institutions? Yes; as regards building space, and so forth, but I do not think that in regard to sanitation it would be more up to date than the one at Newtown. I think that everything that is possible to be done is done there. I believe there was a large epidemic of puerperal fever at a large institution in Sydney some time ago.
3189. *President.*] Suppose that there was one very central institution and no other, would an outbreak of puerperal fever in that institution be a very serious matter? Of course; it would block the whole source of aid for a considerable time.
3190. Suppose such a thing were to happen, would it not mean virtually the closing of that institution for some time? It would.
3191. Would that be an argument against having a large central lying-in institution? I am not going to enter into argument. I cannot speak with authority, because I have not had an opportunity to consider the matter. I only know how the institution at Newtown is at present conducted. I do not think it could have been on better lines, or that the results could be more satisfactory. Though I am not able to answer some of your questions, I may mention that formerly I was appointed a special commissioner by the Russian Government to report upon the sanitation and the condition of the prisons, reformatories, and industrial schools of Great Britain and Ireland, associated with Sir W. Crofton and one of the Emperor's secretaries. Although at that time our views with regard to sanitation questions were not so advanced as they are now, I acquired a very good idea from the study of segregated communities as to the hygienic conditions necessary for health.

THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER, 1898.

[The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 10.15 a.m.]

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (PRESIDENT).
J. BARLING, Esq., J.P.
J. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

James Powell, J.P., further examined:—

3192. *President.*] You have visited certain institutions? Yes; at the request of the Commission I visited the Maitland Benevolent Asylum, and hand in my report thereon. J. Powell.
10 Nov., 1898.

At the request of the Commission I visited the Benevolent Asylum, at Maitland, on Friday the 26th August, and inquired of the Matron and several members of the Ladies' Committee then present, particulars of the management and operations of the Institution.

The Society's work consists of two branches of relief accommodation to the aged and infirm poor in the Asylum, and assistance to the destitute outside by means of the ticket system.

The management is entirely in the hands of ladies, who appear to take a most active interest in their work.

I made an inspection of the Asylum—a building which seems well suited for its purpose, though with more display perhaps than is absolutely necessary.

Accommodation is available for about fifty inmates. There were resident at the time of my visit, 16 females and 24 males, for whose care proper provision seemed to be made, but time did not permit of a close investigation.

The staff consists of the matron, £60 per annum; assistant nurse, 10s. a week; laundress, 10s. a week; cook, 10s. a week; secretary (part services).

Some of the inmates are employed in gardening, milking, &c., for which services slight concessions are made to them.

Some of the younger male inmates are said to be mentally deficient.

Aged tramps are provided with a day or two's accommodation and food.

Lying-in cases are not admitted to the Institution.

The revenue for the year 1897 amounted to £1,523 15s. 2d., including:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount from 1896	584	14	2
Government subsidy	368	6	9
Bequest	200	0	0
Other receipts	370	14	3

The expenditure amounted to £1,220 12s. 3d., as under:—

Provision, clothing, maintenance of inmates, &c.	908	7	8
Salaries and wages	163	14	4
Repairs, furniture, &c.	166	3	7
Other expenses	42	6	8

The bequest of £200 was invested, and a balance of £103 2s. 11d. carried forward to the current year.

The following table shows the number of inmates during the past year:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining, 1st January, 1897.....	33	15	48
Admitted since	69	10	79
	102	25	127
Discharged	68	8	76
	34	17	51
Died	6	2	8
Remaining	28	15	43

The

J. Powell.

10 Nov., 1898.

The outdoor relief is administered by the ladies of the committee who visit the persons in receipt of relief, and at the same time collect subscriptions for the Institution. The usual allowance granted consists, in the case of a single individual, of $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tea, 2 lb. sugar, 2 lb. meat, and 2 loaves of bread per week, with oatmeal in the case of a sick person. For two individuals the allowance of meat and bread is doubled, but not of the sugar. No money whatever is allowed. Some ninety families, mostly those of widows and sick people, participate in the relief afforded.

The tea, sugar, and oatmeal are dispensed from the Asylum by the Matron, and the other goods are supplied by contractors on the production of the ticket, upon which is written the articles which are to be given. No particular reason is furnished why the Matron should have charge of certain supplies except that, being obtained in larger quantities, they may be procured at less cost.

The recipients residing in the neighbourhood are expected to go every Wednesday to the Asylum for their tickets and also for the tea, sugar, &c. When they reside at a distance the articles are made up in packets by the Matron, and sent away fortnightly or monthly.

Applicants for relief must state their case before the committee, which meets once a fortnight, but where the necessity arises any lady visitor may grant limited relief once prior to that being done.

As with other societies, the relief granted is not given with a view to entirely support the recipient, but only as a help.

Where the State is found to be affording relief the allowance from the Society is discontinued.

The number of families that received regular outdoor assistance last year was about eighty, and this number has since increased.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced recently in raising sufficient funds to cope with the demands upon the Institution, and the question had become serious enough for discussion at a special meeting of the committee, which was being held the day of my visit.

Assistance for some time past has been afforded the poor of Greta and Branxton; but, in view of those places being outside the Maitland electorate, and the smallness of the contributions from those quarters, it was decided to discontinue the relief. An endeavour, also, was to be made to relieve the Society of the strain of some of the younger recipients.

The Institution is mainly supported by the contributions of the Maitland residents.

It appears that no regular system of visitation is made, the reason given being want of time, nor are written reports on the cases furnished by the visitors.

JAS. POWELL.

3193. Have you anything further to add to it now? No; I also hand in reports on the Sydney Rescue Work Society's institutions at Newtown and Sussex-street, Sydney.

Home of Hope, Stanley-street, Newtown.

Building in a state of disrepair—everything about the place in a thread-bare condition, want of even reasonable means to carry on—apparent on all sides. Mr. Ardill and family have rooms in the building. The place will not bear comparison with Newington, the Benevolent Asylum, or Women's Hospital. General pinched and starved appearance about the place. Wages said to be in arrears of payment. On 15th September 60 women and 26 children in residence; two of the women have been in the Home over two years, the reason given is that they are mentally dull, and obeying natural instincts they might return to the Home with new incumbrances to be provided for. There are no ladies on the committee—but ladies visit the Home to read or converse with the inmates without control over the management. The Home is open to all sects. The women enter without tests as to character, previous life, &c., they are mostly from the country. Small payments are sometimes made for the advantages received. There is a laundry in connection with the Home; it is not paying, mainly because there is strong competition for the work, prices having fallen from 1s. to 4d. per dozen, and apart from the competition the laundry is not furnished with appliances requisite in order to compete with better appointed institutions. The accounts show that the Home is struggling against insufficient means, the figures for 1896-7 are balanced, and the account to February, 1898, shows a credit balance of 9s. 8d. only. At the present time there is on the whole operations of the "Rescue Work Society" debts due for maintenance and wages amounting to £800. Of this amount £300 will be (or has been) paid by the Government. Mr. Ardill expected £500 from the Government instead of £300. The Society is, according to Mr. Ardill, £500 in debt, and in addition there is a sum of over £100 absorbed by current expenses which should be at the credit of the Women's Trust and the Building Account.

Our Babies' Home.

Cottage on the Brisbane Estate, formerly residence of the Works Manager of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. In this Home 26 children are maintained. For 10 of the children payments are made averaging about 3s. 6d. per week. The children remain from six months to five years. There is a Ladies' Committee which meets monthly. This Home seems to be similar to the reception branch for children at the Benevolent Asylum. Rent and taxes about £84 per annum. There is a very good play-ground, but the accommodation required, being for young children only, a better, healthier, and more suitable site and building could be obtained elsewhere.

Open All Night Refuge for Women, 403, Sussex-street.

On the night of the 14th September 41 women and 11 children were accommodated. The building has a large frontage to the street, and there is a large and commodious hall at the back, with a separate entrance from Sussex-street. The premises are rented at about £2 per week, they are in a state of manifest disrepair, and more dirty and neglected than they should be with so many women about the place doing nothing in return for food and shelter. A very little exertion would greatly improve the whole of the surroundings. The food supplied is coarse and uninviting. The place affords shelter for young girls who may remain at entertainments or dancing saloons too late to return to their usual homes, and the police frequently take women to the Refuge who would otherwise be exposed to the dangers of large cities. It is also known that women from Newington get to Sydney for change, and use the Refuge until they are disposed to return to Newington. The accommodation is very poor, and indicates a want of sufficient means to meet the demands and requirements of the destitute women requiring night shelter.

JAS. POWELL.

3194. Do you wish to say anything further in regard to those? No. I also visited the so-called Boys' Farm Home at Camden, and the Children's Home at Liverpool, and submit my reports thereon.

On the 19th September I visited the Sydney Rescue Work Society's Homes for Children at Camden and Liverpool. The property at Camden, to which I went first, was a gift of the late Mr. W. H. Paling, and consists of a house and an acre of ground situated in an elevated position at some distance from the town. The building which, with furniture, is said to have cost £950, was opened in 1890 for the reception of boys over the age of 8 years. There is a conspicuous absence here of conveniences such as are necessary for the proper equipment of an institution of the kind, and I learned with surprise that water for the needs of the house had to be brought by hand from a lake a considerable distance away. The building badly requires painting, which I understand is shortly to be done.

The only official at this establishment is the Matron, who is in receipt of a very small salary, and upon her, with the assistance of the boys, devolves the whole work of the place.

As the inmates were away at a picnic I had not an opportunity of seeing them, but was informed by the Matron that, with the exception of one or two, they were strong and vigorous lads. There are seventeen boys there at the present time of ages varying from 11 to 14 years. During the week they attend the local Public School, and on Sundays go to the Wesleyan Church and Sunday School. The distance they have to travel is considerable and could not be traversed in wet weather without serious inconvenience, particularly to any but very robust children.

The title borne by the Institution—that of "Our Boys Farm Homes"—is a misnomer in two particulars, inasmuch as there is only one home, and there are no facilities whatever of instruction or employment in farming operations. As a matter of fact, apart from their school hours, the boys are occupied in the rough house-work of the Home, in collecting and chopping firewood, fetching water, and digging and weeding the small plots of ground in front and at the side of the Institution—work which is not likely to be of much service to them in after life.

More

More attention might be given to poultry-rearing, but from want of proper conveniences the Matron is precluded from keeping more than half a dozen head of fowl. The Matron stated that some of the boys picked up information by visiting and working on the neighbouring farms on Saturdays, but there is no systematic training. At the age of 14 situations are found for the boys, and many of them have been apprenticed to the local farmers. J. Powell.
10 Nov., 1899.

With the exception of the meat, bread, and milk, the supplies for this Home are sent from Sydney, the accounts being checked by the Matron.

I next visited the Homes at Liverpool, and although partly prepared by reading in the Annual Report of the Society that the building is entirely unsuited for the work, I did not expect to be met with the condition of things existing there. The structure is a very old wooden one, and is in almost as great a state of disrepair as it is possible to conceive. It must be a matter of impossibility to keep such a place properly clean, and it is to be objected to on sanitary grounds. An effort is being made to repair the building by matchlining the walls, but nothing of the kind would render it a fit habitation for a number of young children. The accommodation is insufficient for the number of occupants, and the conveniences are inadequate.

At the time of my visit there were forty-seven inmates—fifteen boys and thirty-two girls, their ages ranging, in the case of the boys, from 3 to 15 years, and in the case of the girls, from 5 to 15 years. The boys, the Matron informed me, are, as a rule, transferred to Camden when 12 or 13 years of age. Situations are found for the girls. Several of the inmates have been received from the Babies' Home, Newtown. The children attend the local Public School and the Church of England. The appearance of the children I saw running about the place, as regards dress and cleanliness, did not by any means redound to the credit of the management, but perhaps some allowance must be made from the fact of the strain upon the officials, caused through some eighteen of the inmates being ill in bed with measles. I noticed in several cases that two sick children were occupying one "single" bed.

The staff of the establishment consists of a Matron, an assistant, a cook and gardener.

As in the case of the Camden Home, the grocery supplies are obtained from Sydney. Vegetables are cultivated on the ground, and the Home has its own cows, from which source more than sufficient milk and butter are derived than is required in the Home.

I am of opinion that the values placed on these properties—£850 for Camden, and £1,075 for Liverpool—are excessive.

From an inspection of these Homes and the other institutions controlled by the Sydney Rescue Work Society, it is clearly apparent to my mind that the Society, in trying to encompass too large an area of charitable work, has overreached its powers, and while it might, with the resources at its command, succeed well by limiting its efforts to a narrower sphere of operations, it is unable to successfully cope with the work it has in hand.

JAMES POWELL.

3195. You have nothing more you wish to say about those institutions beyond what is in the reports? No.

TUESDAY, 9 JANUARY, 1899.

[The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10 o'clock a.m.]

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (President).

J. BARLING, Esq., J.P.

J. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

William Edward Wilson sworn and examined:—

3196. *President.*] You are a member of the committee of the Sydney Rescue Work Society? Yes. W. E. Wilson.

3197. How is the committee elected? It used to be elected annually. Lately we have been getting the names of those who were willing to join, and getting their approval. You will see from the report that we missed one annual meeting, therefore we could not elect a committee. 9 Jan., 1899.

3198. Who elect those who signify their willingness to act? The matter is only amongst those who are willing to act. The subscribers do not come.

3199. There is no formal election? No.

3200. Is there an annual meeting? There is a meeting at which they state such and such gentlemen are willing to act on the committee for the next year.

3201. And thereby they are elected? Yes.

3202. Without a formal vote? Yes, without a formal vote. It is not a very coveted position.

3203. Then are the subscribers not invited to vote? I do not think so.

3204. How often does the committee meet for ordinary business? The regular meeting is held once a month.

3205. What is the usual number of members who attend? I should say five or six.

3206. Out of how many? Out of about twelve now.

3207. What is the usual nature of the business transacted at those meetings? The bringing up of the monthly accounts and any special business which could not be called actual detail work. In addition to that, of course we are constantly in and out of the office.

3208. Does the committee determine, or does the committee have any voice in determining, whether persons shall be admitted to the homes? No.

3209. Who does that? We are bound to take any that come to the Refuge and to the Home of Hope. One condition was that we were to take in any whom the police sent or brought, and persons were sent by the clergy also.

3210. Practically, the condition of those people determines their admission to the Refuge? Yes; anyone can come there who wishes.

3211. As regards the Home of Hope and the other homes, does the director give his sanction to the admissions? Yes, in some cases. Last Monday there were two sent out from the Police Court.

3212. On the order of the police? Yes.

3213. Does the director bring up a report at the meetings of the committee? Yes; he reports upon almost everything, but gives no written report.

3214. Are there no written reports? I do not think so.

3215. Is there any record of the reports? There is in the minutes a record of what is said.

3216. Does he report in those verbal reports the number of admissions and things of that kind? Yes.

3217. As regards the payment away of money, are the accounts passed by a committee or a sub-committee? Anything special up to about £1 the director can pay, but anything beyond that would not be paid without consultation with the committee.

3218. At the monthly meeting is there an abstract financial statement put before the Committee? Yes.

3219. A written one? Yes.

- W. E. Wilson. 3220. How are supplies obtained for the homes—are they obtained by contract? No; they have two or three accounts for groceries. As far as butcher's meat is concerned, we are, to a large extent, dependent upon what we can collect. Twice a week they go to Glebe Island and get a very large amount of meat from there, and they go on a Saturday evening to Woolfe's, and to other people in the town, who give us a large quantity of meat; so there is not much of a butcher's account. We get stuff in a wholesale way from Ariell's and Tillock & Co. and others.
- 9 Jan., 1899. 3221. Does the director do much on his own responsibility? Yes.
3222. And reports to the committee? Yes.
3223. Does the committee ever visit these homes as a committee? They do sometimes.
3224. How often? I should not think more than once a quarter. Some of the members visit the homes every week individually, and I think that that is absolutely better. They never know when I am likely to go in.
3225. Do you keep yourself fully acquainted with the condition of all these places? I think I know almost everything, as far as one possibly can.
3226. Do you think their condition is satisfactory on the whole? There are several alterations that I should like to see, and if we had a little more money they could be carried out.
3227. It is a matter of money? Yes. I do not know that there is any alteration needed at the home in Newtown. The home in Sussex-street is suitable, being so very close to George-street, though it is a very old building. We have looked round for another place, but we cannot find one more suitable. The greatest change that I would suggest would be at the Babies' Home.
3228. What would you recommend there? I should like to be able to take in babies under 6 months old, but we cannot very well do that unless we have a trained staff. The matron is a very suitable woman for her business. She has a child left on her hands now. A woman left it by day first, but now she has gone off and left it altogether. That child takes up the woman's time very much in night nursing.
3229. You think that these infants require more care and attention than can be given to them at present? Our rule is not to take children under 6 months old, except in very special cases, but we are very anxious if we could do that.
3230. Do you know anything of the homes at Liverpool and Camden? I do not know so much of the Camden Home; but I know all about the Liverpool Home.
3231. Is everything to your satisfaction at the Liverpool Home? Well, we have had a change of matrons lately.
3232. I think you were here when I asked Mr. Ardill about the inspection of the homes at Camden and Liverpool;—he said that the inspection was not what it ought to be? Yes.
3233. You have nothing to do with the homes at present? I visit Liverpool at least once a fortnight, and I know the working of that place thoroughly.
3234. Who selects the matrons for these homes? I have had a good deal to do with the selection of them in conjunction with Mr. Ardill. He examines the letters of application, but he will not make the appointment without several of us having something to do with it.
3235. He goes through the applications; then consults with other members of the committee? Yes; it is very difficult to get matrons. We do not pay them very much.
3236. Is there a separate committee for the Home for Destitute Children? Yes; but the two committees are almost-identical. One or two did not want to belong to the Rescue Work Society, but were willing to be connected with the Children's Home.
3237. Is the business of both societies done at the same meeting? Yes.
3238. Mr. Ardill gave some evidence as regards the proposed amalgamation of the two societies;—has that gone any further? We have been trying to do that.
3239. Are they not practically amalgamated now? They are virtually so. They are the same trustees, and they are almost the same members of the committee.
3240. It only wants a formal amalgamation? Yes; that is all.
3241. Mr. Ardill gave some reasons as regards the difficulty of visiting and inspecting the Camden Home—amongst other things saying that he could not raise the railway fare;—has it ever been proposed that the duty of visiting should be allotted to members of the committee? I think it might be. I would not mind giving a day each couple of months to it; but it is a pretty long journey to the home—it takes a whole day.
3242. You see the necessity, where there are children, for having frequent inspection? Yes. Of course I hear of the children. I see the matrons who have been sent up on relieving trips, and I see the boys. Some of them are old Liverpool boys.
3243. Do you know if any members of the committee have ever visited the Camden Home? I have visited the home two or three times.
3244. You frequently visit the Liverpool Home? Yes; for the last two or three years I have been going up there every fortnight or three weeks.
3245. Do any other members of the committee visit there occasionally? Another gentleman often goes with me, but he is not a member of the committee.
3246. Does any member of the committee beside you visit the Liverpool Home? I do not think so, except Mr. Olliver.
3247. Mr. Ardill claims certain advantages for those homes at Liverpool and Camden over the State boarding-out system;—do you agree with his evidence on that point? There is a great deal in what he said. A good many of these children have been taken when they wanted home-training first. As regards the children at Liverpool, with very few exceptions, after they have been there two or three years, there is no difficulty in getting them into nice families. It is the home-training.
3248. Mr. Ardill called the Mittagong Home an institution and his home he called a home? I could not say anything about the place at Mittagong, but I can say that the children have a home at Liverpool. They go to the public school in the daytime, and when they come home it is really a home. As far as their clothing goes, they are not different from the children outside. They are not marked as waifs.
3249. Mr. Ardill said that if the Government subsidies were reduced or not paid he would be obliged to curtail his operations;—is it not a fact that a proposal has been made recently to start a new Rescue Home? That was on the suggestion of Dr. Arthur. The Newtown Home has got very much into confinement cases, and a great many of the girls who are committed at the court are so difficult to manage that you feel you cannot handle them where you have the lying-in women.
3250. How is the financial difficulty to be got over;—as a matter of fact, the Government subsidy has been reduced, has it not? Yes.

3251. Do you consider that the societies are really carrying too much sail—that they are undertaking more than their finances would justify them in doing? I do not know where we could curtail. I know that the homes answer a great many purposes that it seems to me are not carried out otherwise. I should like to see the Home of Hope properly utilised. We used to take in a great many girls, both lying-in cases and others, and send the lying-in cases to the Benevolent Asylum. Well, the break in the time—the fortnight within which you had to send them away—the suspension of the influence of the Home of Hope before they went to the Benevolent Asylum seemed just to spoil the work. This occurred at the very time when we had perhaps the greatest influence upon the women. They are mostly first cases of confinement, and there is very great hope with regard to many of these cases. We talked it over very seriously about three years ago, and resolved that we would have confinement cases in the home there, so as to have a continuity of influence.

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3252. What I want you to consider is as to whether the society which carries on so many different enterprises is not undertaking more than it can do; I put it to you as a man of business as to whether there is not very great danger of this work being badly done;—suppose a merchant has businesses all over the colonies, and is working them with a heavy overdraft, is that man likely to be successful? I should like to point out that I think one of these reports shows that there was so much money owing before the Government money was paid. The money was promised on the 27th June, but it was not paid until the 3rd of July.

3253. If you had had that money you would have been so much the better? Yes.

3254. Yes, we make allowance for that; I suppose you admit that you were working under strained finances all the time? I do.

3255. What I want you to consider is whether the society is not attempting too much for its means? We have to hold our hands where we see bigger openings. The doctor of the Babies' Home told me the other day that he would like to do such and such things. I said, "We cannot at present"; but he said, "Perhaps I might get some people interested in it." We have to go on very quietly. We should not have taken up the Babies' Home if we could have found anyone else to do it. It was originally started in connection with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The ladies Committee of the Babies' Home found that no one was taking the children, and they said that on the mothers paying a small sum—whatever they were able to pay—they would take charge of the children. They found that at Ashfield the children were only taken with their mothers. Whilst other people were talking about what ought to be done Mr. Ardill was doing it.

3256. But the whole of your operations are hampered for want of funds? Yes.

3257. Do you know anything about the Jubilee Home? There have been three different places in the town. First of all in Elizabeth-street, second in Stanley-street, then in Phillip-street; and the committee finally felt that they must cut this latter off; and when the new offices were taken at 376, Pitt-street, it was resolved to have two or three rooms available for the purpose of taking in women who could not be sent to the refuge, and whom we did not want to send to the Home of Hope. The Jubilee Home is a very small business. I do not think it need be advertised as one of the branches.

3258. I understand that the curtailment of that scheme was forced upon you by want of funds? Yes, by want of funds.

3259. Do you know anything about the Discharged Prisoners and the Women's Crusade Society? Yes; but we do not bracket the two together. There have been a good many discharged prisoners helped in the course of the year. We had, for want of funds, to cut off the house we had near Darlington, and all that the prisoners do now is to correspond with Mr. Ardill. I believe that notices are up in the gaols; and where we hear from prisoners we do what we can for them. Any female prisoner can go from the gaol to the refuge; but as far as the men are concerned, they only get a little temporary help. A little more has been done by Captain Neitenstein by way of relief, but the old society that used to be connected with the courts has come to an end.

3260. Then here again you have had to change your methods for want of funds? Yes.

3261. Do you co-operate with the Comptroller-General? Yes; we can get any information from him. We have referred a good many cases to him before taking action. A week's board is sufficient in some cases to keep a man from actually starving. You will see from the book that as much as 30s. is given, but not more, in small instalments to one of the most notorious criminals. Captain Neitenstein told me that he expected to see him back long ago. He comes in every fortnight, and he is informed that if he is short of half-a-crown he can get it. It is rather a hopeless kind of work with some of them. I had two letters in one week from a civil servant who said he had been retrenched. I made inquiries about him, and when I spoke to Mr. Ardill, it turned out that the woman he had been living with was in the Home of Hope, and he had written to her as soon as he had come out of gaol, to ask her to come back to him, although he was living with his lawful wife and children at the time. I wrote back, and said that when we were supporting the wife and children of an ex-prisoner he should be careful not to come to us for help also. I think that what you ought to look to is the results. If there were no absolute results from the work, if we merely sheltered these people at the refuge, I should not think it worth while to go on with it. I may tell you that wherever you go you will find persons conducting themselves respectably who have been through the home. We have had many servants who are now in respectable positions. One came from the Grammar School with a very good character. At Christmas time Mr. Ardill was able to send out 150 cards to those whom we know are doing well. They keep up a connection with the Home of Hope, and they can come to Mr. Ardill for help afterwards, and for advice.

3262. You claim, then, that, in addition to the material benefits which the society affords of relieving these people, there is great moral benefit? Absolutely so. If the Government stepped in and said that no more moral or religious training should be given to the women at all we should have no results. I know it is not the duty of the State to do it, and it is only helping to a certain extent.

3263. It is to the interest of the State that it should be done? Perfectly so.

3264. And you believe that your society is doing it? I do. There is a difference between a home and an institution. Take the Benevolent Society; they cannot follow up the cases. I am not speaking against it; but take any Government institution. It is an institution; the persons come in and go out, and there is an end of it; but in our home, as far as possible, their lives are helped afterwards, and to a very large extent. We have boys whom we have sent out that are doing well. There is one with Dr. Vandaleur Kelly and another with Dr. Dagmar Berne. The boys really are a credit when they leave the place. Few of them go back to their friends. Going back to their friends is often a drawback.

3265.

- W. E. Wilson. 3265. You appear to have taken great personal interest in the work? I do; I cannot help it. I think I know all the work and the workers, and it is very interesting work. Mr. Ardill was handicapped by being misjudged by people in Sydney, who did not know the work. I have been connected with him for the last nine years, and I have never seen anything that he has done of which I should feel ashamed. We have had little differences of opinion sometimes.
- 9 Jan., 1899. 3266. *Mr. Powell.*] What do you recognise Mr. Ardill's position to be;—is he the managing director? Yes.
3267. It is understood that he is a managing director? Yes.
3268. About his remuneration;—have you any arrangement with him as to payment for his services? You will see from the book that for many years he was getting £78 a year. It was credited to him, and we were not able to pay it. In addition to that, there was £50 a year for clerical allowance in connection with the Children's Home, making a total of £128 a year. Out of that he had to pay a clerk. About twelve months ago I think there was about £120 to £130 due to him of old accrued salary. When Mrs. Ardill went home to England, and went as a deputy to Canada to the Women's Christian Temperance Union, money was provided for the purpose apart from the society's funds. Mr. Ardill has business qualifications which I have seldom seen excelled.
3269. Has he any claim against the society for his salary? There is a balance due up to, I think, September last year.
3270. There is an amount still owing to him standing on the books? Yes, I think it has probably been reduced to about £60; but whenever we have been a little hard up he has never spoken for himself.
3271. Still there are salaries due? A good deal has been paid off.
3272. But still there is something owing? Yes; there is not very much, leaving out Mr. Ardill. I think there is about £16 owing to the matron at Liverpool, unless by this time she has got her cheque. There was one signed for her. The street collections were fairly successful, though not like those of last year. There was about £150 collected; and I should like to say, in regard to that, that there is a most complete record kept of every penny that was put into the boxes.
3273. On the 31st October you owed £295 in salaries? Some have been paid since then.
3274. How much do you think has been paid? I think there must have been quite £100 paid off.
3275. About the Jubilee Home—how many are residing there now? I should think only a couple of girls. If a girl is waiting to get a situation, she can be kept there until a situation is found. It is girls whom we have known in the homes who are taken in, not ordinary street women.
3276. How long do they remain there? I do not think they remain more than a fortnight there. There is one girl, Mary Evans, who has been in the home more than a fortnight, but she is blind. I suppose she would be on the streets if it was not for that place. She goes to the Blind Asylum and earns something there. She contributes towards her maintenance, and is therefore not an actual tax on us.
3277. Has she not been there a long time? She has been there about eighteen months. I think some sort of home is wanted for a girl like that. The Home of Hope and the Refuge are not suitable places for her, and we should be responsible if we turned her out into the streets. If we had the money we would have a respectable home for servant girls.
3278. Do you find the public support you well? Yes, very well indeed. I have often taken people to the homes, and when they have seen the work and some of the people there they felt that it was a work that was worth helping. There is one matter I should like to mention. It is in regard to helping girls to get maintenance. At the office we have a form of agreement for affiliation cases. The society has been very helpful in getting maintenance for the children of the girls, and so giving them a little help. We do not hesitate to employ a solicitor, if necessary. It is done in a fair way, and there is really no objection in most cases to sign the agreement. It is an agreement which can be produced in Court afterwards if the father refuses to comply.
3279. About the Babies' Home at Newtown Road, Mr. Ardill told us that girls get places and go away, and do not contribute anything towards the support of their children? I think that is a mistake.
3280. He said that one paid 10s. a week, but that very few paid at all? Those cases are not cases that come from the Home of Hope, because in most cases the girls at the Home of Hope can get situations. We keep them there two or three months, and they are quite strong and able to get situations.
3281. Then they are able to support their children? They do. It is not their children who go to the Babies' Home; it is a different class. If we had room now for fifty or sixty children we could get them—children who might be smothered or put down a drain.
3282. Are not these girls at a disadvantage in getting employment? Yes; a girl went to Mr. Ardill, and said that she could get so much a week in a situation if she was without her child, and I went and got it into the Babies' Home. From the home at Newtown we can help the girls. We do not like them to go below 3s. 6d. a week in wages, because if they do they have not enough for clothes, it means prostitution.
3283. I suppose you never can expect them to get the current wages? Not with the children.
3284. So they get about 3s. 6d. a week? Some will get 5s. or 6s. Some who come from the country do not know which side of the broom to sweep with.
3285. They get less as a rule than other girls? Yes; with a child they do.
3286. At the Babies' Home the idea is to prevent the mother from prostituting herself for the maintenance of her child? Yes. If a woman is only getting 7s. a week, she contributes 3s. 6d. a week to the maintenance of her child, the rest coming from the funds. We cannot do it on a bigger scale. It ought to be done somewhere in Sydney, but there is no place where they are doing it.
3287. *Mr. Barling.*] I understood you to argue that, even supposing a Government institution, or any other institution, was large enough to take in all the maternity cases, still in such a case the women would lose the moral effects which accrue from the management that you adopt in the Jubilee Home? Not in the Jubilee—but in the Home of Hope. There are about 100 cases there in a year. There were ninety-four the year before last. I think the number now is about 104. Out of these a very large proportion are first cases, very hopeful cases, and the influence that we have a couple or three months before they are confined, also during confinement; and a couple of months after, until they are strong enough to get places, is the real success of the work.
3288. Could not that same work be done as an adjunct to any central institution? We tried it in the old days in connection with the Benevolent Asylum. Of course it was a different thing then, but they used

used to take them in a machine sort of way, and then turn them out. If there is going to be any influence with a girl at that time it will be at the very time when the trouble comes—in a first case—when many of them think they are going to die. They get a good influence for a month or six weeks. The Home of Hope is not a great deal of expense to us. We have a good trained nurse there, and they are turning out really satisfactory nurses. That is another feature of the work—it is helpful.

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3289. In the training of nurses? Yes.

3290. Of course that could be very well accomplished in connection with any other institution? I believe there is a good opening for that to be done at the Benevolent Asylum.

3291. They are doing that now at the Benevolent Asylum, and they are training nurses also at the home in Crown-street? There is plenty of work for that institution—the women's hospital—without at all touching these cases here. There are under 5 per cent. of married women at our Home of Hope.

3292. Your idea is not merely to help these women through their maternity troubles, but to re-establish, if possible, their moral character, by observation some months before and after confinement? Yes.

3293. And you think that that could not be accomplished in any other institution? I believe that in these cases it could not. We have a doctor to call in if need be, but the proportion of cases in which he is called in is very small. They have a woman's help right through.

3294. Does Mrs. Ardill take any part in the management of the Home of Hope? Yes.

3295. Does she live there? Yes.

3296. Mr. Ardill is the one who takes the direction of the institution? Yes; but Mrs. Ardill is a thoroughly capable woman.

3297. Is she supposed to be in charge of the Maternity Home? No; the nurse is in charge of it.

3298. Mrs. Ardill does not undertake the direction of it? No.

3299. Does her husband? Yes.

3300. They make that their home? Yes; and Mrs. Ardill's influence with the women is very great; there is no doubt about that. She has been at the work for many years. She was engaged in it before she married Mr. Ardill. I think it would be an absolute mistake to say that because there was a large Government institution we should have to shift all these girls there. I think it would cause a break in the influence that one has with them. If you have not had evidence of the good resulting from it, you ought to fully inquire into it. During the last ten years I suppose there must have been 1,500 or 1,800 cases dealt with, and those women are now over all parts of the Colony. There are 150 or more who let us know where they are, and who are quite willing to correspond with the home. They are in comfortable situations, and that, I think, is satisfactory.

G. E. Ardill (further examination):—

3301. *President.*] You gave some evidence in reference to the class of women admitted to the Home of Hope. You say in answer to Question 2822:—

Those who come to us for confinement would not be called women who have walked the streets. They have all been of respectable character, but for this fall.

2823. They are not what you would call degraded women? They are not degraded or fallen women; they are mostly domestic servants, and such like, and are of an average class.

Then you were asked this question (2831) "Suppose a woman taken off the streets came into the home, would you keep her separate?" and you say in reply—

We could not in any way separate her. If we attempted to deal with cases of another nature we should have to provide a separate institution.

From the answer to the first question it would appear that women off the streets are not admitted, but in reply to another question you say—

One of the objects of the home is to receive such women.

Is not that a contradiction? Yes; I thought I had explained that to a very large extent the work of receiving fallen women off the streets had lapsed, and the character of the home had changed more into that of a lying-in hospital, and for the reception of cases such as I described in answer to another question.

3302. So the object of the home as referred to in the report was the original intention? Yes; that was the original intention.

3303. But it has been departed from to that extent? Yes; we do not largely receive that class now; some few are received still.

3304. *Mr. Barling.*] You do not make any organised efforts now to recover women from the street? No. In one of our recent issues we stated that we should like to have another home for that purpose, and we feel that one important branch of our work has been neglected lately.

3305. *President.*] In reply to Question 2914 you say—

An arrangement was made by the Inspector-General of Police that no destitute woman should be locked up, but that she should be taken to the All-night Refuge.

When was that arrangement made? Some years since; I could not say at what date.

3306. Is that a special arrangement made with the Sydney Rescue Work Society? I understood so. We offered by letter to do so, and the offer was accepted by letter. We also provided the various police-stations with cards containing the address of the Open All-night Refuge, which could be handed to women. In most cases the police accompanied them to the door.

3307. Are you sure that you are quite correct in saying that arrangements are made that no destitute woman should be locked up? The wording would be that no woman need be locked up merely for protection.

3308. You say in reply to Question 2858—

Do you find that these women are engaged at a lower than the current rate of wages? We have had small wages offered for women because some people thought they had a right to get them cheap, but the women were not allowed to take such engagements.

What criterion have you as to the current rate of wages? It is according to the person's ability. If a woman has been a fairly competent servant before her confinement she may have to submit to a reduction of 4s. or 5s. a week. If she has been in the habit of earning 10s. a week, then she may have to take 6s. or 5s. a week. If she has been getting 12s. a week, she may have to take 7s. or 8s. a week.

3309.

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3309. What is the amount of the mortgage on the Home of Hope at the present time? £1,900.
3310. There was an arrangement made by which a sum of £100 a year was to be paid off;—how many payments have been made? I do not know whether it is one or two—one only, I think. It was a £2,000 mortgage.
3311. And one yearly payment of £100 has been made? Yes.
3312. How do you obtain supplies of food for the All-night Refuge? Some by gift, others by purchase. The matron has permission to purchase from time to time, and does so. We also supply from the general store at Newtown. We purchase sugar by the half ton, and distribute it to the homes.
3313. Is the All-night Refuge supplied mainly from gifts in kind? No; I should say about one-half.
3314. Do you consider that the inmates there are properly fed? Yes, for an all-night refuge, considering the circumstances. If it was an established home for them, I should say that additional food might be given; but if we desire to make it a "move on" home they are amply supplied.
3315. What is the scale of diet there? It varies. If there is an abundant supply of meat, they get cold meat and bread for breakfast; if there is no meat, they get bread and treacle or bread and dripping.
3316. And plenty of that? Yes, plenty of that. At dinner-time those who return, of course, receive meat or soup and meat.
3317. And tea? Yes, tea.
3318. And what do they get in the evening? Bread and tea, and cold meat if there is an ample supply of meat. We do not purchase meat for tea.
3319. What are the qualifications of the matron of that refuge? There is a transfer proceeding at present in connection with the Refuge; the present matron is leaving. The qualification for matron there would be an almost unlimited supply of good health, ability to attend night and day to her duties, with an amount of firmness and kindness combined which perhaps very few women possess.
3320. How are these matrons appointed? They are appointed by the committee. If any exigencies arise, sometimes by one of the committee and myself, pending a meeting of the committee.
3321. There is a separate society in connection with the Children's Home, yet, in reply to a question, you say that the reports of the Children's Home are made to the Sydney Rescue Work Society? Yes. I should have explained that the committees are virtually the same in *personnel*, and for some time past there has not been any separate meeting.
3322. It is practically the same committee? Yes.
3323. And that is what you meant? Exactly so.
3324. How often does the committee of the Society for providing Homes for Destitute Children meet? They have not met, but the Sydney Rescue Work Society have received these reports.
3325. We discussed the question of inspection last time, and you admitted that the inspection of the Camden Home was not sufficient? Yes.
3326. Has it ever been proposed that certain members of the committee should assist in the inspection? It has.
3327. And was it carried out? No; as far as the Camden Home was concerned, it has not been carried out.
3328. You admit that the inspection is not what it ought to be? It is not, as far as the Camden Home is concerned.
3329. Has any member of the committee ever visited the Camden Home? Yes; Mr. W. E. Wilson, Mr. Wigzell, and others.
3330. You stated in reply to Question 3053 that the practice of sending boys from the Camden Home to the farmers had ceased, because it was not found satisfactory;—in what way was it not satisfactory? We did not know exactly when the boys left work, nor where they were between that and the time when they arrived at home.
3331. Is the practice discontinued altogether? They are sent out occasionally, not to the neighbouring farmers so much as to help in household work.
3332. On what terms are they sent out? About 1s. a day. It is generally on Saturday afternoons that they are required. It is very seldom that they are kept from school for such employment.
3333. Does the institution get the benefit of that money? It is spent on the boys; it does not pass into the funds.
3334. Is there any check upon the treatment of these boys when they are sent out to day work in the neighbourhood? I cannot say that we have any specific check, except any complaints that the boys may make themselves.
3335. Have the boys ever complained? Not to my knowledge.
3336. You said in answer to Question 3100, that, unless you receive the subsidy of £1,000 from the Government, the income of the Society would not be sufficient to enable them to carry on the work which you have in hand, and Parliament has reduced the subsidy to £500? It did take off the extra vote this year.
3337. According to your previous evidence that will force you to abandon some of these undertakings? Yes, or to secure additional income from elsewhere.
3338. What is the exact number of women who were admitted to the Jubilee Home last year? I have not a record of the exact number of cases received, but as far as I can remember the names the number was approximately thirty-six. There may have been a few more.
3339. Do you not keep a record of all these cases? Not as far as the Jubilee Home is concerned.
3340. Why not at the Jubilee Home? I really do not know why it has not been done. It might easily have been done.
3341. What becomes of these women? Some of them we know are in situations, others, we believe, are in situations. They obtain shelter for a few evenings, and pass out to situations; some we secure situations for.
3342. How many inmates are in the Jubilee Home at the present time? Two.
3343. How long have they been there? One of them has been there a long while, ever since the Home was transferred to Pitt-street, which I think was two years ago.
3344. Is that carrying out the intention of the Jubilee Home, that a woman should be there for two years? Yes, the first intention was to provide a home for young women whether in business or otherwise, for persons who could pay a small sum per week for board and lodging. This young woman being employed
at

at the Industrial Blind Institution does contribute. There is also shelter for those who are unable to pay. It was hoped that one class paying would virtually keep the home for the few who were unable to pay. Our annual report states that among other objects the Home is for friendless virtuous young women arriving in Sydney.

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3345. Do you have many such cases? Not a very large number; we have had them from the Clarence River, from the west and from the south. Ministers of religion and local ladies have sent them down to us.

3346. With regard to the Discharged Prisoners Mission, how many were relieved last year? Assisted with relief of one kind or another, about thirty.

3347. That is discharged prisoners? Yes.

3348. In what way were they assisted? Some were provided with temporary board and lodgings; others with clothing and others with food.

3349. Have you a record of these cases? We have of most of them. The number thirty does not include the women who are dealt with in the Open All Night Refuge.

3350. How many workers have you employed in the Women's Crusade? We have one paid officer and a large number of volunteer officers.

3351. What do they do? The object is to visit the various homes or "dens of infamy" where the women live, to induce them to abandon their manner of life; to meet them on the streets on their parades, in order to influence them; to attend the police cells on Sunday mornings and give bread, butter, and tea to every body found locked up, this also embracing the men. Last year 3,317 persons were provided for in that way. We have opportunities of speaking to them, and influencing them against over-indulgence in intoxicating liquors, and we believe that a very large number have been influenced. Meetings are held in the neighbourhood for sewing. In connection with this work 122 garments were distributed last year and sixty-one parcels of groceries; and forty-two women were induced to enter the All-night Refuge or the Home of Hope, through the instrumentality of the people operating in the Wexford-street Mission.

3352. Are records kept of that work? Yes.

3353. How many separate individuals were assisted in the outdoor relief agency during the year, apart from those who received outdoor relief from the Women's Crusade and the Discharged Prisoners' Mission? 576.

3354. What was the actual amount distributed in money? £116 5s. 10d. In addition to that there were gifts of clothing, which we had received as gifts.

3355. *Mr. Barling.* I suppose you have no difficulty with the police about visiting the cells? We have permission to do so.

3356. So you are able to go to the cells? Yes; there was a little trouble at one time when a prisoner escaped.

3357. *President.* You have seen a copy of your evidence? Yes.

3358. Have you anything further to say? I wrote something supplementing that evidence.

3359. *Mr. Barling.* I should like you to give us a typical case of a person admitted into the Home of Hope, to show us exactly what is done—what the treatment is? Take the case of a young girl applying at the central office. I would take her name, age, birthplace, and other particulars. I would also take the name of the young man who she alleged to be the father of her child. She would then be granted a card of admission and sent on to the matron of the Institution. The first thing there is the examination by the nurse in charge, to discover whether there is any venereal disease, and to decide whether she should be admitted to associate with the other inmates. If she is a month or two before her confinement she passes into the laundry to assist in the work there, or she is placed upon housework, or she is put in the needle-room. When she is near her confinement she is passed again into the nurse's charge, and becomes an inmate of the ward till the time of her delivery. The doctor is in attendance if needed; if he is not needed he is not called in to the case. She remains in the lying-in department at least twelve days, if necessary longer. She then passes out again into the general ward or department of the Home, and if she has friends to go to, she goes out as soon as she is strong enough. If she has no friends she remains in the Institution until a situation can be secured for her. We secure a situation for her and retain an influence over her, we believe, for a long period after she is discharged from the Institution.

3360. I want to know where your treatment differs from that of the cases admitted into the Benevolent Asylum;—what is the advantage of a case being admitted into your Institution rather than into the Benevolent Asylum? The advantage, we think, is in the continual supervision.

3361. I want to know what that means? A girl who secures a situation from our Institution is visited by our workers. She is invited to a reunion tea once a quarter; she is also invited to come to meetings that are held in connection with the Institution. To show that we are in touch with them, I may mention that we were able to send over 150 New Year cards to them a few days since. The officers keep in constant touch with them, and we have frequent visits from those girls. There is not a Sunday in the year that we have not three or four, sometimes eight or ten, visiting the Home, which they look upon virtually as their home. Many of them have no other place to call home.

3362. Who are the officers who keep in touch with the girls? The officers of the Institution, or some volunteer labourers outside.

3363. Who are they? Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Gibson, Miss Beattie, and others.

3364. Do they call upon these girls when they are out of situations? Yes, they keep up a motherly interest in them.

3365. What has been the result of that? We think it has been largely helpful in preventing the recurrence of any mischief.

3366. How many girls without friends would come in for confinement? I should think three-fourths of them.

3367. And what number will that be? Eighty or ninety in a year.

3368. And do you keep the whole of these under observation? As long as they remain in the city.

3369. Have you ascertained how many are absolutely reclaimed? We believe three-fourths of them.

3370. If they lapse again into evil ways does that come under your observation? Yes.

3371. What do you do then? Seek to recover them.

3372. You think that three-fourths of these cases are absolutely recovered? Yes.

3373. And the lapsed ones you seek again until they are recovered? Yes; but we are not successful in all cases.

3374.

- G. E. Ardill. 3374. That is done in every case? Yes.
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3376. You require no further help? We require no further help in that way.
3377. Are there many cases not dealt with which could be dealt with if you had more means? Yes.
3378. Are there cases occasionally which you are obliged to refuse for want of means? No; we are not refusing admission to the home, though we have overcrowded the place.
3379. Then what makes you think you could do more if you had more means? I thought you were referring to the class who walk the streets.
3380. No; I know you are neglecting that altogether; I mean the work that you are performing now; if you had more means what more could you do? We could advertise more largely, but I do not know that we should be receiving more.
3381. Then you are meeting the needs of the city to the full in that respect? Whilst the other institutions are in operation, we are.
3382. So far, the needs of the city are fully met by existing institutions? I think so.
3383. The only class not dealt with are those on the streets? I think so.
3384. If you had the means you could recover a great many who are now on the streets? We have been remarkably successful in years gone by.
3385. What method would you propose for dealing with that class of people? We should have officers appointed constantly to meet them on their parades; to visit the women in their so-called homes; to meet them at the police station; to meet them on their discharge from gaol; to invite them to reunions; to show them a friendly interest. That has been the plan in years gone by, and we have been successful in getting one or more at social meetings.
3386. I suppose that females alone are employed in that way? No; I think that a man and a woman going together is preferable—that is the method that I would adopt.
3387. A man and a woman go together to accost these girls and induce them to leave their present life? Yes; I go alone very frequently.
3388. Have you any idea how many women there are on the streets? I believe at least 2,000 women who wholly or in part earn their living on the street.
3389. Do you give attention to the factories where females are largely employed? I have not visited them, but I believe they have been prolific sources of immorality.
3390. Is that the case now? I think that to some extent there is an improvement.
3391. That is a branch of the work that you have not followed up? We have not.
3392. Do you find the inmates of the home largely recruited from the servant girl class? Yes.
3393. *Mr. Powell.*] You say that you believe there are 2,000 women on the streets living on prostitution? Yes, either partly or wholly.
3394. Are you willing that that should become evidence? I am; I have stated it publicly already.
3395. It is a very serious statement to make? Yes; I made it three years ago; and I believe it does not need any alteration as far as reducing the number is concerned.
3396. I should like to ask you about the blind girl at the home; how much does she contribute per week? She contributes according to her earnings. I could not tell you how much without referring to the book; some weeks she would give 5s., other weeks 10s. a week.
3397. How much does she earn at the blind asylum? 12s. 6d. a week when she is at work; she is generally at work.
3398. Will you let the secretary know exactly how much she has paid during twelve months? Yes.
3399. You have spoken of the boys at Camden; you say those boys go out to perform services for people;—do you mean domestic service? Yes, and sometimes in the orchards.
3400. That would not be domestic work? No; I say mostly domestic work.
3401. Do they do washing? No; cleaning up yards and so on.
3402. But they do washing in the home? Yes; but I would not send them out to do washing. But in the Home I would like to train them to what they will have to do when they go out into the population.
3403. I think you promised to send in a return showing the amount paid to necessitous persons for rent, releasing clothes from pawn, and so on, have you furnished it? I understand that it is incorporated in the return that is before you.
3404. Have you any return showing how much was distributed under each head? I have not; but I could get it.
3405. Have you any objection to do that? Certainly not.
3406. I find that some women whose children are in the homes at Newtown and other places do contribute towards the support of their children? At the Babies' Home they do; but not in every case.
3407. You said that some do not contribute at all? Exactly.
3408. If these women are earning wages, should they not be compelled to pay? They are not all obtaining wages, and some children have not mothers to provide for them.
3409. But those who are obtaining wages? As far as we can we compel them to pay. Some mothers are earning wages part of the time, and drinking during the other portion. It is impossible to get anything from them.
3410. Then you are keeping the children of drunken parents at the expense of the public? Yes; so that they may not themselves become drunkards.
3411. You stated that the whole of your people were engaged at the current rate of wages—that they were not allowed to take employment at wages under the current rate? Exactly so.
3412. You have said to-day that it is a varying quantity—that it depends entirely on their ability? Yes.
3413. That is not the current wage? Yes, it is.
3414. You said that some get 3s. 6d., some 6s., some 8s.? I reckon that it is the current rate of wages according to the ability of the individual.
3415. You were asked to explain the necessity for starting a Babies' Home, seeing that the State has made certain provision for the care of children, and your reply was that the charge at the homes under the Children's Protection Act for children under six months is at least 8s., and in most cases 10s. per week;—are you aware that a charge of 10s. at those homes for children under the Act is quite exceptional? I am not aware of anything of the kind. Last week I sent my officers to six different registered homes to get a child 4 months old into one of them, and in no case would they take the child under 8s. a week, in most cases 10s. was asked.

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3416. This is only what you gather from your own experience? Yes.
3417. You are not aware that the charge is mostly 5s., and that 10s. is an exceptional charge? I am certain that they have not taken any child under six months in any home that we have visited at a charge of less than 8s. a week.
3418. And I tell you that a large number are taken at 5s. a week, and I have that from official sources? My opinion is that in three-fourths of the houses in Sydney more than 5s. a week is paid for the care of children under six months.
3419. You speak of giving 3,000 meals, are we to understand by that that you mean three or four pieces of bread and butter and a cup of tea? Exactly. This refers to what is supplied to those visited in the police cells.
3420. You give 3,000 meals a year? Yes; more than that at the Police Courts alone, altogether apart from the work in the Homes.
3421. That resolves itself into tea and bread? Yes.
3422. About the Liverpool Home, you told us in answer to a question as to what provision was made for the religious education of children of Roman Catholics that the understanding with their parents was that they must attend the Church of England, I ask is not that a contradiction of your answer to Question 3007:—
Are there any conditions as regards creed? No; neither as regard creed nor colour
? No; if one question is taken in connection with the other it will be found that it refers to admission to the home.
3423. The arrangement made with the parents is that the children must attend the Church of England? Yes.
3424. *Mr. Barling.*] I suppose you mean that there is no distinction as to creed and colour in regard to admission, but once they have been admitted they must go to the Church of England, whether they are Roman Catholics or not? Yes.
3425. *Mr. Powell.*] Admitting the answer given by you to Mr. Barling, that the children are admitted without reference to creed or colour, is it not a condition that they must attend the Church of England? Yes; they must attend the Church of England.
3426. *Mr. Barling.*] I suppose that is fully understood? We make that clear before we receive the children. We have not a sufficient number of officers to be able to send the children to two or three different churches.
3427. *Mr. Powell.*] In answer to Question 3056 you say, "We send the boys out on farms and selections, and some of them are turning out well";—will you tell me how many of these lads the home is responsible for at present? I could not without reference to our statistics. The home has been only seven or eight years in existence. It is in its initial stages, as far as sending boys out is concerned.
3428. Are none going out? Yes; but I cannot say how many.
3429. You bank their wages? Yes. I think I explained, or I intended to explain, that in some cases the money is banked directly to their own credit by employers, and in other cases it is sent to us.
3430. In answer to Question 3062 you say that you see that the money is banked? Yes; we get returns from the employers as to that.
3431. Do you always see that it is banked? Yes.
3432. How much is banked? I do not know.
3433. You keep no record? No, except so far as we ourselves are the custodians of the money.
3434. You are not the custodians of the money, are you? Not of all of it.
3435. Is there a separate account for it? It has been transferred to the general fund, out of which a good deal has been returned to them. Most of the money is paid to the credit of the individual.
3436. And the amount that is not, goes into your common fund? Yes.
3437. Speaking of the Camden Home, you said it was inspected once a month, but that you think it should be inspected more frequently; you said that you inspected it without charge, and that you are not always able to find 5s. 11d. to pay the railway fare;—do you not think your Board of Directors should close that home if they are not in a position to pay for its inspection? I have no doubt they will be prepared to pay the inspection charges.
3438. Have you represented to the Board that inspection is necessary? Yes; and they are prepared to make provision for it.
3439. Do the Board pay you for your weekly inspection of the Liverpool Home? No.
3440. Do they not pay your fare? No.
3441. *Mr. Barling.*] I understand that the advantage which you think arises from your present method of management in connection with the lying-in-home is the moral treatment which the girls receive who come to you. Supposing one central institution were established for a lying-in-home, do you not think that you or your workers could follow up these women, and do all the good that you can do now? Personally, I think that an opportune time is often secured for moral influence by the workers in the home which could not be secured by a mere casual visitor. Being constantly in touch with a person in the home gives far superior opportunities to influence them than a visit made once a week or once a fortnight.

Appendix A.
SUBSIDISED COUNTRY AND SUBURBAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.
OPERATIONS FOR YEAR 1897.

Institution.	Receipts.					Expenditure.						
	From Government. ||	Subscriptions, Donations and Bequests.	Net Proceeds of Entertainments.	Other Receipts.	Total.	Provisions, Clothing, &c.	Relief in Money.	Drugs, Conveyance of Poor, Funeral Expenses.	Salaries and Wages (including Nursing).	Building, Repairs, &c.	Other Expenses.	Total.
SUBURBAN.												
Annandale	£ 121	£ 43	£ 22	£ ...	£ 186	£ 156	£ 35	£ ...	£ ...	£ ...	£ 4	£ 195
Balmain	241	38	30	...	309	253	13	3	...	...	6	275
Botany	97	20	35	...	152	131	...	...	...	...	5	136
Erskineville	55	11	53	2	121	122	...	...	...	...	2	124
Glebe	190	121	17	2	330	239	...	...	3	...	4	246
Hunter's Hill	24	19	...	3	46	40	...	8	5	...	1	54
Leichhardt	100	47	67	1	215	249	19	...	...	...	4	272
Newtown	198	102	8	...	308	212	...	...	...	...	12	224
North Sydney	117	107	10	1	235	220	14	3	...	...	11	248
Paddington	11	41	85	...	137	250	...	...	...	...	18	268
Parramatta	128	83	...	32	243	166	...	...	35	...	23	224
Petersham and Marrickville .....	...	58	...	...	58	125	5	...	6	...	18	154
Randwick and Coogee	113	43	72	...	228	316	13	10	3	...	7	349
St. George's (Kogarah)	89	45	67	...	201	238	15	12	2	...	3	270
St. Peters	140	59	52	...	251	243	...	...	...	...	4	247
Waterloo	51	7	114	...	172	144	1	4	...	...	8	157
Waverley	12	35	28	...	75	205	...	...	...	...	6	211
Woollahra	58	89	61	...	208	146	...	...	...	...	12	158
Total, Suburban	1,745	968	721	41	3,475	3,455	115	40	54	...	148	3,812
COUNTRY.												
Albury	116	80	37	...	233	212	9	6	...	...	8	235
Bega	44	40	...	...	84	94	...	...	...	...	...	94
Bombala	34	35	13	...	82	45	...	...	...	...	1	46
Bourke	124	91	...	...	215	183	...	...	2	...	1	186
Braidwood	38	31	...	...	69	71	5	...	6	...	5	87
Broken Hill	64	66	86	...	216	107	19	36	20	...	26	208
Casino	20	7	...	...	27	22	...	1	...	...	3	26
Cooma	70	52	16	...	138	180	...	4	1	...	3	188
Forbes	59	91	...	...	150	115	3	...	...	...	5	123
Glen Innes	151	145	41	...	337	71	11	1	...	...	14	97
Goulburn	152	147	...	...	299	274	10	1	52	...	7	344
Gulgong	49	9	16	4	78	72	...	...	...	...	2	74
Gunnedah	62	47	14	2	125	76	6	...	...	...	5	87
Hay	112	36	178	5	331	130	...	...	...	...	...	130
Hillgrove	26	6	24	...	56	71	...	...	...	...	1	72
Inverell	74	48	74	...	196	107	25	3	7	...	4	146
Junee	18	22	9	...	49	33	...	2	...	...	...	35
Kiama	19	24	...	...	43	38	...	...	...	...	...	38
Kempsey .....	...	44	...	...	44	4	1	...	...	...	6	11
Lismore	107	89	...	...	196	141	...	8	3	...	5	157
Lithgow	29	15	...	...	44	36	...	...	...	...	3	39
Liverpool	61	51	19	...	131	84	29	3	...	...	2	118
Milton and Ulladulla	36	30	...	...	66	121	...	...	...	...	...	121
Moruya	23	29	...	...	52	36	...	...	...	...	2	38
Narrabri	7	9	71	...	87	152	...	...	...	...	5	157
Narrandera	54	31	22	2	109	77	6	...	...	...	10	93
Newcastle Mutual Help	100	34	16	...	150	166	...	...	...	...	3	169
" Relief Society	50	42	...	...	92	130	14	...	1	...	1	146
Orange	149	87	46	4	286	223	...	...	...	...	...	223
Penrith	51	67	10	...	128	102	25	...	...	...	2	129
Queanbeyan	31	25	...	...	56	61	...	...	...	...	1	62
St. Mary's	35	32	...	...	67	84	...	...	...	...	1	85
Tamut	30	14	...	...	44	48	...	3	...	...	2	53
Uralla	39	21	...	39	99	122	...	...	...	...	...	122
Wagga Wagga	31	84	11	...	126	92	8	9	...	...	4	113
Walcha	34	24	14	3	75	47	...	...	4	...	3	54
Wilcannia	37	29	...	...	66	35	3	...	...	...	10	48
Wollongong	37	54	...	...	91	74	...	...	...	...	3	77
Yass	29	5	...	...	34	12	...	...	...	...	1	13
Young	33	33	28	...	94	75	1	3	...	...	9	88
	2,235	1,826	745	59	4,865	3,823	175	80	96	...	158	4,332
Armidale*	102	92	42	...	236	86	14	6	...	13	6	125
Bathurst†	83	132	...	19	234	366	...	4	30	...	79	479
Grafton‡	123	163	9	2	297	216	19	27	56	...	4	387
Mudgee§	102	84	22	1	209	121	14	...	...	37	14	186
Maitland|| .....	365	487	66	18	939	734	...	26	164	159	88	1,221
Newcastle¶	2,940	635	883	174	4,641	2,648	285	26	224	§§2,158	545	5,886
Singleton**	158	194	85	††506	943	353	...	31	139	31	96	650
Tamworth††	301	248	...	10	559	253	23	17	42	6	22	368
	4,186	2,085	1,107	730	8,108	4,832	355	137	655	2,408	915	9,302

* 3 inmates in cottage home. † 16 inmates in asylum, 31 December, 1897. ‡ 46 adults, 13 children in asylum, 31 December, 1897. § Four cottage homes opened, October, 1897. ¶ 43 inmates in asylum, 31 December, 1897. ** 14 inmates in asylum, 31 December, 1897. †† 6 inmates in cottage homes, 31 December, 1897. ††† £469 received on amalgamation with another society §§ Including furniture. ||| The £1 for £1 subsidy is, in most cases, paid on subscriptions raised in the previous year.

Appendix B.

Summary.

Subsidised Benevolent Institutions, &c.

Operations for 1897.

	Receipts.					Expenditure.						
	Government aid. †	Subscriptions, Donations, and Bequests.	Net Proceeds of Entertainments.	Other Receipts.	Total.	Provisions, Clothing, &c.	Relief in Money.	Drugs, Conveyance of Poor, Funeral Expenses.	Salaries and Wages (including cost of Nursing).	Building, Repairs, &c.	Other Expenses.	Total.
Benevolent Society of New South Wales	£ 5,343	£ 3,003	£ 100	£ 1,455	£ 9,901	£ 7,892	£ 2,046	£ 234	£ 2,298	£ 215	£ 910	£ 13,595
Sydney Rescue Work Society	400	1,419	...	456	2,275	549	100	96	502	59	1,147	2,453
Sydney Female Mission Home	128	98	...	39	265	172	...	14	...	...	108	294
Four Homes for Children ...	1,115	1,351	...	365	2,831	1,067	...	2	612	341	735	2,757
Eighteen Suburban Societies administering out-door relief	1,745	968	721	41	3,475	3,455	115	40	54	...	148	3,812
Total, Metropolitan Institutions and Homes for Children	8,781	6,839	821	2,356	18,747	13,135	2,261	386	3,466	615	3,048	22,911
Newcastle and Northumberland Benevolent Society ...	2,949	635	883	174	4,641	2,648	285	26	224	2,158*	545	5,886
Forty Country Societies administering out-door relief..	2,235	1,826	745	59	4,865	3,823	175	80	96	...	158	4,332
Seven Country Societies administering out-door relief and having Cottage Homes or Asylums	1,237	1,450	224	556	3,467	2,184	70	111	431	250	370	3,416
Total, Country	6,421	3,911	1,852	789	12,973	8,655	530	217	751	2,408	1,073	13,634
„ Metropolitan	8,781	6,839	821	2,356	18,747	13,135	2,261	386	3,466	615	3,048	22,911
Maintenance, &c., by Government of destitute persons outside of Asylums	10,147	...	...	...	10,147	736	5,723	3,688†	...	...	...	10,147
Three Institutions for Blind, Deaf, and Dumb	3,230	3,028	...	5,338	11,596	1,283	†1,717	4	3,982	285	{ 1,775 } { \$1,624 }	10,670
Total	28,529	18,778	2,673	8,483	53,463	23,809	10,231	4,295	8,199	3,308	7,520	57,362

* Includes new furniture. † Burials, £600; conveyance by rail, £2,360; other conveyance, £719. ‡ Includes wages to blind.
 ‡ Materials for labour of inmates. † The £1 for £1 subsidy is, in most cases, paid on the subscriptions raised in the previous year.

Appendix C.

The Acting Director of Government Asylums to the Secretary of the Royal Commission on Public Charities.

Sir,

Richmond-terrace, Domain, Sydney, 10 March, 1899.

I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with instructions, I have analysed the figures in Statement No. 1, attached (See p. xviii of Report on Benevolent Society of N.S.W.), and beg to report, for the information of the Charities Commission, that the figures can only be accepted as approximate, for the following reasons:—

At the commencement of each year the number of cases actually relieved is compiled from the "Ration-issue Register," and then, monthly, a synopsis of the cases that come before the Committee, and are approved, is prepared, and added to the original total, but no steps are taken to ascertain that the cases passed by the Committee actually receive relief, or whether they previously appeared in the books; it therefore follows that numerous cases appear, and are taken credit for, more than once in the same year.

I made a test examination for the first quarter of the years 1894 and 1897, with the following result:—

Year.	Number of cases taken credit for during the first quarter which the Society was not entitled to.	Approximate number for the year.
1894.....	32	128
1897.....	62	248

I might point out that the incorrectness in the "number of the cases" disturbs the whole of the "other figures."

To keep books, from which an absolutely correct return could be compiled, would necessitate a very large amount of clerical labour, which the Manager of the Benevolent Asylum informs me is not available.

I have, &c.,

E. HANSON,
Acting Director.

1899.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CARPENTERIAN REFORMATORY, BRUSH FARM, EASTWOOD.

(REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1898.)

Printed under No. 1 Report from Printing Committee, 20 April, 1899.

Report of the Superintendent.

Sir,

Carpenterian Reformatory, Brush Farm, Eastwood, 1 February, 1899.

I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Minister of Public Instruction, my report on the Carpenterian Reformatory for Boys for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1898.

The Institution has just completed three years and six months (3 years 6 months) since receiving the first boy committed to its charge.

During the year 1898, 24 boys were admitted, and 18 were discharged, leaving 86 boys in the Institution on 31st December.

Calculated on the average daily attendance, the cost per head of the boys to the State was £23 10s. 0½d. Calculated on the year's enrolment, the cost per head was £16 0s. 1d.

The results are most satisfactory, for, out of 93 boys released since the inception of the Reformatory, 80 have turned out good industrious citizens.

Nearly every case of failure I attribute to the short period served by the boy.

I cannot too strongly point out that, to thoroughly reform a boy, a course of not less than three years' training is necessary. Many of the English reformatory schools will not take a boy for a term of less than three years, and they say, "That the permanent improvement and industrial training cannot be secured in a shorter time." (Ann. Report, Glamorganshire Ref., 1890.)

The Carpenterian Reformatory has demonstrated beyond all doubt that in order to reform a boy it is not necessary to subject him to harsh treatment and close confinement; punishment is in no sense reformation, and those who look upon it as the *sine qua non* of a good reform system have still much to learn pertaining to juvenile human nature. The more open and free the life of a lad the less necessity for punishment, and the better chance there is of arresting and sustaining his sympathy in a cause which has for its end his future welfare.

On the other hand, herding together a number of boys, no matter under what supervision, begets mischief; mischief brings punishment, and much punishment breeds cunning sordidness, and all that is opposed to ultimate reformation. The conclusions in both cases are logical, and are seconded by the experiences of able men.

The Carpenterian system in its every detail aims at the securing of the boys' sympathies with the great cause it has undertaken, and success has crowned its efforts:

A lad, on arriving at the Institution, is met with a kindly reception. The various rules and regulations are explained to him, and he is made to feel that he is in the hands of kind but firm friends, whose only aim is to help him to become a useful member of society. He sees the various industries that are carried on; his interest is aroused; he feels that he also would like to make something; he is handed over to a kind and sympathetic teacher, and at once enters on his works with such zest that, in twelve months, he has forgotten all former evil ways and companions. From this point his life turns, and by precept and example he is led into the ways of honesty and truth. His day's work completed, wholesome outdoor games, the life of every youngster, are given him without stint. At every turn he meets a friend; everywhere he sees industry and its results, and all is interesting and new. He is never reminded of the slip that caused him to be sent here, and everything possible is done to make him contented, and these are the reasons why ninety boys can be kept inside a two-railed fence, and very rarely endeavour to break bounds. From beginning to end the system is kind, firm, sympathetic, and effective, and lacks only one great desideratum—development.

Though much has been done, much more remains to be done. The present site is admirably suited for building up the minds and bodies of boys taken from the heart of the metropolis, where pleasant surroundings and pure air are almost unknown quantities.

The

The buildings are not altogether suited for the work, and many important improvements are necessary, in order that the work may be carried out in its entirety.

Religious instruction is recognised as an important factor in reformation, and the boys, in addition to the visits of the Rev. Mr. Britten (C.E.) of Ryde, and Rev. Father Kerwick of Rydalmere, to both of whom reference is made further on, are given short, plain addresses on matters of faith.

Another valuable factor is recreation, and this, in the form of cricket, football, athletics, chess, draughts, and outings receives considerable attention. The cricket and football clubs are very strong, and can hold their own with any of the other Government Institutions. In addition to a library the boys have a dramatic club, in which a large amount of interest is taken. A monthly paper, "The Critic," edited by Mr. C. B-Cochrane, enables the boys to improve themselves in many ways.

The school, which is half-time, is ably conducted by Mr. A. P. Humphries, as is shown by the result of the last inspection of Mr. District-Inspector Dwyer. The results were:—First Class, very fair; Second Class, good; Third Class, good.

The health of the boys for the year bordered on "excellent," for with the exception of a few cases of "influenza" we have been remarkably free from sickness of any kind. The healthy position of the Reformatory is in the main our safeguard against disease, and this is ably assisted by the free, open air lives our boys lead and the good wholesome diet they enjoy.

It is with sorrow I have to record the death of one boy who, upon his admission, was suffering from lung disease.

The conduct of the boys has been "very good," and the various officers report that all boys are making satisfactory progress in the various trades.

Industrial Work.

The amount of industrial work done during the year was considerable and valuable. Considerable, as the amount performed, and valuable, in point of the physical and mental powers developed by it; for, in the workshops these two powers are matured simultaneously by easy stages. Reference to Appendix B will show the amount of work done, with its approximate value, for the year.

The orchard and farm, under the sole direction of Mr. James Shirden, has enabled us to greatly reduce our monthly bill for supplies, for with fruit, vegetables, milk, and eggs of our own production, a very liberal dietary scale can be maintained at a small cost.

From the fruit grown in the orchard sufficient jam is made to supply the asylums at Liverpool, Rookwood, Newington, and Parramatta. Next year the "N.S.S. Sobraon" will also be supplied with jam from this Institution. The orchard and farm return will be found in Appendix C.

Nearly all the clothing worn by the boys is made, under the direction of an officer, by them on the premises, and the greater part of their footwear is also made here. The whole of the tinware used in the Institution, including tins for jam, is made by the boys. In addition they also make the soil-pans for suburban and country Public Schools. The carpenters and painters do all the repairs and alterations that from time to time are necessary, and make all the furniture and fittings.

That our boys do not forget us when they leave here may be gathered from the extracts of a few letters given here. "A.W." writes: "My brother and I are making about £4 10s. a week, between us, on a poultry-farm. Remember me to (naming six boys) and Mr. Jackson. I hope you are well. I am in the best of health." "S.C.," Broken Hill: "I have reached home and am glad after my long trip. I was very sorry to leave all my mates at the farm. My mother did not know me when I got home, she said I have grown so much. Please remember me to all my mates. I am working at the mine, and get 35s. a week." "J.M.," Casino: "I now take the pleasure of writing you a few lines. I am working at the black-smithing, and get £1 and my keep. I think I am all right. Remember me to all the boys."

"M. B.," Sydney: "I am in the best of health and am getting along splendidly. I hope you are in good health. Please remember me to all the boys and Mr. Pull."

"R. S.," Singleton: "I hope all at the Farm are quite well. I am in good health myself."

Many letters of a similar nature reach me, and in every case the writer wishes to be remembered to the various officers and his chums. Before concluding my report, I would like to place on record my sincere thanks for the gratuitous assistance rendered me by the Rev. Mr. Britten and the Rev. Father Kerwick, both of whom, at considerable personal inconvenience, attend the Institution to give the boys religious instruction. Miss. E. Grime, who assists as organist at the Sunday Service, also merits my warmest thanks for her most generous assistance. I desire also to thank Mr. Sandham for a number of books, illustrated papers, and magazines he kindly presented to the Institution. The staff, from top to bottom, have rendered me loyal assistance, and have proved themselves an intelligent and able body of officers.

I have, &c.,

FRED. A. STAYNER,

Superintendent.

The Under Secretary,
Department of Public Instruction, Sydney.

APPENDICES.

A.

ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES.

Admissions	24
Discharges	18
Deaths	1
Abscondings	0

RELIGIONS OF BOYS ADMITTED.

Church of England	16
Roman Catholic	3
Protestants of other Sects	3
Jews	0
Others	2

RELIGIONS OF BOYS IN INSTITUTIONS.

Church of England	44
Roman Catholic	33
Protestants of other Sects	7
Jews	0
Others	2

B.

INDUSTRIAL WORK.

	£	s.	d.
Bootmakers—made 253 pairs, boots	49	10	0
repaired 505 pairs, boots	25	5	0
Tailors—clothing, bed-linen, &c.	220	0	0
repairs	55	0	0
Tinsmiths—closet-pans for schools	56	10	0
buckets, tinware and repairs ...	35	10	0
Carpenters—furniture	56	0	0
repairs and alterations	120	0	0
Painters—painting buildings	75	0	0
glazing	6	5	0
Jam-makers—56,983 lb. jam	660	0	0
13,000 lb. fruit-pulp	130	0	0
Garden and Orchard—pruning, chipping, ploughing, &c.	340	0	0
Farm Work—tending, feeding, &c., stock ...	120	0	0
Laundry—washing clothes, &c.	150	0	0
Cooking, &c.—all cooking meals	100	0	0
Carting and General	150	0	0
	<u>2,349</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

C.

FARM RETURN.

	£	s.	d.
By supplied 56,983 lb. jam	660	0	0
" 13,000 lb. fruit pulp	130	0	0
" 7,526 lb. fruit	23	0	0
" 3,116 lb. vegetables	9	10	0
" 273 doz. eggs	12	10	0
" 14,855 qrts. milk	135	0	0
sold 21 pigs	25	0	0
" 5 calves	2	7	6
" 2 cows	4	10	0
	<u>£1,001</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>6</u>

Revenue Return.

Cash payments to Treasury	49	9	6
By transfers at Treasury	11	7	6
By transfers jam for Asylums	600	10	6
	<u>£661</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

D.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE.

1. Maintenance	610	8	0
2. Salaries and wages	1,069	2	10
3. Stores (including clothing, tools, &c.) ...	452	10	7
4. Fuel and light	93	18	4
5. Rent	550	0	0
6. Orchard	307	0	11
7. Repairs and alterations	59	3	1
8. Railways and Telephones	50	11	4
9. Recreation, library and school material	12	9	11
10. Petty expenses	42	15	6
	<u>£3,248</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>
Deduct revenue	£661	7	6
stores	355	5	10
tools in use	163	3	8
	<u>1,179</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>0</u>
Total cost	<u>£2,068</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
Calculated on the average daily attendance (88) the cost per head is	<u>£23</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0½</u>

1899.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN ADHERENTS OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH, RESIDENTS OF SACKVILLE DISTRICT, AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 18 April, 1899.

To the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales.

We, the undersigned, residents of the Sackville District, and adherents of the Wesleyan Church, desire most respectfully to Petition against the Bill now being submitted by Henry Copeland, Esquire, and known as the Sunday Trading Liquor Bill.

We present this our Petition on the grounds hereunder stated,—

- (1.) That there has been no public demand, by Petition or otherwise, for this retrograde movement.
- (2.) That it would further increase the special evils of intemperance which must be deplored.
- (3.) That it is privilege not granted by law to other trades, and further that its general tendency is to interfere with the Day of rest, and the sacredness of the Sabbath.
- (4.) That the special evils sought to be remedied by the Bill were more pronounced when public-houses were opened on a portion of the Sabbath-day than they are now.

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

[Here follow 116 signatures.]

Similar Petitions were received,—

On 18th April, from certain residents of Dulwich Hill and Petersham ; 555 signatures.

Do do from certain Citizens of New South Wales ; 468 signatures.

On 20th April, from His Grace the Archbishop of Sydney, as Chairman of the Council of Churches.

Do do from the Officers of the Evangelical Council of New South Wales ; 11 signatures.

1899.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRY.

REPORT

ON THE WORKING OF THE

FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACT

(60 VICTORIA No. 87)

DURING THE

YEAR 1898.

Printed under No. 1 Report from Printing Committee, 20 April, 1899.



SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPLGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1899.

[1s. 6d.]

*20—*a*

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REPORT.

The Clerk-in-charge, Department of Labour and Industry, to The Honorable
J. A. Hogue, Minister for Public Instruction, Labour and Industry.

Sir,

Department of Labour and Industry, 31st January, 1899.

I have the honor to furnish, in accordance with the provisions of section 17, the second Annual Report on the working of the Factories and Shops Act of 1896, for submission to Parliament.

The work in the first year of the Act's existence was educational rather than administrative, but the principal provisions having now become familiar to factory-occupiers, a more strict observance of its requirements has been insisted upon. To ensure this end, the Department, at the commencement of the year, entered upon the task of systematising its work in such a way that, without overburdening the Inspectors with clerical duties on the one hand, or creating a large office staff on the other, it could yet keep a complete record of every factory registered, with the instructions given and their result, on the occasion of each visit by an Inspector. This has been successfully done by rejecting cumbrous ledgers and countless office-books of one kind and another, and adapting a "card system" to the whole work. It may be of interest to mention that Mr. Sidney Webb, on his recent visit to the Colony, inquired into the working of the administrative side of our Act, and, being interested in the system adopted, complete sets of cards and instructions were, at his request, forwarded to him.

It was found in the first year's experience that verbal instructions given by the Inspectors were a constant cause of dispute. Under the system devised, all instructions given by an Inspector on the occasion of an official visit are committed to writing, in duplicate, one copy being served on the occupier, and the other kept for purposes of record and future reference. By this means a source of irritation has been removed.

The Chamber of Manufactures has called attention to the inconvenience to factory-owners arising from the fact that certain forms are supplied gratis by this office, whereas others have to be purchased at the Government Printer's. No doubt this course is anomalous, and in certain cases may create annoyance and inconvenience, but as the sale of these forms is the only source of revenue from the Act the Department has not felt justified in sacrificing it.

The following table shows the number of factories on the books of the Department at the close of the years 1897 and 1898 respectively:—

Year.	Certificates of Registration.		Factories remaining on Register.
	Issued.	Cancelled.	
1897	1,787	114	1,673
1898	407	268	1,812

Total number of Certificates Issued to end of 1898 2,194

„ Cancelled to end of 1898... .. 382

Factories remaining on Register 1,812

The word "factory" ordinarily connotes the idea of a more or less extensive establishment, whereas under the Factories and Shops Act it includes small workshops where only four persons are employed, or, if machinery is used, any workshop without reference to the number of workers. It consequently follows that the total number of what may be called "technical factories" on the books of the Department conveys no idea of the extent of the manufacturing interest in the Colony. I have therefore prepared a table in which the factories on our books are grouped in the order of their numerical strength as to employment. (Appendix Table I.) It will be seen that of the 1,812 factories registered—

2 employ over 500 persons each	29 employ between 60 and 80 persons each
1 employs between 400 and 500 persons	73 " " 40 " 60 " "
4 employ " 300 " 400 " each	47 " " 30 " 40 " "
8 " " 200 " 300 " "	140 " " 20 " 30 " "
9 " " 150 " 200 " "	360 " " 10 " 20 " "
19 " " 100 " 150 " "	754 " " 4 " 10 " "
28 " " 80 " 100 " "	358 " under 4 persons.

During the year 1,804 factory cards were served by the Inspectors on occupiers, the distribution being as follows:—

Inspector Armitage	690
Inspector Miss Duncan	639
Inspector Taylor	475
	1,804

These cards represent the number of inspections officially recorded, but not the number of visits actually paid. The cards convey the Inspectors' instructions, but subsequent visits have to be paid to see that these are carried out. In addition, the Inspectors have, during the year, made special inquiries into such subjects as the rates paid for contract work in the clothing trade, the necessity for guarding electric power and lighting plants, the precautions required to be taken against fire in the case of factories three or more storeys in height, the condition of the city dining-rooms and restaurants.

Despite an increase in the number of prosecutions under the Act during the year, the Department may claim that it has maintained good relations with both employers and employees. Prosecutions under the Act represent only those extreme cases which, through the action or attitude of the employer, the Department has been compelled to carry to a conclusion in the Police Courts. There are numerous cases which do not reach the Courts, the Department being satisfied that the breach of the Act was not wilfully committed, or after warning, or repeated warning, but the result of ignorance of the requirements of the law. The essential object is to secure compliance with the Act, and if this can be done without recourse to the penalties of fine and imprisonment, so much the better. At the same time, it cannot permit the law to be deliberately set aside or treated with indifference. The Department may also claim to be gaining the confidence of the public. It received, in the year, numerous letters of complaint, some anonymous, some not; but, in either case, it makes full and immediate inquiry into the truth of the allegations made, recognising, in the cases of anonymous correspondents, that the fear of losing their means of livelihood should the name of the correspondent be accidentally or intentionally disclosed to the employer, is an excuse for their identity not being made known.

The lady Inspector states that in reviewing the first two years of her work she cannot but mark that the first attitude of some employers towards the Act and Inspectors gave indication of trouble, which has been subsequently realised, and, similarly, the cordial promises of co-operation made by many occupiers of factories have been more than fulfilled. Instances, she remarks, could be pointed to in which improvements and alterations, often involving considerable expense, and which an Inspector would have hesitated to demand, have been voluntarily undertaken by occupiers of factories.

SANITATION, LIME-WASHING, &c.

Much was done during the past year to secure the health and comfort of the workers in factories by insisting on the required cubic space being provided, having the floors and walls kept clean and the latter lime-washed, painted, or kalsomined. The erection of several new buildings gave the Department an opportunity of suggesting modern conveniences in them, and seeing that privacy was secured for the women workers and proper provision made for escape in the event of fire. In many of the old buildings it is impossible to secure thoroughly satisfactory conditions without practically rebuilding them, but it is hoped with each new factory erected to mark a progressive stage. Unfortunately our Act does not provide, as is the case in other colonies, that the plans of all new factories should be submitted to the Department, and the proposed buildings be officially approved of before being erected. However, in moving about among the factories the Inspectors become aware of any contemplated changes of this kind, and as the future occupiers see the advisableness of having any requirements of the Act carried out when building, instead of perhaps having at additional expense to effect considerable structural alterations afterwards, the request to see the plans is generally complied with, and in the majority of cases the future tenant willingly adopts the suggestions of the Department. In the suburbs, as the sewerage system is extended, many objectionable features are being mitigated or removed.

The Department has had in matters beyond its own jurisdiction the co-operation of the officers of the Public Health Department, the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, and the city and suburban Municipalities.

Mr. Armitage reports:—

Under the operation of the Act a marked improvement has taken place in factories with regard to ventilation, though many alterations and improvements yet remain to be made. In several of the large factories in the clothing and printing trades the existing windows have been so altered as to serve as permanent ventilators, being capable of being opened so as to prevent the dust as well as rain from entering. In the new factories built during the year the owners have made good provision for ventilation.

In one factory in Sussex-street, where sail-making is carried on, I found the men at work in an attic within a few feet of the corrugated iron roof, and, notwithstanding that the sides of the room were open, the temperature inside was equal to that in the sun. The occupier promised to erect a punkah (and work it from his gas-engine), or remove his work-room before next summer.

In the clothing and waterproof trades the air in the work-rooms is very oppressive. One of the principal manufactories in this trade is provided with a large lantern light, but even with this and all the windows open, still, from the effect of the gas-engine and naphtha in the factory, the atmosphere is found to be unbearable; consequently the occupier has put up a patent air-propelling fan, capable of discharging from 1,500 to 2,600 cubic feet of air per minute. It is run off the same shaft as the sewing-machines, and the result is very satisfactory.

In another large waterproof factory I gave instructions to have a fan put in at one end of the room, but the difficulty to face was that they had no power by which to drive it. Water-power I would not recommend, as the occupiers pay for the water through meter, and are therefore apt to be overcareful with it. This occupier has removed to another building (originally a church), and as the ceiling is about 40 feet from the floor, it will, in respect to ventilation, be a great improvement on the old factory. I may state that this is the third remove this occupier has made, owing to the Act being enforced as regards ventilation.

There have also been several other removals in my district to meet this requirement. One was the case of a basket-maker working in a cellar with three boys and two adults. The stock had to be kept wet so as to make the willows supple, and the moisture of the atmosphere made the place both disagreeable and insanitary. This factory is now housed in a much better building at the other end of the city.

In the photographic trade, both in the manufacturing of prepared paper and in the printing of photographs, the ventilation of work-rooms is very defective. In one factory, where sensitised paper is prepared, three girls are at work and in the room there are about twelve gas-jets burning all day. These girls go into the room at about 9 a.m., and do not again

again see daylight till 1 p.m. The difference of the temperature inside and outside the room is very marked, and one effect of the vapour given off by the chemicals used in the wash may be seen in the pallor of the girls' faces. I am pleased to state that ventilators have been provided in each such place, but, unfortunately, owing to the construction necessary to exclude light, they are not altogether effectual.

The sanitary accommodation of the factories in my district shows a marked improvement both in cleanliness and construction. The sewerage scheme having been extended during the year to the following suburbs, Annandale, Petersham, North Sydney, and parts of Leichhardt, has enabled the factories in these places to connect with the sewer. In several cases during the year water-closet accommodation has been provided where previously the men had to go some distance to the public conveniences.

One of the large printing firms in the city has at considerable expense removed the water-closets on each floor from inside the factory to outside, it making a great improvement both in light and ventilation. In another case the water-closet in the basement of a printing factory has been removed to outside. In some of the new factories, however, as well as the old, it is not uncommon to find the water-closets within the building. In one new jam factory the water-closets were situated within the pulp-room (*i.e.*, where the fruit pulp is stored). These had only been erected a few months when the occupier, yielding to the representation of the Department, decided to remove them.

Lime-washing in the following trades, clothing, boots, printing, and in every trade where goods are prepared for food, has been carried out, and manufacturers now appreciate the double advantage gained in having additional light and greater cleanliness. The printing factories have been transformed from dirty to clean and almost cheerful work-rooms. For example, in one place where old posters hung for years the walls are now clean and white.

Mr. Taylor reports :—

The overcrowding of work-rooms is not now one of the great difficulties to be overcome in the enforcement of the Act. The remedying of it entails comparatively little trouble. With few exceptions, and those chiefly in unregistered premises, it is only for a short period of (say) two or three weeks at the "rush" of a busy season, when some occupiers may chance the visit of an Inspector, that overcrowding is met with.

During the first year of the operation of the Act, in those cases where, to bring a factory up to the standard required, a heavy expenditure in alterations was needed, and the occupier was not in a position to carry out such alterations, it was thought advisable to allow sufficient time in which to make satisfactory arrangements with the landlord—the alternative course being to find more suitable premises. The result has been that the employees have benefited to a large extent as to the conditions under which they were working, whilst the employer has also benefited proportionately in the increase and finish of his work.

In one factory inspected I pointed out to the occupiers that not only was the building unsafe for people to work in, but to carry out the provisions of the Act and make the place suitable for the business carried on would entail heavy expenditure. As they were not in a position to make the necessary alterations, they were allowed a certain time in which to obtain other premises. When the time was up the occupiers informed me that the landlord would not expend any money on the old building, but they had been able to make arrangements for a new factory. The land had not been purchased, but as a large number of persons were employed, and loss of employment to all of these hands would follow if a prosecution took place, an extension of time sufficient to cover the building of the new premises was allowed on condition that certain very necessary improvements were made which would meet the requirements for the time being. The new factory was built, and was fully up to the requirements of the Act in every particular. The expenses are slightly increased, but, after taking into consideration the increased business and the satisfactory conditions under which the employees are now working, the result must be satisfactory both to employer and employed.

The old building, after lying idle for some months, was leased by a firm in a different line of business, who were able to make terms with the landlord that would justify them in the expenditure of over £400 that would have to be spent to make the building "safe" before business operations could be commenced.

Another case similar in almost every respect to that previously cited was dealt with during the year. The building was very old, built of stone, but in very bad repair—the woodwork, doors, and windows had fallen away, and the openings had been blocked up with old cases. The ground floor was about 5 feet below the level of the street, and in wet weather this floor was flooded. The occupier was informed that he would either have to make the necessary alterations or find other premises. Hearing of the circumstances of the other case, he made inquiries from the occupiers and asked for a similar extension of time in which to build. The extension was, of course, granted. He followed the lines of the other people, and, building in the same locality, tried to improve on their ideas in matters of detail. So keen was the spirit of rivalry in him that if any mention were made of the other factory in comparison with his he would point to those details in which he had made improvements.

The property on which the old building stood has been purchased by a large firm who intend extending their present premises to enable them to cope with an increasing business.

A factory in which confectionery is made received special attention during the year. When first visited the place was in a very bad state. The premises comprised a shop and dwelling, one of the rooms being used as a wrapping and packing room in which jujubes and jellies were packed in fancy boxes; lucky bags, &c., were made up, and sweets put up in fancy coloured papers by six or eight girls, to be vended at Paddy's Market on Saturday nights.

The place where the mixing, boiling, cooling, and sorting was done was at the rear, and was, literally speaking, a covered-in yard. In this portion of the premises a very undesirable condition of affairs existed. The furnaces had been built adjoining an old kitchen or lumber room. Neither hoods nor flues had been provided; the only means of exit for the steam and smoke being the crevices and cracks in the side walls and roof. Dirty tubs and buckets in which the sweets, &c., were mixed, were lying about on the bare, and in some cases sloppy, ground; at the further end, and under the same roof, was the water-closet—the only one on the premises—the only means of access to it being through the boiling-room. The side walls were built of palings, boards, and old cases; lime-wash was out of the question, not a sign of it ever having been used was to be seen. No flooring of any description had ever been laid; and the sinks were 6 or 8 inches above the level of the bare ground, being totally useless for drainage purposes. This, added to the very uneven "floor," helped considerably to increase the already unsatisfactory state of things.

The landlord was interviewed, and the occupier and he not being able to come to satisfactory terms as to bringing the premises up to the standard required by the Act, the tenant was informed by the Department that he would be allowed a certain time in which to remove to more satisfactory premises. He obtained other premises, and I am pleased to say that the place he now occupies is very suitable for this class of trade, and he has shown that he intends in the future to pay more attention to matters of cleanliness than he did in the past.

In an important street in the city is a small pastry and refreshment shop, and at the rear is the bakehouse. At the time of my visit to this place the bakehouse itself and utensils for pastry-baking were in an almost incredible state of dirt. The sink and the water-closet for the accommodation of the premises were inside the bakehouse, the walls and the oven were out of repair, and heaps of rubbish were lying about the place. The shelving in which mixings and powders, &c., were kept was directly over the mixing table, and was covered with cobwebs and dirt, in some places fully an inch thick. The occupier informed me that he had not given the place a coat of lime-wash for five or six years. A thorough lime-washing was ordered immediately, the floor, benches, and shelving to be scrubbed down, the sink to be sealed, and the water-closet to be removed outside the bakehouse. The occupier said he had a short lease of the premises, and was not in a position to incur any expenditure. I interviewed the landlord, pointed out the requirements of the Act, and informed him that not only would the occupier be prosecuted, but that he also was liable, and would be prosecuted if the premises were not immediately attended to. He stated that he had not seen the premises for months, but would give the matter his immediate attention.

I visited again very shortly, and was pleased to see that the whole of my instructions had been carried out faithfully, the landlord subsequently informing me that he did not think the premises could have possibly got into such a state, and was glad that I had brought the matter under his notice.

As pointed out in my report of last year with regard to the water-closet accommodation of factories generally, the causes of complaint may be ranged under three headings, *viz.* :—(1) Uncleanliness, (2) inadequate accommodation, and (3) the want of separate accommodation for the sexes.

During

During the past year it has been found that the two latter causes are gradually diminishing. As a matter of fact, the fault lies directly with the occupier, and consequently pressure has been brought to bear upon him to provide the necessary accommodation. In the case of the first cause mentioned, the circumstances are, however, very different, and although a better state of things exists than was the case when the Act first came into operation, the cleanliness of this accommodation is yet far from satisfactory. As the objectionable condition of many of these places is undoubtedly due to the employees themselves, it would seem unjust to punish the employer for the offence. I have known instances where the water-closets and urinals have been lime-washed and thoroughly cleansed, to be, in a few days, in almost as bad a state as they were before being lime-washed.

Some of the better class of factories have this portion of their premises lime-washed and thoroughly disinfected once in every week, others once a month, besides being hosed down every morning; but in the majority of factories the occupiers wait till their attention is drawn to it by the Inspector.

Miss Duncan reports:—

It is very satisfactory to be able to record that the past year has seen the building of four new and excellent clothing factories, and the removal to better premises of other firms. A printing firm, occupying a basement which was very defective in light and ventilation, has moved into much improved premises; two others are seeking better quarters; and a new and handsome building is now going up, and will shortly be occupied by a fourth. Two new straw hat factories have been built to take the place of small workshops, a new wing has been added to a large steam laundry, and many removals to better premises on the part of smaller firms have been chronicled.

The provision of sufficient space has taken strong hold on the mind of employers. In several cases, dressmaking rooms which were incapable of being enlarged have been strictly limited to the number of occupants allowed by the regulations, and it cannot be denied that a consequent loss of work has sometimes been entailed upon those occupiers who were bound by a long lease.

During the year there has been a distinct advance in the condition of work-rooms with regard to space and ventilation. The efforts of the Department to secure a sufficient amount of cubic space in every work-room have met with a large measure of success, and there have not occurred, in my experience, any instances of serious overcrowding, such as we had frequent occasion to report in the course of the first year's work.

A certain number of cases, however, still remain, which, though they constitute virtual overcrowding of persons in a given space, cannot be dealt with as such, inasmuch as the total cubic contents of the space enclosed by the four stone walls of a huge flat may give an allowance of 400 cubic feet for each person employed in it. The presence of large tables, heavy cupboards, piles of cloth or cardboard boxes, &c., although taking largely from the air-space, is often treated with unconcern as a necessary evil which should not be taken into account in the discussion of the question.

In cardboard-box factories much light and air are cut off by piles of boxes reaching almost to the ceiling. It is true that these are constantly being removed; but while they remain they much impede the free circulation of air, and take from the available air-space.

Large dressmaking rooms are divided by wooden partitions 4 to 6 feet high. I am still anxious to see a fair limit of floor-space, as well as cubic space, allotted to each person, in order to prevent the overcrowding of these partitioned spaces.

Complaints are frequently made of the crowding of floor-space in factories which may be large and lofty, but where girls are seated closely at tables; this occurs particularly in clothing factories, where hand-workers sit together for the convenience of being under the supervision of one head. That this crowding must be hot and uncomfortable in such a climate as ours, and fraught with possible danger of infection from phthisical persons and others, is beyond question, but it is not always possible to deal effectively with it in the present state of the law.

The New Zealand Act contains a provision by which "the Inspector may from time to time determine, as to each factory or workroom, what space of cubic and superficial feet shall be reserved, appropriated, and maintained for the use of each person working therein, according to the nature of the work . . . and shall . . . require such space to be reserved and appropriated accordingly . . . and shall . . . require that every such space is properly lighted and ventilated, and maintained and kept free from any material or goods or tools other than those in use or required by the person for whom such space is so reserved and appropriated."

A similar provision inserted in our own Act would enable the Department to cope much more effectively with cases which are unsatisfactory, but with which there is no power but that of persuasion to interfere.

In this connection I would remark upon the need felt for some general power for securing all kinds of small improvements in the general surroundings and curtilage of a factory. Thus the wet and sloppy condition in rainy weather of the approach to the workers' entrance to a factory was, with reason, complained of, and a power to insist upon the hardening, if not the paving, of this space would have meant a great increase in the comfort of the workers and in the cleanliness of the factory.

Again, the lane adjoining a large laundry constituted during last winter what can only be described as an insanitary bog; the stables, originally paved with wood, now rotten and saturated with moisture, were situated on a piece of ground a few inches higher than the lane, which received all the drainage from these and an adjoining paddock and manure heaps. This did not properly come within the province of the Factory Inspector, but through the Department representations were made to the Municipal authorities, and the lane has now received some attention, and is being gradually hardened and raised. It remains to be seen whether, without proper drainage, it can be kept in a fair condition during the ensuing winter. The bad condition and keeping of stable yards and floors may here be commented upon.

I would remark upon the deficiency of light found in some work-rooms, a circumstance objectionable on two grounds, viz., the strain on the eyesight involved in working in an ill-lighted room, and the general lowering of health which results from constant occupation of rooms from which sunlight is excluded. It is not, perhaps, surprising that in other instances a contrary condition has been found to exist, and that a request for blinds has been prompted by finding girls sitting with their aprons over their heads to shield them from the too-penetrating rays of the sun.

A case occurred during the year in which, by the building of new adjoining premises, the light was cut off from a tailor's work-room in such a way as to render one-half of the room practically useless on dark days; complaints were made by the workers concerned, but there was no power to deal with the case.

In the matter of ventilation much still remains to be done; it is without doubt the most difficult of all sanitary provisions to enforce effectively. In many cases satisfactory ventilation cannot be effected without a thorough reconstruction of parts of the building, a measure too drastic to be enforced. In some instances, too, well-thought-out schemes of ventilation break down in practical working. In a city so old as Sydney, it is inevitable that the older buildings should eventually be sought after as work-rooms, and as these were built in the days when sanitary science was little thought of, it is hopeless to expect that they can be made more than fairly satisfactory. The size of the flats and comparative lowness of rent of the older warehouses and bulk stores make them desirable to firms which can ill afford the rent asked for modern buildings. The middle flats of such buildings allow of no ventilation from side walls or roof, on account of their construction, and they are consequently defective in light in the middle portion of the room.

The difficulty of dealing with some phases of deficient ventilation may be exemplified by the following instance:—A firm employs in a large top flat fifteen or twenty women in the bottling and packing of drugs and essences, &c. In the same room, but at the other end of it, the preparation of these and other articles is carried on, and very varied odours pervade the room; to such an extent is this the case that the women complained to me that during the hot summer days they suffered much from the inconvenience, and could hardly eat their food.

The room is on the top of the building, has several large windows at one end, an outlet by doorway on to the flat part of the roof, and one or more roof ventilators, which last I venture to think are of very little service in this particular instance. The rule of the firm is that the women do not leave their work-room for luncheon, the boys alone being allowed access to the flat roof; permission is granted when asked for by some of the women to go out of the building during the dinner-hour, but this is of the nature of a concession and not a right, as I think it undoubtedly ought to be. This custom, which arose in consequence of alleged abuses at some former time, is still continued.

After making a careful inspection, the conclusion was arrived at that the actual measurement of the inlet and outlet ventilators, taken in connection with the number of persons employed, was technically sufficient, but that the peculiar circumstances of the case justified the Department in asking for additional ventilation to minimise the discomfort of the women. As power was already in use in the factory, the fixing of a fan would not have been a matter of any great expense or difficulty, and additional ventilation in the roof-space above the ceiling would possibly have much improved the usefulness of the ventilating shaft. The firm was therefore approached on the subject by letter, but absolutely declined to make any change, averring that the means of ventilation were "ample."

A bad case of a thoroughly unhealthy work-place was satisfactorily dealt with in the early part of the year. Eighteen or twenty girls were found to be working in a basement which was dark, low-pitched, damp, and ill-ventilated. Originally a cellar under a school-house, it had been converted into a room for cutting up and packing pickles. The walls and pillars on which the structure above was supported had been built without a properly-made damp-proof course or dry area, and the wall being on one side in contact with the ground, the whole cellar to within 12 or 18 inches of the ceiling was reeking with damp and mildew. The darkness of the room made it necessary that work should always be done by gaslight. The occupier was called upon to discontinue the use of this room, and within a short time a new work-room on the first floor was erected under the supervision of Mr. Armitage, and is now in use, the basement complained of being vacated.

The ventilation of photographer's dark-rooms is a subject which has received some attention this year. Some of these were found to be absolutely unventilated, a circumstance which cannot but re-act very unfavourably upon the health of the occupant.

The difficulty in connection with this matter is the introduction of air without light, and—in the case of sensitised plates and papers—without perceptible motion of the air; in some of the oldest established firms the difficulty has long ago been faced and met by inserting inlets at the floor-level, beneath the benches on which the work is done, and ventilating tubes in the upper part of the walls or ceiling, made either of wood, iron, or tin. The usual construction of these is a tube from 4 to 6 inches in diameter, bent to two right angles in alternate directions. The passage of the air is undoubtedly much impeded by these angles, as the current passing through a pipe is greatly reduced by each right angle occurring, but it is necessary to choose the lesser of two evils, and if the pipe be of large bore, a fair amount of air will penetrate.

Another plan is to fit in front of an opening cut in the wall, or in front of a window opened a few inches at the top, a box with two sides removed and fitted with incomplete shelves, fixed alternately to the top and bottom of the box, and serving to direct the current of entering air by a circuitous path, and cut off the entrance of light.

The provision of sufficient and suitable water-closet accommodation continues to form a large portion of the Inspectors' work. The conditions in the past have been truly deplorable, and even now, in spite of all that has been done, leave much to be desired.

Above all, the objectionable custom of erecting conveniences within the walls of the work-room causes much annoyance, if not actual injury to the occupants. Numerous complaints are received arising from this cause, and until it becomes a hard and fast rule of the Municipal as well as the Factory Department that such a construction shall not be allowed, this thoroughly bad custom will continue.

In existing cases all that can be done is to secure constant and direct ventilation, if possible,—to extend the wooden partitions to the ceiling, and to endeavour to secure some small measure of privacy by the screening of doors. It is very unfortunate that water-closets may be newly constructed without any provision for light or direct ventilation, although all the details in connection with the ventilation of the sewer, the laying and jointing of pipes and fittings are regulated with scrupulous care.

In one case the newly-erected women's water-closets were found placed in the middle of a factory in which articles of food were being manufactured; no ventilation from the open air was possible, and although situated on the ground-level, they were so absolutely dark that a lantern was kept constantly available.

In another case my vexation was great on finding that in a new and otherwise good factory these conveniences had been erected within the room and against a dead wall, where no ventilation was possible and little or no privacy; and when the question arose of adding to the number, which was insufficient, the only available space was alongside those allotted to men, and opening out of the men's work-room.

The question of the construction and position of these conveniences demands the expenditure of more time and thought than it has received in the past, and I would draw special attention to the matter, because I regard the whole existing system as having a bad moral effect, and one which is harmful from the point of view of health.

It may be impossible so to alter existing buildings as to abolish all water-closets existing within work-rooms, although it could probably be done in many cases more easily than is admitted; but I would urge that it is quite possible to prohibit such construction as is now commonly seen.

In London a rigid control is exercised by the London County Council over all these matters, and their by-laws deal very explicitly with all details, as will be seen by the following extracts:—

"Every person, who shall hereafter construct a water-closet . . . in connection with a building, shall construct such water-closet in such a position that . . . one of its sides at the least shall be an external wall, which shall abut immediately upon the street, or upon a yard, or garden, or open space of not less than 100 square feet of superficial area, measured horizontally at a point below the level of the floor of such closet. He shall not construct any such water-closet so that it is approached directly from any room used for the purpose of human habitation, or used for the manufacture, preparation, or storage of food for man, or used as a factory, work-shop, or work-place. . . .

"He shall construct such water-closet so that on any side on which it would abut on a room intended for human habitation, or used for the manufacture, &c., of food for man, or used as a factory . . . it shall be enclosed by a solid wall or partition of brick, or other materials, extending the entire height from the floor to the ceiling.

"Every person who shall construct a water-closet in connection with a building, whether the situation of such water-closet be or be not within or partly within such building . . . shall construct in one of the walls . . . which shall abut upon the public-way, garden, or open space . . . a window of such dimensions that an area of not less than 2 square feet . . . shall open directly into the external air. He shall, in addition to such window, cause such water-closet, &c., to be provided with adequate means of constant ventilation by at least one air-brick built in an external wall of such water-closet, &c., or by an air-shaft, or by some other effectual method or appliance."

These, together with other detailed regulations bearing on the same subject, are the common requirements now demanded by all local authorities in London, and they might, with much advantage, be adopted in this city. The evils attendant upon want of control are more immediately shown, and more widespread among the factories and shops than perhaps in any other class of buildings.

The provision of separate conveniences for the sexes receives much more attention than formerly from occupiers, and there are now few, if any, cases of infraction of the regulation in factories.

DINING-ROOMS.

The Department seizes the opportunity of the erection of new premises to secure, where possible, the provision of a suitable room or place in the factory for the purpose of a dining or eating room for employeés. In some of the old buildings the room at the disposal of the occupiers is barely sufficient to provide the necessary space for manufacturing, so that unless extensive structural alterations are made this boon cannot be secured. So far the Department has not availed itself of the power under section 22 enabling the Minister to direct the provision of such a room in these cases, but has, by representations to employers where such provision can be made at a reasonable outlay, succeeded in obtaining it without recourse to the more arbitrary procedure.

Miss Duncan says:—

It would be well if the principle of making provision for dining-rooms for employeés could in every case be affirmed with regard to the new factories being built from time to time.

It is greatly to be desired that all factories should be cleared and thoroughly well aired during the recess for dinner. It is, however, to be noted, that a dining-room, if provided at all, should be large enough for the number of persons intended to occupy it, and should be well ventilated, light and reasonably comfortable, as it is useless to expect that employeés will use a room which is dark, cheerless, or crowded, except under compulsion.

I was glad to find in one factory on my second visit that tables and benches had been provided in the luncheon-room, instead of a bare room and boxes turned on end; in another case an excellent little dining-room with cupboards, sink, gas-ring, cups and saucers, and looking-glasses were provided, and it is right to add that this was entirely on the initiative of the firm, and not in consequence of representations made by the Inspectors.

In one instance I failed to get any arrangements made for the women's comfort, although I had hoped that as additions were being made to the building my request would have met with some success.

It would also be a great convenience to the girls and promote order in the factory if a cloak-room were provided for their use.

No provision making it incumbent on an employer to provide drinking-water for his work-people exists in our Act. There are generally water-taps in some part of every factory, but complaints have been made that the employees are not allowed to run off the water which has become heated in the iron pipes, on the ground that it is a "waste" of water. An obvious remedy for such waste would be to provide a stone or earthenware bottle, or even a filter, in which the water could be cooled. It is not reasonable to expect that the water heated by exposure to our summer sun can be drunk without cooling.

Mr. Armitage writes:—

The suburban factories are in many cases provided with dining-rooms, but in the city difficulty arises from want of floor-space, and consequently the employees are in most cases turned out of the work-room during the luncheon hour.

In the case of one large jam factory where upwards of 200 boys and girls are employed in the fruit season, they are turned into the street, but this occupier has promised the Department to erect two separate dining-rooms before the next summer season.

In another large suburban factory where upwards of 300 are employed, two dining-rooms are attached to the factory. Through these all the employees enter the factory and deposit their baskets (no food being allowed in the factory itself). Two attendants (a male and female) prepare tea for the hands, and wash up the teapots and cups for them. These rooms are scrubbed out every day. These are the most satisfactory dining-rooms attached to any factory in my district.

MACHINERY AND LIFTS.

During the year the question of whether electric lighting plants come under the provisions of the Factory Act was raised. An Inspector was directed to visit the places where such plants had been erected. He did so, and reported that he had asked most of the occupiers to register them as factories. Some protested against registration, stating that although perfectly willing to register if the premises properly came within the meaning of the Act, they had legal advice on the matter to the contrary. The principal object in bringing these places under control was to secure the fencing of the machinery, the necessity for which was fully shown during the year in the case of an unfortunate lad who met his death by becoming entangled in the driving-belt of a dynamo. Two cases had to be considered, viz., where four or more than four persons were employed, and where fewer than four persons were employed. The specific reason advanced for non-registration in the former was that the interpretation of "factory" in the Act did not embrace a place where electricity is generated, because the persons employed therein are not employed—

(a) At a "handicraft," nor

(b) In manufacturing an "article" for trade or sale.

In the second, the contention was that an electric plant could not be said to come within the meaning of "mechanical power or appliance used in manufacturing goods, or packing them for transit."

The Crown Solicitor was asked to advise on the point, and in the absence of any judicial decisions expressed the opinion that, bearing in mind the intention of the Factories and Shops Act, the generating of electricity might be regarded as a manufacturing of goods within the meaning of the Act either before or after severance of the electricity generated.

Accordingly, in October last, the occupiers of the various electric lighting plants in the district were given formal notice to securely fence them, and this has now been done after a number of visits paid by the Inspector.

It should, however, be mentioned that the guarding here referred to is that of running gear, such as belting, &c., and does not relate to the precautions which probably should be taken in connection with the generation of such an inherently dangerous power as electricity. It is presumed that in certain cases, such as the handling of broken wires, there is an element of risk involved, the degree of which can only be determined by an electrical expert. It is not considered that guarding against a contingency such as this can reasonably be brought within the Inspectors' duties.

Attention is again called to the necessity for some general supervision being exercised over the safety of the passenger lifts used in connection with the hotels and numerous offices in the city. Also with regard to those in factories and shops over which the Factory Inspectors have a limited control, in the way of seeing that the well-holes are protected, and so on, some more searching supervision might well be exercised. An Inspector may prohibit the use of a lift in a factory or shop if he consider it to be absolutely unsafe or dangerous to use, but he is not required or authorised to make an expert examination or grant a certificate of security. What is really needed is a thorough periodical test of the soundness of the appliances used in connection with all the passenger lifts in the Colony, and this could only be done by experts devoting the whole of their time to the duty. Many of these elevators are supplied with so-called safety catches, which may or may not act successfully at the critical moment. This danger and the one arising from the condition of many of the land-boilers used in the district, and the persons under whose control, often mere lads, they are placed, have so impressed the Department that no excuse is needed for repeated attention being directed to them.

Mr. Taylor reports:—

During the first year the instructions to the Inspectors by the Department were to regard their duties as more instructive than in search of violations of the law. Leniency was therefore shown to occupiers in the enforcement of the provisions of the Act with regard to the fencing of machinery. Although the whole of the requirements of the Act were pointed out, occupiers were only asked to give their attention in the first instance to the unfenced gearing, such as exposed cogs, pulleys, and belting, also fly-wheels and engines which were not within an engine-house, and therefore more dangerous to the general employees than those set apart in a room into which only the engineer and fireman were allowed. This year, however, as the factories had had sufficient time to become accustomed to the various details of the Act, its provisions were more rigidly enforced. New guards, or more permanent ones, were asked for in place of those already affixed, and which, on account of their defectiveness or impaired condition, were not considered satisfactory. Additional guards were also asked for in those cases where, perhaps, the occupier had left some parts unprotected because he himself had considered them unnecessary. Attention was also given to the dangerous parts of the machines, and where practicable sliding rollers, feeding-tables, covers and hoods, hand-guards and rests, were asked to be affixed.

The clause dealing with fly-wheels, &c., was brought more into effect.

There

There are yet many places where the fencing has not been carried out to the extent required by the Act, although the greater majority of occupiers have tried to comply with the instructions of the Inspectors.

During the latter part of the year a notice was sent to all the electric lighting plants in the city, asking them to fence the machinery, &c., according to the requirements of the Factories Act. I am pleased to say that almost the whole of these places have now complied with the request, some of the fences erected being very effectual.

One plant in particular, which in my opinion was the most dangerous of the lot, is now thoroughly fenced with stout, double-iron railings, well set and leaded. The engine, fly-wheels, and dynamos are well railed. The pit for driving-belt was previously unfenced and very dangerous, as the employees and persons entering the room usually stepped across it, and a mistake on the part of such venturesome person whilst the belt was running meant certain death. It is now bridged and properly fenced, and the whole plant is as safe as it is possible to make it.

During the first year in which this Act came into operation a great number of boys under 16 years of age were in charge of, and working, lifts and elevators in the city. These have now been replaced by lads of maturer age. There are, however, still elevators and lifts in buildings used as offices and warehouses where the proprietors and manager, knowing that they do not come under the provisions of the Act, have taken no notice of the suggestion of the Inspector. These remarks also apply to the protection of elevators and lifts. As an instance, I had occasion to visit one of the large offices in the city, and went in the lift to the top floor, the height of each floor being from 14 to 16 feet. The well-hole was only enclosed about 6 feet on each floor. Whilst ascending I noticed that no doors were on the lift, and consequently a passenger might accidentally fall out. I asked the man who was in charge why the doors were not there, and he replied that it was too much trouble to keep opening and shutting them, so he had taken them off. I drew the attention of the manager to the danger to which passengers were exposed; but apparently no notice has been taken of the matter, for the lifts are still running in the same condition, and as offices do not come within the jurisdiction of the Act, the Department has no power to compel attention.

Mr. Armitage reports:—

In the early part of the year I paid special attention to the guarding of lifts, also the fencing of the wells and cages. In several cases I found that the doors of the lift-well could be opened on the outside, and in one case I was informed by the occupier that a man had opened the door, and had fallen on to the roof of the cage. The doors of this lift are of wrought-iron of open pattern, but have now been backed with wire-netting.

In many cases I found that the front of the well was only guarded for about the height of the lift cage; but I am glad to say these guards have since been carried to the ceiling.

ACCIDENTS.

The Act does not require that all accidents which may happen through whatsoever cause in a factory should be reported, but only such as are produced "either by machinery moved by steam, water, or other power, or through a vat, pan, or other structure filled with hot liquid, or molten metal, or other substance, or by explosion, or by escape of gas, steam, or metal." Consequently the accompanying return cannot be regarded as a complete return of accidents in factories. A number of accidents happen which are not recorded. Neglect to comply with this provision was the subject of a prosecution during the year, a conviction being obtained and a fine of £2 with costs being inflicted.

The following list shows the number reported during the year classified according to factories:—

Non-fatal accidents	94
Fatal accidents	3
Total.....	97

Factories.	Injuries to Hands.	Injuries to Arms.	Injuries to Legs.	Injuries to Feet.	Miscellaneous Injuries.	Fatalities.	Total.
Light, fuel, heat .....	.....	.....	1	.....	2	1	3
Engineering	11	4	2	5	7	2	29
Metal works, &c.	2	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	4
Printing	9	1	.....	1	1	.....	12
Saw-mills	1	1	1	1	1	.....	5
Clothing .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	3
Brickworks.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Boots, shoes, &c.	9	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	10
Food, drink, &c.	5	1	.....	.....	3	.....	9
Laundries	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Miscellaneous.....	7	1	.....	2	8	.....	18
Total.....	48	8	4	9	28	3	97

Two of the fatal accidents occurred in connection with foundries, and the third at an electric lighting establishment. In some factories where much juvenile labour is employed in connection with machinery accidents are frequent. In one instance seven accidents to lads were reported by the same factory during the year, six of the cases being injuries to the hands or fingers, caused in the majority of instances by the same class of machinery. Yet this factory is one of the best guarded in the city, the occupier having expended much thought and money in endeavouring to make it secure. The real cause appears to lie in putting mere boys to do work which—without requiring any particular skill—calls for unremitting care. The work is mechanical; the operator through frequent use of the machine becomes reckless or indifferent, and so some day loses a finger or hand as the penalty of his familiarity.

I have been painfully struck by the comparative frequency of injuries caused in this way to lads by machines used for stapling and stamping or cutting out where the direct power is released by means of a lever set in action by a treadle. The motion on the treadle is made by the foot mechanically, and any momentary lapse of thought or want of care probably means the loss of a finger. Personally, I should like to see all young persons absolutely prohibited from using these dangerous machines, but no power of this kind is given to the Department. I notice that in the last English Factory Report attention is called to this matter by one of H.M. Inspectors. He says:—"Power presses continue to cause numerous accidents. Where treadles are in use I find accidents are more frequent amongst females than amongst males, the only cause, so far as I can see, being that the dress hides the movement of the feet, and so occasionally the foot is placed unwittingly on the treadle. Where only one hand is necessary for the work

work the substitution of hand-levers has proved the best remedy. A firm of thimble manufacturers, some months ago, on account of a succession of small accidents, changed the whole of their power presses from treadles to hand-levers, and I believe have not had an accident since."

I am glad to say that it is rarely the Inspectors come across a child employed in connection with a circular saw—a piece of machinery for which no adequate guard that does not materially interfere with work has yet been devised.

In this connection it may be interesting to note the precautions taken by the French law regulating the work of children, young girls, and women in industrial establishments to prevent injury to life or limb. There the following restrictions, not found in English or Colonial legislation, are placed on the employment of the persons named:—

1. The employment of persons under 18 is forbidden in the working of apparatus by treadles.
2. Children under 16 years of age may not be employed in working circular or band saws, nor in working shears or other sharp-edged tools.
3. Children under 16 years of age may not be set to overlook steam-cocks.
4. Persons under 18 years are prohibited from carrying or pushing or dragging loads beyond certain weights.
5. The employment of girls under 16 years in working sewing-machines by treadles is forbidden.

The attention of laundry-keepers who use hydro-extractors is directed to the necessity for carefully regulating the load and speed of these machines. The machines in question are an ingenious application of the principle of centrifugal force to the drying of washed clothes. The old-fashioned wringer which squeezed out the water between sets of rollers is now in the more modern steam laundries supplanted by a machine which, being filled with wet clothes, and rapidly rotated, forces the water outward through a surrounding perforated shield, and leaves them relatively dry. An accident recently happened in England caused by working a hydro at an excessive speed, generating a degree of centrifugal force sufficient to burst the machine, with the result that the engineer and a woman were killed on the spot.

In connection with the subject of accidents in factories, reference may be made to the great extension given in the Mother country to employers' liability for accidents to their employees by the "Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897." The measure came into force on the 1st of July of the present year, and marks the highest point to which this doctrine has been carried. The general scope of the measure can be here merely indicated.

There are three well-marked stages in English law through which the principle of liability to compensation on the part of an employer for accidents to his workmen has been developed—

1. The Common Law stage, when the "personal" negligence of an employer in using bad machinery or plant, or in employing a servant whom he knew to be incompetent was the only ground of an action, and this might be defeated by showing that the complainant workman undertook the risk voluntarily and with his eyes open, or was himself a contributory to the accident.
2. The extension of the employer's liability by Statute to cases beyond the limits of the Common Law, increasing his responsibility with regard to those acting under him, and by his authority; and, finally,
3. The further extension of the employer's liability as to—
 - (a) To persons to whom he became liable in the event of accident;
 - (b) The circumstances under which that liability arose.

The principal features in the new English law are,—

1. The extension of the master's liability to,—
 - (a) More men and women than were protected under previous legislation;
 - (b) More cases of injury or death than before.
2. The limitation of the power of "contracting out."

As to the first of these, the new law applies to all workmen or women, whether manual labourers or not, in factories, docks, wharfs, mines, quarries, or on railways and buildings, and includes such diverse classes of workers as clerks, miners, engineers, dock labourers, wharfingers, railway servants, quarrymen, bricklayers, joiners, general labourers, and apprentices. Thus it will be seen to cover a body of persons far more diverse than was protected under previous legislation. It applies also to women as well as to men.

The doctrine with regard to contributory negligence is also greatly modified, so that now the fact that a workman himself contributed to the cause of the action will not necessarily debar him from recovering compensation. The employer will not, however, be called upon to pay compensation where the accident is wholly the fault of the workman.

The system of contracting out, by which so much of the responsibility under the old law was evaded, has been, if not eradicated, at all events very materially limited. No employer can now compel a workman to join any so-called benefit society promoted by such employer.

Before any scheme can exist, into which a workman may of his own will enter, the employer must submit it to the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, and only provided that officer thinks the men will get as much benefit from it as from the new law will it be allowed to be established. No scheme or society formed by the employer without this official sanction is legal.

The law in New South Wales is at present what it was in England under the Act of 1880. It has been amended in one direction only, namely, when, in 1893, it brought seamen within its scope.

Inquiries are from time to time made at this office with regard to the provisions of the Act, and from these inquiries it would appear that the requirement that notice of injury having been sustained shall be given to the employer within six weeks of its happening is not as widely known among the class interested as one would expect. The initial cost of moving for leave to proceed where notice has not been given within the statutory time, but where there has been reasonable excuse for such neglect, is in some cases a serious obstacle in the way of seeking redress.

Mr. Taylor reports :—

It is somewhat satisfactory to note that almost the whole of the accidents that have occurred during the past year in my district have happened either at a part of the machine where it has been found impracticable to erect a guard, or where the machinery or gearing has been in such a position as not, with the exercise of ordinary care, to require protection. The accidents in these latter instances have generally happened when the unfortunate person has been cleaning or oiling the gearing, and in some instances, in order to do so, has had to remove a guard that has been put there to prevent anyone from touching that portion of the machinery. Injuries have been met with chiefly at the die-cutters, saws, and rollers, where the hand of the workman has slipped, or perhaps, through carelessness, has been put in an exposed position. These are accidents which cannot be prevented, whatever precaution in the way of guards or covers may be taken.

In one of the largest factories of its class I had great difficulty in persuading the manager to fence and guard the machinery. He was shown sketches and illustrations of guards that were being used on similar machines in other parts of the world, and told that these particular guards would not be enforced, but that he could adopt any guard he wished, provided it was effectual, and the gearing and dangerous parts of the machines were fenced and guarded.

He raised the usual objections—the impracticability of affixing guards without interfering with the working of the machines; that if fences were erected the danger would be increased; that the workers would be considerably inconvenienced; that the machines had run for so long without an accident happening that it was unnecessary now to erect guards—and almost flatly refused to do anything at all in the way of further protecting the machinery.

On visiting subsequently, for the purpose of laying an information to compel the occupier to fence, I found the engineer busily engaged making and affixing guards. Upon inquiry, I found the reason of this sudden change of opinion was due to an accident which happened to one of the employees; and I am sorry to say it often needs a similar practical illustration to impress upon occupiers that the machinery as then running is not sufficiently protected.

A very peculiar and serious accident happened at a tannery during the year.

In some tanneries a machine is used for splitting the hides after they have been tanned. This is done by placing one end of the hide on a cylinder, in which is a deep groove; a batten is then placed across the hide, so that the end is forced into the groove, and held there when the cylinder starts revolving; by the action of a lever it is then carried to a cutter, and reduced to the thickness desired. When very busy, some workmen at this machine take a great risk to save time—that is, instead of using the batten, they hold the hide with one hand till it has “gripped.” In the instance I speak of the fingers of the unfortunate man “caught,” with the result that the arm was drawn in almost up to the shoulder, and doubled round the cylinder with the hide before the machine was stopped by his mate, who fortunately happened to be standing alongside the pulleys, and threw the belt off.

I had occasion to visit this tannery some months after, and saw the injured man, who was one of the proprietors. Although the arm had received a severe compound fracture, he felt confident that, though it would be much weaker, he would be able to resume his work in a few months. He has kept the side of leather, which shows the imprint of the arm and hand. The breaks in the arm are very easily distinguished, and the imprint of the hand is shown as though it were impressed in wax.

In many of the tanneries, in making tan liquor, it is usual after the bark has passed through three or four pits to extract any remaining virtue by a process of steaming, and in some instances the liquor is heated to such an extent as to be almost boiling. As a rule, there are two pits used alternately for this purpose. These pits in the past have always been uncovered, with the exception of a few instances, when bagging has been thrown across them to keep the heat in. I had to visit a tannery in the early part of the year to inquire into an accident which terminated fatally to a lad who had fallen into one of these hot pits. It appears that one of the heating-pits had just been steamed, and the liquor was consequently at very high temperature; the second pit was being prepared, and the bark from another pit being emptied into it. The unfortunate lad was engaged wheeling this bark, and whilst passing the already-heated pit, his foot slipped, and he fell in, so that his legs and abdomen and portion of his arms were severely scalded. He was taken to the hospital and treated, but succumbed to the severe shock. Since this accident I have ordered all steaming-pits to be covered with firm gratings, as they are without doubt dangerous, and I am pleased to say that all who were asked to do so readily acceded to my request.

In a large furniture factory a man was engaged cutting lengths of small timber for table-legs, and was using a “swing cutting-off” saw. The saw was in good order, and well covered with an iron hood. In pulling the timber forward to the gauge the man’s hand slipped, and swung on to the exposed portion of the saw, with the result that his hand was severely lacerated, and two of the fingers were subsequently amputated.

One of the machines used in tanneries is a fleshing machine, which removes the flesh from pelts in basil-tanning. The men who work this machine are called fleshers. The pelts are held in a sliding frame, and a revolving cylinder, on which are knives, removes the flesh. In every instance hoods or covers have been ordered for these knives. A fleshier in a tannery, seeing that the pelts were being streaked, and thinking that it was caused by a dirty cylinder, foolishly removed the hood, and with a piece of cotton waste attempted to wipe the knives whilst running. The consequence was he lost three fingers and portion of his hand.

Mr. Armitage reports :—

During the year a number of accidents have been reported in my district; two of these have been fatal, one being caused by the breaking of a steel shaft near the boss of the wheel, which fell on the man.

The engineering trade is responsible for many of the accidents, but, excepting the above fatal one, the majority were of a minor character, such as crushed fingers, &c.

I am pleased to state that the end cogs of the lathes in the majority of shops have now been guarded; but it is often the case that these guards are left off by the men themselves.

In one case an accident happened to a man who was passing a small blast. The end of the shaft was exposed for about 3 inches, and his trousers got caught upon it, and he was knocked down.

The timber trade is answerable for other accidents, some of which happened at the circular saw. Numerous designs for guarding these machines have been suggested, but none found to be practical. The circular cross-cut saws have, however, a guard affixed, which answers very well.

A very painful accident happened during the year at a cooperage, when a lad 15 years of age lost the use of his foot. He was assisting at a stove machine, when he was told to ease the lever, and while doing so his foot got caught in the side cogs. The occupier of this factory had been asked to guard his mill-gearing, and was threatened with prosecution. His excuse was always that it would interfere with his work, and that he had never had an accident; but since the accident (he having in the meantime been prosecuted and fined for not guarding) the machines have been fenced in and the mill-gearing secured. This resembles other cases where guards have been violently objected to only to be fixed at last at the cost of a limb or even a life.

In the printing trade five accidents have happened, the platen machine being responsible for three out of the five. There is no known guard for this machine. The other two cases happened at a large press, one owing to a loose pin catching the boy’s arm; and in the other case a lad was sweeping under a machine, when his clothes got caught in the small cogs, and his leg was badly cut.

In accordance with instructions, electric lighting plants have now to be guarded. In a certain warehouse I found an electric light plant being run, and the engineer, in order to get from one room to another, had to pass between the top and bottom of the main belting. I am glad to state that this belt is now cased in both at top and bottom.

In the majority of factories I find the occupiers willing to comply with any reasonable suggestion, whilst in others the suggestions for fencing are not received in too friendly a spirit. There is the contumacious individual, who thinks the Inspector regards it as his primary, if not sole, duty to find some ground for complaint at every visit paid, and who parries any request made to him for a guard with the remark that, “I have never had an accident with the machine.” Perhaps, however, the most hopeless of all is the occupier who objects to spend money in fencing because he is insured against accidents.

Miss Duncan reports :—

Accidents to women have, happily, been very few this year.

In one case a girl in a steam laundry, while feeding a callender, the rollers of which were guarded by wire-netting, turned round to speak to a companion, and had her fingers caught between the hot rollers. The injury was very slight, and she had immediate treatment at the hospital.

A woman working as a "hanger-out" at a laundry put her foot through the boarded flooring of the flat roof, and grazed her leg. In consequence of this accident the rotten boards were removed and a new floor laid down.

A girl in a boot factory, during my visit, worked the blunt needle of a hole-punching machine through her finger and nail; fortunately the machine was not worked by steam-power, and the accident, though painful, did not prove serious.

A girl employed in bottling drugs was carrying an open tin of boiling water, when the door near which she stood being quickly opened, caused the contents of the vessel to be discharged over her face, neck, and right arm. She was much scalded, and suffered a good deal of pain, but the results were not serious, and the circumstance was purely accidental.

I greatly fear that an accident may occur in one of the boot factories to girls who wear their hair hanging down their backs while working machines running by steam or gas power. In every boot factory I have drawn the attention of girls and managers alike to the danger which is run, and in many cases have had the promise of the employer to make a general rule that all female employees shall wear their hair neatly pinned up while in the factory. Strange to say, the prejudices of the girls conflict with this attempt to secure additional safety for them; but they are sometimes reconciled to the rule when assured that it does not extend to the walk to or from the factory. It is extremely difficult to convince them of any real danger, and even a girl who had gone through the ordeal of having her scalp injured, and who glibly declared she should "never forget it," was found working at a machine with her hair in a more than usually bushy condition. It is a common idea that if the hair is plaited the risk is removed, but experience teaches that this has a special danger of its own, as the plait, if once caught in the machinery, is too strong to give way readily, and the scalp suffers.

CERTIFICATES OF FITNESS.

By Regulation 9, framed under the provisions of section 39 of the Act, medical certificates of the fitness of lads and girls under 16 years of age for employment are required in all factories in which steam or other mechanical power is used—except in the case of clothing and boot factories—as well as in a number of those trades, such as copper-works, foundries, paint-works, &c., in which it is considered that the health of persons of delicate constitution might be detrimentally affected. Under the English, the Victorian, and New Zealand Acts special medical officers, who have a fixed scale of fees, are appointed to make the necessary examination, but in this Colony any legally qualified medical man may sign the official certificate, and is at liberty to make such charge as he may think fit. Of the value of this examination the Department is not in a position to express any definite opinion, but the inclusion of a similar provision in all other factory legislation leads to the conclusion that it has been found to be a desirable safeguard. During the year 531 of these certificates were issued, distributed as follows:—

Glass and bottle factories	23
Engineering, metal-works, foundries, &c.	162
Laundries	31
Confectioners	62
Tobacco factories	71
Jam	41
Meat-preserving works	63
Printers' works	87
Potteries	31
	531

HOURS OF LABOUR.

In the first Annual Report reference was made to some of the difficulties in the way of the strict administration of the Act, this being especially so with regard to the sections dealing with the limitation of the hours of labour. The difficulty referred to is incidental to all legislation which attempts to shorten the duration of labour by fixing a daily or weekly limit to the hours that may be worked. There are two possible ways of attaining the limitation of hours, namely:—

- (a) By fixing the number that may be worked daily or weekly.
- (b) By closing the place at which the work is carried on at some definite time daily.

In the former case the person sought to be benefited is placed in a position of great embarrassment, for if the law be evaded by his employer the employee is on the horns of a dilemma. To ensure punishment for the offence, it is necessary for him to go into the witness-box, and give evidence against his master, and by so doing he will probably incur the penalty of dismissal. The whole tendency of this principle is thus to force the employee into a tacit combination with the employer to defeat the object of the Legislature.

The alternative method is to close the place of business at a given hour, and whatever objection there may be to this course on other grounds, it at all events relieves the employee from a burden which it is scarcely reasonable he should bear without complaint and a sense of grievance.

This matter has excited attention wherever factory legislation is in force, and quite recently has been emphasised in the Mother country by the formation of an "Industrial Law Committee." The object of this association is to protect women who give evidence of the infringement of the Factory Acts from dismissal at the hands of their employers, in risk of which they always stand. The statement of the trustees of this fund says that "women, if obedient to the commands of some employers to deceive the inspectors, are liable to a heavy penalty; if in spite of those commands they tell the truth and admit the infringements as to which they are questioned, they are liable to instant dismissal." This society has been formed, if not to free women from this dilemma, at least to mitigate its consequences for them, and accordingly an appeal has been made for £10,000 with which to start an indemnity fund.

The *Spectator* of 13th August last, referring to this newly-formed society, says: "Legislation but beats the air if the testimony needed to secure its enforcement entails the loss of their livelihood on those who give it, and nothing is more calculated to encourage a dangerous desire for 'collectivism' than a spread of the idea that Parliamentary provision for the prevention of industrial abuses is vain."

An illustration of this evil may be taken from the last English Factories and Workshops report, where one of the lady Inspectors referring to a conviction under a section of the Factories Act, which prohibits the employment of a woman within four weeks of her confinement, says: "This unfortunate woman,

woman, although she made some attempt to screen her employers, when called as a witness was nevertheless dismissed from her employment after the result of the case (conviction and small penalty) was known."

This year an additional table has been added to the Appendix, giving an average of the hours worked in the trades. It will, of course, be understood that the average is struck on the basis of the hours worked in the factories as a whole in each trade, so that where the average is given as over 48 in the week, it may be that some individual factories work strictly within these hours. For example, in 67 boot and shoes factories, 26 work for 48 hours, 38 for 50 hours, and 3 from 52 to 54 hours, making an average all round of about 49 hours.

Taking the figures given it will be seen that the 48-hour principle is confined to about 50 per cent. of the trades, and these are, as a rule, the trades in which combination in unions has been brought about.

Much the same result is obtained by taking the numbers of individuals in the trades to whom the 8-hour principle is applied. A study of the table will show that the 48-hour principle in this Colony is as yet far from being a universal rule.

In some few places, such as photographic establishments, factories where patent medicines and pills are manufactured and packed, and jewellers' work-shops, as also in some isolated instances in other lines of work, the hours are less than 48, ranging from 45 to 47.

Miss Duncan reports :—

Each year's experience leads to the conclusion that the elasticity, with regard to working hours, which is the characteristic of the present Act is a serious drawback. It leads to misunderstanding and discontent on the part of employees, and to the wresting from their apparent meaning of those clauses which deal with the maximum of the week's work and with overtime.

If it be admitted that 48 hours is the legal term of a week's work (apart from the custom of the factory or the trade), and that those 48 hours may be worked out at any hour of night or day, regularly or irregularly, it follows that there is nothing to prevent the week's work being compressed into three or four days, by working excessive hours, or to take an extreme case, there is nothing but the convenience of working by daylight to prevent the day's work being begun at 2 o'clock and carried on till 10 or 11 every night, provided only that the women employed are not under 18 years of age, nor the boys under 16. Such elasticity leads rather to irregularity than to conformity, serves no useful purpose, and makes the work of control extremely difficult.

We find in the printing trade, with few exceptions, that the usual hours for women are 45 weekly, but that in busy times, occurring perhaps once or twice a year, the week's work may reach 53 hours or more; the whole of the time in excess of 45 is understood as "overtime," and paid as such, but for the benefit of the Inspectors (without, be it understood, any attempt at concealment) only that portion is entered as overtime which exceeds 48 hours. From a pecuniary point of view, the women suffer no loss, but the administration of that portion of section 37, which forbids the employment of persons on "overtime" on more than three consecutive days, is hopelessly confused; if the time has been worked out by lengthening each day's work by an hour or an hour and a half, the confusion is still greater, and it becomes impossible to distinguish between time and overtime, or to prevent "overtime" (which the common sense of the people interprets as work done beyond the ordinary hours) being done on every day of the week.

It may be argued that as it is the legal right of every employer to demand of his employees 48 hours weekly, and overtime thirty times in the year, it would be unjust to deprive him of that right by holding him strictly to the hours which he states to be his "usual working hours" at a time when work does not press. To this it may be answered that firms do not restrict their usual working hours to 45 if the call upon their business demands a 48-hours week, that they are fully at liberty to fix their hours at 48, and that the fact that they do not, and that time worked in excess of their ordinary hours is paid and entered in the books of the firm as "overtime," is a sufficient proof that this is overtime in the true sense of the word.

The sole reason for the arrangement quoted is to enable a firm to get out a heavy order in a given time, a true "exigency of the trade" which would justify an extension of overtime being granted upon application, especially if the maximum of overtime had not been worked out, but which does not seem to me to justify any tampering with the ordinary arrangement of time and overtime.

An enactment similar to that in force in England, which decrees that the period of employment for women and girls shall begin and end at certain fixed hours, together with an addition specifying the length of a day's work, would meet the difficulty here referred to.

In the case of public holidays it is the custom of some employers to deduct nothing from the weekly wages, but more often payment is only made for time actually worked. It is not unusual to find that night-work is done for two or three hours on perhaps two nights before a public holiday, and that for this no overtime pay is given; this appears to me to be an arrangement equivalent to depriving the employee of part of the public holiday, but as there are no statutory holidays under the Factories and Shops Act it is difficult to interfere.

Irregularities such as these often lead to complaint, but they are cases in which it is difficult, if not impossible to take action.

There is much reason to think that the time said to be allotted for meals is not strictly adhered to, especially in dressmakers' work-rooms.

Numerous breaches of the section requiring an interval of at least half an hour for a meal at the end of five hours' work have been discovered, and there is reason to think that in many cases the wish of the employees to get home earlier leads to their acquiescence in the plan of taking a hurried tea or lunch on a busy day, and going on with their work before the expiration of thirty minutes. Sooner or later, however, this state of things, whether voluntary or compulsory, leads to complaint being made, and while not pressing for prosecution in all such cases, I have tried to insist upon compliance with the letter of the law. It is obviously better, and quite possible, when a small period of overtime is likely to occur, to call for a recess, say, at the end of four hours, and then resume work for an hour or two. There can be no question that the last hour's work will be better done, and the extra work-time be less severely felt than if a stretch of five and a half or six hours had been worked without a break. That persons of good bodily health and strength can occasionally carry on work for long periods without food, and without suffering much inconvenience, is very likely true, but the generality of our Australian girls are not remarkable for great strength or endurance; many of them are anemic, and the indoor life and hot climate conduce to poor appetite and a rather low condition of general health. From the average woman's point of view there is all the difference in the world between working four or four and a half hours without a break for a meal and working six hours on the same terms; in the latter case she has probably a bad headache, and is too tired to eat when at last she gets home to a meal. It must be remembered, too, that "home" is often a long way from the work-shop.

The usual hours in a dressmaker's work-room are from 9 to 1, with an hour's interval for dinner, and from 2 to 6; in busy times, however, the girls may be asked to come in half an hour earlier in the morning, the luncheon hour may be curtailed, and possibly work is carried on till 7 or 7.30, either with or without a break. In the same way, work is often carried on till 2.30 or 3 on Saturday in order to finish what is in hand, and as the girls are anxious to have their outing in the afternoon they are not averse to the plan for a few times.

I regret that there is no provision in the Act making it compulsory to give a full half holiday once a week, as there are many work-rooms in which work is habitually carried on till 6 p.m. daily.

The greater number of dressmakers profess to give a half holiday on Saturday afternoon to their hands, while claiming the right to employ them in busy times till 6 p.m. on that day.

Mr.

Mr. Armitage reports:—

In trades where a union exists, such as the engineers, gas-stokers, &c., ironmoulders, and the building trades, the hours total forty-eight per week, but in other trades they range from forty-eight to seventy-two.

In one case, in a paper-mill, the men are reported to work twelve hours per day. To get the half-day on Saturday, they work till midnight on Friday and start again at 6 a.m. on Saturday.

In the Chinese furniture trade they work very long hours; starting at daylight, they keep on till dusk, in some cases working thirteen or fourteen hours per day.

In the Jam trade, while the fruit is coming into the market, the men work in two shifts of ten hours each, but this only lasts from three to four months in the year.

OVERTIME.

There are two kinds of overtime distinguished in the Act, namely:—

- (a) Overtime to the extent of thirty days, to which every occupier is entitled, without reference to the Department, but which must be paid for at the rate of time and a half; and
- (b) An extension of such overtime to the limit of another thirty days, which may be granted by the Minister in special cases, and which, if granted, must also be paid for at the rate of time and a half.

The Department is chary in recommending the Minister to grant extensions of overtime, and does so only in cases where special reasons for consideration are shown.

The following is a list of the factories in connection with which applications for permission to work additional overtime, and exemption from the provisions of section 40, have been received, and shows how they have been dealt with:—

Class of Factory.	Number of extensions granted.	Number of exemptions under section 40.	Number of cases declined.
Carpet.....	1	Nil.	Nil.
Biscuit.....	1	"	"
Printing.....	2	"	"
Bakers and pastrycooks.....	1	"	"
Engineering.....	Nil.	1	"
Jam.....	1	1	"
Dressmaking.....	Nil.	Nil.	1
Totals.....	6	2	1

Miss Duncan reports:—

Overtime has been much drawn upon during the past season by dressmaking firms, for two reasons: The prevalence of influenza and measles during the winter, and an unusually busy season.

For several breaches of the Act convictions were obtained.

The English system, which makes it incumbent on an employer to notify the District Inspector before 8 p.m. that overtime is about to be worked, and which requires him to keep posted up in the factory certain particulars of such overtime, is more effective than the system under our Act. In the event of receiving a surprise visit from the Inspector, while night-work is going on, it then lies upon the occupier to prove that he has done what the law requires of him, and is working legally.

The elasticity of our overtime provision, which applies a limit to the overtime work of each individual, instead of to the work of the factory, creates evils which were probably not anticipated; the most obvious of these is the dismissal of an employee who has worked overtime on thirty occasions, and is therefore ineligible for further overtime work in that particular factory. There is, however, nothing in the present state of the Act to prevent her working a further period of thirty times in some other factory, and it is quite possible to imagine that by a judicious system of interchange, two or three factories could arrange to work overtime all the year round, without having occasion to apply for any extension of overtime at all. Happily no trade demands quite such an inordinate amount of overtime, and the inconvenience of frequent changes would be considerable; but we note in overtime records the sudden cessation of the recurrence of certain names, and the appearance of altogether new ones after the expiration of the statutory number of days allowed for overtime; in a large factory, where many hands are employed, this may be consistent with a true adhesion to the spirit of the Act, as it may be worked by relays of persons; but, generally speaking, a few of the most skilled are the persons chosen to "work back," and there is abundant evidence that some occupiers are quite alive to the possibilities under the Act, and are not unwilling to create a prejudice against it in the minds of those who work for them, by pointing out to them that the law curtails their liberty to earn more money, and throws upon the employer the disagreeable necessity of dismissing them.

If the limit of overtime applied to the factory, the thirty times on which overtime might be worked would be carefully conserved, and drawn upon only in times of actual necessity; under existing circumstances, I am confident that the knowledge that there is a liberal allowance of overtime possible leads to a greater amount of work being accepted than there is a reasonable expectation of being able to carry out with the staff of hands, and within a weekly limit of forty-eight hours; this remark applies especially to dressmaking rooms. The unwillingness to refuse work, and the desire to "oblige a customer," leads to an attempt to strain the law to the last point.

In a recent case it was contended by the employer that the infraction of the law, a serious one, brought about by the action of the forewoman, who would never refuse an order, brought no profit to him, as he had to pay for all overtime at an increased rate, and the profits on the work-room were therefore proportionately reduced. The books of the firm were produced to substantiate the statement, and appeared to do so.

It is frequently asserted by owners of shops in connection with which there are dressmaking work-rooms that the work-rooms bring little profit except in the direction of increasing the number of customers and the sale of goods in the shop, but that the actual profit on manufacture is small.

I note, with some satisfaction, in this connection a growing inclination to curtail overtime, and, as far as possible, to do without it, and this is undoubtedly the direct result of the trouble and annoyance accruing from threatened and actual prosecution in connection with breaches of the overtime regulations.

The need of somewhat rigid enactments with reference to overtime have this year been exemplified in some of the following instances of attempts to reconcile the letter of the law with an evasion of the spirit and intention of the Act:—

1. The dismissal of an employee who has worked overtime on thirty days has been already mentioned.
2. Application has been made by one occupier to another for the friendly loan of a few hands at night to take the place temporarily of those whose overtime limit has been reached.
3. An advertisement has been inserted in the daily papers offering employment to persons from 7 or 8 to 10 p.m., not, probably, on terms of overtime payment, but as a second shift. This second shift may be composed either of women who have already done their day's work elsewhere, or of those who are disengaged in the day-time. In the first case the interests of the day-time employer are damaged, as the work done on the day following a long spell of overtime is admittedly inferior; in the second instance an injustice is inflicted on those employers who take a literal interpretation of the Act, and pay extra for night-work or do without it. A universal extension of this arrangement would lead to the breakdown of the overtime provisions altogether, concurrently with the adoption of a double shift. So far as girls under 18 are concerned, this could be checked, but it is difficult to see how it would be possible to interfere in the case of adults in the present state of the law.

4. Yet another instance of getting work done without the trouble or restrictions of overtime is found in the system of giving out work to be done at home by girls or women who have done their day's work in a factory. It is not contended that there is any compulsion in the matter; the work is there, and can be taken or not by persons who wish to add to their small wages by doing it at a piece-rate. Yet it is easy to see that it is very difficult to draw the line between acquiescence and virtual compulsion.

It is nothing to the point to argue that the work is sought after; the employment of all the hands in a large factory on these terms would inflict some injustice on the manufacturer who limits his working day to the statutory number of hours. This case opens up the whole vexed question of home-workers and their effect upon factory workers.

The English Act of 1895 absolutely prohibits employment of this kind in the case of a child, and in the case of women and young persons who have been employed both before and after the dinner-hour in the factory.

PERMISSION TO WORK.

Section 35 of the Act provides that—

1. No child under 13 years of age shall be employed in a factory.
2. No child between 13 and 14 years shall be so employed unless with the special permission of the Minister.

During the year fifty-eight permits were granted under the second proviso, fifty-two being to males and six to females. The course adopted in every such case was to refer the application in the first instance to the Branch of the Public Instruction Department enforcing the attendance of children at school. The Attendance Officer in connection with this Branch visited the homes of the applicants and reported on the circumstances of each case, also whether the applicant was the holder of a certificate of sufficient education, or had a special exemption from school attendance as provided by the Public Instruction Act. Upon the basis of this report the permission to work was granted or withheld. Where the Department of Public Instruction found that its educational standard had not been reached it imposed as a condition precedent to consideration by this Department that night-school should be attended. Very frequently in making the necessary inquiries into these cases circumstances were disclosed showing the hard struggle to live that exists in many unfortunate families of the poor. A great number of the applications referred to were made on behalf of the children of mothers who had through desertion or death been left without the support of their husbands. Or it might be that the husband had gone abroad to earn a livelihood, and had failed to succeed. Take the example of one mother with five children dependent on her and their own exertions during the absence of the husband and father on a whaling expedition. He may return with from £50 to £100 or with nothing, as the fortune of the voyage will prove. In the meantime she tries to make ends meet by keeping a little shop whose weekly profits represent about 5s., and for the rest relies on the earnings of the children. Then there is the case of a family of young people, seven in all, the eldest of whom is 18 years of age, and the youngest a mere child. Both father and mother are dead, and the eldest brother and sister maintain the family with their united earnings. The little ones are sent to school and places found for the elder where a few shillings may be earned. The sum total of the family earnings is pitifully small, but it keeps the home together. Or another case where the mother is dead and the father in Western Australia seeking a livelihood. The eldest girl, whose 16 years are pathetically unequal to the burden placed on her young shoulders, has the care of five "steps of stairs," who are maintained on what the father may remit. From the facts that have come before me, I do not think that parents in this Colony seek to profit by the labour of their children at an early age unless absolutely driven to it by stress of poverty and circumstance. One sad story repeats itself time after time—the loss of employment by the husband, the long heart-breaking search for work that is not found, the accumulation of debts, the sale or pledging of the home possessions, the insufficient nourishment of wife and children.

WAGES.

The rates of wages for the year 1898 show no marked variation from those of last year, the tendency, if anything, being rather upward than downward. This has been noticeably so with regard to certain of the trades dealing with building and the manufacture of building materials. For instance, carpenters' wages show an advance not so much in maximum rates as for all round average work, and in a less degree plumbers and bricklayers profit by the activity in these trades.

In the clothing trade there is no trace of better conditions; indeed, in one or two directions, there would appear to be a slightly downward tendency.

The body of statistics of wages appended to this Report deals with the rates paid in factories and in the various trades independent of factories. It does not include any information with regard to the average wages of shop employees. The following table, however, furnishes the average wages paid to the various classes of hands in tailors' and drapers' shops, whose occupiers, are probably, the largest employers of shop labour:—

	From			To		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Tailors' shops—						
Clerks and book-keepers	1	0	0	3	5	0
Salesmen	1	1	0	4	0	0
Drapers' Shops—						
Shop-walkers	2	0	0	4	15	0
Salesmen	1	0	0	3	10	0
Do junior and apprentices	0	5	0	0	12	6
Book-keepers and cashiers	1	2	6	5	0	0
Cash-boys	0	5	0	0	7	6
Porters	0	7	0	0	15	0
Females.						
Head saleswomen	2	10	0	3	5	0
Saleswomen, senior	0	9	0	1	10	0
Do junior	0	6	6	0	10	0
Do apprentices ... ..	.....			0	7	6
Clerks and cashiers	0	10	0	1	12	6

SWEATING.

SWEATING.

Anyone who is brought in contact with the conditions of factory life cannot but note their enervating effect on the personal character of the "hands."

These conditions appear to reduce them to a point of more or less mechanical skill in certain fixed directions, so that out of these they become practically helpless. For example, it is probably the exception, rather than the rule, for a woman working in a clothing factory to be able to do more than her specific class of work. In the intense classification of duties that characterises modern factory life, the art of one person completely making any article of utility bids fair to be lost. Scores of women make up clothing if it be cut out for them, but not one in a dozen of these could cut out for herself from a piece of material the simplest articles of her own attire in a style that would be marketable. They have no opportunity or time to do more than learn the particular branch of the craft from which they draw their daily bread. The lady Inspector has brought under my notice painful cases of women who, for the time being turned from the familiar groove, drift helplessly in outcast misery. The factory sewing-machine is the means by which their labour can be turned into coin, and represents capital not available to them; and, even were it available, they would be still helpless without the assistance of the other ranks of men and women who contribute their quota to the making of the completed marketable article. It was, for example, suggested in one such case to appeal to a certain charitable institution to furnish the woman concerned with a sewing-machine. But when the case was analysed it was found that the woman could not "cut out," and even if she could have done so she had no capital with which to buy material, or if such capital were provided still she could not, at the price, make goods to compete against the wares of organised factory labour. It seemed hopeless. All that remained for her was to creep back to the old groove should opportunity come to her to do so.

There is another class of worker which, though a struggling and often ill-paid class, is on a much higher plane of independence than the factory hand, inasmuch as it does master the complete detail of a trade. I refer to the dressmakers, and it is suggested that those who are interested in women's work might, by organisation, do something to materially assist this class.

The great difficulty in starting in the business is to build up what is called "a connection"—that is to say, gather round one a circle of regular customers. And whilst the dressmaker entering on business is thus casting about for customers there are many persons seeking diligently for dressmakers, it may be in the neighbourhood of the customer's house, or, it may be, to carry out some particular kind of work. At present the business machinery for bringing these two sections together is the columns of the newspaper press. Could not this means be supplemented by some system of exchange, so that the customer applying at the office of this Exchange might be furnished with a list of dressmakers in her neighbourhood, their schedule of charges, and the addresses of residents to whom reference could be made as to the quality of the work done?

More than half the pressure which women workers are subjected to in the market-place is due to the absence of cohesion in their ranks. As a class they appear to be incapable of offering that united resistance which characterises the unions of men.

During the year the lady Inspector prepared a special report on the wages earned by women and the conditions under which they lived, in connection with the clothing trade. Some of the facts gleaned by her are contained in the following *précis* :—

Miss Duncan says :—

There is little to add to the facts quoted last year in reference to the low prices prevailing for slop clothing.

The piece-rates paid by manufacturers for contract clothing are often out of all proportion to the quality of the work demanded, and although they appear at a first glance to compare favourably with those paid for slop clothing, the additional care and better sewing required render the work actually less lucrative than lower-priced slop clothing, which can be turned out more quickly, and is subjected to less strict examination. In some cases, however, the work is carried out by persons working at a fair rate of pay, but the falling rates render it impossible for a good wage and a fair profit to be maintained.

I have made many inquiries as to the cost of living for single women who are dependent upon their own earnings, and the following figures will, I think, be found to be trustworthy :—

For board and lodging in a family, sharing the use of a bedroom	10s.	a week.
Or,—		
For rent of an unfurnished room.....	4s.	„
For food	7s.	„
For clothing and all extras	4s.	„
	15s.	„

The ordinary rent of a cottage in such suburbs as Surry Hills and Blackfriars is about 10s. 6d. a week, and I can point to instances of women who are expending on food weekly a sum not exceeding 3s.

The wholesale clothing trade is at the present moment in a deplorable condition owing to intense competition. The effect of the fall in piece-rates given to employees, both for warehouse and contract work, which characterises the last few years may, perhaps, be best shown by quoting some notes made from the book of a trousers "finisher," who had worked for some years in the same factory. The following are weekly earnings on piece-work, taken at random during the period from January, 1894, to the present time :—

	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.
1894	25	3	28	11	29	2	19	3	giving a weekly average of	25	8
1895	23	2	26	0	13	5	31	6	„	23	6
1896	19	0	17	2	14	6	20	0	„	17	8
1897	17	3	16	8	12	10	9	0	„	13	8½
1898	17	10	18	6	13	10	10	8	„	15	2½

During the first two years it will be seen that an average weekly wage of over 20s. could be counted upon. In the year 1896 it was shown that on ordinary good-class slops and contract work 20s. was never reached, except when there was some better-paid "order" work on hand. In 1897 there was a further fall. In the four weeks of April of 1898, when a good deal of contract work was on hand, the average was rather higher, but these earnings were only made by taking work home after the ordinary working hours of the factory were over.

For the most part shop and contract work is carried on side by side in the same factory, and by the same hands. It thus comes about that the very low rates prevailing for wholesale clothing manufacture are used to some extent as a standard by which to measure the cost of manufacturing contract clothing, and the fact is lost sight of that almost all lines of the latter should stand on a totally different and much higher footing, as they are cut and made to measure, and are really factory-made orders, and not slops at all.

I have made inquiry as to the cost of making up clothing in the factory, and submit the following figures as approximately correct. They refer to a low and a superior class of work, and do not include cost of material, wages paid to the makers, or cost of heating, soap, and rent:—

Class 1—Coat—	s. d.	Class 2—Coat—	s. d. s.
Cutting	0 2½	Cutting	0 6 to 1
Pressing	0 4	Pressing	0 6 to 1
Trimnings	1 6	Trimnings	2 6 to 3
	2 0½		3 6 to 5
Vest—		Vest—	s. d.
Cutting	0 1½	Cutting	0 3
Pressing	0 2	Pressing	0 2
Trimnings	0 9½	Trimming	1 3
	1 1		1 8
Trousers—		Trousers—	s. d. s. d.
Cutting	0 2	Cutting	0 3 to 0 6
Pressing	0 1½	Pressing	0 3 to 0 3
Trimnings	0 3½	Trimnings	0 6 to 0 9
	0 7		1 0 to 1 6

The means by which the cost of production is decreased are perhaps as follows:—

- The use of inferior "trimmings," viz., the various linings and inter-linings which are required to complete the garment, and which are found by the manufacturer;
- The reduction of the wages of men, and still more largely the reduction of the wages of women; and
- Chiefly by the employment of large numbers of young persons under the age of 18, at low weekly wages.

The method of sub-contracting a portion of the work to a contractor, either within or without the factory, intensifies the evils under the latter head; it may be carried on in an unobjectionable manner when the sub-contractor is a person of fair dealing, or where the head of the firm keeps a check upon the wages paid by the sub-contractor; but as the employer usually disclaims all responsibility for what is done by sub-contractors beneath his roof, and as this plan offers an inducement for making profit out of the work of unskilled hands, it must be regarded as leading to serious evils.

The man who employs only adult women or men, and pays them fair wages, is enormously handicapped in competition with the man who does not scruple to fill his factory with young girls, who, although only receiving 4s. to 8s. a week, get through a great deal of work. I emphasise this aspect of factory management because, although reductions may be effected in other ways, I believe this to be at the bottom of the sweating evil.

The only men employed in clothing factories are two or three classes of specially skilled workers who can usually command good wages, or who become sub-contractors; the wages of adult women cannot ordinarily fall below a living wage, which seems to stand at a minimum of 15s., and therefore the alternative is to fall back upon the services of young people who live in their parents' home, and are not entirely dependent upon their earnings. Low-skilled and child-labour are the back-bone of sub-contracting. The result of this is the reduction of wages and piece-rates within and without the factory.

I note during the past eighteen months an increase in the manufacture of warehouse shirts in factories. These shirts are generally of Oxford shirting, are given out to "outworkers" at prices ranging from 2s. 6d. to 4s. a dozen, according to the amount and quality of the work, and may be seen exposed for sale in every small store and draper's shop, the price asked varying from 1s. 11d. upwards. The position of the outworking shirt-maker is in no respect an improvement on that of the trousers-maker; both make a precarious living by dint of close and continuous work.

In the course of my rounds one day I was arrested by the sight of a pale, harassed-looking woman, seated in front of a window, and evidently working against time. The case proved to be a very pitiful one; a deserted wife left to support three children between the ages of 3 and 11. She was struggling to make a living by making shirts for a factory at 4s. a dozen; each shirt was made with a turned-down double collar, finished with three buttons and button-holes, a well fitted front, a breast-pocket, cuffs, and four gussets; buttons were provided by the factory, but she was obliged to find all cotton at the rate of 11d. per dozen reels, and button-hole cotton at 2½d. per reel; the shirts were of a good class, well cut, and of good material, and demanded careful work. Questioned as to her probable weekly earnings, she replied that she had that week worked all Sunday, had risen early on Monday morning, and stayed up till midnight, and during that time had made five shirts, working continuously except for the necessary interruptions of meals and of dressing and undressing her children. She had occasionally made linen pillow-cases at 2s. per dozen, finding both buttons and cotton, and took in any chance work she could get. With the aid of Government relief of 7s. 6d. a week and 5s. rent received from a lodger, she was just able to pay for her cottage, make her weekly payment for the machine, and feed and clothe herself and her children scantily enough. "He is a poor little half-starved creature," she said, speaking of her bright-faced little boy; "but I can't help it. "I am always just as you see me," she went on, with patient endurance, "working as hard as I can go; it's a cruel price; but the employer is very nice to me, and indeed he ought to be, for it is blood-money." The bed on which her work was laid out was covered with an old table-cloth; and she told me that for two years she had had no blankets. Happily this want has now been supplied.

Another sad case was that of an elderly woman, who for years had lived in comfort with her brother. On his death she was cast on her own resources, and in a spirit of true practical charity she sought to make a home for other helpless and homeless women, who might otherwise have drifted far enough on a cruel fate. By taking in work from factories and sharing work, expenses and profits—the latter, I fear, an unknown quantity—with other women, she hoped to make a living. She had many disappointments amongst those she wished to befriend; but had not lost heart, and when I visited her was at work with a respectable-looking Irish girl, who with an ignorance of the true condition of things that was pathetic, expressed her pleasure at the thought of learning "a profession which would make her independent." The elder woman told me that she had been making moleskin trousers (very heavy work) for two factories for 6d. a pair; but that since Christmas, 1897, there had been a fall of a halfpenny, with additional pressing and taping to be done. For ordinary "colonials," in 1897, she got 6d. a pair; for "raised seams," 7d.; but in each class there was a fall of a penny since the new year. She said that she rose early and worked late; that she had not, from Christmas to May, averaged 10s. a week; but that with much effort she had contrived to keep her rent paid up, and spent from 2s. to 2s. 6d. a week on food. Curious to know how life was kept up on such conditions, I asked her what she lived upon. "Bread and black tea," was the reply. "I have bought sixpenny worth of damaged potatoes since Christmas, half a pound of butter in four or five weeks; and when I feel very weak, I get two or three pennyworth of the cheapest meat." Such are the conditions under which lonely women drag out a sorrowful existence at our very doors.

To quote a few more cases—these perhaps more truly typical:—

A woman working with a young daughter makes about 20s. a week on colonial trousers, at 5s. and 6s. a dozen, and on "moles" at 7s.

Two sisters, making blue-cloth trousers at 10d. a pair, can make eight pairs a day, working from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. With these and tweed trousers, at 8d. a pair, they can make 25s. a week between them when in full work.

Three sisters, making so-called "order" trousers—in reality good slops—at 6s. 6d. and 7s. a dozen, never make more than 27s. a week. These women do no work on Saturday, and the work is not constant. Some weeks their earnings do not exceed 13s.

A skilled worker, making cord riding-pants at 2s. a pair, the "strapping," or double seats, machine-sewn, and the knee finished with tapes, could make two pairs a day, working continuously from 8 to 6.

In each of the last four cases there is some help received by the workers, either in the form of a house rent free or in wages earned by some member of the family working outside.

Two women sharing expenses and profits, living apart but working together in the same room, make first and second-class "order" and "stock" trousers for factories at 1s. 3d., 1s. 6d., and 2s. 6d. a pair, with 3d. extra for each hip-pocket; also order trousers for a tailor at 2s. 6d. each and 6d. extra for each hip-pocket; in the latter case the bottom of the legs of the trousers is finished by the tailor. The work is of good class, and must be well done; a pair of good order trousers will take from four to five hours to make. The two women, working for three employers, make from 25s. to £2 7s. a week between them, and estimate that they spend 3s. a week on coal, oil, and thread. One of the women is a young, deserted wife, with a child about 3 years old. She pays 12s. a week for a scantily-furnished room and board and lodging for herself and her child, and considers this very cheap, as she has had to pay as much as 16s. The second woman gets a little from her husband, from whom she appears to be separated.

An elderly woman making military trousers at from 1s. to 1s. 3d. per pair, and with all sewings found by the factory, can do from two to three pairs a day, but the work is not constant, nor is her health good, so that her weekly earnings may sometimes fall to 3s. 9d. or 4s. On the other hand, she can sometimes put by a little. Living over a small shop in a cheap neighbourhood, she can rent an unfurnished room for 3s. a week.

It is refreshing to turn from such cases as those quoted above, and to find that even now a fair living can be made in the clothing trade in a few instances, and in the case of specially-skilled tailoresses.

Two sisters, working together in their father's house, and making military jackets and trousers, can earn £3 a week without working at night. The prices they receive are 1s. 3d. to 2s. for trousers, 2s. 6d. for riding-breeches, and 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. for tunics. These women are good workers. All sewings are found for them by the factory, and button-holes, pressing, and the finishing of the bottoms of trousers are all done in the factory. This work approximates more nearly to order than to warehouse work, but unfortunately it is not constant through the year.

In estimating the gross earnings of these outworkers, it must always be borne in mind that, except in special cases such as the last two, a deduction must be made for the cost of sewings, and very often for the weekly payment on a machine bought on time-payment system, also for tram fares between the factory and the suburb. A further allowance must be made for loss of time at the factory. It is no uncommon thing for a woman to be kept standing waiting for an hour before any work is ready for her, and in answer to a meek request not to be kept waiting, is met with the reply,

Well, my dear, if you don't like to wait, you know what to do."

The complaints of the overbearing and uncivil manner in which these unfortunate women are often treated by "the man who gives out the work," in certain factories, are so general, that they must have a foundation in fact; thus one hears of a garment being thrown back across the table in the face of a woman, with a demand as to, "What she means by bringing back work done like that?"

Complaints of this kind of thing are seldom or never made to the owner of a factory, who may, perhaps, not even be aware of what goes on; but to meet with treatment such as this from a man who is a subordinate and not a principal, is to add a further humiliation to the already hard lot of a woman who is driven to seek a precarious living in the ranks of factory "outworkers."

FINES.

When the Factories and Shops Act was introduced in the Legislative Assembly it contained the following provision:—"No deduction for absence or leaving work, except to the amount of the special damage (if any) which the occupier of the factory may have sustained by reason of such absence or leaving work, shall be made from the wages of any male under 15 years of age, or any female."

During the passage of the Bill this clause was struck out. It may be instructive to point out what steps have been taken in this direction in the Mother country.

Prior to the passing of the "Truck Act of 1896," no check was placed by law on the power of an employer to inflict unlimited fines upon various pretexts, or make unlimited deductions in respect of faulty work, but by this Act it is provided that—

"No money shall be deducted from wages or payment made by the workman for or in respect of any fine, unless the terms are contained in a written contract signed by the workman, or else contained in a notice always kept in some place where it may be easily seen, read, and copied."

It is further provided that the fines shall be fair and reasonable, and be imposed only in respect of acts reasonably likely to cause injury to the employer's business. Deductions on account of material supplied must not exceed the fair value of the article supplied, the object aimed at being that employers should not charge more than cost price for the material.

These provisions are carried out under the supervision of the Factory Inspectors.

Complaints are from time to time made to the Department with regard to the fines and exactions employees are sometimes subjected to. A very frequent clause of complaint is the docking of small wages for public holidays. A girl receiving only 6s. a week may be docked at the rate of 1s. or more for a public holiday. Fines, often quite out of proportion to the salary received, are imposed for late attendance, and out-workers have to purchase thread, buttons, &c., from their employer at whatever rate he may choose to exact, though cases of abuse in this respect have not so far come under the notice of the Department. Complaints have also been made by outworkers that, frequently though promised payment at certain rates, when they bring the work back the price is, on various pretexts, cut down.

LAUNDRIES.

The outcry made by laundry-keepers at the limitation of the hours of their employees when the Act was first introduced has not during the past year been maintained with its original vigour. It is probable that this fact is to some extent due to the effect of co-operative action among the members of the trade, who in the early part of the year formed an association. Much of the evil of excessive working hours arose out of the intense competition between the various steam laundries. Several complaints of overwork have been made and inquired into, and in one case a rather daring attempt at coercion was thwarted. Girls under 16 years of age are prohibited from working in steam laundries (among other places), unless furnished with a certificate of their physical fitness for such work, and it is unlawful for an employer to work any such girl in a steam laundry without this certificate. The occupier referred to made a rule to the effect that any girl breaking the conditions of her engagement with him would forfeit her certificate, which he caused her to hand to him when entering his service. The effect of this, in the event of dismissal, would be to block the unfortunate girl from obtaining employment at any other steam laundry. This ingenious and cruel device was speedily checked.

The following table gives the average piece-rates paid to laundry hands:—

To Ironers—		
Shirts	1/4 to 3/- per dozen.	
„ (with collars attached)	1/10	„
„ (machine-ironed)	-/6	„
Collars	-/3 to -/6	„
Cuffs	-/9	„
Starched clothes	3/- to 5/-	„
Plain clothes	-/6 to 2/6	„
Skirts	3/-	„
Petticoats	2/- to 4/-	„
Dresses	4/6 to 15/-	„
Blouses	2/- to 3/-	„
Coats	1/- to 3/-	„
Coats (flannel)	4/-	„
Trousers	1/- to 3/-	„
Aprons	1/6	„
Handkerchiefs	-/2 to -/3	„
Socks	-/2 to -/3	„
Bed-linen	-/3	„
Table-cloths	1/- to 2/-	„
Table-napkins	-/2 to -/6	„

Those are prices paid for ironing alone, either by hand or by machine, and do not include the cost of washing and starching.

Washers are paid at the rate of from 3s. to 4s. per day.

Starchers are generally paid at a weekly wage.

Miss Duncan reports with regard to hand laundries:—

They are much more irregular in their manner of working than steam laundries. The latter begin and end work with the ringing of a bell at certain times, but in hand laundries the case is entirely different.

The proportion of weekly hands in a hand laundry is usually very small, and many number only one or two; sometimes even there are none, the starching and sorting work being done by the proprietor and his wife. The ironers, who are the mainstay of a hand laundry, are frequently married women, and very few are under the age of 18. They make excellent wages as shirt and collar ironers during the busy season, and have been accustomed to work when and how they pleased, with the result that although work may nominally begin at 8 a.m. they frequently do not present themselves at the laundry till 9 or 10 o'clock. As the demand for good ironers is very great, and the supply limited, these women are entirely independent of their employer, and will, if upbraided, walk off to another laundry, leaving their work undone and their employer in despair. In the middle of the day in very hot weather they are said to prefer to stop work for an hour or two and work willingly till 6-30 or 7 p.m. In the summer-time they are able to make 30s. and 40s. a week easily on piece-work, while there are a good many months in the year when their work averages three and a half to four days a week. Thus they look to the summer season for their harvest, and resent any attempt at curtailment of their time.

SHOP-HOURS.

So far as hours are concerned, only women under 18 and lads under 16 are affected by our Act. The hours of adult males and females are left untouched, so that by avoiding the employment of girls and lads under the statutory age, there is nothing so far as this Act is concerned to prevent a shopkeeper working his employeés whatever hours he pleases. Even in the case of the protected lads and girls, the provisions of the Act, with regard to overtime, are such as to make it very difficult to secure a conviction. However, notwithstanding these difficulties, the Department prosecuted successfully in a number of cases where girls were employed for excessive hours, in each case securing a substantial penalty.

Reference was made in last year's report to the case of lads employed as messengers, and in charge of goods at shop-fronts who were worked for excessive hours. In several of these cases convictions have been obtained. As an example of this class of case may be mentioned the instance of a lad aged 15 years employed in a shop for sixty-eight hours a week (irrespective of meal-hours), at a wage of 7s. per week. On five days of the week he worked from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., with two hours off for meals, and on Saturday with a like interval for meals his hours were from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. The boy, a delicate-looking, intelligent little fellow, informed me that he had no interval for play or amusement during the week. It was nearly 10 o'clock by the time he got home in the evening, and then he was only too glad to go to bed. "And what do you do on Sundays?" I asked, "Oh," he said, "sometimes I go out for a walk with father, but generally I am tired and like to lie down." After leaving this employer, whom the Department prosecuted, the lad was engaged by another in connection with a similar class of shop, but I am glad to say that by bringing pressure to bear upon the new master his hours were not only reduced to the statutory number, but so distributed as to give him certain evenings to himself. A few months later, however, I was informed of his death—a delicate constitution had given way under disease said to have been contracted through exposure and long hours. I have no doubt there are many other such cases in and about the metropolis. There is a class of shop, not only in the suburb, but in the city itself, which, left uncontrolled by law, will keep its doors open till the last chance of stray custom is exhausted. As a rule, they are in the poorest class of trade, and employ the cheapest labour, and the cheapest of all labour is that of the woman and the child. The only remedy appears to be the absolute closing of shops at a given hour. To limit the hours of employment, but to allow the shop to remain open, is to leave the way open to all sorts of evasion. Where employer and employee combine, the former through self-interest, the latter through fear of the loss of his daily bread by summary dismissal, it is impossible to secure full observance of the law. As an instance of this may be cited a case heard during the year, but in which the Department failed to secure a conviction. A lad made a clear statement to an Inspector as to the hours worked by him in a certain week, and this statement was committed to writing and signed. When the proceedings came on for hearing he was put in the witness-box and flatly contradicted his own written statement. The explanation was that he had made a mistake, believing it was the hours generally of the factory, and not his own in particular that were required. His widowed mother was called by the employer to state at what time the lad left home and returned, and incidentally to heap blessings on the employer's head for having helped her by giving her boy employment.

The Act provides that females under 18 and males under 16 years of age may not ordinarily be employed in any class of shop for a longer period than fifty-two hours in any one week, and to meet special pressure overtime is allowed to be worked for three hours on fifty-two days in the year. This section, as it stands, gives abundant latitude, but in the case of certain classes of shops, such as confectioners, fish, and oyster shops, restaurants, tobacconists, fruit, and vegetable shops, &c., these restrictions do not apply. These are known in the Department as "Second Schedule shops," and there is no doubt that the abuse of excessive hours of work exists in connection with them. The bulk of the fruit-shop trade is in the hands of Italians, and the few hands they employ are, as a rule, lads. These places are open from early morning to very nearly midnight.

Miss Duncan reports:—

A very flagrant case of long hours in a Second Schedule shop was reported a few weeks ago.

A gentle, fragile-looking girl of 17, with a pithisical family history, was employed in a small confectioner's shop. Her ordinary hours were:—

On Monday	} From 9 a.m. to 10 or 10.30 p.m. = 13 to 13½ hours.
„ Tuesday	
„ Wednesday	
„ Thursday	
„ Friday	
„ Saturday	„ 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. = 15 hours.
„ Sunday	„ 9 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. = 12½ hours.

A total of 92½ hours, including meal-times.

But even these hours were not considered to be long enough, and the girl was told that she must come at 8.30 a.m. and stay till 11 p.m., and that the shop must be kept open till 10 p.m. on Sunday; these suggestions, however, she refused to carry out, and was even able once during the course of four weeks to get an evening off from 7 o'clock; one Sunday she was so tired that she did not go to work till noon, although she had been told to go at 9 o'clock in the morning. She was first engaged at 10s. a week, but was paid irregularly, and her employer appears to have told her after a time that she could only give 8s., which the girl said, very truly, was not enough. At the end of three weeks she had received 26s. in all.

No definite arrangement existed as to meals; occasionally her employer gave her a meal. Sometimes she sent her home to get one, and on other occasions would tell her, as the afternoon went on, to run out and get something to eat; the girl was, generally speaking, alone in the shop, and could, therefore, never get away unless some one came to relieve her; thus her meals could never be counted upon, and she very often had little or nothing till she got home late at night.

The articles sold in the shop are sweets, ices, soft drinks, cigarettes, and matches; the establishment is much patronised all day by small children, and presumably by their elders at night.

When I saw the girl, after a month's work, she looked utterly worn-out, and was stated to have had a slight attack of hæmorrhage.

In spite of these facts the Department could do nothing, and I could only advise her to terminate her engagement as speedily as possible. I have no doubt that numerous cases of the same kind exist in Sydney, and I deplore the useless waste of health and strength which is involved in keeping a sweet-shop open till late at night.

The working of that portion of the Act relating to shops goes to show how very badly legislation works when it seeks to impose different hours upon different classes of persons employed and working together.

Thus, numerous instances can be quoted of breaches of the section limiting the hours of boys under 16 and girls under 18 to fifty-two weekly; and it is matter of common knowledge to the Inspectors that, rather than take the trouble to make out a time-table, and slightly dislocate the working of the shop, employers prefer to dismiss all young people, and employ only those who are of an age to work the full hours of the shop. There are many instances in which the law is being complied with; but I venture to say that in the great majority of cases no notice whatever was taken of the law until the attention of occupiers was called to its provisions by the Inspectors, and even then we have found that our warnings were disregarded for so long as the Department would tolerate it, especially in the case of boys. This fact led to several prosecutions in the course of the year, and I regret to say to several dismissals. A well-known firm employing a considerable number of girls under 18 dismissed everyone of them after a prosecution had been instituted. The same unwillingness to make a difference between the hours of boys and men has been seen in some factories; but the fact that women work at totally different operations makes it easy to apportion different hours to them. This is not the case in shops where all are, more or less, engaged in serving customers. It is evident that the more simple the provisions of the law, the easier it is to get them carried out without friction or interference with the work of the establishment, and for this reason the stopping of all work at a definite time is likely to be more effectual than an individual limitation of hours.

The ordinary hours for adults in the suburbs in boot and drapery shops are nearly as follows:—

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., with two hours for meals;
 Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.;
 Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., or 10.30 p.m., with two hours for meals,
 with either half a day off once a week, or a whole day once a fortnight—roughly speaking, from fifty-four to sixty hours a week. These are the standard hours; no doubt in sale times, or before holidays, they are exceeded.

Mr. Armitage reports:—

In several places this year I have found lads from 11 years of age upwards working sixty and seventy hours per week.

SITTING ACCOMMODATION IN SHOPS.

The provision that sitting accommodation must be furnished in the proportion of one seat for every three females employed in a shop, the use of which must be allowed by the occupier "at all reasonable times during the day, when such use would not necessarily interfere with the proper discharge by such female of her duties," is one that might be taken as an apt illustration of the proverb which states that though a horse may be led to water he cannot be made to drink. The Department can and does see that the chairs are provided; but to ensure that the shopwomen use them at all reasonable times during the day, when such use would not necessarily interfere with the proper discharge of their duties, is beyond its power. That is a matter which must rest with the employees themselves or the customers who use their services. The employee could, of course, insist on her legal right; but to do so would mean dismissal. The Inspector could procure it for her; but that officer is not always present. The customer, however, is present, and can insist on it, and it is ultimately to the customer that the employee must look for the observance of the law.

In consequence of the evasion of this provision by shopkeepers, who, when asked by the Inspector where the seats for employees were, would point to the chairs provided for customers, and remark blandly, "Any young lady is at perfect liberty to take one of these chairs behind the counter whenever she feels tired," to which the young ladies, with a lively fear of dismissal before their eyes, would murmur assent, issued at the commencement of the summer season a circular to shopkeepers employing women, which, after calling attention to the section, and requiring compliance with it, went on to say: "You will observe that the section quoted states that the 'sitting accommodation must be conveniently situated for the use of the persons for whom the same is provided.' Sitting accommodation provided elsewhere than behind the counter will not be regarded as 'conveniently situated.'"

At

At the same time it must not be inferred that a feeling of callous indifference to the health or sufferings of their employees is universally characteristic of the employer. There are employers in the metropolis who study closely the welfare and convenience of their hands, and fortunately they are, in some instances, in the ranks of the largest employers of labour. It is needless to say that employment in their service is eagerly sought, and their reward lies in having practically the pick of the labour market.

With a view to ascertaining whether any practical scheme has been evolved for ensuring the carrying out of the intention of the "sitting accommodation" provision, I have made a search through the factory laws of the different States of the American Union, and find that they contain practically the same provision as our own Act, with no more efficient means of carrying it into operation. Provision in this respect is made in seventeen of the States, and I append some extracts from the laws:—

Maryland.—It shall be the duty of all employers of females in any mercantile or manufacturing business or occupation in the city of Baltimore to provide and maintain suitable seats for the use of such female employees, and to permit the use of such seats by such employees to such an extent as may be reasonable for the preservation of their health.

Alabama.—It shall be unlawful for anyone to employ any female clerk in any store in this State without providing them with the proper accommodation for sitting down and resting, and permitting them to do so when not otherwise employed.

California.—Every person, firm, or corporation employing females in any manufacturing, mechanical, or mercantile establishment shall provide suitable seats for the use of the females so employed, and shall permit the use of such seats by them when they are not necessarily engaged in the active duties for which they are employed.

Nebraska.—It shall be the duty of every agent, proprietor, superintendent, or employer of female help in stores, offices, or schools within the State of Nebraska to provide a chair, stool, or seat for each and every such employee, upon which these female workers shall be allowed to rest when their duties will permit, or when such position does not interfere with the faithful discharge of their incumbent duties. (Note.—In this State the penalty—a fine—is made payable to "the said female worker whose health has been injured by this neglect of her employer to provide said chair, stool, or seat as required by this Act.")

REGISTRY OFFICES.

In Victoria and New Zealand the registration and regulation of "Servants Registry Offices" has been brought under the control of the Factory Inspectors, and the officers in charge of the Act report that it is working well. The Secretary to the Department of Labour and Industry, New Zealand, states that the measure "has had the effect of not only protecting a class of people formerly much imposed on, but also of raising the character of the offices, so that only the more reputable and high-class establishments have continued to exist." The Superintendent of the Labour Bureau, Sydney, has repeatedly called attention to abuses in connection with some of these offices, and urged the necessity for their registration and the enforcement of a regulated scale of fees. It is notorious that in many instances persons seeking employment through these agencies have, if fortunate enough to secure it, to pay a form of tribute from their wages to the keeper of the registry office for the privilege they have obtained. Not infrequently a desirable position is made a prize to the highest bidder.

A Bill for this purpose has been prepared, and in November last a deputation of ladies, representing the Committee of the Teachers' Central Registry, waited on the Minister, urging that the scope of the measure should be extended to include governesses and tutors' registry offices, and that its administration should come under the Factory Inspectors, and not the Police.

The object of this class of legislation is to bring the conduct of registry offices under control, and to effect this purpose it is proposed to register them, to prescribe a scale of the fees to be charged, and give the Inspectors power to examine their books, with a view to checking abuses.

ESCAPE IN THE EVENT OF FIRE.

During the year the Department entered upon the systematic inspection of all factories three or more storeys in height, in which persons were employed above the second storey, with a view to determining what means of escape in case of fire for the persons employed therein could be reasonably required under the circumstances of each case. Through the courtesy of the Fire Brigades Board the Departmental Inspector had associated with him in this work the Superintendent of Fire Brigades, whose expert advice and wide experience were invaluable. Owing to the many calls on the time of this officer the work of inspection has been intermittent, but it is hoped to conclude it in the early part of the new year. Up to the close of the year, sixty-six such factories had been visited, in 50 per cent. of which (where women were employed) outside staircases were determined to be necessary, and notice to this effect was served on the occupiers. In some cases where men only were employed it was thought quite sufficient to provide what is known as a "Jacob's ladder"—that is to say, a strong ladder, constructed with rope sides and wooden rungs, which may be fastened by staples or hooks to the window-sill as a means of exit from a building on fire.

Some details of this inspection are furnished by Inspector Armitage. In requiring adequate means for escape in the event of fire to be provided in factories of the class mentioned, local legislation follows the lead of the Mother country and the United States. The English Factory Act of 1895 in this respect cast a new and heavy responsibility on the Department charged with its administration. Up to the close of 1897 more than 100,000 factories had been inspected and reported on for this purpose. In the city of New York elaborate precautions in this respect have to be taken. Outside fire-escape stairways have to connect with each floor above the first, with landings or balconies not less than 6 feet in length and 3 feet in width, guarded by iron railings not less than 3 feet in height, and embracing at least two windows at each storey, and connecting with the interior by easily-accessible and unobstructed openings. These balconies or landings have to be connected by iron stairs, not less than 24 inches wide, the steps not to be less than 6 inches tread, placed at not more than an angle of 45 degrees slant, and protected by a well-secured hand-rail on both sides, with a 12-inch wide drop-ladder from the lower platform reaching to the ground; also stationary stairs or ladders are required to be provided on the inside from the upper storey to the roof, as a further means of escape in case of fire.

I direct special attention to Inspector Armitage's remarks with regard to the non-provision of means of escape in the event of fire in the cases of common lodging-houses, hotels, coffee palaces, &c. Precautions in these directions appear to be urgently required. Such places are beyond the jurisdiction of this Department.

Mr.

Mr. Armitage reports :—

There are in my district more than 150 factories which come under the category of being three or more storeys in height in which persons are employed above the second storey. In only three out of the number visited by the Superintendent of Fire Brigades and myself were the means of escape wholly satisfactory, one of the number being a new factory, and the other two quite recently built. With these exceptions, additional means of escape have had to be ordered in the case of every factory visited, and in some instances the outside staircases are in course of construction, in others structural difficulties impede the way.

The practice of blocking stairways with goods, &c., is to be deprecated, as offering obstruction to rapid egress, and putting an undue strain on a portion of the building not intended to bear the weight of goods. We found in several factories that the staircases were loaded with stock, and the landings were packed so as to leave only a passage-way of about 18 inches; in another factory, where females are employed, we found that half the staircase was taken up by a fixed slide used for sending bags of flour down.

A most striking example of the necessity for the enforcement of the provisions of this section of the Act was afforded at a fire which took place in a factory in George-street on the 21st of June last. In this case a number of tailors' patterns caught fire in a room on the ground-floor of the building; some men and boys employed on the higher floors, who were alarmed by the smoke coming up the staircase, were preparing to jump from the windows, when the fire brigade arrived. A fireman ran up the stairs, and pulled them into the room, and escorted them down-stairs. Women and girls employed by the same occupier in a separate building were also panic-stricken by the smoke blowing across into their work-room. Yet the occupier of this factory when visited subsequently demurred to providing adequate means of escape for his employees.

In the majority of Chinese furniture factories the men sleep over the second storey; thus they technically escape this section of the Act. In my visits to these factories the necessity for limiting the number of persons sleeping within a room has been impressed upon me.

Legislation is also urgently needed to compel hotel-keepers, restaurant and boarding-house keepers, &c., to provide sufficient means of escape for the persons using the buildings. It frequently happens that buildings erected for a totally different purpose have been converted into a network of bedrooms, and little or no consideration has been given to the means by which the occupants can escape in case of fire.

In one large building on the top storey there is a factory, the lower floors being used as a coffee palace. Here we found the rooms were subdivided into compartments by match-boarding, 7 feet high, and the space between the top of the partitions and the ceiling filled in with wire-netting. We were informed that in busy times as many as 200 people slept in this place. Were a fire to take place the firemen dealing with it would be subjected to great risk, it being considered a veritable death-trap.

In visiting factories it is a common practice for the occupier to point to a lift-well as a means of escape. This, on the face of it, is not so, as on the occasion of a fire, if it is not practicable for employees to descend by the staircase, it is certainly not safe to trust to a lift, the well-hole of which will be converted into a funnel for smoke and flames.

During a visit to New Zealand, through the courtesy of Mr. Mackay, the Chief Inspector, I was shown the various fire-escapes in the factories there. In Wellington I saw factories built before and after this section of the Act was in force in the Colony, and found that the occupiers had in both cases constructed outside staircases. At Christchurch I went over the office of the *Canterbury Times*, where the occupier had constructed an iron corridor tapping each room, with a staircase at each end. In Dunedin I found similar escapes.

I have had occasion several times during the year to direct the attention of occupiers to section 34 of the Act, in which it is laid down that doors serving as entrances or exits shall neither be locked, bolted, nor barred during working-hours.

In one case, at night, I found the outer door locked, and the door-keeper with the key in his pocket absent from the premises. It is true that somewhere in the building a second key was available, but had a fire broken out, twenty or thirty women at work on the second floor might have had a narrow escape of their lives, as the building was old, and its passages and staircases narrow.

In a boot factory the outer door serving as exit for eighty or 100 women was kept locked during working-hours; in case of a panic a terrible catastrophe would probably occur here, as the staircase leading to the door is quite unfitted to meet the demand of a sudden rush.

BAKEHOUSES.

The provisions in the Act with regard to bakehouses are exceptional, creating two classes—namely, those which rank as factories and are subject to all the provisions affecting those places, and those which, though they do not come within the category of factories, are yet, together with other bakehouses, required to observe special sanitary precautions.

In one other respect also the Act makes special provision, inasmuch as the landlord as well as the tenant of the premises occupied is held responsible for these requirements being observed.

Mr. Armitage reports :—

Improvements are being carried out in bakehouses both in the city and suburbs. In one of the largest bakehouses in the suburbs the occupier (who is also the owner) has during the year removed the stables to the adjoining allotment, and for ventilation and sanitation this place may now be regarded as a model.

In the smaller bakehouses such improvements have been made as erecting bread-rooms, flour-stores; and in the suburbs where the reticulation of the sewerage has been extended the water-closets, sinks, &c., have been, or are being, connected with the sewer. There are, however, still a few of the old bakehouses in the city in a bad state, which is difficult to remedy, they having been built without damp-proof courses, and in some cases the floors are below the level of the ground.

In one suburb there is a bakehouse where a large trade is done in pastry, &c.; the oven of this place is about 12 feet from the main building, and the space between is filled in with old packing-cases and bagging. This occupier has now undertaken to have the sides bricked in before he renews his lease, which will shortly fall in.

In another bakehouse on the city boundary a pit (which is only a few yards from the bakeroom) has been used for years as a water-closet. The municipal authorities having failed to make the occupier connect, pressure was brought to bear on him by this Department, and I am now informed by the Water and Sewerage Board that the matter is in the hands of the plumbers.

RESTAURANTS AND EATING-HOUSES.

The Department's powers with regard to the inspection of restaurants, oyster and fish, fruit and vegetable shops are very limited, and do not extend beyond seeing that certain sanitary precautions and requirements receive attention.

In the latter part of the year Inspector Taylor was detailed to visit and report upon a number of these places in the more populous parts of the city, and his report is appended hereto. In certain cases, where abuses were seen to exist which could be dealt with by the municipal authorities, though not by this Department, their attention was directed to them. It may be mentioned that the hours worked by some of the waiters and waitresses in these places are excessive, but the Department has no power to limit them.

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The places visited have been scheduled so as to show the relative proportions of good, indifferently good, and bad, as follows:—

Class of Business.	Very Good.	Good.	Fair.	Moderate.	Bad.	Total.
Restaurants	8	16	24	24	9	81
Grill-rooms			6	4	3	13
Tea, coffee, and light refreshment	4	14	15	1	1	35
Confectionery	2	4	2	1		9
Fruit and vegetables	3	11	19	4	4	41
Oysters and fish	5	7	12	6	3	33
Poultry		2	3		1	6
Ham and beef	3	5	3			11
Lodging-houses				2	2	4
Total.....						233

In making this inquiry the Inspector had an opportunity of seeing the condition of a number of cheap lodging-places and "doss-houses" in the lower parts of the city. With regard to these places the Department has, of course, no control, but the condition of things reported to me by the Inspector as existing suggests that some steps should be taken to exercise proper supervision over them.

In England the matter is left in the hands of the sanitary authorities in connection with the local governing bodies, to whom power is given to register, inspect, examine, and regulate. For example, bye-laws are made—

- (a) Fixing the number of persons who may be received in proportion to the accommodation provided.
- (b) Providing that all rooms, stairs, and passages be cleaned up before 10 a.m.; the yards, courts, and spaces to be kept clean, and all filth removed.
- (c) That all window-frames and painted surfaces be cleaned.
- (d) That the beds be kept in a clean state, and basins and clean towels be supplied.
- (e) That no bed be used till vacated eight hours by the previous occupant.
- (f) That the ventilation be good; all windows to be open for one hour daily; sufficient sanitary conveniences to be provided, &c., &c.

The urgent need for some provision being made compelling the occupiers of hotels and lodging-houses to provide for their inmates adequate means of escape in the case of fire is referred to elsewhere.

Mr. Taylor reports:—

Acting under your instructions, in September last I visited a number of the restaurants, oyster and fish, fruit and vegetable shops, &c., in the city proper.

The premises comprised in my inspection were situated in Elizabeth, Castlereagh, Pitt, George, Clarence, Kent, Sussex, Goulburn, Liverpool, Bathurst, Park, Market, King, Hunter, Erskine, and Oxford Streets. The number of places visited was 233, and may be classed as follows:—

Restaurants	81
Grill-rooms	13
Tea, coffee, and pastry	35
Confectionery	9
Fruit and vegetables	41
Oyster and fish	33
Poultry	6
Ham and beef	11
Lodgings only	4
Total.....	233

Of the restaurants there are several classes, viz.:—

1. Restaurants for supply of meals only.
2. Restaurants with permanent boarders.
3. Restaurants with both permanent and casual boarders.

Taking these businesses—for the purpose of classification—according to rates charged at each, I may give nine three-penny, fifteen four-penny, thirty-eight six-penny, four nine-penny, and fifteen shilling establishments as those embraced in my report; still I do not think this sub-division necessary, as the locality of premises and personnel of proprietary have more to do with the condition of premises than the amount charged for meals.

Placing cleanliness as the principal feature, and taking the highest order of merit as "Very Good," and by degree thence to bad, the numbers under each heading are as follows:—

Very good	8
Good	16
Fair only	24
Moderate	24
Bad	9

Those under "Very Good" are in about the best possible condition.

Those classed as "Good" are kept in good order, lime-wash freely used and floors kept clean, and cooking, &c., clean; but structural conditions capable of improvement, such as ventilation, position of sinks, water-closets, &c.

Those shown as "Fair" are in that condition with regard to lime-washing and the cleaning of floors, but the condition of the cooking apparatus is not satisfactory; neither is the mode of dishing and serving meals desirable. The storage accommodation for meat and vegetables is likewise bad.

Those classed as "Moderate" are those where lime-wash has been very sparingly used, and where sinks—although trapping is good—are not kept in good order. Again in these cases, pig and refuse boxes, &c., are kept inside the kitchen; and more, the structural conditions admit of considerable improvement in matters of cleanliness.

Those classed as "Bad" are those where the occupiers are obviously regardless of any attempt at cleanliness, and where the buildings are undoubtedly unsuitable for this class of trade.

One of the greatest evils—from a structural standpoint—to be met with in restaurants is the insufficiency of ventilation.

Efforts have been made in some instances to provide ventilation for the dining-rooms by artificial means, such as pun-kahs, electric fans, &c.; but these, although of great assistance, are not wholly satisfactory, and, again, are only to be met with in those places where the better class of trade is done. But by far the greater number are dependent on the ordinary doors

doors and windows for ventilation, which, by themselves, are far from ample. This applies especially in the lower-grade tenements, where the dining-rooms, in consequence of insufficiency of room, are at meal-hours inconveniently and unhealthily crowded. Again, when the business is carried on in basements, or in premises where the natural light can only be obtained through the front doors and windows, artificial light has to be resorted to, and the density of the atmosphere is thereby considerably increased.

Although, as before stated, there is much room for improvement in ventilation arrangements, yet in almost the whole of the higher-price restaurants the kitchens are kept in very good order, they being lime-washed frequently, and floors and drains well-washed down both with hot and cold water.

The chief complaints, I may mention, against those, which, for cleanliness, have been classed "Good," are on account of structural defects. The following may serve as instances:—In one case, where about 1,000 meals are served daily, and about twelve persons are employed in the kitchen and scullery, the premises are kept well lime-washed, the sinks are clean and sweet, and the floors well-washed down, and everything satisfactory. On the other hand, it must be stated that a double water-closet is almost in the centre of the kitchen, and in its present position ventilation in a perfect manner is practically impossible.

In another case—a very large place—the kitchen accommodation is totally inadequate for the requirements of the business; portion of the cooking has to be done in the yard (under cover).

In another case, where there is actually no yard, one room serves as kitchen, scullery, &c.—waste-boxes and pig-stuff being kept there, no other place being available.

With regard to these places, although effort is made by proprietors to keep up the demands of cleanliness, a desirable condition of things cannot be expected, owing to the inadaptability of the premises for the business therein carried on. Improvements undoubtedly could be effected, but tenants generally are unwilling to incur the expense attendant on suitable alterations.

These remarks apply to class "Fair," although these latter premises are not so frequently lime-washed.

But with regard to those classed as "Moderate" and "Bad," the subjoined illustrations will give a better idea of how business is carried on:—

- (a) Sixpenny restaurant, preparing about 250 meals daily, with accommodation of 40 beds. Here the ground floor is used for restaurant; the front portion, about 40 ft. x 20 ft., is partitioned off and used as a dining-room, while the balance—about 60 ft. x 40 ft.—serves as store-room, pantry, kitchen, scullery, and yard, &c. In it are soiled clothes, luggage, sailors' trappings, meat safe, groceries, vegetables, wood, and coal, and also the stove and cooking range. Two dogs also find accommodation inside the room. The floor is very much out of repair, being earth-bare in many places, and the walls generally much in need of lime-washing.
- (b) Fourpenny restaurant, averaging 300 meals daily. The kitchen is about 12 ft. x 10 ft., and immediately over a dirty cellar or basement—sinks and piping leaking and out of repair. The floor of the kitchen is old, and, the boards having shrunk, the smell through the crevices is of an extremely foul kind. The basement is in three parts. In one—at time of inspection—was a quantity of potatoes and onions, undoubtedly bad, and giving off a nauseous smell. The second portion—about 12 ft. x 12 ft.—used as a sleeping apartment, contained four beds in a filthy state, one of which a man was occupying at time of visit. In the third portion are two water-closets, also an improvised bath-room into which the sink from the kitchen above was leaking. Further pipings from above emptied into the lower sink, giving off a foul smell. Here also the meat was kept, some in a safe and some hanging. This place was in a very bad state.
- (c) Fourpenny restaurant, averaging 200 meals daily. The kitchen is small and in a very dirty state, with the sinks out of repair, the bricks and cement in such a state that the washings and waste, instead of entering the sink, float around and soak under the flooring. The pantry and scullery were in the yard, and in quite an insanitary condition as the kitchen. Some of the vegetables were lying on the ground, some in a dirty box, whilst the cooked joints and pieces which had been partly used and left over from previous meals were piled on a dirty table in the yard.
- (d) Threepenny restaurant, averaging 100 meals daily. The kitchen is about 10 ft. x 10 ft., with ceiling only about 7 feet high. Unventilated, and very dark.
- (e) Threepenny restaurant, averaging 500 meals daily. The kitchen is about 16 ft. x 10 ft.; the floor slopes down from the stove, in front of which about 3 feet is bricked, the remaining portion (boarded) being very much out of repair and decidedly dirty. The store-room in which the groceries are kept is also used as a bedroom. At the side of the kitchen is the yard—covered in and flagged, but the flags are broken and worn. The sink is out of repair, and the washings from the scullery, &c., consequently lie about the yard.

I may remark here that, in my opinion, a great help to the ventilation and cleanliness of the kitchens would be the provision of a hood with flue properly placed over stoves and ranges to carry off the surface heat and greasy smoke which of necessity arises where cooking is carried on to such an extent. Certainly in a number of instances these hoods are to be found in the kitchens, but in the majority they are conspicuous by their absence. Another advantage would be the flooring of kitchens with brick, and then floating with cement, or concreted, so that the floors could be easily washed and cleaned. I am convinced of this, as I find that, as a rule, all boarded floors are only swept, and dirt, &c., accumulates under the tables and benches, whilst fluid matter soaks into the boards, or between the crevices, and under the flooring.

The sculleries and yards should also be concreted or asphalted to allow of their being properly flushed down and cleaned.

Proper safes in which the meat is to be kept, and bins or shelves, for vegetables, should also be provided.

In a few cases I have spoken to the landlord re the structural alterations, and have been met very fairly, but in most cases the occupiers are leaseholders, and complain that as things are now cut so fine and business not too brisk, they would be able to do very little in the way of expenditure. My instructions, therefore, have been chiefly in the direction of lime-washing, repairs to sinks, pipings, scrubbing, and washing down floors and benches, and matters of slight alteration.

In all cases I have—consistent with my duties—advised the alterations and improvements obviously necessary to place these businesses in a degree consonant with hygiene and habitation, but in consequence of the disability under which occupiers suffer due to severe competition and the knowledge of the temporary character of their tenure, tenants seem totally disinclined except rigidly forced to make any improvements involving additional outlay.

High-priced restaurants excepted, almost the whole of the remaining houses supply lodgings at rates varying from 1s. to 6d. per night. Places charging the comparatively higher rate of 1s. may be said to supply fairly decent accommodation, and although in some instances the beds and bedding were not in good order, yet on the whole, however, the beds and bedding inspected were as clean, &c., as could be expected in houses of the description referred to.

While the houses charging the higher rate may be said generally to afford fairly decent accommodation, the beds and bedding provided at the lower-rate places, in some cases was far from clean, and in a few instances absolutely filthy.

In a lesser degree much the same applies to grill-rooms as to restaurants.

Under the heading of tea, coffee, and light refreshments and confectionery are classed those places where no cooking whatever is done, the pastry, &c., being supplied by bakehouses and pastry cooks.

As a rule there are only two rooms the shop itself and the room for customers. Only in three places out of forty-four visited were there evidences of want of cleanliness by proprietors.

With regard to fruit and vegetable shops. The proprietors are chiefly Italians or Greeks, and have the shop only. The whole of the stock is kept in the shop exposed for sale, and for the sake of their trade, proprietors keep their shops fairly clean, and the bad fruit, &c., is removed every day. In two or three instances I found some bad fruit put aside in a box, and asked the proprietor what he intended to do with it, and have been informed that children come in and buy it as they do stale pastry from the pastry-shops. In a few instances—and in these cases vegetables seemed to be the chief trade—I found that the proprietors evinced not the slightest concern as to the position, mode, or manner of storing stock. I need hardly mention I severely reprimanded these openly careless people.

In a few instances the appointments of oyster and fish shops inspected bore evidence as regards to detail and thorough cleanliness, although it must be stated that some of the premises were not exactly suitable.

On the other hand, while the majority had paid attention to the front portion or shop where actual business is carried on, there were many cases where not sufficient cleansing had been effected in the kitchens and rooms where fish, &c., are cooked. I need hardly state that full instructions were given by me in these cases as to thorough lime-washing, scrubbing, &c.

The

The section marked poultry presents many peculiarities to an Inspector, as considerable difference exists among poulterers as to the method of keeping, killing, cleaning, and preserving their stock.

Notwithstanding this, I am pleased to state that with one exception, which appears under the heading of bad, those engaged in the business may be said to look well after their premises and adopt general means for keeping stock clean and sweet and houses free from dirt and refuse inseparable to the business.

The one case bad is placed in that class because of the flagrant manner in which the coops and walls of the place in which fowls run loose is neglected. Instructions were given as to lime-washing and scrubbing, repairing coops, &c., proprietor promising immediate attention.

The ham and beef shops in the city are in very good condition, being, as a rule, shops only. In only one or two instances are the meats, &c., cooked on the premises, and in these cases the boilers, coppers, and yards generally are very clean.

CHINESE.

As stated in the first Annual Report, considerable difficulty has been experienced in conveying the provisions of the Act to the minds of Chinese residents. When the Act first came into force an abstract of it was translated into the Chinese language and distributed through various sources. It was also issued as a supplement to the Chinese newspaper, but notwithstanding these efforts, the Inspectors, when they visited the Chinese quarters, were met with smiling protestations of complete ignorance of the existence of any such legislation. In July last it was resolved to issue a notice which should be characterised by simplicity of diction and clearness of instruction. The services of a translator were accordingly enlisted, and the essential requirements of the Act put in simple terms into about twenty lines of Chinese characters.

As women and lads are not, as a rule, employed by Chinese, the principal sections affecting them are those relating to sanitation.

There are about some forty-five to fifty Chinese cabinet-makers' places in the city, some of the proprietors employing a considerable number of hands, the largest employer known to the Department having nearly thirty men in his shops. The Chinese laundry is slowly pushing its way into competition with the European establishments. At present, however, it has not reached the proportions of an opponent to be counted with. There are about a dozen of these hand laundries scattered throughout Sydney, none of them, however, employing more than a few hands.

The effect of recent legislation will, no doubt, be to check the influx of alien labour into the Colony, and it is improbable the question of Chinese and other Eastern labour will ever in these Colonies reach the acute stage it has in the United States, notably in California, where it has practically driven women out of domestic service, laundry work, and industries such as the manufacture of cigars. It may in passing be of interest to note a curious system of what might be termed "statutory boycott" which exists in that State. The law forbids any corporation to employ Chinese, and goes on to say, "No Chinese shall be employed in any State, County, Municipal, or other public work, except in punishment for crime." Also it is provided that the product of Chinese labour must not be bought by State officials. In the State of Nevada it is somewhat similarly enacted that "No right or charter for the construction of any public work or railroad shall be granted unless on the express condition that Chinese shall not be employed on or about the construction of the work in any capacity."

The following is a table of the average piece-rates paid by Chinese cabinet-makers in Sydney:—

Washstands	1/4	to	10/6	each.
" marble-top	5/-	"	15/-	"
Dressing-tables	1/10, 1/-	"	23/-	"
Dining	1/3, 2/6	"	45/-	"
Office	13/6	"	27/-	"
Kitchen	1/6	"	6/-	"
" dressers	8/-	"	12/-	"
Safes	2/6	"	7/6	"
Chests of drawers	5/-	"	35/-	"
Side-boards	11/-	"	£5	"
Wardrobes	12/-	"	£5	"
Book-cases	18/-	"	£3	"
Chiffoniers	8/6	"	16/-	"
Hall stands	10/-	"	50/-	"
Dinner waggons	5/-	"	26/-	"

Mr. Taylor reports:—

The portion of the Act which has been chiefly brought to bear upon the Chinese is that which deals with sanitary conditions. For a considerable time great difficulty was experienced in enforcing its provisions in factories and shops occupied by these individuals.

The first trouble met with was gaining admittance. An Inspector was told that the "boss" had gone out, or he would not be allowed through till the boss came, but mostly, in reply to any question that may be put, no matter how much time was spent in trying to explain and make the questions clear, he would get for answer, "No savee." On visiting one of these places it was deemed necessary to effect admittance to call in the aid of a constable. The uniform was a perfect open sesame, and the Chinamen from all around, numbering fully 100, flocked to see what was the matter. The "boss" then came forward, and though he had previously answered "No savee" to everything I said, it was found he could speak English fluently. I then went over the premises with him, followed by about twenty others. I gave instructions to make a few alterations, to lime-wash and scrub the floors and wash down the yard, all of which he promised to do.

Before leaving I told him that I intended to visit every Chinese place in the city, and not wishing to take a policeman with me, I asked him to give me a short letter in Chinese, stating who I was, and the purpose of my visit, so that I would not be again obstructed. He wrote about half a dozen characters in Chinese on a piece of paper, and gave it me, and on the many occasions I have used it, it has served admirably. I did not need it in that part of the city for some time, for after the first scene I was expected and known, and in every place I visited during the next two or three hours I found the men scrubbing and washing down the floors or yard.

After getting the people to understand what was required of them, the next difficulty was to have the instructions carried out. In some of the larger places the premises were in as cleanly a condition as could be expected considering the habits and customs of the Chinese, but these cases were few and far between, and only to be met with in factories where the buildings were in good order.

By far the greater majority of factories occupied by Chinese are old dilapidated buildings, which are patched and partitioned by the occupiers to suit requirements. All hands board and lodge on the premises. The apartments set apart for sleeping accommodation are, as a rule, partitioned off one end of the work-room. The beds are crowded together; as many as possible are put in the rooms, and in a factory of about thirty hands not more than two rooms would be provided.

The kitchen, scullery, and dining-room are generally all in one. The fire-places are always open, and the greasy smoke, consequent upon the peculiar mode of cooking, and the absence of hoods and flues to fire-places, permeates the whole building.

building and blackens the walls and ceilings to such an extent that in some cases but little difference is noticeable even after three coats of lime-wash. In some instances the landlords have been waited on by the Inspector and asked to make some very necessary alterations, but only in a few instances have such interviews been attended with good results.

On the Botany Road is a small Chinese township. The buildings fronting the road are in some instances fair, a few even good. In a paddock at the end of a short lane there are numerous tenements which it is almost impossible to describe. The nearest definition would be huts built of split palings, bark, old cases, and case linings. They are in terraces of from ten to twenty. A few have gone in for the luxury of a boarded floor, but the majority are content with mother earth.

In many of these places I found two or three, or perhaps more, Chinamen engaged either in making furniture, or polishing, or wood-carving; some are at work on their own account, but the majority are piece-workers for large factories.

PROSECUTIONS.

The first year under the Factories and Shops Act was not marked by many prosecutions; but as the provisions of the measure became more familiar to the occupiers of factories the Department felt called upon to demand a closer compliance with their requirements. Last year thirteen persons were prosecuted in a total of forty-one cases, in all of which, with the exception of one case, which was dismissed on the ground of insufficient proof, convictions were obtained. In one case a technical objection was raised on the information, and the Magistrate, holding it to be fatal, dismissed the case. A case being then stated for the Supreme Court, the matter was remitted to the Magistrate, who, after hearing the evidence, convicted the defendant.

It will be seen from the following table that the majority of the cases have been taken under section 37, which limits the hours of lads under 16 and women to forty-eight per week, and provides that all overtime shall be paid for at the rate of time and a half:—

BREACHES of certain clauses of the Factories and Shops Act in connection with which legal proceedings have been instituted.

Date.	Section 5.	Section 7.	Section 12.	Section 18.	Section 28.	Section 33.	Section 36.	Section 37.	Section 39.	Section 43.	Totals.
January
February
March	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
April
May	3	.....	.....	.....	3
June	1	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	3
July	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	14
August
September	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....	3
October	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16	.....	.....	17
November
December
	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	21	1	10	41

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

T. B. CLEGG,

Clerk-in-charge.

APPENDICES.

TABLE I.

Factories registered, in numerical order.

Class of Factory.	Number of Factories in which the number of hands employed are—														Total.
	Under 4.	4 and under 10.	10 and under 20.	20 and under 30.	30 and under 40.	40 and under 60.	60 and under 80.	80 and under 100.	100 and under 150.	150 and under 200.	200 and under 300.	300 and under 400.	400 and under 500.	500 and over.	
I. Treating Raw Material, the product of Pastoral Pursuits	20	31	16	6	...	2	3	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	82
II. Connected with Food and Drink, or preparation thereof	76	111	53	17	7	10	5	4	3	1	1	1	1	...	290
III. Clothing and Textile Fabrics	52	176	79	32	12	20	10	7	9	2	4	2	...	...	405
IV. Building Materials	17	38	24	12	9	9	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
V. Metal Works, Machinery, &c.	32	91	41	16	7	6	3	5	2	1	1	1	...	...	206
VI. Ship-building, Repairing, &c.	4	0	7	3	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	26
VII. Furniture, Bedding, &c.	22	36	24	12	2	3	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	101
VIII. Books, Paper, Printing, &c.	15	38	23	11	5	10	3	2	3	1	1	...	...	...	112
IX. Vehicles, Saddlery, Harness, &c.	18	62	28	5	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
X. Light, Fuel, and Heat	19	15	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	40
XI. Miscellaneous	63	147	63	25	3	10	4	4	...	2	...	...	...	...	321
Total	338	754	360	140	47	73	29	28	19	9	8	4	1	2	1,812

TABLE II.

Hours of Work.

Class of Factory.	Hours of working per week in Factories.													All Factories.	
	40	44	48	50	51	52	53	54	50	60	63	66	72	No.	Average hours of working.
I. Treating Raw Material (the product of pastoral pursuits)—															
Glue, oil, and grease		1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	48
Manures		...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	...	...	...	6	56
Tallow refineries		...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	4	56
Tanneries		...	19	11	5	3	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	43	50
Woolwashing, scouring, &c.		1	5	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	1	12	54
II. Connected with Food and Drink (or preparation thereof)—															
Aerated waters		...	5	...	...	1	1	2	5	10	1	...	1	26	56
Bacon and meat curing, &c.		...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	50
Bottling (wines, spirits, beer, &c.)		...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	48
Bread, biscuits, and pastry, &c.	
Breweries		...	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	48
Condiments		2	6	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	48
Confectionery		1	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	13	48
Corn-flour		...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	48
Flour-mills and self-raising flour		...	8	4	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	16	50
Ice and refrigerating		...	2	2	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	8	54
Jam and fruit canning		...	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	49
Meat-preserving		...	1	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	6	53
Sugar-mills and refining		...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	48
Small goods, butchers		1	...	...	3	3	...	5	4	16	64
Tea blending and packing		7	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	46
Vinegar		...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	49
III. Clothing and Textile Fabrics—															
Boots and Shoes		...	26	38	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	67	49
Clothing, slops		48
orders, tailoring		10	38	6	...	4	...	4	...	1	1	...	...	73	48
Dressmaking and millinery	
Furriers		...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	48
Hats and caps		...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	49
Oilskin and water-proof clothing		48
Shirtmaking		48
White-work, underclothing, and sewing		48
Woollen cloth		1	...	...	...	...	...	1	54

Class of Factory.	Hours of working per week in Factories.														All Factories.	
	40	44	48	50	51	52	63	54	58	60	63	66	72	No.	Average Hours of working.	
IV. Building Materials—																
Asphalt			1											1	48	
Bricks			3	1				3	8					15	54	
Joinery and carpentry			18		2				1					21	48	
Marble and monumental masonry		1	9											10	48	
Modelling and pattern-making			1											1	48	
Pottery and earthenware			5	1	1			1						8	48	
Saw-mills		1	8	3				3						15	49	
Stone-crushing			1											1	48	
Stone dressing and polishing			3											3	48	
Timber merchants and builders			9	1										10	48	
Wood turning and carving			6	1										7	48	
V. Metal Works, Machinery, &c.—																
Agricultural implements, &c.			1	1										2	49	
Blacksmithing, Farriers, &c.			12	2		2			1					17	49	
Boiler-making																
Brass works		1	72											73	48	
Copper-smithing																
Engineering, iron-works, and foundries																
Galvanised iron works			7											7	48	
Gas and water meters			2											2	48	
Plumbers and gasfitters		1	27	1										29	48	
Railway springs			1											1	48	
Smelting			1						1					2	52	
Stoves, ovens, &c.			5											5	48	
Tinsmithing			11	1		1								13	48	
Wire-working			2	2			1							5	50	
Zinc—ornamental			3											3	48	
VI. Ship-building, repairing, &c.—																
Docks and slips, ship and boat building		2	14					1						17	48	
Sails, tarpaulins, tents, &c.			8	2		1								11	48	
VII. Furniture, bedding, &c.—																
Bamboo and wicker-work			4	1										5	48	
Bedding, flock, upholstery, &c.			5	3										8	48	
Furniture			14	3		1	1							19	49	
Picture frames				2			1							3	51	
Window blinds, venetians, &c.				2										2	50	
Wire mattresses			5											5	48	
Iron bedsteads			1											1	48	
Furniture—Chinese			6			1		10	1	10		1	2	31	56	
Hair-curling				1										1	50	
VIII. Books, paper, printing, &c.—																
Electrotyping and stereotyping, &c.			2											2	48	
Paper bags, boxes, &c.			5	1										6	48	
Paper												1	1	2	69	
Printing and bookbinding		9	60	2		2								73	48	
Printing materials, &c.			2	1										3	48	
IX. Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c.—																
Coaches and waggons		1	32	2	2	3	3	2	1					46	49	
Saddlery, saddle-trees, whips, &c.			4	8	4	3			1					20	50	
Cycle building and repairing				2										7	48	
Wheelwright's materials			3							1				4	50	
X. Light, fuel, and heat—																
Electric lighting																
Gas																
XI. Miscellaneous—																
Brooms and brushes		1	3	1										5	48	
Chemicals, drugs, patent medicines, &c.		2	3	5		1								11	46	
Cooperage			1	8										9	48	
Glass, including bottles			1	4										5	48	
Glass, ornamental			4	1				1						6	49	
Jewellery		6	12	1										19	47	
Laundries																
Painters and signwriters			8											8	48	
Photo. engraving and photo. materials, &c.		10	7											17	46	
Rope and fishing lines			1	1		1		1	1					5	52	
Sewing machines, pianos, &c.			1											1	48	
Soap, soda, soap extract, candles, &c.			6		1		1	2	1					11	51	
Tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes		1	3	3										7	49	

* Some 6 days, some 7 days, in 8-hour shifts.

TABLE III.
Classification of Factories and Employees.

Class of Factory.	Number of Factories on Register.	Hands employed.								
		Under 16 years.		Over 16 years and under 18 years.		Over 18 years.		Total.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
I. Treating Raw Material, the product of Pastoral Pursuits	82	28	.....	93	.....	1,300	1	1,421	1	1,422
II. Connected with Food and Drink, or preparation thereof	290	204	36	527	189	3,510	431	4,241	656	4,897
III. Clothing and Textile Fabrics	405	271	417	482	1,183	2,900	3,430	3,653	5,030	8,683
IV. Building Materials	113	49	.....	125	.....	1,504	.....	1,678	.....	1,678
V. Metal Works, Machinery, &c.	206	138	.....	473	.....	3,162	.....	3,773	.....	3,773
VI. Ship-building, Repairing, &c.	26	23	.....	65	9	1,084	20	1,172	29	1,201
VII. Furniture, Bedding, &c.	101	59	8	103	19	1,084	94	1,246	121	1,367
VIII. Books, Paper, Printing, &c.	112	113	19	278	133	1,611	411	2,002	563	2,565
IX. Vehicles, Saddlery, Harness, &c.	116	33	.....	121	2	852	7	1,016	9	1,025
X. Light, Fuel, and Heat	40	5	.....	17	.....	894	.....	916	.....	916
XI. Miscellaneous	321	139	45	420	174	2,109	1,203	2,668	1,422	4,090
Total	1,812	1,062	525	2,714	1,709	20,010	5,597	23,786	7,831	31,617
I. Treating Raw Material the Product of Pastoral Pursuits—										
Glue, oil, and grease	5	3	.....	8	.....	103	1	114	1	115
Manures	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	.....	14	.....	14
Tallow refineries	7	.....	.....	3	.....	66	.....	69	.....	69
Tanneries	55	9	.....	48	.....	427	.....	484	.....	484
Wool washing and scouring	12	16	.....	34	.....	690	.....	740	.....	740
Total	82	28	.....	93	.....	1,300	1	1,421	1	1,422
II. Connected with Food and Drink or preparation thereof—										
Aerated waters	35	9	.....	41	1	323	14	373	15	388
Bacon and meat curing, &c.	4	1	.....	1	.....	15	.....	17	.....	17
Biscuits	7	6	2	55	13	89	65	150	80	230
Bread and pastry	120	2	1	38	6	631	22	671	29	700
Breweries	9	22	.....	33	.....	440	.....	495	.....	495
Butterine and margarine	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2	.....	2
Condiments	20	36	14	60	79	237	103	333	286	619
Confectionery	15	40	14	68	67	155	67	263	148	411
Corn flour	2	.....	.....	10	.....	11	5	21	5	26
Flour-mills and self-raising flour	12	3	.....	14	3	161	9	178	12	190
Ice and refrigerating	8	1	.....	2	.....	255	.....	258	.....	258
Jam and fruit canning	8	20	1	90	7	163	20	273	28	301
Meat preserving	8	55	.....	64	.....	452	1	571	1	572
Sugar mills and refineries	1	.....	.....	12	.....	379	.....	391	.....	391
Small goods—butchers'	22	.....	.....	4	.....	97	.....	101	.....	101
Tea blending and packing	13	9	4	32	13	82	33	123	50	173
Vinegar	2	.....	.....	3	.....	7	1	10	1	11
Wines, Spirits, Beer—Bottling	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	1	11	1	12
Total	290	204	36	527	189	3,510	431	4,241	656	4,897
III. Clothing and Textile Fabrics—										
Boots and shoes	81	169	131	262	236	1,723	454	2,159	821	2,980
Clothing—slops	37	55	81	147	346	417	826	619	1,253	1,872
orders, tailoring	110	30	32	52	101	632	654	714	787	1,501
Dressmaking and millinery	146	1	147	1	420	10	1,075	12	1,642	1,654
Furriers	2	1	.....	2	.....	9	6	12	6	18
Hats and caps	5	3	3	5	17	22	66	30	85	116
Oilskin and waterproof clothing	2	1	8	4	16	32	49	37	73	110
Shirtmaking	4	.....	2	1	.....	1	21	2	23	25
White work—underclothing and sewing	16	3	13	1	44	11	243	15	300	315
Woollen—cloth	2	8	.....	7	3	38	36	53	39	92
Total	405	271	417	482	1,183	2,900	3,430	3,653	5,030	8,683
IV. Building Materials—										
Asphalt	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	.....	11	.....	11
Bricks	21	3	.....	23	.....	603	.....	629	.....	629
Joinery, &c.	33	8	.....	24	.....	266	.....	298	.....	298
Marble and plaster works	8	4	.....	9	.....	90	.....	103	.....	103
Monumental masonry	6	1	.....	2	.....	36	.....	39	.....	39
Pottery and earthenware	7	22	.....	31	.....	160	.....	213	.....	213
Saw-mills	17	4	.....	18	.....	189	.....	211	.....	211
Stone-crushing	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	.....	7	.....	7
Stone-dressing and polishing	2	.....	.....	3	.....	20	.....	23	.....	23
Timber merchants, builders, &c.	4	.....	.....	6	.....	91	.....	97	.....	97
Wood-turning and carving	13	7	.....	9	.....	31	.....	47	.....	47
Total	113	49	.....	125	.....	1,504	.....	1,678	.....	1,678

Class of Factory.	Number of Factories on Register.	Hands Employed.								
		Under 16 years.		Over 16 years and under 18 years.		Over 18 years.		Total.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
V. Metal Works, Machinery, &c.—										
Agricultural implements	3	1	.....	1	.....	98	.....	100	.....	100
Blacksmithing	8	5	.....	30	.....	210	.....	245	.....	245
" farriers, &c.....	21	3	.....	6	.....	88	.....	97	.....	97
Boilermaking	4	.....	.....	3	.....	55	.....	58	.....	58
Brass works.....	9	5	.....	24	.....	68	.....	97	.....	97
Copper-smithing	3	2	.....	2	.....	30	.....	34	.....	34
Engineering	47	60	.....	160	.....	1,281	.....	1,501	.....	1,501
Galvanised iron works	10	6	.....	27	.....	151	.....	184	.....	184
Gas and water meters.....	4	4	.....	10	.....	41	.....	55	.....	55
Iron works and foundries	21	13	.....	35	.....	444	.....	492	.....	492
Lead mills and works	2	6	.....	15	.....	48	.....	69	.....	69
Ore-treating works, smelting, &c.	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	33	.....	33	.....	33
Plumbers, gas-fitters, &c.	36	7	.....	49	.....	188	.....	244	.....	244
Railway springs	1	.....	.....	1	.....	14	.....	15	.....	15
Scale-makers and adjusters	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	5	.....	5
Stoves, ovens, &c.	10	1	.....	14	.....	60	.....	75	.....	75
Tin-smithing	16	24	.....	49	.....	115	.....	188	.....	188
Wire-working	4	.....	.....	30	.....	164	.....	194	.....	194
Zinc—Ornamental	4	1	.....	17	.....	69	.....	87	.....	87
Total	206	138	.....	473	.....	3,162	.....	3,773	.....	3,773
VI. Ship-building, Repairing, &c.—										
Docks and slips	4	19	.....	49	.....	924	.....	992	.....	992
Sails, tarpaulins, tents, &c.	10	4	.....	6	9	62	20	72	29	101
Ship and boat building and repairing	12	.....	.....	10	.....	98	.....	108	.....	108
Total	26	23	.....	65	9	1,084	20	1,172	29	1,201
VII. Furniture, Bedding, &c.										
Bamboo and wicker work	8	18	.....	20	.....	40	.....	78	.....	78
Bedding, flock, upholstery, &c.	15	7	5	22	11	118	48	147	64	211
Carpet-sowing, &c.	2	1	3	.....	3	.....	32	12	38	50
Furniture	16	18	.....	34	2	348	4	400	6	406
Furniture (Chinese)	45	.....	.....	1	.....	430	.....	431	.....	431
Hair curling.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	2	.....	3	.....	3
Iron bedsteads.....	1	.....	.....	8	.....	45	.....	53	.....	53
Picture frames.....	3	4	.....	3	3	25	8	32	11	43
Window blinds, venetians, &c.	4	2	.....	2	.....	21	2	25	2	27
Wire mattresses	6	9	.....	12	.....	44	.....	65	.....	65
Total	101	59	8	103	19	1,084	94	1,246	121	1,367
VIII. Books, Paper, Printing, &c.—										
Electrotyping and Stereotyping, &c.	2	2	.....	1	.....	5	.....	8	.....	8
Paper.....	4	3	2	7	1	78	23	88	26	114
Paper bags, boxes, &c., &c.	9	7	4	8	35	17	78	32	117	149
Printing and Bookbinding	94	98	13	255	97	1,484	310	1,837	420	2,257
Printing materials, &c.	3	3	.....	7	.....	27	.....	37	.....	37
Total	112	113	19	278	133	1,611	411	2,002	563	2,565
IX. Vehicles, Saddlery, and Harness—										
Coaches and Waggon's	75	13	.....	76	.....	523	.....	612	.....	612
Cycle building and repairing	10	3	.....	13	.....	63	.....	79	.....	79
Saddlery, saddle-trees, whips, &c.	26	17	.....	37	2	241	7	295	9	304
Wheelwrights' material.....	5	.....	.....	5	.....	25	.....	30	.....	30
Total	116	33	.....	131	2	852	7	1,016	9	1,025
X. Light, Fuel, and Heat—										
Electric lighting	21	2	.....	12	.....	86	.....	100	.....	100
Gas.....	4	2	.....	1	.....	747	.....	750	.....	750
Wood and coal	15	1	.....	4	.....	61	.....	66	.....	66
Total	40	5	.....	17	.....	894	.....	916	.....	916
XI. Miscellaneous—										
Baskets, wickerware, mats, &c.	6	8	.....	16	.....	32	.....	56	.....	56
Billiard tables	2	2	.....	1	.....	12	.....	15	.....	15
Boxes and packing cases	5	.....	.....	13	.....	78	.....	91	.....	91
Brooms and brushes	9	5	.....	14	.....	75	6	94	6	100
Chaff cutting—produce, &c.....	11	.....	.....	3	.....	43	.....	46	.....	46
Chemicals, drugs, patent medicines, &c.	22	6	9	47	38	190	104	243	151	394
Cooperage.....	16	3	.....	18	.....	149	.....	170	.....	170
Cutlery	4	1	3	3	.....	12	.....	16	.....	16
Die sinking, engraving, &c.	2	.....	.....	1	.....	4	.....	5	.....	5
Dye-works and cleaning.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	10	5	10	15
Electrical appliances, &c.	5	1	.....	5	.....	47	.....	53	.....	53
Electro-plating and silver-smithing.....	4	4	1	3	1	29	3	36	5	41
Explosives	3	.....	.....	1	.....	19	.....	20	.....	20
Florists	4	.....	1	.....	2	10	16	10	19	29

Class of Factory.	Number of Factories on Register.	Hands employed.								
		Under 16 years.		Over 16 years and under 18 years.		Over 18 years.		Total.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
XI. Miscellaneous (continued).										
Glass (including bottles)	7	6	66	131	203	.....	203	.....	203
Glass—ornamental	7	3	16	75	94	2	94	3	97	
Hydraulic power	1	.....	4	13	17	.....	17	.....	17
Incubators	2	.....	2	8	10	.....	10	.....	10
Jewellery	20	10	18	115	143	.....	143	.....	143
Lamps and incandescent mantles	2	1	2	4	6	18	22	.....	28
Laundries—steam and hand	71	3	8	63	73	772	835	.....	908
Laundries—Chinese	12	.....	.....	27	27	.....	27	.....	27
Leather belting and rubber goods	4	.....	.....	4	30	.....	30	4	34
Paint and varnish	2	1	1	7	9	.....	9	.....	9
Painting and sign-writing	10	3	11	69	83	.....	83	.....	83
Perambulators	2	1	2	2	14	4	6	.....	20
Photo-engraving, photographers, and photo material	20	4	3	22	103	125	129	148	277	
Portmanteaus, bags, and trunks	5	2	11	1	47	2	3	.....	50
Poultry foods	2	3	2	2	7	.....	7	.....	7
Rope and fishing lines	6	13	37	1	131	.....	1	.....	132
Sewing machines, pianos, &c.	6	5	17	5	137	1	6	.....	143
Show cases, revolving shutters, and beehives	4	.....	3	25	28	.....	28	.....	28
Soap, soda, soap extract, candles, &c.	15	12	10	2	82	3	5	.....	87
Spectacles, lenses, and surgical instruments	8	5	4	1	36	5	6	.....	42
Ticket writing and paper patterns	2	.....	1	3	1	8	12	.....	13
Tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes	8	16	22	38	393	117	172	.....	565
Tobacco pipes	1	.....	4	10	14	.....	14	.....	14
Umbrellas	1	1	2	7	10	.....	10	.....	10
Wigs and hair work	2	.....	.....	1	11	7	8	.....	19
Other	6	20	15	38	73	.....	73	.....	73
Total	321	139	45	420	174	2,109	1,203	2,668	1,422	4,090

TABLE IV.

Wages paid in Various Trades.

I. Persons engaged in treating Raw Material, the product of pastoral pursuits.

	From— £ s. d.	To— £ s. d.
Boiling Down—		
Foremen	2 0 0	2 10 0
Offal and bonemen	1 5 0	2 5 0
Bone-dust makers	1 10 0	2 0 0
Tallowmen	1 15 0	2 0 0
Oil and grease makers	1 10 0	2 10 0
Glue makers	1 5 0	2 10 0
Tanneries—		
Foremen	2 10 0	4 10 0
Fleshers	1 10 0	2 5 0
Carriers	1 10 0	2 15 0
Picklers	1 10 0	2 5 0
Beamsmen	1 10 0	2 15 0
Rollermen	1 10 0	2 10 0
Limemen	1 10 0	2 5 0
Yardmen	1 10 0	2 0 0
Wool-washing—		
Foremen	2 10 0	5 0 0
Wool-sorters	1 10 0	2 5 0
Wool-pullers	1 10 0	2 5 0
Wool-washers	1 10 0	2 10 0
Wool-packers	1 15 0	2 10 0
Wool-driers	1 10 0	2 5 0
Wool-soakers	1 10 0	2 5 0
Skinmen	1 5 0	1 16 0
Sparers and drivers	1 5 0	1 16 0

II. Persons engaged in Trades connected with Food and Drink, or the preparation thereof.

	From— £ s. d.	To— £ s. d.
Aerated Waters—		
Foremen	2 0 0	6 0 0
Makers	2 0 0	4 0 0
Packers	1 7 6	2 5 0
Bottlers	1 0 0	2 10 0
Washers	0 15 0	1 15 0
Wipers and Corkers	0 15 0	1 15 0
Labellers	0 6 0	1 0 0
Carters	1 5 0	2 10 0
Cart-boys	0 5 0	0 15 0
General hands	Males 0 17 6	2 0 0
„ „	Females 0 12 0	0 15 0
Boys	0 5 0	0 15 0

II.—Persons engaged in Trades connected with Food and Drink, or the preparation thereof (continued).

	From— £ s. d.	To— £ s. d.
Bread, Biscuits, and Pastry—		
Foremen	2 10 0	4 0 0
Bakers (bread)	1 7 6	3 2 6
„ assistants	0 15 0	1 0 0
„ apprentices	0 7 6	1 5 0
Jobbers	1/3 to 1/6 per hour.	
Biscuit baker	1 5 0	3 0 0
Brakesmen	0 18 0	2 0 0
General hands	0 10 0	2 0 0
Machine hands	0 15 0	1 5 0
„ boys	0 7 0	0 10 0
Pastry cooks	1 0 0	3 0 0
„ apprentices	0 5 0	1 0 0
Packers	Males 0 8 0	0 13 0
Carters	1 5 0	2 10 0
Engineers, carpenters, blacksmiths, &c.	1 10 0	3 0 0
Forewomen	0 15 0	1 0 0
Packers	Females 0 6 0	0 15 0
Labelling and cleaning tins	0 7 0	0 12 0
Breweries—		
Foremen	2 10 0	5 0 0
Topmen	1 10 0	2 10 0
Cellarmen	1 10 0	2 10 0
Cask-washers	1 0 0	2 10 0
General hands	1 0 0	2 10 0
Bottlers	1 0 0	2 0 0
Coopers	1 15 0	3 5 0
„ boys	0 10 0	1 0 0
Packers	1 0 0	2 10 0
Storemen	1 1 0	2 15 0
Draymen	1 12 6	2 15 0
Boys	0 7 6	0 18 0
Coffee, Cocoa, Rice, Spices, &c.—		
Foremen	2 10 0	4 10 0
Millers	1 10 0	3 5 0
Coffee and cocoa hands	1 17 6	3 0 0
Jelly-makers	1 17 6	3 0 0
Boys	0 6 0	0 18 0
Packers	0 15 0	2 10 0
„ boys	0 8 0	0 15 0
Labellers	0 12 0	1 10 0
Storemen	2 0 0	3 0 0
Forewomen	Females 0 15 0	1 0 0
Packers	„ 0 5 0	0 15 0

11.—Persons engaged in trades connected with Food and Drink, or the preparation thereof (continued).

	From—			To—		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Condiments—						
Foremen	2	10	0	4	0	0
Mill hands and journeymen	1	10	0	3	0	0
Packers	1	0	0	2	5	0
" (boys)	0	4	0	0	8	0
Bottle-washers (boys)	0	6	0	0	10	0
General hands (girls and women)	0	6	0	0	14	0
Confectionery—						
Foremen	3	0	0	4	0	0
Sugar boilers and pan men	1	0	0	2	7	0
" improvers	0	10	0	1	10	0
" boys	0	7	0	0	11	0
Packers	1	0	0	2	18	0
" boys	0	6	0	0	15	0
General confectioners	1	10	0	3	0	0
Assistants and improvers	0	7	0	1	10	0
Storemen	1	10	0	2	0	0
Forewomen	0	17	6	1	7	6
Confectioners	0	15	0	1	10	0
" assistants	0	7	0	0	12	0
Packers and wrappers	0	5	0	0	15	0
Flour—						
Foremen	3	0	0	6	0	0
Millers	1	10	0	4	10	0
" juniors	0	15	0	2	5	0
Samplers	2	0	0	2	5	0
Sleevemakers	1	16	0	2	0	0
Stackers	1	16	0	2	0	0
Smutters and oilmen	1	16	0	2	0	0
Packers	1	10	0	2	0	0
" boys	0	16	0	1	5	0
Purifier men	1	10	0	2	0	0
Mixers	1	5	0	2	0	0
General hands, yardmen, &c.	1	0	0	1	16	0
Boys	0	10	0	0	15	0
Ice and Refrigerating—						
Foremen	2	5	0	5	0	0
Journeymen	2	0	0	3	0	0
Boys	0	10	0	0	18	0
Engineers	2	5	0	3	10	0
Jam and Fruit-canning—						
Foremen	2	0	0	4	10	0
Jam-boilers	1	0	0	2	10	0
Tinsmiths and solderers	1	5	0	2	8	0
Tinsmiths' boys	0	5	0	0	15	0
Labellers	0	5	0	0	15	0
Packers	0	10	0	1	10	0
Case-makers	1	5	0	2	0	0
Engineers	1	12	6	2	5	0
Boys	0	6	0	0	12	0
Fruit-preparers	0	6	0	0	12	0
Packers	0	5	0	0	16	0
Labellers	0	5	0	0	12	6
Meat Preserving and Small Goods—						
Foremen	3	0	0	6	0	0
Preserver and extract-maker	3	0	0	3	10	0
Tallow-maker	2	0	0	2	15	0
Salter	2	0	0	2	15	0
Slaughtermen	2	0	0	3	0	0
" boys	1	0	0	1	10	0
Boners	1	0	0	2	10	0
Filler	1	0	0	1	15	0
Labourers	1	0	0	2	0	0
" boys	0	9	0	0	18	0
Tinsmiths	1	2	6	3	0	0
" boys	0	10	0	0	16	0
Coopers	2	0	0	2	14	0
Small goodsmen	1	10	0	2	10	0
Oatmeal, self-raising flour, and Baking Powder—						
Foremen	2	5	0	3	5	0
Mixers and packers	1	0	0	2	0	0
Boys	0	7	0	0	10	0
Forewomen	1	0	0	2	0	0
Packers, weighers, and labellers, Females	0	7	0	1	3	0
Girls	0	7	0	0	10	0
Paper bag makers	0	10	0	0	16	0
Sugar Mills—						
Foreman mechanics	3	6	0	3	12	0
Engineers and fitters	3	0	0	3	6	0
Mechanics	2	8	0	2	17	0
Tinsmiths	1	10	0	2	10	0
Mechanics' apprentices	0	5	0	1	10	0
Pan-boilers	2	5	0	4	0	0
" apprentices	0	5	0	1	10	0
Foreman bag-maker				3	0	0
Bag-sewers (boys)	0	10	0	0	19	0
Sack-repairers	1	15	0	2	10	0
Labourers	2	2	0	2	8	0

12.—Persons engaged in trades connected with Food and Drink, or the preparation thereof (continued).

	From—			To—			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Tea Packing and Blending—							
Foremen	2	5	0	3	10	0	
Blenders	1	7	6	3	12	0	
Packers	0	10	0	2	10	0	
Labellers	0	5	0	0	15	0	
Case-makers	1	16	0	2	5	0	
Forewomen	1	0	0	2	0	0	
Packers	0	5	0	1	0	0	
Labellers	0	5	0	0	15	0	
Bag-makers and blockers	0	7	0	0	12	0	
Vinegar Works—							
Manufacturers	2	0	0	3	0	0	
Bottlers and labellers	0	10	0	1	10	0	
III.—Persons engaged in the Manufacture of Clothing and Textile Fabrics.							
Boots and Shoes—							
Foremen	Males	2	0	0	4	5	0
Machine operators	"	1	12	6	3	0	0
" improvers & assistants	"	0	5	0	1	10	0
" learners	"	0	5	0	0	7	6
Clickers	"	1	5	0	3	0	0
" improvers & assistants	"	0	7	0	1	2	6
" apprentices	"	0	9	6	0	17	6
Makers	"	1	0	0	3	10	0
" improvers	"	0	5	0	1	5	0
" apprentices	"	0	5	0	0	15	0
Finishers	"	1	0	0	2	10	0
" improvers & assistants	"	0	10	0	0	15	0
" apprentices	"	0	11	0	0	15	0
Rough-stuff cutters	"	0	17	6	2	10	0
" improvers	"	0	10	0	1	0	0
Trimmers	"	1	10	0	2	10	0
Pressmen	"	1	5	0	2	10	0
Heelers and Sluggers	"	1	0	0	2	12	6
Lasters	"	1	5	0	2	0	0
Edge-setters, featherers, and breasters	"	0	16	0	2	0	0
Channel-closers	"	0	14	0	2	0	0
Skivers	"	1	0	0	2	0	0
Eyeletters	"	0	17	6	1	5	0
Brushers, sockers, dressers, scourers, &c.	"	0	14	0	0	17	6
Repairers	"	1	15	0	2	14	0
Sole-sewers	"	1	10	0	2	10	0
Packers	"	0	15	0	2	5	0
Boys	"	0	4	0	0	12	0
Forewomen	Females	1	2	6	2	5	0
Machinists	"	0	10	0	1	10	0
" apprentices	"	0	4	0	0	12	0
Fitters	"	0	7	6	1	3	6
" apprentices	"	0	4	0	0	7	0
Tiers-off and bench hands	"	0	3	0	0	9	0
Trimmers, sockers, &c.	"	0	5	0	0	15	0
Clothing Factories—Slops—							
Foremen	Males	2	10	0	6	0	0
Cutters	"	1	5	0	5	0	0
" assistants and improvers	"	0	7	6	1	10	0
Pressers	"	1	5	0	3	10	0
" apprentices and assist- ants	"	0	6	0	1	0	0
Seam pressers	"	0	5	0	1	10	0
Trimmers	"	0	10	0	2	15	0
Examiners	"	0	14	0	2	17	6
Folders and brushers	"	0	15	0	2	15	0
Enginers and mechanics, &c.	"	1	2	6	3	0	0
Errand boys and messengers	"	0	3	6	0	17	6
Machinists	"	1	10	0	3	10	0
Coat hands	"	1	10	0	3	10	0
" Females	"	0	7	6	1	15	0
Trousers hands	"	0	10	0	1	7	6
Vest hands	Males	1	1	0	2	4	0
" Females	"	0	5	0	1	7	6
Apprentices	"	0	2	6	0	15	0
Forewomen	Females	1	10	0	3	0	0
Slop trousers machinists	"	0	6	0	1	7	6
" finishers	"	0	3	0	1	7	6
Button-hole machinists	"	0	6	6	1	5	0
" finishers	"	0	6	0	1	2	6
Coat machinists	"	0	6	0	1	5	0
" finishers	"	0	4	0	1	2	6
Vest machinists	"	0	6	0	1	7	6
" finishers	"	0	5	0	0	5	0
Apprentices	"	0	2	6	0	7	6

III.—Persons engaged in the Manufacture of Clothing and Textile Fabrics (continued).		From—		To—	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Clothing Factories—Order Tailoring—					
Foremen	Males	3	0 0	6	0 0
Cutters	"	2	0 0	9	0 0
Coat hands	"	2	0 0	3	10 0
" improvers	"	0	10 0	1	5 0
" apprentices	"	0	2 6	1	10 0
Vest-makers	"	1	5 0	2	6 0
Trousers-makers	"	1	5 0	2	15 0
Pressers	"	1	0 0	3	5 0
Trimmers	"	0	17 6	2	5 0
Coat hands	Females	0	15 0	2	0 0
" improvers	"	0	6 0	1	5 0
" apprentices	"	0	2 6	1	5 0
Vest hands	"	0	7 6	1	10 0
" improvers	"	0	5 0	0	17 0
" apprentices	"	0	2 6	0	12 6
Trousers-makers	"	0	15 0	1	10 0
" improvers	"	0	10 0	0	15 0
" apprentices	"	0	2 6	0	10 0
Machinists	"	0	17 6	1	10 0
" apprentices	"	0	2 6	0	10 0
Shirt-makers	"	0	14 0	1	10 0
" improvers and apprentices	"	0	2 6	0	7 6
Embroideresses	"	1	0 0	1	10 0
" improvers	"	0	10 0	0	12 0
" apprentices	"	0	2 6	0	5 0
Dressmaking and Millinery—					
Forewomen	"	2	5 0	6	0 0
Cutters and fitters	"	2	0 0	2	10 0
Bodice hands	"	0	7 6	1	10 0
" improvers	"	0	2 6	0	10 0
" apprentices†	"			0	2 6
Skirt hands	"	0	6 0	1	15 0
" improvers	"	0	3 0	0	7 6
" apprentices†	"			0	2 6
Sleeve hands	"	0	6 0	1	2 6
"	"	0	2 6	0	6 0
General dressmakers	"	0	8 6	1	10 0
Machinists	"	0	12 6	1	2 6
Head mantle-makers	"	3	0 0	4	0 0
Mantle-makers	"	0	9 6	1	17 0
" improvers	"	0	2 6	0	5 6
Blouse-maker	"	0	12 6	1	0 0
Milliners	"	0	7 6	1	10 0
" improvers	"	0	2 6	0	12 6
" apprentices*	"			0	2 6
Furriers—					
Furriers	"	1	7 6	3	0 0
Boys	"	0	7 0	0	13 0
Fur sewers	"	0	10 0	1	5 0
Hats and Caps—					
Journeyman	Males	0	17 6	3	0 0
Assistants	"	0	7 6	0	12 6
Apprentices	"	0	7 6	0	10 0
Foremen	"	2	15 0	3	5 0
Forewomen	Females	1	0 0	1	15 0
Machinists	"	0	7 0	1	15 0
Finishers	"	0	6 0	0	15 0
Trimmers	"	0	5 0	1	2 6
Improvers, &c.	"	0	4 6	0	10 6
Apprentices	"	0	2 6	0	3 6
Shirtmaking (Females)—					
Shirt-cutter	"	2	0 0	3	0 0
Shirt-makers	"	0	8 0	1	5 0
Apprentices	"	0	5 0	0	7 0
Machinists	"	0	10 0	1	0 0
Finishers	"	0	13 0	0	16 0
Buttonhole workers	"	0	7 6	0	16 0
Waterproof Clothing—					
Forewomen	"	2	10 0	3	0 0
Machinists	"	0	5 0	1	10 0
" improvers	"	0	4 6	0	10 0
Finishers	"	0	12 0	0	15 0
" improvers	"	0	5 0	0	7 6
Table hands	"	0	10 0	1	5 0
" improvers	"	0	2 6	0	7 6
White Work and Ladies' and Children's Clothing Factory—					
Forewomen, designers, and cutter	Females	1	10 0	2	5 0
Machinists	"	0	10 0	1	5 0
" improvers	"	0	7 0	0	10 0
" apprentices	"	0	2 6	0	4 0
Finishers	"	0	6 0	1	0 0
Learners	"	0	2 6	0	7 0
Pressers	"	0	7 6	0	16 0
Sorters	"	0	6 6	1	0 0
Cutters	Males	1	0 6	2	0 0
Pressers	"	0	10 0	1	15 0
Woollen Mills—					
Foremen	"	4	0 0	5	0 0
Carders	"	2	0 0	3	0 0
Woolsorters	"	2	0 0	2	5 0

* Receive no pay for the first six or twelve months.

III.—Persons engaged in the Manufacture of Clothing and Textile Fabrics (continued).		From—		To—	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Woollen Mills (continued).					
Finishers	"	2	0 0	2	5 0
Dyers	"	2	0 0	3	0 0
" assistants	"	0	15 0	1	10 0
Spinners	"	1	2 6	2	15 0
Warpers	"	1	0 0	1	10 0
Woolscourers	"	1	15 0	2	0 0
Pressmen	"	1	10 0	2	0 0
Weavers	"	1	16 0	2	10 0
Twisters	"	0	10 0	0	15 0
Boys	"	0	4 6	0	10 0
Weavers	Females	0	18 0	1	11 0
Finishers	"	0	8 0	0	12 0
Burlers	"	0	12 0	0	17 6
Girls	"	0	8 0	0	12 0

IV.—Persons engaged in connection with Building Materials, &c.

Asphalting and Tar-paving—					
Asphalt-makers	"	1	15 0	2	8 0
Wood-block makers	"	1	5 0	2	2 0
Brickworks—					
Foremen	"	2	8 0	5	0 0
Clay-diggers and pitmen	"	1	16 0	2	8 0
Fanmen and grinders	"	1	15 0	2	10 0
Setters	"	1	16 0	2	15 0
Brickmakers and moulders	"	1	16 0	2	15 0
Pressers	"	1	15 0	2	10 0
Burners	"	2	0 0	3	10 0
Loaders-out	"	1	16 0	2	10 0
Stackers	"	1	16 0	2	8 0
Carters	"	1	10 0	2	5 0
Cement—					
Millers	"	3	0 0	3	10 0
Burners	"	2	0 0	3	0 0
Kiln-fillers	"	1	16 0	2	5 0
Labourers	"	1	10 0	2	2 0
Joinery, Wood-turning, and Carving—					
Foremen	"	3	0 0	4	0 0
Joiners	"	1	16 0	3	0 0
Turners	"	1	16 0	3	0 0
Carvers	"	1	18 0	3	3 0
Apprentices	"	0	7 0	0	15 0
Limeworks—					
Foremen	"	3	0 0	3	10 0
Quarrymen	"	1	16 0	2	5 0
Crane-drivers	"	1	16 0	2	0 0
Lime-drawers	"	2	0 0	2	8 0
Burners	"	2	0 0	2	8 0
Marble and Monumental Masons—					
Foremen	"	2	10 0	3	0 0
Letter-cutters and carvers	"	2	0 0	3	0 0
Marble and stone masons	"	1	10 0	3	0 0
" improvers	"	0	15 0	1	10 0
Polishers	"	1	10 0	2	5 0
" improvers	"	0	12 0	1	0 0
Fixers	"	1	5 0	2	5 0
Boys	"	0	5 0	0	15 0
Modelling, Cement and Plaster Decorations—					
Modellers	"	2	0 0	3	0 0
Pressers	"	1	10 0	2	5 0
Castors	"	0	10 0	1	10 0
Paint and Varnish—					
Manufacturers	"	2	10 0	5	0 0
Labourers	"	0	16 0	1	15 0
Potteries—					
Foremen	"	2	8 0	3	10 0
Throwers	"	2	0 0	3	0 0
Pipe-makers	"	2	0 0	3	0 0
Burners	"	2	0 0	3	0 0
Clay-getters	"	1	10 0	2	8 0
Quarrying and Stone-crushing—					
Foremen	"	2	0 0	3	0 0
Quarrymen	"	2	0 0	2	8 0
Masons	"	2	0 0	2	10 0
Stonebreakers	"	1	10 0	2	2 0
Stonefeeders	"	1	16 0	2	2 0
Saw-mills—					
Foremen	"	2	8 0	4	0 0
Saw-sharpeners	"	1	10 0	2	8 0
Benchers	"	1	10 0	2	10 0
Benchers' assistants	"	1	0 0	2	0 0
Sawyers	"	1	10 0	2	10 0
Sawyers' assistants	"	0	12 6	1	10 0
Measurers	"	1	16 0	2	5 0
Tailers-out	"	0	15 0	1	0 0
Labourers	"	1	10 0	2	2 0
Machinists	"	2	0 0	3	3 0
Machinists' assistants	"	0	10 0	1	10 0

† Unpaid for the first three or six months.

V.—Persons engaged in Engineering, Metal Works, &c.

	From—			To—		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Foremen.....	3	0	0	5	0	0
Engineers.....	1	14	0	3	5	0
Machinists.....	1	18	0	3	0	0
Turners and fitters.....	2	5	0	5	0	0
Blacksmiths.....	1	10	0	3	0	0
Strikers.....	1	5	0	2	0	0
Iron-founders.....	1	15	0	2	10	0
Iron-moulders.....	1	16	0	3	10	0
„ assistants.....	0	5	0	0	18	0
Iron-dressers.....	1	12	0	2	8	0
Furnace-men.....	1	10	0	2	6	0
Pattern-makers.....	1	12	0	2	14	0
Boiler-makers.....	1	16	0	3	0	0
Coppersmiths.....	2	10	0	3	3	0
Brass-moulders.....	1	10	0	3	0	0
Brass-finishers.....	1	16	0	3	3	0
Tinsmiths.....	1	10	0	3	0	0
„ assistants.....	0	6	0	1	5	0
Smelters.....	2	10	0	3	0	0
Plumbers and gasfitters.....	1	10	0	3	0	0
Plumbers' boys.....	0	5	0	0	15	0
Meter-makers.....	1	19	0	3	3	0
Painters.....	1	10	0	3	0	0
Stove-fitters.....	1	5	0	3	0	0
Galvanisers.....	1	5	0	3	10	0
Wireworkers.....	1	6	0	3	3	0
Japanners.....	1	3	0	2	10	0
Engine-drivers and firemen.....	1	10	0	3	0	0
Bricklayers.....	2	2	0	3	0	0
Carpenters.....	1	10	0	3	0	0
Labourers.....	1	10	0	2	2	0
Carters.....	1	10	0	2	9	0
Storekeepers.....	1	10	0	2	10	0
Drillers.....	0	8	0	1	16	0
Trunk-makers.....	1	5	0	2	5	0
Canister-makers.....	1	10	0	3	0	0
Lead-millers.....	.....	.....	.....	3	6	0
Apprentices.....	0	4	0	1	10	0
Boys.....	0	6	0	0	15	0

VI.—Persons engaged in Ship-building, Repairing, &c.

Ship-building, Docks, &c.—						
Foremen.....	3	0	0	7	0	0
Shipwrights.....	2	8	0	3	12	0
Boiler-makers and riveters.....	2	10	0	3	8	0
Pattern-makers.....	2	5	0	3	0	0
Bolt-screwers.....	2	0	0	2	8	0
Ship joiners.....	2	8	0	3	0	0
Marine opticians.....	2	0	0	3	0	0
Ships' compasses, sextants, and barometer repairers.....	2	0	0	3	0	0
Sails and Tarpaulins—						
Sailmakers.....	1	5	0	3	0	0
Tent and tarpaulin makers.....	0	15	0	2	7	0
Apprentices and boys.....	0	5	0	0	18	0
Forewomen.....	1	0	0	1	10	0
Women and girls.....	0	6	0	0	19	0

VII.—Persons engaged in the manufacture of Furniture, Bedding, &c.

Foremen.....	2	10	0	4	10	0	
Machinists.....	1	7	6	2	14	0	
„ apprentices.....	0	10	0	0	15	0	
Cabinet-makers.....	1	10	0	3	0	0	
„ apprentices.....	0	2	6	1	6	0	
Polishers.....	1	10	0	3	0	0	
„ apprentices.....	0	7	6	1	7	6	
Chair-makers.....	1	10	0	2	16	0	
Chair-fitters.....	1	5	0	2	12	0	
Frame-makers.....	1	10	0	2	5	0	
Wood-carvers.....	2	0	0	3	0	0	
Wood-turners.....	1	16	0	2	10	0	
Upholsterers.....	2	0	0	3	0	0	
„ apprentices.....	0	5	0	1	10	0	
Carpet hands.....	1	15	0	3	0	0	
Drapery-cutters.....	2	2	0	4	5	0	
Forewomen.....	Females	1	5	0	1	10	0
Upholsteresses.....	„	0	12	6	2	0	0
Girls.....	„	0	5	0	0	12	0
Drapery hands.....	„	0	16	0	2	0	0
Machinists.....	„	0	10	0	1	2	6
Seamstresses.....	„	0	9	0	1	2	6
Carpet-sewers.....	„	0	10	0	1	5	0
Girls.....	„	0	5	0	0	10	0

VII.—Persons engaged in the manufacture of Furniture, Bedding, &c. (continued).

	From—			To—			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Window-blind makers and fixers.....	1	10	0	2	10	0	
Boys.....	0	5	0	0	17	6	
Venetian blind makers.....	1	10	0	2	10	0	
„ painters.....	1	5	0	2	5	0	
Revolving shutter makers.....	1	10	0	2	14	0	
Mattress-makers.....	1	10	0	2	18	0	
Picture-frame makers.....	1	15	0	4	0	0	
Mount-cutters.....	1	15	0	2	18	0	
Apprentices.....	0	6	0	1	5	0	
Fitters.....	1	0	0	1	10	0	
Girls.....	0	5	0	1	0	0	
Hair and Flock Hands—							
Packers.....	1	10	0	2	14	0	
Machinists.....	0	15	0	1	16	0	
Rag sorters.....	Females	0	17	0	1	0	0
Cloth-cutters.....	„	0	10	0	0	12	0
Billiard-table makers.....	„	2	0	0	3	0	0
Apprentices.....	„	0	7	6	0	12	0
Ivory turners.....	„	2	0	0	3	0	0
Chinese cabinet-makers.....	„	0	15	0	2	10	0
„ polishers.....	„	0	14	0	1	15	0
„ carvers.....	„	1	0	0	2	0	0
„ wood-turners.....	„	0	14	0	1	15	0
„ sand-paperers.....	„	0	10	0	1	10	0

VIII.—Persons engaged in Printing, Lithographing Establishments, &c.

Readers.....	2	0	0	3	0	0	
Readers' assistants.....	0	15	0	2	0	0	
Compositors, Jobbing Offices—							
Journeymen.....	1	5	0	3	10	0	
Improvers.....	0	17	6	2	0	0	
Apprentices.....	0	5	0	1	0	0	
Compositors, Newspaper Offices—							
Foremen.....	3	0	0	7	0	0	
Machine compositors.....	4½	to	5d.				
Compositors.....	9d.	to	1s. 1d.				
Linotype operators.....	3d.						
Female type distributors.....	1½d.						
	with allowances.					per 1,000 ens.	
Machinists' boys.....	0	6	6	0	15	0	
Apprentices.....	0	10	0	1	5	0	
Letterpress Machinists—							
Foremen.....	2	10	0	6	0	0	
Journeymen.....	1	10	0	4	0	0	
Improvers.....	0	14	0	1	10	0	
Apprentices.....	0	8	0	0	15	0	
Stereotypers—							
Foremen.....	3	10	0	6	0	0	
Journeymen.....	1	15	0	3	0	0	
Electrotypers—							
Journeymen.....	1	15	0	3	15	0	
Engravers.....							
Engravers.....	2	0	0	4	0	0	
Lithographers—							
Journeymen.....	2	0	0	4	0	0	
Improvers.....	1	0	0	1	10	0	
Apprentices.....	0	6	0	1	0	0	
Stone polishers and cleaners.....	0	15	0	1	12	6	
Artists, illuminators, and photographers.....	1	15	0	6	10	0	
„ apprentices.....	0	7	6	0	17	6	
Cutters.....	2	12	0	2	16	0	
Varnishers, transferors, &c.....	2	0	0	3	0	0	
Feed and fly boys.....	0	5	0	1	0	0	
Bookbinders—							
Foremen.....	2	0	0	5	0	0	
Rulers.....	1	0	0	4	0	0	
Binders.....	1	0	0	4	0	0	
Finishers.....	1	0	0	3	10	0	
Forewomen.....	Female	0	17	6	1	10	0
Booksewers.....	„	0	10	0	1	10	0
Bookfolders.....	„	0	5	0	1	5	0
Embossers.....	„	0	8	0	1	0	0
Numberers, pagers, wire-stitchers, packers, &c.....	Female	0	5	0	1	0	0
Apprentices.....	Male	0	7	0	1	0	0
„.....	Female	0	2	6	0	7	6
Boys, messengers, &c.....	„	0	5	0	0	13	6
Paper Boxes and Bags—							
Foremen.....	2	10	0	2	15	0	
Forewomen.....	0	17	6	1	10	0	
Cutlers.....	0	17	0	2	0	0	
Boys.....	0	7	6	0	14	0	
Girls (box and bag makers).....	0	5	0	1	10	0	
Apprentices.....	0	2	6	0	4	0	
General hands.....	1	2	6	2	5	0	

IX.—Persons engaged in the manufacture of Vehicles, Saddlery, and Harness, and Bicycles.

	From—	To—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coachbuilding—		
Foremen.....	2 10 0	4 0 0
Body-makers.....	1 15 0	3 0 0
Wheelwrights.....	1 15 0	3 0 0
Blacksmiths.....	1 10 0	3 0 0
Strikers.....	0 10 0	1 10 0
Vicemen.....	1 5 0	2 8 0
Trimmers.....	1 15 0	3 0 0
Painters.....	1 0 0	3 0 0
Nave turners.....	1 16 0	2 5 0
Spoke-turners.....	1 16 0	2 5 0
Improvers.....	0 15 0	1 10 0
Apprentices.....	0 5 0	1 0 0
Saddlery and Harness—		
Foremen.....	2 10 0	4 0 0
Saddle-makers.....	1 10 0	2 10 0
Harness-makers.....	1 15 0	3 0 0
Collar-makers.....	1 1 0	3 0 0
Strap-hands.....	1 5 0	2 15 0
Machinists.....	1 15 0	2 0 0
Female-hands.....	0 7 6	1 15 0
Improvers.....	0 10 0	1 2 6
Apprentices.....	0 5 0	0 17 6
Making and Repairing Bicycles—		
Foreman.....	2 10 0	3 0 0
Turners.....	1 10 0	2 15 0
Fitters.....	1 10 0	2 10 0
Tyre and wheelmaker.....	1 5 0	2 7 6
Boys.....	0 6 0	0 10 0

X.—Persons engaged in the production of Light, Fuel, Heat, &c.

Electric Light Works—		
Foremen.....	3 0 0	5 0 0
Engineers.....	2 10 0	4 10 0
Electricians.....	2 0 0	3 10 0
Installing workmen.....	2 0 0	2 10 0
Gasworks—		
Foremen.....	3 10 0	6 0 0
Stokers and firemen.....	2 2 0	2 18 0
Fitters.....	2 8 0	3 6 0
Plumbers.....	2 5 0	2 15 0
Main-layers.....	1 16 0	2 15 0
Service-layers.....	1 16 0	2 15 0
Lamp-lighters.....	1 12 0	1 12 0
Fuel—		
Sawyers and yardsmen.....	1 10 0	3 0 0
Carters.....	1 10 0	2 5 0
Boys.....	0 5 0	1 0 0

XI.—Persons engaged in Miscellaneous Trades.

Basket-making, wicker-work, mats, and making—		
Basket-makers.....	1 0 0	2 0 0
Apprentices and boys.....	0 5 0	0 15 0
Mat and matting-makers.....	1 0 0	1 10 0
Boys.....	0 7 0	0 12 0
Box and Packing-case Making—		
Foremen.....	2 10 0	3 0 0
Box-makers.....	1 10 0	2 10 0
Sawyers.....	1 10 0	2 2 0
Machinists.....	1 10 0	2 8 0
Apprentices.....	0 7 6	0 10 0
Boys.....	0 5 0	0 13 0
Broom-making—		
Broom-makers.....	1 10 0	2 5 0
Assistants and apprentices.....	0 5 0	1 0 0
Broom-sewers.....	1 15 3	2 0 0
Sorters.....	0 5 0	1 8 0
Brush-making—		
Journeyman.....	1 5 0	3 0 0
Female hands.....	0 4 0	0 15 0
Boys and apprentices.....	0 9 0	0 11 0
Chemicals, Drugs, Patent Medicines, &c.—		
Foremen.....	2 6 0	4 0 0
Manufacturers.....	1 0 0	2 7 6
Chemists.....	1 0 0	2 10 0
Improvers.....	0 7 6	1 5 0
Lead-burners and Platinum Men.....	1 2 0	2 14 0
Acid-makers.....	1 10 0	2 5 0
Bottle-washers.....	0 12 6	1 0 0
Packers.....	0 14 0	2 5 0
Forewomen.....	0 15 0	2 10 0
Bottlers and labellers.....	0 4 0	0 15 0
Packers.....	0 6 0	1 0 0
Manufacturing hands.....	0 6 0	0 10 0
Cooperage—		
Coopers.....	1 15 0	3 0 0
Apprentices.....	0 8 0	1 2 6
Machinists.....	0 16 0	2 0 0

XI.—Persons engaged in Miscellaneous Trades (continued).

	From—	To—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dye-works—		
Dyers.....	1 7 6	2 10 0
Pressers (men).....	1 10 0	2 5 0
(women).....	1 1 0	1 4 0
Feather and glove-cleaners, &c.....	0 2 6	1 4 0
Explosives—		
Mixers.....	1 5 0	2 5 0
Cartridge fillers.....	1 0 0	2 0 0
Packers.....	1 0 0	1 15 0
Labourers.....	1 10 0	1 18 0
Florists—		
Florists and shop assistants (female).....	0 5 0	1 2 6
Glassworks—Bottles, &c.—		
Foremen.....	3 0 0	4 0 0
Glass-blowers.....	1 10 0	3 17 0
Packers.....	0 7 0	1 7 6
Finishers.....	1 10 0	3 17 0
Apprentices.....	0 10 0	1 15 0
Boys.....	0 6 0	0 15 0
Glassworks—Ornamental—		
Cutters and silverers.....	2 0 0	3 0 0
Bevellers.....	1 10 0	3 0 0
Glaziers.....	1 10 0	2 10 0
Carters.....	1 10 0	2 0 0
Stencil cutters (boys and girls).....	0 5 0	0 8 0
Boys.....	0 5 0	1 0 0
Hair-dressing and Hair-working—		
Hairdressers and wig-makers.....	1 0 0	3 0 0
Hair-frame makers.....	0 5 0	1 10 0
" " females.....	0 5 0	1 1 0
Laundries (steam and hand)—		
Wash-house hands.....	Males 0 15 0	2 5 0
Packers.....	" 1 0 0	2 2 0
Boys.....	" 0 7 0	0 10 0
Carters.....	" 0 10 0	2 5 0
Washers.....	Females { 0 10 0	1 0 0
Sorters and packers.....	" { 0 8 0	1 10 0
Folders.....	" { 0 6 0	0 15 0
Starchers.....	" { 0 6 0	1 2 0
Machine-ironers.....	" { 0 9 0	1 0 0
Callender hands.....	" { 0 8 0	0 10 0
*Shirt and collar-ironers.....	" { 0 18 0	2 0 0
*Starch-ironers.....	" { 0 13 0	1 6 0
*Plain ironers.....	" { 0 12 0	0 18 0
Hangers-out.....	" { 0 10 0	0 13 0
Papermaking—		
Sorters and classers.....	1 0 0	2 0 0
Beater-men.....	1 5 0	2 10 0
Rag boilers and cutter-men.....	0 15 0	1 18 0
Machine men.....	0 12 6	2 10 0
Labourers.....	0 18 0	1 16 0
Paper sorters (female).....	0 10 0	0 15 0
Perambulator making—		
Carpenter.....	1 15 0	2 2 0
Blacksmiths.....	1 1 0	2 2 0
Fitters.....	1 0 0	2 5 0
Painters.....	0 10 0	1 0 0
Upholsterers.....	1 0 0	1 10 0
Boys.....	0 6 0	0 10 0
Machinists (female).....	0 10 0	1 0 0
Photography—		
Operators.....	2 0 0	4 10 0
Printers.....	1 0 0	2 10 0
Assistants.....	0 7 6	1 0 0
Retouchers.....	1 10 0	3 5 0
Zinc etchers.....	1 10 0	2 15 0
Enlargers.....	2 0 0	3 0 0
Framers.....	0 17 6	2 5 0
Retouchers.....	Females 0 12 6	1 15 0
Printers.....	" 0 5 0	1 5 0
Spotters.....	" 0 5 0	1 12 6
Sorters.....	" 0 5 0	0 7 6
Portmanteaus and Bags—		
Bag-makers.....	1 10 0	3 0 0
".....	0 16 0	1 10 0
Improvers.....	0 7 6	1 2 6
Trunk and portmanteau makers.....	1 10 0	3 0 0
Blacksmiths and japanners.....	0 15 6	1 15 0
Machinists (female).....	0 6 0	1 4 0
Rope Works—		
Foreman.....	4 0 0	4 10 0
Ropelayers.....	2 2 0	2 8 0
Reelers.....	1 10 0	2 0 0
Hand spinners.....	1 10 0	2 5 0
Machinist.....	0 18 0	1 10 0
Jenny-boys.....	0 6 0	0 15 0
Rubber Works—		
Journeyman.....	2 0 0	3 0 0
Boys.....	0 10 0	1 0 0

* Shirt and starch ironers are paid by piece-work; other branches by daily or weekly wage.

XI.—Persons engaged in Miscellaneous Trades (continued).

	From—	To—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sewing Machines, Pianos, &c.—		
Foremen.....	3 10 0	4 0 0
Tuners.....	2 0 0	5 0 0
Polishers.....	1 0 0	3 12 0
Repairers.....	1 2 6	4 0 0
Apprentices and boys.....	0 5 0	1 0 0
Stringers and spinners.....	0 10 0	1 5 0
Packers and fitters-up.....	1 10 0	2 8 0
Soap and Candle Works—		
Stearine and candle-makers.....	1 4 0	2 10 0
Moulders.....	0 15 0	1 10 0
Soap-boilers.....	1 16 0	3 0 0
Assistants.....	0 5 0	1 10 0
Packers.....	0 10 0	1 10 0
Boys.....	0 5 0	0 15 0
Packers.....Females	0 6 0	1 0 0
Tobacco and Cigarettes—		
Foremen.....	2 15 0	5 0 0
Cutting-room hands.....	1 0 0	2 10 0
General hands.....	1 0 0	2 5 0
Box-makers.....	1 5 0	3 0 0
Stemmers.....	0 12 0	1 5 0
Twisters.....	1 2 0	3 5 0
Pressers.....	0 12 0	2 10 0
Plug-coverers.....	0 15 0	2 5 0
Finishers.....	1 10 0	2 15 0
Cigarette machinists.....	1 15 0	3 10 0
Boys—General work.....	0 5 0	0 16 0

XI.—Persons engaged in Miscellaneous Trades (continued).

	From—	To—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tobacco and Cigarettes (continued)—		
Forewoman.....Females	0 15 0	1 10 0
Stemmers.....	0 10 0	1 0 0
Coverers.....	0 15 0	1 13 0
Cutting-room hands.....	0 10 0	1 0 0
Cigarette-making—		
Machine-hands.....	0 7 0	0 14 0
Cigarette-makers.....	0 16 0	1 4 0
Mouth-piece makers.....	0 12 6	0 16 6
Filling and closing, &c.....	0 5 0	0 8 0
Packers.....	0 7 0	0 17 0
Umbrella-making—		
Males.....	0 12 0	2 5 0
Females.....	0 10 0	1 5 0
Watchmaking and Jewellery, &c.—		
Watchmakers.....	1 10 0	5 0 0
„ apprentices.....	0 5 0	0 10 0
Jewellers.....	1 10 0	6 0 0
„ apprentices.....		0 10 0
Instrument makers.....	1 2 6	3 0 0
Opticians.....	1 10 0	2 10 0
Polishers.....	1 5 0	2 15 0
Gem cutters.....	2 0 0	3 0 0
Engravers.....	2 0 0	5 0 0
Packers.....	0 17 6	1 7 6
Electroplaters.....	1 10 0	4 0 0
Burnishers.....Females	1 0 0	1 10 0
Boys.....	0 5 0	0 17 6

TABLE V.
Machinery used in Factories.

Class of Factory.	Horse-power of Machinery.			
	Steam.		Gas.	
	No.	H.P.	No.	H.P.
I. Treating raw material—the product of pastoral pursuits.....	68	1,167	.....	.....
II. Connected with food and drink, or preparation thereof.....	104	3,038	23	72
III. Clothing and textile fabrics.....	6	109	35	189½
IV. Building materials.....	71	1,875½	16	65½
V. Metal works, machinery, &c.....	80	1,584	26	126
VI. Shipbuilding, repairing, &c.....	9	848	.....	.....
VII. Furniture, bedding, &c.....	14	127	12	59½
VIII. Books, paper, printing, &c.....	7	527½	80	498½
IX. Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c.....	7	52	9	22
X. Light, fuel, and heat.....	35	3,008	5	57½
XI. Miscellaneous.....	69	772½	38	131
Total.....	479	13,108½	244	1,221½
I. Treating raw material (the product of pastoral pursuits)—				
Boiling down.....	4	222	.....	.....
Gino, oil, and grease.....	3	20	.....	.....
Manures.....	6	127	.....	.....
Tallow refineries.....	44	412	.....	.....
Woolwashing, scouring, &c.....	11	377	.....	.....
Total.....	68	1,167	.....	.....
II. Connected with Food and Drink (or preparation thereof)—				
Aerated waters.....	17	68	12	27½
Bacon and meat curing, &c.....	1	8	.....	.....
Biscuits.....	4	50	.....	.....
Bread, and pastry, &c.....	1	21	3	19
Breweries.....	9	337	.....	.....
Butterine and margarine.....	1	8	.....	.....
Condiments.....	10	303	1	2
Confectionery.....	5	48	.....	.....
Corn flour.....	1	35	.....	.....
Flour mills and self-raising flour.....	10	620	2	5
Ice and refrigerating.....	7	796	1	4
Jam and fruit canning.....	9	105	.....	.....
Meat preserving.....	7	150	.....	.....
Salt grinding.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sugar mills and refining.....	1	385	.....	.....
Small goods, butchers'.....	20	100	1	1
Tea blending and packing.....	.....	.....	3	13½
Vinegar.....	1	4	.....	.....
Total.....	104	3,038	23	72
III. Clothing and Textile Fabrics—				
Boots and shoes.....	3	36	25	152½
Clothing, slops.....	.....	.....	9	36
Hats and caps.....	1	8	.....	.....
Oilskin and waterproof clothing.....	.....	.....	1	1
White-work, underclothing and sewing.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Woollen cloth.....	2	65	.....	.....
Total.....	6	109	35	189½

Class of Factory.	Horse-power of Machinery.			
	Steam.		Gas.	
	No.	H.P.	No.	H.P.
IV. Building materials—				
Asphalt	1	35	.....	.....
Bricks.....	21	1,071	.....	.....
Joinery and carpentry.....	17	307½	7	41½
Marble and plaster works	3	22	1	32
Pottery and earthenware	5	98	.....	.....
Saw-mills	16	238	.....	.....
Stone-crushing	1	8	.....	.....
Stone dressing and polishing.....	2	48	.....	.....
Timber merchants and builders	2	24	1	8
Wood turning and carving.....	3	24	7	7½
Total	71	1,875½	16	65½
V. Metal works, machinery, &c.—				
Agricultural implements, &c.	2	24	.....	.....
Blacksmiths	6	75	.....	.....
Boiler-making	4	26	.....	.....
Brass works	5	22	3	4
Copper-smithing	1	6	1	3½
Engineering	38	793	11	22
Galvanised iron works	2	16	1	1½
Iron works and foundries	21	169	.....	.....
Lead works	2	380	.....	.....
Railway springs	1	10	.....	.....
Ore treating works, smelting	2	20	.....	.....
Gas and water meters.....	.....	.....	1	3½
Plumbers and gasfitters	2	20	.....	.....
Stoves and ovens	1	10	1	12
Tinsmithing	1	3	5	19
Wire-working	1	10	.....	.....
Zinc—ornamental.....	.....	.....	3	60½
Total	89	1,584	26	126
VI. Ship-building, repairing, &c.—				
Docks and slips	4	809	.....	.....
Ship and boat building and repairing	5	39	.....	.....
Total	9	848	.....	.....
VII. Furniture, bedding, &c.—				
Bedding, flock, upholstery, &c.	4	34	.....	.....
Furniture	4	60	5	25½
Furniture—Chinese	2	6	2	9
Hair-curling	1	4½	.....	.....
Iron bedsteads	1	12	.....	.....
Picture frames	1	2½	1	3
Window blinds, venetians, &c. ....	.....	.....	1	1
Wire mattresses	1	8	3	21
Total	14	127	12	59½
VIII. Books, paper, printing, &c.—				
Electrotyping and stereotyping, &c. ....	.....	.....	2	6
Paper	2	323	.....	.....
Paper bags, boxes, &c. ....	.....	.....	3	10½
Printing and bookbinding	5	204½	73	269½
Printing materials, &c. ....	.....	.....	2	213
Total	7	527½	80	498½
IX. Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c.—				
Coaches and waggons	4	29	1	7
Cycle building and repairing.....	.....	.....	6	6
Saddlery, saddle-trees, whips, &c.	1	7	2	9
Wheelwright's materials	2	16	.....	.....
Total	7	52	9	22
X. Light, fuel, and heat—				
Electric lighting	17	1,986	4	57
Gas	4	899	.....	.....
Wood and coal	14	123	1	½
Total	35	3,008	5	57½
XI. Miscellaneous—				
Billiard tables .....	.....	.....	2	2½
Box and packing cases	4	33	3	8½
Brooms and brushes.....	.....	.....	3	9
Chaffcutting, &c.	11	79	.....	.....
Chemicals, drugs, patent medicines, &c.	5	95	3	9½
Cooperage	10	116	.....	.....
Cutlery .....	.....	.....	3	3
Dye works and cleaning	1	4	.....	.....
Electroplating and silversmithing.....	1	10	3	9½
Electrical appliances .....	.....	.....	2	1

Class of Factory.	Horse-power of Machinery.			
	Steam.		Gas.	
	No.	H.P.	No.	H.P.
XI. Miscellaneous (continued)—				
Glass, including bottles	1	8	1	12
Glass, ornamental.....	2	17	3	30½
Hydraulic power	1	6		
Incandescent mantle making			1	1½
Incubators			1	6
Laundries	12	91½	1	½
Leather belting and rubber goods.....	3	19	1	16
Perambulators			1	½
Paints, varnish, &c.....	2	42		
Photo. engraving and photo. materials			1	1
Poultry foods, &c.....			1	½
Rope and fishing lines.....	2	89	1	1
Sewing machines, pianos, &c.....	1	25	1	½
Show cases	1	12	1	7
Soap, soda, soap extract, candles, &c.....	9	57	1	½
Surgical instruments, spectacles, lenses, &c.....			3	1½
Tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes.....	4	81		
Tobacco pipes			1	4
Others.....			1	12
	69	772½	38	131

TABLE VI.
LIST of Prosecutions during the year 1898.

Name and Address of Occupier.	Date.	Offence.	Penalty.	Remarks.
George Williams, Lyceum Theatre.	4/3/98	Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of his duty.	£2; costs of Court, 5/6; professional costs, £2 2s.	
Chas. Baldry Abel, pastry-cook, 458-66, King-st., Newtown.	29/3/98	Working females and males under 16 for more than 48 hours in one week.	£1, with 7/4 costs, in test case. Remaining cases withdrawn.	In the first proceedings against Abel & Co. the test case was dismissed on a technical point, with costs against the Department. In the second proceedings against Chas. Baldry Abel, the test case was again dismissed, but without costs. The Department called on the Magistrate to state a case for the Supreme Court. The Court finding in favour of the Department remitted the matter to the Magistrate, with costs against the defendant. The Magistrate then concluded the hearing, and inflicted a fine of £1, with costs.
J. H. Booth, Woodhill's Printing Works, 127, York-street.	13/5/98	Employing 2 girls for more than 5 hours without an interval for a meal.	5/- in each case, with costs	Defendant pleaded guilty.
George Wood, Wattle-street.	8/6/98	Failure to keep premises in a cleanly state.	10/-, with costs	do do
George Nicolls, Dandelion Ale factory, George-st., Camperdown.	9/6/98	Working a lad more than 48 hours in one week.	£1 and costs, also 2/6 witnesses expenses.	do do
Francis Foy, draper's shop, Oxford-st.	.....	Working females more than 52 hours in one week; 6 cases.	£1, and costs 21/-; costs of Court, 5/6; witnesses' expenses, 5/-. In 5 other cases a fine of £2 was imposed, costs of Court and witnesses' expenses in each case.	Defendant pleaded guilty in last 5 cases.
William Osborne, draper's shop, 57, Oxford-st.	13/7/98	Working a lad and girls for more than 52 hours in one week; 3 cases.	£1, and 21/- professional costs; costs of Court, 5/6; witnesses expenses 5/-, in first case, and £2, costs of Court 5/-, and witnesses expenses in the second.	Defendant pleaded guilty in two cases, the third being withdrawn.
John Goulston, clothing shop, 614, George-st.	14/7/98	Employing a girl under 18 for more than 52 hours in one week.	£1; costs, £1 1/-; 5/- costs of Court.	Defendant pleaded guilty.
Nathan Jacobs, clothing factory, 263, Kent-st.	25/7/98	Working a lad more than 48 hours in one week.	Case dismissed	Dismissal, consequent upon the lad contradicting his previous statement to the Inspector.
Albert Goldstein, draper's shop, 200, George-st.	25/7/98	Working lads more than 52 hours in one week.	£1, and 7/4 costs in one case, and £2 and 7/4 costs in second case.	Defendant pleaded guilty.
A. W. Cormack, cooperage, Lackey & Burns sts., Darling Harbour	5/9/98	Neglecting to guard machinery. Neglecting to report accident, and employing a lad under 16 without a certificate.	£3 and costs on first charge; £2 and costs on second; 10/- and costs on third charge.	do do
R. Buchanan	14/10/98	Working girls overtime for more than three hours consecutively; 16 cases.	10/- with costs of Court in the first case, and 2/6 with costs in 15 other cases.	do do
Giovanni Pulle, 619, Harris-street Meat Preserving.	14/10/98	Non-registration of factory.	£3, with costs of Court	

NEW SOUTH WALES.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

No. 1.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Wednesday, 12 April, 1899.

QUESTIONS :—

- 13. 4. 99.*
1. MR. HURLEY to ask THE SECRETARY FOR MINES,—
 - (1.) Is it a fact that the Government are now trying, at the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde, some new machinery for gold-saving, such machinery not being the property of the Government; if yes, who is the judge on the efficiency of the machinery—the Government Experimentalist, the man who owns the machinery, or the miner who is having the ore treated?
 - (2.) While the Government are testing gold-saving machinery, the property of one man, on the gold ore of another man, is care taken that justice is being done to the country at large?
 - (3.) Is there any good machinery for gold-saving known to the Government; if so, will the Minister cause to be erected a permanent metallurgical and gold-saving plant that has been proved, and cease using the institution on experiments?
 2. MR. HURLEY to ask THE SECRETARY FOR MINES,—
 - (1.) In view of the fact that the Government Geologist has visited West Australia, and has reported on the auriferous development of tellurium, and telluride gold ore, will he cause the same Government Geologist to visit some of the principal gold-fields in New South Wales, and take rocks (if any are on hand) and telluride specimens with him, with a view of imparting information to the miners who have not had the opportunity of seeing the tellurides?
 - (2.) Will he cause the report on West Australia, made by the Government Geologist, to be printed in pamphlet form, and supplied to the wardens of the many gold-mining districts, to be distributed amongst the miners, with a view of enlightenment to the miners of New South Wales on gold ores that at present they are not familiar with?
 3. DR. ROSS to ask THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS,—Has he yet caused an inspection or report to be made in reference to the influentially signed petition, presented to him during last month from residents of Cumnock, in the Molong District, respecting the urgent necessity for the construction of a reservoir in that locality for the conservation of water for the use of the inhabitants; if so, what is the nature of the report, and when is the work likely to be proceeded with?
 4. DR. ROSS to ask THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS,—
 - (1.) Has any report yet been obtained, or any decision yet been arrived at, with regard to the necessity of the erection of a suitable weir at Nyrang Creek, near Canowindra, in the Molong District, and on the stock route between Canowindra, Eugowra, and the Lachlan?
 - (2.) Will he state when the matter is likely to be finally dealt with?
 5. MR. ARCHER to ask THE COLONIAL TREASURER,—
 - (1.) What period of time was Mr. McMillan absent from the Colony whilst Member of Parliament?
 - (2.) During that period did he draw his Members' Parliamentary allowance?
 - (3.) Did he at any time return such allowance?
 - (4.) If so, how much, at what period, and at what dates?
 6. MR. HUGHES to ask THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,—
 - (1.) Is he aware that men written to, to attend at the Telephone Tunnels office, after having come long distances by train and tram, and being given employment, have been ordered to stand aside to make room for others?
 - (2.) Will he explain the reason for this action on the part of the Telephone Tunnel Superintendent?

ORDER OF THE DAY :—

1. The Lieutenant-Governor's Opening Speech; resumption of the adjourned Debate, on the motion of Mr. McLean, That the following Address-in-Reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's Opening Speech, as read by the Clerk, be now adopted by this House :—

“ To His Excellency the Honorable SIR FREDERICK MATTHEW DARLEY, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies.

“ MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

“ We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our thanks for your Excellency's Speech, and to assure you of our unfeigned attachment to Her Most Gracious Majesty's Throne and Person.

“ We

" We repeat the assurances we have already given of our desire to bring the federal movement to a successful issue.

" We join your Excellency in a fervent desire that our labours may promote the welfare of the people of this country."

Upon which Mr. Fegan had moved, That the Address be amended by the insertion of the following words to stand paragraph 3 :—

" We desire to express our regret that your Excellency's Speech does not make mention of other measures of pressing importance dealing with the questions of Arbitration and Conciliation in Industrial Disputes, Early Closing, Reappraisal of Lands, Reform of the Public Service Board, Inspection of Land Boilers, Miners Permanent Relief, Eight Hours, and Upper House Reform."

NOTICES OF MOTIONS :—

1. MR. REID to move, That it be a Sessional Order that, unless otherwise ordered, this House shall meet for the despatch of business at Three o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in each week.
2. MR. REID to move, That, during the present Session, Government Business shall take precedence of General Business on each day on which the House meets for the despatch of Business.
- C 3. MR. REID to move, That the Standing Orders Committee for the present Session shall consist of Mr. Speaker, Mr. McCourt, Mr. Barton, Mr. Lyne, Mr. See, Mr. Molesworth, Mr. McGowen, Mr. Crick, Mr. Morgan, and the Mover, with leave to sit during any adjournment, to report in any matter or thing referred to or pending before the said Committee, and to confer upon subjects of mutual concernment with any Committee appointed for similar purposes by the Legislative Council ; and that Mr. Speaker be empowered to convene meetings of the Committee.
- C 4. MR. REID to move, That the Library Committee for the present Session shall consist of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Barton, Mr. Neild, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Perry, Mr. Arthur Griffith, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Fegan, and the Mover, with leave to sit during any adjournment, and authority and power to act jointly with the Library Committee of the Legislative Council, in accordance with the Assembly's resolution of 6th August, 1862.
- C 5. MR. REID to move, That the Refreshment Committee for the present Session shall consist of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Neild, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Levien, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Austin Chapman, Mr. Piddington, Mr. Cadu, and the Mover, with leave to sit during any adjournment, and authority to act in matters of mutual concernment with any Committee appointed for similar purposes by the Legislative Council.
- C 6. MR. REID to move,—
 - (1.) That the Printing Committee for the present Session shall consist of Mr. Gormly, Mr. Watson, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Dugald Thomson, Mr. Nobbs, Mr. Kidd, Mr. Price, Mr. Dick, Mr. Archibald Campbell, and the Mover, to whom are hereby referred all papers (except such as the Standing Orders direct shall be printed, Reports from Select Committees on Private Bills, Estimates of Expenditure, and Estimates of Ways and Means) which may be laid upon the Table of the House. It shall be the duty of such Committee to report from time to time which of the papers referred to them ought, in their opinion, to be printed, and whether in full or in abstract ; and it shall be in the power of the Committee to order such papers, or abstracts thereof, to be prepared for press by the Clerk in attendance upon such Committee.
 - (2.) That the Clerk of the House shall cause to be printed, as a matter of course, all reports from the Printing Committee.
7. MR. COPELAND to move, That this House will, on Tuesday next, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the expediency of bringing in a Bill to regulate, restrict, and legalise Sunday trading ; to make other provisions with respect to the sale of liquor on Good Friday and Christmas Day ; and to amend the law with respect to clubs and co-operative stores.
8. MR. EDDEN to move, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to regulate the hours of labour in coal and shale mines in the Colony of New South Wales.
9. MR. COPELAND to move, That this House will, on Tuesday next, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the expediency of bringing in a Bill to reduce the number of hotels in proportion to the population.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

No. 2.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Thursday, 13 April, 1899.

The House, at a quarter-past Three o'clock, proceed to Government House, there at half-past Three o'clock to present to the Lieutenant-Governor their Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Opening Speech.

QUESTIONS:—

1. MR. HURLEY *to ask* THE SECRETARY FOR MINES,—
 - (1.) Is it a fact that the Government are now trying, at the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde, some new machinery for gold-saving, such machinery not being the property of the Government; if yes, who is the judge on the efficiency of the machinery—the Government Experimentalist, the man who owns the machinery, or the miner who is having the ore treated?
 - (2.) While the Government are testing gold-saving machinery, the property of one man, on the gold ore of another man, is care taken that justice is being done to the country at large?
 - (3.) Is there any good machinery for gold-saving known to the Government; if so, will the Minister cause to be erected a permanent metallurgical and gold-saving plant that has been proved, and cease using the institution on experiments?
2. MR. NICHOLSON *to ask* THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS,—
 - (1.) Is he aware that the "truck system" is largely carried on by contractors under his Department?
 - (2.) Has he approved of the system being in operation amongst the employees of Government contractors?
 - (3.) If not, will he at once issue positive instructions that no Government contractor shall carry on the truck system within a reasonable distance of where stores can be purchased in the usual way?
3. MR. DICK *to ask* THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS,—Will he lay upon the Table of this House all correspondence between A. F. Wolfe, of the Dredge Service, and the Public Works Department, with reference to his claim for promotion to the dredge "Anleon"?
4. DR. ROSS *to ask* THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,—In order to carry out more effectually the principles and provisions embodied in the Public Health Act, will he see that some steps or provisions be made, by way of inspection or otherwise, against the spread of infectious diseases through the traffic that is being carried on in "left-off clothing," and the exposing of the same for sale in our public thoroughfares, to the danger of public health?
5. MR. CHANTER *to ask* THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE,—
 - (1.) Has Mr. L. S. Donaldson been appointed Stipendiary Magistrate at Newcastle?
 - (2.) Is this the same Mr. Donaldson who was at one time Crown Lands Agent at Moama, and dismissed from that position for irregularities in connection with land applications?
 - (3.) Are there any Police Magistrates senior in service to Mr. Donaldson; if so, will he state their names and length of service?
 - (4.) Will he cause inquiry to be made into Mr. Donaldson's actions at Moama in connection with his position as Crown Lands Agent, and the reasons for his dismissal from that position?
 - (5.) Having made such inquiry, will he then take such steps as may be necessary to have some other more qualified Magistrate appointed to the important position of Stipendiary Magistrate at Newcastle?
6. MR. DIGHT *to ask* THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE,—
 - (1.) Is it a fact that, on or about the 25th March last, three young men were committed for trial at Greta Police Court on the charge of killing a pig, the property of Mr. G. D. Nattrass, and that the Attorney-General declined to prosecute them?
 - (2.) If so, will he state the reasons why?

Part 2
18/4/99.

7. MR. CARROLL *to ask* THE COLONIAL TREASURER,—
 (1.) Through what agent was the last fire-engine obtained for the Government of this Colony?
 (2.) Is Mr. Charles Bown, of the firm of T. J. Bown & Co., the same gentleman who is chairman of the Fire Brigades Board?
 (3.) Has the firm of T. J. Bown & Co. been paid any moneys within the last twelve months for contracts or otherwise by the Fire Brigades Board?
8. MR. MOORE *to ask* THE SECRETARY FOR MINES,—Will he introduce this Session his promised Amending Mining Bill, so as to afford Honorable Members and miners generally the fullest opportunity of studying its provisions before the measure comes to be dealt with?
9. MR. ROSE *to ask* THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS,—Is it the intention of the Government at the earliest possible date next Session to proceed with the Bill for reappraising conditional purchases and leases?
10. MR. CANN *to ask* THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,—
 (1.) Have monthly samples been taken and analysis made of the water supplied by the Stephen's Creek Water Supply Company, as recommended by the Chairman of the Board of Health some time ago?
 (2.) If not, will he give effect to the recommendation?

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS—ORDER OF THE DAY:—

1. Australasian Federation Enabling Bill; second reading.

GENERAL BUSINESS—NOTICE OF MOTION:—

1. MR. WHIDDON *to move*, That there be laid upon the Table of this House a return showing,—
 (1.) The number of ropes that have been used in the King-street section of the Ocean-street cable tramway since its construction, and including the one now working.
 (2.) By whom supplied, and on what terms.
 (3.) The total life and mileage of each rope.
 (4.) The cost per mile run of each rope.
 (5.) The number of ropes on hand or ordered for this section, from whom ordered, and on what terms.

Tuesday, 18 April.

GENERAL BUSINESS—ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. Sunday Trading Bill; consideration in Committee of the Whole of the expediency of bringing in a Bill to regulate, restrict, and legalise Sunday trading; to make other provisions with respect to the sale of liquor on Good Friday and Christmas Day; and to amend the law with respect to clubs and co-operative stores.
2. Hotels Diminishing Bill; consideration in Committee of the Whole of the expediency of bringing in a Bill to reduce the number of hotels in proportion to the population.
3. Coal and Shale Mines Hours Regulation Bill; second reading.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

No. 3.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Tuesday, 18 April, 1899.

QUESTIONS:—

1. **MR. CARROLL** to ask THE COLONIAL TREASURER,—
 - (1.) Through what agent was the last fire-engine obtained for the Government of this Colony?
 - (2.) Is Mr. Charles Bown, of the firm of T. J. Bown & Co., the same gentleman who is chairman of the Fire Brigades Board?
 - (3.) Has the firm of T. J. Bown & Co. been paid any moneys within the last twelve months for contracts or otherwise by the Fire Brigades Board?
2. **MR. E. M. CLARK** to ask THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,—
 - (1.) Is it a fact that under the Act dealing with destitute and vagrant children any lad sent to the N.S.S. "Sobraon" ceases to be under State control on obtaining the age of 18?
 - (2.) Is it a fact that representations have been made to the Minister that a lad named George Smailes completed the limit age on the 22nd March last, and that no effort has been made to return him to his parents?
 - (3.) Is it a fact that this lad is still detained by and employed under apprenticeship; and, if so, what power have the authorities of the "Sobraon" to apprentice a lad for a period beyond a time when the State can claim authority over him?
 - (4.) Is it a fact that the Department refused to acquaint the parents of this lad of his whereabouts; and, if so, why?
 - (5.) Will he in future make provision that lads shall only be detained by the State in connection with the "Sobraon" within the limit line of the legal rights provided by Act of Parliament, and as well inform parents of the whereabouts of children removed from the ship?
3. **MR. E. M. CLARK** to ask THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE—
 - (1.) Is it a fact that the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales has appointed an officer to take proceedings against grocers and storekeepers for evasions of the Poisons Act?
 - (2.) Is it the fact that the articles called poisons principally sold by these tradespeople are carbolic acid, infants' preservative, and chlorodyne, and that these articles are of general public use?
 - (3.) Is it a fact that, while several small struggling business people have been proceeded against, such firms as Anthony Hordern and Sons, Lassetter's, and the Civil Service Co-operative Company, who have been in the habit of selling like articles, have not been proceeded against; and, if so, why?
 - (4.) Is it a fact that, with regard to the Civil Service Co-operative Company, the officer employed by the Pharmaceutical Society has not taken proceedings because of the difficulty to find a Stipendiary Magistrate not interested in the Company to deal with the case?
 - (5.) Is it a fact that the fines imposed in the Metropolitan District have been in excess of those imposed at country Courts; and, if so, to what extent, and for what reason?
 - (6.) Is any part of the fines inflicted handed to the officers of the Pharmaceutical Society informing; and, if so, to what extent?
4. **MR. WHIDDON** to ask THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,—In view of the widespread dissatisfaction at the constitution of the present Transit Commission, and its failure to control the vehicular traffic of the city and suburbs, as expressed and endorsed by the recent public meetings of the city, suburban aldermen, and others, will he take the necessary steps during the recess to bring in a Bill to reform this Commission; in accordance with a promise made by him on 30th August, 1898, when this matter was discussed in the House under the resolution moved by Mr. Whiddon?
5. **DR. ROSS** to ask THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS,—
 - (1.) Is it a fact that the Department of Works is at present carrying out the construction of a new road, known as the old road from Dilga to Molong, at Old Burrawang Station, formerly belonging to the late Francis Lord?
 - (2.) For what reason is this road deviation now being carried out, and at whose request?
 - (3.) Is he aware that, as far back as the year 1832, one William Ross, the then owner of Dilga Station, was prosecuted at the Police Court at Molong for cutting down the fence, and insisting on the opening of this road in the interest of settlers and the public?

(4.)

- (4.) Is it not also a fact that the then local or District Surveyor at Molong reported in favour of the old road being retained, notwithstanding that such road passes up a very steep hill, rendering it almost impossible for teamsters to travel with a heavy load of produce to market?
- (5.) Will he have any objections to lay the papers and correspondence upon the Table of this House?
- (6.) What is the amount of money now being expended in the construction of this new road?
- (7.) The amount that was expended in the formation and construction of the old road on the rise of the hill?
6. MR. NELSON *to ask* THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS,—
- (1.) What is the cause of the delay in completing the power-house at Ultimo?
- (2.) Is it a fact the machinery has been here six months before it is required owing to the building not being completed; if so, whose fault is it?
- (3.) Will he make some effort to have this work completed at an early date?
7. MR. CRUICKSHANK *to ask* THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE,—
- (1.) Is it true that a report by Detective Hines confirms the statements made in the Petition that was presented by William Mallett, of Botany, to the Legislative Assembly in 1897?
- (2.) If so, have the Government taken any action in this matter, as this man alleges he has been robbed?

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS—NOTICE OF MOTION:—

1. MR. REID to move, That the Conciliation and Arbitration Bill, forwarded to the Legislative Council during a previous Session, not having been finally dealt with because of the Prorogation of the Legislature, the following Message be sent to the Council:—Mr. President,—A Bill, intituled, "An Act to make provision for the prevention and settlement of Trade Disputes,"—forwarded to the Legislative Council for concurrence during a previous Session of the present Parliament, not having been finally dealt with because of the Prorogation of the Legislature, the Legislative Assembly requests that the said Bill be proceeded with under the Council's Standing Order in that behalf.

GENERAL BUSINESS—ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. Sunday Trading Bill; consideration in Committee of the Whole of the expediency of bringing in a Bill to regulate, restrict, and legalise Sunday trading; to make other provisions with respect to the sale of liquor on Good Friday and Christmas Day; and to amend the law with respect to clubs and co-operative stores.
2. Hotels Diminishing Bill; consideration in Committee of the Whole of the expediency of bringing in a Bill to reduce the number of hotels in proportion to the population.
3. Coal and Shale Mines Hours Regulation Bill; second reading.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS:—

1. MR. COTTON to move, That, in the opinion of this House, the compromise arrived at by the late Premier's Conference on the subject of Federation is unsatisfactory, inasmuch as it is not in accordance with the will of the people of this Colony, as expressed at the recent General Election.
2. MR. WADDELL to move, That, in the opinion of this House,—
- (1.) The provision of the Licensing Act which requires each hotel-keeper to pay £30 per annum for his license (except for a hotel 10 miles distant from any other) is a most unjust one, and should be amended.
- (2.) The Government should, as soon as possible, introduce an amending Bill, providing a minimum of £10 and a maximum of £50 per annum for publicans' licenses, and authorising the local Licensing Bench of Magistrates, after full inquiry in open Court, to fix the sum to be paid by each applicant, subject to the said minimum and maximum sums named.
- C 3. MR. E. M. CLARK to move,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the claims of Thomas Buckley, dismissed from the Public Works Department.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Young, Mr. Spruson, Mr. Holman, Mr. McGowen, Mr. McFarlane, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Chanter, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Waddell, and the Mover.
4. MR. HUGHES to move, That there be laid upon the Table of this House all papers relating to the employment, discharge, and rate of wage of men employed on telephone tunnel works since 10th February, 1899.
5. MR. WHIDDON to move, That there be laid upon the Table of this House a return showing,—
- (1.) The number of ropes that have been used in the King-street section of the Ocean-street cable tramway since its construction, and including the one now working.
- (2.) By whom supplied, and on what terms.
- (3.) The total life and mileage of each rope.
- (4.) The cost per mile run of each rope.
- (5.) The number of ropes on hand or ordered for this section, from whom ordered, and on what terms.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

No. 4.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Thursday, 20 April, 1899.

QUESTIONS:—

1. MR. O'SULLIVAN to ask THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,—
- (1.) Have all the increases in the Postal Department been gazetted?
 - (2.) If not, why were a number of cases left out?
 - (3.) When will the omitted increases be granted?
2. MR. HURLEY to ask THE SECRETARY FOR MINES,—
- (1.) Has he, in accordance with his promise to the Assembly on the 19th December last, visited the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde?
 - (2.) Has he caused any inquiry or report to be made by any practical and competent experts on the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde, such experts not being in any way interested with the Government or politicians of the day?
 - (3.) If not, does he intend getting an independent expert report made on such works?
 - (4.) Did he state, in reply to Mr. Hurley's Question on the 13th instant, that the Department intends to erect the necessary plant to aid miners in treating the innumerable varieties of ore found in the Colony?
 - (5.) Is it not a fact that the Government Metallurgist has been in the employ of the Government over five years; if so, why is it that the necessary plant to aid miners in treating the innumerable varieties of ore found in the Colony has not been erected before now?
 - (6.) Will he take steps to procure two practical, competent experts—one from Victoria and one from Charters Towers, Queensland—to consult with the Government Metallurgist before erecting the plant to treat the innumerable varieties of ore found in the Colony, so as to ensure the success of any further outlay on the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde?
3. DR. ROSS to ask THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS,—
- (1.) Is he aware that the bridge crossing the creek at the Molong Railway Station is not only in a dangerous but unsuitable condition to meet the requirements of traffic and the travelling public, especially to children going to school?
 - (2.) Will he see that some steps are taken to have the bridge enlarged by the erection of a foot-bridge, in order to prevent accidents occurring?
4. MR. WHIDDON to ask THE COLONIAL TREASURER,—
- (1.) Has he taken any steps in connection with the promise made to the deputation of the Citizens Committee with reference to the movement for the unemployed?
 - (2.) If not, will he kindly state when such arrangements are likely to be notified, as numbers of unemployed men are anxiously awaiting his decision in this matter?
5. MR. WISE to ask THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,—
- (1.) Was Mr. Connolly appointed temporary draftsman in the Government Architect's Department in March, 1898?
 - (2.) Has he since been placed upon the permanent staff?
 - (3.) Are there any, and, if so, how many draftsmen still on the temporary staff of longer service than Mr. Connolly, and what were the dates of their appointments?
 - (4.) Does not the retention of officers on the temporary staff for many years indicate their fitness to be in the Government service?
 - (5.) If so, why were these officers of longer service than Mr. Connolly not also placed upon the permanent staff?
6. MR. LYNE to ask THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS,—
- (1.) With reference to the proclamation issued under "The Rock to Green's Gonyah Railway Act, 1898," does he deem that it was imperative on him to have the full 15-mile radius gazetted as the district which, in his opinion, will be served by the said work?
 - (2.) Will he have plans prepared showing the areas on which these additional rentals will have to be paid when the work is undertaken?

7. MR. RICO to ask THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS,—
- (1.) Is it a fact that no labourers have been put on at the Glebe Island works except through what is known as the ballot system?
 - (2.) Is he aware that a large number of men have been registered for six, nine, and twelve months, and so far have received no employment?
 - (3.) Will he ascertain if some better system can be introduced whereby these men will have some chance of getting their turn?
8. MR. CRUICKSHANK to ask THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS,—
- (1.) Is he aware that a number of settlers intend applying for Settlement Lease No. 356, gazetted for application on the 4th of May, in the Central Division, Land District of Warialda, within the Tucka Tucka Holding?
 - (2.) Is it a fact that the Warialda Land Board have recommended the withdrawal of the land from settlement with the view of giving improvement leases?
 - (3.) Is it his intention to withdraw the land from settlement without giving the settlers an opportunity of applying?

GENERAL BUSINESS—ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. Sunday Trading Bill; further consideration in Committee of the Whole of the expediency of bringing in a Bill to regulate, restrict, and legalise Sunday trading; to make other provisions with respect to the sale of liquor on Good Friday and Christmas Day; and to amend the law with respect to clubs and co-operative stores.
2. City and North Sydney Connection Bill (*as amended and agreed to in Select Committee*); second reading.
3. Hotels Diminishing Bill; consideration in Committee of the Whole of the expediency of bringing in a Bill to reduce the number of hotels in proportion to the population.
4. Coal and Shale Mines Hours Regulation Bill; second reading.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS:—

1. DR. ROSS to move, That there be laid upon the Table of this House all papers since the year 1881 in reference to the alteration and construction of the new road that is now being carried out at Burrawong Old Station, in the district of Molong.
2. MR. HAYNES to move, That in view of the importance of the financial problem in connection with the proposed Federation, and the unexplained silence on the subject of the official concerned, it is expedient that the Government Statistician should be examined at the Bar of this House on the subject of the additional taxation payments expected from New South Wales.
3. MR. COTTON to move, That, in the opinion of this House, the compromise arrived at by the late Premier's Conference on the subject of Federation is unsatisfactory, inasmuch as it is not in accordance with the will of the people of this Colony, as expressed at the recent General Election.
4. MR. WADDELL to move, That, in the opinion of this House,—
 - (1.) The provision of the Licensing Act which requires each hotel-keeper to pay £30 per annum for his license (except for a hotel 10 miles distant from any other) is a most unjust one, and should be amended.
 - (2.) The Government should, as soon as possible, introduce an amending Bill, providing a minimum of £10 and a maximum of £50 per annum for publicans' licenses, and authorising the local Licensing Bench of Magistrates, after full inquiry in open Court, to fix the sum to be paid by each applicant, subject to the said minimum and maximum sums named.
5. MR. E. M. CLARK to move,—
 - (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the claims of Thomas Buckley, dismissed from the Public Works Department.
 - (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Young, Mr. Spruson, Mr. Holman, Mr. McGowen, Mr. McFarlane, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Chanter, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Waddell, and the Mover.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

No. 5.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Tuesday, 25 April, 1899.

QUESTIONS:—

1. **MR. HURLEY to ask THE SECRETARY FOR MINES,—**
 - (1.) Has he, in accordance with his promise to the Assembly on the 19th December last, visited the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde?
 - (2.) Has he caused any inquiry or report to be made by any practical and competent experts on the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde, such experts not being in any way interested with the Government or politicians of the day?
 - (3.) If not, does he intend getting an independent expert report made on such works?
 - (4.) Did he state, in reply to Mr. Hurley's Question on the 13th instant, that the Department intends to erect the necessary plant to aid miners in treating the innumerable varieties of ore found in the Colony?
 - (5.) Is it not a fact that the Government Metallurgist has been in the employ of the Government over five years; if so, why is it that the necessary plant to aid miners in treating the innumerable varieties of ore found in the Colony has not been erected before now?
 - (6.) Will he take steps to procure two practical, competent experts—one from Victoria and one from Charters Towers, Queensland—to consult with the Government Metallurgist before erecting the plant to treat the innumerable varieties of ore found in the Colony, so as to ensure the success of any further outlay on the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde?
2. **MR. PYERS to ask THE COLONIAL TREASURER,—**
 - (1.) Will he state why his amendment to section 43 of the Public Service Act of 1895, which he states was moved by him for the purpose of exempting officers then in the Service from the necessity of passing a test examination as a condition precedent to obtaining promotion, has been disregarded by the Public Service Board?
 - (2.) Will he state whether any, and, if so, what steps are being taken to test the legality of the Public Service Board's action in virtually compelling officers who entered the Public Service prior to the passing of the Public Service Act of 1895, and are now in receipt of the maximum salary of their respective grades, to submit themselves, as recently done, to a scholastic examination, should they desire promotion?
 - (3.) Will he state why the Public Service Board has not published Regulations to provide for the holding of test examinations for public servants desirous of passing from the lower to the higher grades of the Service, concerning which the salary of £300 marks the division, as required by section 43 of the Public Service Act?
3. **MR. BENNETT to ask THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE,—**
 - (1.) Has his attention been directed to the case of the man Daniel Taylor, sentenced to death at the late Maitland Circuit Court on a charge of rape?
 - (2.) If not, will he peruse the evidence, with a view of having the death penalty commuted by the Executive?
4. **MR. EWING to ask THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS,—**
 - (1.) Is he aware that there is doubt with regard to the validity of transfers of conditional purchases to married women?
 - (2.) Can he say when steps will be taken to meet the difficulty?

GENERAL BUSINESS—ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. City and North Sydney Connection Bill (*as amended and agreed to in Select Committee*); second reading.
2. Hotels Diminishing Bill; consideration in Committee of the Whole of the expediency of bringing in a Bill to reduce the number of hotels in proportion to the population.
3. Coal and Shale Mines Hours Regulation Bill; second reading.

NOTICES

NOTICES OF MOTIONS:—

1. MR. HAYNES to move, That in view of the importance of the financial problem in connection with the proposed Federation, and the unexplained silence on the subject of the official concerned, it is expedient that the Government Statistician should be examined at the Bar of this House on the subject of the additional taxation payments expected from New South Wales.
2. MR. COTTON to move, That, in the opinion of this House, the compromise arrived at by the late Premier's Conference on the subject of Federation is unsatisfactory, inasmuch as it is not in accordance with the will of the people of this Colony, as expressed at the recent General Election.
3. MR. WADDELL to move, That, in the opinion of this House,—
 - (1.) The provision of the Licensing Act which requires each hotel-keeper to pay £30 per annum for his license (except for a hotel 10 miles distant from any other) is a most unjust one, and should be amended.
 - (2.) The Government should, as soon as possible, introduce an amending Bill, providing a minimum of £10 and a maximum of £50 per annum for publicans' licenses, and authorising the local Licensing Bench of Magistrates, after full inquiry in open Court, to fix the sum to be paid by each applicant, subject to the said minimum and maximum sums named.
- C 4. MR. E. M. CLARK to move,—
 - (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the claims of Thomas Buckley, dismissed from the Public Works Department.
 - (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Young, Mr. Spruson, Mr. Holman, Mr. McGowen, Mr. McFarlane, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Chantor, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Waddell, and the Mover.

1899.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS UNDISPOSED OF AT CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

(PROROGUED 21 APRIL, 1899.)

QUESTIONS:—

1. **MR. HURLEY to ask THE SECRETARY FOR MINES,—**
 - (1.) Has he, in accordance with his promise to the Assembly on the 19th December last, visited the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde?
 - (2.) Has he caused any inquiry or report to be made by any practical and competent experts on the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde, such experts not being in any way interested with the Government or politicians of the day?
 - (3.) If not, does he intend getting an independent expert report made on such works?
 - (4.) Did he state, in reply to Mr. Hurley's Question on the 13th instant, that the Department intends to erect the necessary plant to aid miners in treating the innumerable varieties of ore found in the Colony?
 - (5.) Is it not a fact that the Government Metallurgist has been in the employ of the Government over five years; if so, why is it that the necessary plant to aid miners in treating the innumerable varieties of ore found in the Colony has not been erected before now?
 - (6.) Will he take steps to procure two practical, competent experts—one from Victoria and one from Charters Towers, Queensland—to consult with the Government Metallurgist before erecting the plant to treat the innumerable varieties of ore found in the Colony, so as to ensure the success of any further outlay on the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde?
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 - (1.) Will he state why his amendment to section 43 of the Public Service Act of 1895, which he states was moved by him for the purpose of exempting officers then in the Service from the necessity of passing a test examination as a condition precedent to obtaining promotion, has been disregarded by the Public Service Board?
 - (2.) Will he state whether any, and, if so, what steps are being taken to test the legality of the Public Service Board's action in virtually compelling officers who entered the Public Service prior to the passing of the Public Service Act of 1895, and are now in receipt of the maximum salary of their respective grades, to submit themselves, as recently done, to a scholastic examination, should they desire promotion?
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 - (2.) If not, will he peruse the evidence, with a view of having the death penalty commuted by the Executive?
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 - (1.) Is he aware that there is doubt with regard to the validity of transfers of conditional purchases to married women?
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GENERAL BUSINESS—NOTICES OF MOTIONS:—

1. **MR. HAYNES to move,** That in view of the importance of the financial problem in connection with the proposed Federation, and the unexplained silence on the subject of the official concerned, it is expedient that the Government Statistician should be examined at the Bar of this House on the subject of the additional taxation payments expected from New South Wales.

2.

2. MR. COTTON to move, That, in the opinion of this House, the compromise arrived at by the late Premier's Conference on the subject of Federation is unsatisfactory, inasmuch as it is not in accordance with the will of the people of this Colony, as expressed at the recent General Election.
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 - (2.) The Government should, as soon as possible, introduce an amending Bill, providing a minimum of £10 and a maximum of £50 per annum for publicans' licenses, and authorising the local Licensing Bench of Magistrates, after full inquiry in open Court, to fix the sum to be paid by each applicant, subject to the said minimum and maximum sums named.
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 - (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Young, Mr. Spruson, Mr. Holman, Mr. McGowen, Mr. McFarlane, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Chanter, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Waddell, and the Mover.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:—

1. City and North Sydney Connection Bill (*as amended and agreed to in Select Committee*); second reading.
2. Hotels Diminishing Bill; consideration in Committee of the Whole of the expediency of bringing in a Bill to reduce the number of hotels in proportion to the population.
3. Coal and Shale Mines Hours Regulation Bill; second reading.

*Legislative Assembly Office,
Sydney, 21st April, 1899.*

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